

NAWGJ Canons and Rules

CANONS

- CANON 1: A judge should assist in maintaining the integrity and competence of the profession of judging women's gymnastics events.
- CANON 2: A judge should assist NAWGJ in fulfilling its duty of making judges available for women's gymnastics events.
- CANON 3: A judge should assist in improving the system of judging women's gymnastics events.
- CANON 4: A judge should avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety.
- CANON 5: A Judge should be well qualified in gymnastics, know the rules and be thoroughly prepared for each assignment. All teams, athletes, participants, and 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 be knowledgeable of rules and rule changes through study and clinics.
- 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 when serving in the role of judge or meet referee. A judge should quickly yet accurately produce her/his scores. If a legitimate need should arise, the judge should be prepared to explain and support such scores by working through conferences and dealing with inquiries in a dignified, professional manner.
- CANON 9: A judge should not solicit meets for herself/himself or for others.
- CANON 10: A judge should 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 a relationship with a team or individuals would tend to influence the judge's ability to be fair and objective.
- CANON 11: A judge should treat gymnasts, coaches, judges, promoters and spectators with respect. A judge should respect their privacy, property, and feelings, and should not do anything that would embarrass or offend any person. There will be no tolerance for any discrimination related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identification, religion, or age.
- CANON 12: A judge should at all times both look and act professionally. A judge should maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance when judging. Judges should wear the NAWGJ uniform (except where other dress is permitted).

Updated July 1, 2020. See the *Official Documents* section of the NAWGJ website for the complete Code of Professional Responsibility.

- CANON 13: A judge should not be overly officious. Judges should not criticize other officials or attempt to explain other officials' judgments.
- CANON 14: A judge should confine her/his duties to the purposes of judging; e.g., coaching or serving as a meet director are not included in a judge's responsibilities.
- CANON 15: A judge should exercise good judgment when using social networking media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, texting, e-mail, etc.), e.g., a judge should avoid communicating with coaches or gymnasts during, before or after a competition; and refrain from making inappropriate statements about fellow judges, coaches, gymnasts, clubs or parents.

RULES

- RULE 1: A judge who is a member of NAWGJ shall not: (a) violate a disciplinary rule, (b) circumvent a disciplinary rule through actions of another, (c) engage in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude, (d) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, (e) engage in conduct prejudicial to the judging of women's gymnastics events, (f) engage in any other conduct that adversely reflects on her/his fitness to engage in the profession of judging women's gymnastics events.
- RULE 2: A judge who is a member of NAWGJ shall report any knowledge she/he has of a violation of Rule 1 by any other judge or member to the State Judging Director (SJD) or other appropriate NAWGJ official as designated in the Problem Resolution Process. Every effort shall be made by the reporting party to keep such report and the content thereof confidential unless and until called upon by the appropriate NAWGJ official to make the content known to others.
- RULE 3: A judge who possesses knowledge or evidence concerning another judge or member of NAWGJ shall reveal such knowledge or evidence upon proper request by the NAWGJ representative who has the authority to investigate or act on the conduct of such judge.
- RULE 4: A judge shall not accept or claim any compensation, remuneration or consideration in connection with fulfilling a contract to judge an event other than that which has been approved by the organization's governing body, e.g., NAWGJ, USA Gymnastics, NCAA, College/University, or others.
- RULE 5: A judge shall not allow anything to influence, affect, or give the appearance of affecting her/his judgment in rendering a fair and impartial and honest judgment
- RULE 6: A judge shall not accept anything of value from any person whether the judge knows or reasonably should know that the offer is for the purpose of influencing her/his actions as a women's gymnastics judge.
- RULE 7: A judge or NAWGJ officer shall not use her/his position to influence or attempt to influence anyone in any manner whatsoever, or to obtain any special advantage for herself/himself.
- RULE 8: A judge shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning any fellow judge or other person having involvement whatsoever in any meet or event involving NAWGJ.

- RULE 9: A judge shall not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs prior to or during a judging assignment where such consumption is evident by odor, conduct, or appearance.
- RULE 10: A judge who has accepted a contract issued by NAWGJ and who later cannot, for valid and substantial reasons, perform that contract shall contact the appropriate assigning official at the earliest possible time and shall adhere to the procedures designated by the assigning entity to facilitate replacement as appropriate.
- RULE 11: A judge shall not engage in any conduct which results in or tends to result in an event or meet being seriously interrupted, compromised, terminated prematurely, or terminated in discord. A judge shall consult with the appropriate official (Meet Referee, Meet Director, and/or NAWGJ official) for resolution of any disagreements, improprieties, impositions, contract disputes, or monetary losses.
- RULE 12: A judge shall not speak for or in the name of NAWGJ to the press or other media or any other person or entity unless it is part of their official job duties within the NAWGJ organization.
- RULE 13: Judges shall not participate in any wagering activities involving amateur, collegiate or professional gymnastics, nor can they provide any information to individuals involved in any type of gymnastics wagering activities.
- Rule 14: A judge shall not use NAWGJ social media, posts and websites for financial gain by individuals or private businesses without written permission from the NAWGJ National Governing Board.
- Rule 15: A judge shall not change the score of another judge or judging panel without following the procedures designated by the organization governing the event, e.g., USA Gymnastics, NCAA, or other entity. In all cases, the score should be discussed with the judge/judging panel prior to making the change and should be noted as a score change by the Chief Judge.
- Rule 16: A judge shall not accept a contract for meets unless she/he holds the appropriate rating and has fulfilled all required professional responsibilities (e.g., continuing professional educational requirements, active memberships, safety certifications, other requirements) unless an exception is obtained in writing from the appropriate authority prior to the event.