



CANONS, PART II

We all hope you enjoyed Canon #16 and are being very careful in your social networking. As we are getting ready for the first meets of the year, October's Canons concern education and preparation. They state:

- **CANON 5:** A Judge should be well qualified in gymnastics, know the rules and be thoroughly prepared for each assignment. Each team, meet contestant and participant, as well as the spectators, are entitled to the official's best efforts to administer the rules of the sport.
- **CANON 6:** A judge should prepare for each judging assignment and should, through study and clinics, keep her/his judging knowledge current.
- **CANON 7:** A judge should fulfill all assignments accepted and be punctual. A judge should also attend all judging and other meetings which are intended to promote a well ordered and conducted meet or event.
- **CANON 8:** A judge should be alert at all times, quickly yet accurately produce her/his scores and have a basis for the scores derived and prepared. If a legitimate need should arise, the judge should explain and support such scores by working through conferences and dealing with inquiries in a dignified, professional manner.

Hopefully you have been keeping up your skills through clinics during the summer. Even if you are a coach/judge, you need to keep up your skills of shorthand and observation. I spoke with a coach at our regional congress who said that the one comment he hears from judges that really irritates him is that we judges need to get back into the sport. Even though they know we are not judging from May to October, they don't want to think that we do nothing in gymnastics during that time.

Here are a few suggestions for getting off to a good start this season.

- Right now look over your notes from your summer clinics, the updates, compulsory text and all rules. Don't wait until the night before the first meet of the season.
- Make sure that you are judging exactly the same way at the beginning of the season as you did at the end of last season. Don't be easier on gymnasts because it's the beginning of the season (or because you forgot deductions). Gymnasts' performances and scores should improve throughout the season.
- The reason we have a report time a half hour before the meet starts is for a judges' meeting. Make sure you utilize it. We can catch up personally later in the day!
- Do your best to hit all 4 events early in the year. We should not be specialists at one or two events!

Remember – we are good, we are strong, and, doggone it, people like us! The more prepared and knowledgeable we are, the more we can relax and enjoy our job.

Have a good season!