

Frequently Asked Questions

UNIFORMS

1. What is the NAWGJ standard for the uniform?

NAWGJ 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).

2. At what point should judges purchase the NAWGJ uniform?

No later than the beginning of their 2nd year of judging.

3. What should be done if judges do not wear the appropriate uniform? Is there a procedure? Who handles it?

For USAG meets, judges are required to “dress appropriately, regardless of the level of competition, in the required uniform (Navy skirt/pants and jacket, white blouse/shirt).” The exception is for theme meet invitationals. As a professional organization, NAWGJ has adopted a navy blue suit with the official NAWGJ patch as our uniform and we encourage our members to wear the official uniform.

As long as the judge wears the uniform as specified by the host organization and is dressed appropriately for the meet, there is no disciplinary action. However, if the judge does not dress appropriately for the competition, the SJD or Ethics Chair (if you have this position on your SGB) should have a conversation with the judge about professional appearance. If a complaint is received, you may follow the problem resolution process specified in the Code of Professional Responsibility. We encourage the SJD and all SGB members to serve as role models by wearing the NAWGJ uniform.

INSURANCE

1. Can a judge inform the assignor when they are going to critique, do a mock meet, etc. and have our NAWGJ insurance cover that judge?

Yes, as long as the judge engages in behaviors that are consistent with their role as a judge. A judge may not be eligible for coverage by NAWGJ insurance

if she/he engages in activities that are outside the scope of judging, such as coaching or spotting.

2. Are judges insured when they are asked to judge a meet by organizations other than USA Gymnastics such as AAU, USAIGC, NCAA?

If judges are assigned by and receive a contract from the NAWGJ assigner of record, they are covered by the NAWGJ insurance policy. If NAWGJ did not issue a contract for a meet, the NAWGJ insurance does not apply.

3. If a meet referee is fulfilling USAG requirements, is that person still covered by NAWGJ insurance?

Yes, they are covered if they are assigned by and contracted by the NAWGJ assigner of record.

4. Does NAWGJ insurance cover a judge who is in a coaching position at a clinic or critique session?

If a judge engages in coaching activities, no. If critiquing at a clinic, yes.

ELECTIONS

1. If we have an empty position on the board (nobody ran), can a person be appointed?

Yes, but this person cannot vote (note: this answer is under review as of July 2020). Appointed members may not assign.

2. If a state has co-SJDs and one of them cannot finish the term, should there be an election to fill the empty spot?

No. There is a SJD in place. Restructure the board to get more help if needed or (last resort) appoint, if necessary.

MEMBERSHIP

1. What is the procedure for a judge to rejoin NAWGJ after leaving the sport as a judge for one or more years?

A judge who has lapsed her membership should contact the current

SJD and/or the National Secretary (Barbara Tebben) for instructions on how to re-activate. The judge can also ask USAG (Connie Maloney) about her/his judging status based on CPE.

COLLEGIATE

1. Do you only need a NAWGJ membership to judge college?

Yes. USAG membership, safety certification, background check, etc. are not required for collegiate judging.

2. Do you have to wear the NAWGJ uniform for collegiate judging?

Yes. Judges are expected to be attired in the NAWGJ navy uniform and a white blouse or shirt. Men must wear a tie. Women may wear either pants or a skirt.

3. How do we handle judges who accept a contract, then contact the meet director or assigner asking to be replaced for one day because they also accepted a contract for a collegiate assignment?

USAG Rules & Policies state that a judge is obligated to “fulfill all assignments according to the contractual agreement. Only dire circumstances should prohibit a judge from fulfilling an assignment.” In addition, “a minimum of 14 days notice is required for cancellations” (unless unusual circumstances).

If the judge does not give 14 days notice, the penalty is two hours honorarium and any non-refundable expenses incurred by the Meet Directors. If the judge cancels prior to that time, there currently is no penalty in writing. However, this is unprofessional behavior and could cause a meet director to request that the judge not be assigned in the future.

4. What happens if a judge signs a college contract and then gets invited to judge a 3 day JO meet and cancels the college meet?

After investigating, the judge will receive a letter of reprimand from the National JAS Director. After the judge accepts a meet in the JAS, it is considered a verbal contract until the school sends an official contract. The action will be kept in the judge’s file and future assignments may be in jeopardy.

