

CANONS PART 5, THE FINAL EPISODE!

Here is your final installment on the Canons of NAWGJ. Please continue to keep ALL of the Canons in mind as you judge. They are also good as life lessons! Here are the 3 we have not yet addressed:

CANON 15: A judge should never consume alcoholic beverages or drugs prior to a judging assignment where such consumption is evident by odor, conduct or appearance. This is self-explanatory! Besides not showing up for a meet drunk or high, do not show up hung over so that your judging is affected. Also, for meets where you are staying in a hotel, be mindful that you should not be in the bar in uniform. And if you are going to be obnoxious, understand that many parents and gymnasts recognize us even in regular clothes!

CANON 2: A judge should assist the Association in fulfilling its duty of making judges available for women's gymnastics events. Assigning is probably the hardest job on the NAWGJ Board! Make sure you keep your availability up to date. If you say you are available, it is unacceptable to decline a meet because you don't like your assignment or the gym. If you do accept a contract, it is a legal document. Do not pull yourself off the meet unless you are very ill or have some other serious situation.

CANON 3: A judge should assist in improving the system of judging women's gymnastics events. Do the best you can at every meet. If you feel you have a better idea, contact the proper person. That may mean your meet referee, assigner, SJD, State Chair, RJD, Regional Chair, or appropriate state or regional board member. Even if you have the best idea in the world, it can't be instituted without the proper authority. Please follow the chain of command!

As I said at the beginning of this series, basically the Canons say that we should respect the gymnasts, coaches, other judges, support staff at a meet (e.g., parents, siblings, etc.), spectators, and vendors – even aliens if they show up! Our job, as judges, is to show up prepared, judge to the best of our ability without bias or even the appearance of bias, and go home. Meets, judgments and people at the meet are not to be discussed.

GO FORTH AND JUDGE!!

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!!!

