

All Around News



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TECH NOTES I C A L

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I have received many comments in the past weeks from gymnastics friends after watching television with gymnastics judges using FIG rules. I guess the most common was, "I just do not understand scoring at all." In an effort to make it more understandable when you watch an Elite or International competition, the following is a very brief summary of how the new FIG scoring system works with excerpts from a more detailed article on the USAG web site. The FIG web site offers a complete look at the rules as well as the values for each skill.

(<http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/index2.jsp?menu=RULES>)

Beginning in 2006, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) started using a new scoring system for men's and women's artistic gymnastics. The new system incorporates credit for the routine's content, difficulty and execution, and a gymnast's score no longer is limited to a maximum of 10. In the United States, the new system will be used at all elite level events. Women's Junior Olympics (Levels 1-10) and collegiate gymnastics will use the previous system, while men's Junior Olympics and collegiate gymnastics are using a modified version.

In addition to the new scoring mechanism, the FIG revised the *Code of Points* by re-valuing some skills and adjusting individual apparatus requirements. The changes to scoring and the Code were under study and discussion for more than a year. The FIG approved the revised Code and new scoring system in October 2005. Although the basic process is the same for men and women, some differences exist between the two. Just like with other sports, the scoring system is expected to have minor adjustments in the coming months after it has been used at competitions. Also, the new artistic gymnastics scoring system is similar to those used in rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, and acrobatic gymnastics.

Under the new system, a gymnast's total score includes values for both the routine's content and his/her execution. Basically, the new scoring procedure adds the Difficulty Score, which includes difficulty, connection value and element requirements, to the Execution Score, which encompasses execution, artistry, composition and technique, to determine a gymnast's total score. Scores no longer have a maximum value of 10. With this new system, there is no cap on the score. As a gymnast adds more difficulty or harder connections, the score has the potential to continue to increase.

Difficulty Score: difficulty and technical content

The Difficulty Score represents what was previously known as the start value and includes difficulty and credit for connections (two high-level skills that are connected) and element group requirements, which are the basic categories of skills/elements that must be included in a routine. The element group requirements vary by apparatus. This score is determined by the A Panel, which is a two-person panel.

The difficulty value is determined by totaling values for the 10 most difficult skills, which includes the dismount. Each skill has a set difficulty value, as outlined in the *Code of Points*, and for the women are divided into seven classifications, with six for the men. The difficulty value of a skill or element is not recognized if it fails to meet its technical requirements. Also, credit is also only given once for a skill.

Connection value is awarded when specific skills or skill types are executed successfully in succession. The women can earn connection values for the balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise, while the men can earn it for the floor

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exercise, still rings and horizontal bar. For men and women, each connection value is either 0.1 or 0.2 points.

Element group requirements are the basic skills or elements that must be included in each routine and vary by apparatus. This area is similar to the special requirements in the past. If all of the requirements are included, a maximum of 2.5 points is awarded. Each judge on the A Panel independently reaches his/her Difficulty Score and then the two compare and reach a consensus.

Execution Score: execution, artistry, composition and technique

The Execution Score, determined in the USA by a 2 person B panel and internationally by a six-person B Panel, now begins at 10 and deductions are made for errors and faults in technique, execution and artistry/composition. Each judge independently determines his/her score. The highest and lowest scores are dropped, and the gymnast's Execution Score is the average of the remaining four judges' scores. Deductions for neutral errors are subtracted from the sum of the Difficulty and Execution Scores.

The deductions for various errors have changed and now range from 0.1 point for a small error to 0.8 point for a fall. Neutral errors include those for stepping out of bounds or violating time requirements, as well as attire or podium violations.

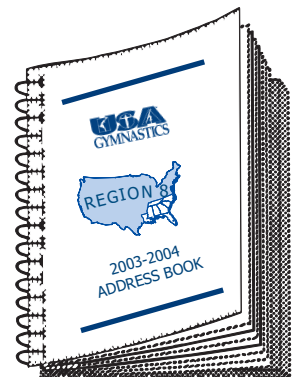
So, just what does a score mean? The system is still very new. Looking at the results from championships of the USA the winning score was a 62.6 AA. The highest event score posted was a 16.4. Looking at the Difficulty Score computed by the A Panel score, the highest score was a 7.0 on Balance Beam. As time goes by, hopefully these scores will mean a little more to us.

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TOTAL				

You must have this card completely filled out with at least 9 hours of in-gym experience, signed and returned to Marian Dykes, 4651 Buford Highway, Atlanta, Ga 30341. Completed cards must be received by June 1, 2007 to be eligible to judge any 2008 Region 8 Regional Competition. Fax - (770) 457-0943. You will receive confirmation of receipt within ten days.

In order to be eligible to judge a regional meet in 2008 in Region 8, a judge must have in gym experience. A judge must complete at least 9 hours of in gym experience between 6/2/06 and 6/1/07.

Each experience must be a minimum of 2 hours. The level of gymnasts must be equal to or greater than the level of meet the judge wishes to be considered for. (i.e. Level 9 & 10 Regionals = in gym experience with Level 10 or Elite. Level 8 Regionals = in gym experience with Level 8, 9, 10 or Elite, etc.) Training sessions at a meet may not be used.

A maximum of 3 hours may be completed in a college setting.

A maximum of 3 hours may be from a Regional or National JO or Elite Training Camp. (A training camp may only count for either in gym experience or CPE credit - not both.)

This experience must be an interactive experience; it is not sufficient to sit in the stands and watch workout. Judges must call ahead to schedule gym time. The judge's activities should be under the supervision of the gym's coach.

The judge should keep in mind that the gym club you are visiting is a business. The judges should remain professional and cordial at all times.