5. Can the SJDs have a list of JAS assignors and know which schools /states they cover so we could find out which judges could possibly be contacted for an age group meet the same weekend?

Yes, contact the National Judging Assigner for this information.

CONTRACTS/FORMS

1. If NAWGJ is the assigning organization for USAG, is it only the SJD and Assignors of Record who can send out contracts?

Yes. However, it is highly recommended that SJDs refrain from assigning/issuing contracts. Exception: in some states, the USAG Committee asks the SJD to issue contracts for state meets.

Can other board members send out contracts?

No. Only the assignor(s) who either ran for and won that position OR was elected "at large" and given the assigning duty in board minutes.

2. Can the SJD send a list of judges in their state (to include rating and hometown) to meet directors with an information sheet explaining procedure for assigning meets?

No, we should not provide any such lists. We can explain procedures for assigning but should not give out personal information on judges.

CARPOOLING

Carpooling is no longer applicable to meets assigned by NAWGJ. For liability reasons, NAWGJ does not assign judges to carpools and does not use this term. Judges who wish to ride together to a meet may make their own arrangements to do so if they wish. For liability purposes, judges are not required to ride together to a meet.

ROOMS

1. There have been questions in my state as to whether or not judges are required to share a room. Can a meet director "force" a judge to share a room?

For USA Gymnastics meets, the guidelines for hotels are provided in the Rules and Policies. Currently, the R&P states that accommodations based on double occupancy in a room must provide two beds, which cannot include a sleeper sofa. Meet Directors may consider single room assignments for judges.

USAG Committees in some states and regions have adopted practices that provide individual rooms (or suite-type rooms) for judges at selected meets but this only applies to states that have adopted these procedures.

2. If a judge chooses to room alone, for any reason, must this be reimbursed?

No, Meet Directors are not required to reimburse the judge for a single room. However Meet Directors may be asked to share the cost of the room in these situations. Some states have adopted different procedures so check with your USAG State Committee.

FINANCES

1. I notice from some of my Region's newsletters that some states are still using the # of sessions a judge participates in at Judges' Cup meet to determine the benefits that a judge receives. (e.g. 1 session = NAWGJ dues paid, 2 sessions = NAWGJ dues and something else, etc.) Is this acceptable?

Yes. As long as everyone knows in advance what will be offered, everyone has the opportunity to participate and no one is denied. In addition, the money to cover these expenses has to be in the budget that is approved by the board. These are considered expenses of the fundraiser. After these are subtracted from the gross income of the meet, the net profit must be used for the benefit of the entire membership. Remember that operating expenses of the office are considered as "benefitting the entire membership."

2. Can we receive a specific list of how we are to disperse our funds?
Yes. See list of allowable expenditures on the SJD Resources webpage.
3. As a 501(c)(3) organization, is it ok to have new judges pay for their initial NAWGJ membership and then, as long as they are an active judge, the state-NAWGJ pay for the membership?

Yes, if that is the plan by the board and it is budgeted this way. Make sure all are informed in advance of this procedure.

4. Do all net profits earned by a state organization have to be used to benefit all judges in our state even if they don't help with the event?

Yes. Operating expenses for the state organization must be used to benefit the entire membership.

5. If all judges are given an opportunity to participate in a money-making event, can the benefits offered from the net profit be shared with those who chose to participate?

Please see answer to #1 under Finances. Net profits must be used to benefit the entire membership.

6. If judges are required to travel out of state or to educational/training event to be eligible for regionals (required by USAG), should NAWGJ cover it?

Judges choose to judge USAG competitions and, as a professional, are personally responsible to keep up to date. NAWGJ could assist with the expenses but these benefits must follow the same guidelines as described in question #1 of this section.

7. Can we pay NAWGJ dues for my governing board?

No--not solely because they are members of the SGB. These are volunteer positions. Expenses to meetings only can be paid. However, if you state has voted to pay NAWGJ dues for all members, the SGB members would be included.

8. Can money in our account pay for USA Gymnastic membership?

Yes, but NAWGJ dues and education comes first.

OTHER

1. Can we increase the assigning fee from \$3 per judge?

We conducted a review of expenses associated with assigning and did not find that the expenses associated with assigning warranted the development of a proposal to USAG to increase the fee. The \$3 is supposed to cover just the costs of assigning. If you find that this is not true in your state, you may use other funds in your budget to cover this cost.