



CANONS, PART 4

I know you've waited the whole summer for more advice on how to behave as a judge. Here are Canons 1, 4, 9, and 10.

CANON 1: A judge should assist in maintaining the integrity and competence of the profession of judging women's gymnastics events.

CANON 4: A judge should avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety.

CANON 9: A judge should *not* solicit meets for herself/himself or for others.

CANON 10: A judge shall be completely unbiased. A judge should not give any appearance, especially at a meet, of any particular friendship with any coach or competitor. Also, a judge should decline any assignment in which affiliation with a team or individuals would tend to influence the judge's ability to be fair and objective.

It is SO important that we all appear, and are, as fair as possible. This is especially hard for those of who have judges for a while. We know coaches and their families and we truly like each other. But when we walk out on the floor we cannot hug them or chat with them. To the new parent in the stands it looks as if we favor one team over another. To parents who are helping at our event it looks like their team will not get a fair judgment. Remember, perception is reality!!

Part 2 of this has to do with soliciting meets. You CANNOT ask to be put on a meet, no matter how innocently! This really puts the meet director in a bind. Some feel that if you ask to be on a meet and you aren't assigned, you will score them lower in future meets. Again, it is perception.

99.9% of judges are fair and honest. However, every time a parent, gymnast, or coach sees a judge looking like there is a bias, that is their reality. Please remember that. Be nice to everyone!!