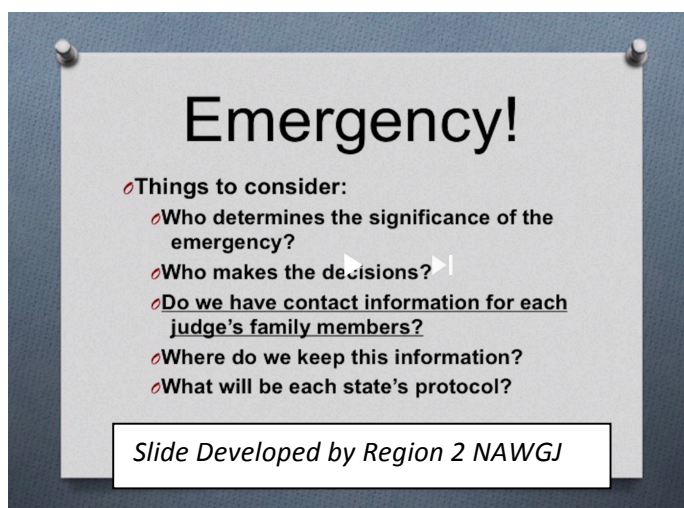


Considerations for Emergency Situations Involving Judges At Gymnastics Meets

Occasionally, emergency situations occur involving judges on the way to or during a gymnastics meet. For example, a judge may develop a health problem or have an accident and not be able to judge the meet. This document lists some questions that Meet Referees and judges should consider in an emergency situation. In addition, this document can help State Governing Boards as they develop a protocol for emergency situations. In all cases, common sense should take precedence over the considerations suggested here.



Who makes the call?

When an incident occurs, stop to think about the following questions:

- Who decides to call 911 or to provide other assistance to the affected judge?
- If it's an emergency, are there on-site medical personnel who can assist? Are there medical professionals in the audience who are willing to help?
- Remember that the Meet Director is the official employer of judges at the meet and should be involved in all steps of the process. In many cases, the Meet Director may be the one to make the decision on questions in this document.

Who should be notified?

- As part of your state plan, consider obtaining emergency contact information as part of the assigning process.
- Assess the situation to determine if family members or friends should be contacted. Do you have easy access to the emergency contact information for the judge? Where is it located? If possible, ask the affected judge who should be notified and what they should be told. Don't assume you know whom to contact or what they should be told—there may be privacy issues that need to be considered.
- If possible, ask the affected judge for her/his opinion about continuing on the meet or being replaced (recognizing that this opinion may be affected by her condition). If it appears that the judge will be unable to judge the meet, the Meet Referee should contact the appropriate assigning official to identify a replacement judge. Stop and consider several alternatives in

consultation with another judge to avoid acting too quickly when making a decision about replacements.

- If the situation happens off-site or on the way to the meet, contact the Meet Referee as soon as possible so that replacement alternatives can be explored in a timely manner.
- The Meet Referee should ask the assigner to issue a contract to the replacement judge so that NAWGJ insurance will be in effect. If you are unable to get in touch with the assigner, send an email or text message with the date the replacement judge will start.
- If it is not possible to identify a replacement judge or a judge with the appropriate rating at a USA Gymnastics competition, the Meet Referee should contact the Regional Technical Committee Chair (RTCC) to request permission to use a one-judge panel or a judge with a lower-level rating. See also USA Gymnastics Rules & Policies Chapter 5.
- If the situation necessitates a change in the judging panel in the middle of a competition, all coaches should be notified of the change.
- Check USA Gymnastics guidelines for reimbursement/payment of the affected judge as well as the replacement judge.

How Can You Support the Judge Who Is Injured or Sick?

- Assess the situation. If possible, ask the person what type of help she/he needs.
- Give the person reassurance that help is on the way.
- If it appears the situation does not require transport by ambulance but that medical attention is needed, arrange for transportation to a medical facility.
- If possible, have someone accompany the injured/ill judge to the medical facility. Ask this person to maintain communications (as appropriate) with the Meet Referee or Meet Director as well as the emergency contact person for the individual.
- Communicate with the judge to develop transportation plans following release from the medical facility. Will the judge need a ride back to the hotel or to the meet site? Will the judge be able to drive her/his car home? If not, where should the car be parked in the interim? If the judge shared a ride with someone else, will the judge be able to ride home with the person or will other arrangements need to be made?
- If the judge needs to remain in the hospital after the competition ends, make arrangements to check the person out of the hotel, collect luggage, and transport it to the hospital or other appropriate location.

Should the Judge Continue On The Meet?

- The ultimate decision on the judge returning is the responsibility of the Meet Director as the employer.
- Communicate with the Meet Director on the advisability of the judge returning to judge. What factors should be considered? Will prescribed medications affect performance? Will the condition interfere with the judge's performance?