

National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges



Rules of Professional Conduct

National Association of Women's Gymnastic Judges (NAWGJ)

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The National Association of Women's Gymnastic Judges (“NAWGJ”) is dedicated to fostering fair, impartial, and consistent judging in the sport of women's gymnastics. These Rules of Professional Conduct (the “Rules”) establish the ethical and behavioral standards expected of all NAWGJ members, upholding the integrity of the sport and the judging profession. Faithful adherence to the Rules is a condition of NAWGJ membership and eligibility for the opportunity to be assigned to NAWGJ assigned events.

These Rules are issued by NAWGJ and come into force on September 1, 2025, and supersede all previous NAWGJ Code of Professional Responsibility, including all canons and rules set forth therein. These Rules may be amended from time to time by NAWGJ.

These Rules set forth the minimum level of conduct expected of all NAWGJ judges. Failure to comply with these Rules may subject a judge to disciplinary action, up to and including permanent suspension from the NAWGJ and/or any NAWGJ-assigned events.

Rule 1 Impartiality and Objectivity:

Judges must, at all times, perform their duties without bias, prejudice, or favoritism towards any athlete, team, coach, or organization. Decisions must be based solely on the rules and the performance presented, and judges must not discriminate against any participant due to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, ethnicity, or national origin.

Rule 2 Professional Competence:

Judges must maintain a high level of competence, poise and knowledge of the current rules and requirements of the sport. Judges must also continuously strive to improve their judging skills through ongoing education and practice.

Rule 3 Duty of Honesty:

Judges must always act honestly and must maintain a high degree of professional integrity.

Rule 4 Professional Conduct:

Judges must exhibit the utmost professionalism when interacting with coaches, judges, meet directors, event personnel, and any participants in the sport, treating all-with respect and dignity, and refraining from any abusive language or conduct, harassment, or discriminatory behavior. Judges must not, at any time, abuse their position of authority or control and shall not harm or jeopardize the psychological, physical, or emotional well-being of judges, coaches, athletes, meet directors, event personnel, spectators, or governing body personnel.

Rule 5 Fit to Perform Duties:

Judges must be in satisfactory physical and mental condition to perform their duties in a competent and professional manner.

Rule 6 Appearance and Hygiene:

Judges must maintain a reasonable level of personal hygiene and a professional appearance while acting in their capacity as a NAWGJ assigned official. Judges must wear the proper uniform when required.

Rule 7 Adherence to Rules and Procedures:

Judges must adhere strictly to all NAWGJ Bylaws, policies, and the official rules of women's gymnastics as prescribed by the applicable governing body. Judges must perform only their assigned duties.

Rule 8 Accepting Assignments with Appropriate Ratings/No Solicitation of Meets:

Judges must accept only contracts for meets if they hold the appropriate rating and have fulfilled all required professional responsibilities, unless an exception is obtained in writing from the appropriate authority prior to the event. Judges must not solicit meets.

Rule 9 Punctuality:

Judges must be on time for all assignments including fulfillment of all their contractual obligations in a punctual and professional manner.

Rule 10 Ability to Perform in a Team Environment:

Judges must be receptive to constructive feedback; be able to take and implement instructions provided; and work effectively in creating a team environment. Judges must consult with the appropriate official for resolution of disagreements, improprieties, or contract disputes.

Rule 11 Prohibition on Amending Scores:

Judges must not change the score of another judge or judging panel without following the procedures designated by the organization governing the event.

Rule 12 Financial Integrity:

Judges must accept only compensation which has been approved by the competition organization's governing body. Judges must not accept gifts, favors, or other considerations that are above the dollar limit set forth by the applicable governing body or contracting organization that could reasonably be perceived as influencing judgment. Judges are solely responsible for maintaining their own personal financial records and paying the appropriate taxes.

Rule 13 Impairment Due to Prohibited Substances:

Judges are strictly prohibited from consuming alcohol, illicit drugs, or any other substance that may impair their judgment, physical abilities, or mental acuity prior to or during their participation in any event.

Rule 14 Prohibition of Wagering and Insider Information:

Judges are strictly prohibited from engaging in any form of wagering or gambling on gymnastics events, regardless of the level or sanctioning body. Furthermore, judges are prohibited from providing information to any third party who they know or reasonably should know intends to use such information for the purpose of wagering or gambling on gymnastics.

Rule 15 Compliance with Federal and Local Criminal Laws:

Judges must always comply with applicable local, State, and Federal criminal laws. This Rule may be violated if a judge is convicted of or enters a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment for any criminal offense in any jurisdiction.

Rule 16 Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment:

Sexual misconduct, sexual advances, or sexual harassment or abuse of any kind towards judges, coaches, athletes, meet directors, event personnel, spectators, or governing body personnel is strictly prohibited.

Rule 17 Ability to Effectively Use Technology:

Judges must be able to effectively and competently use the requisite technology to perform all required tasks expeditiously.

Rule 18 Use of NAWGJ Affiliation:

Judges must not use their NAWGJ affiliation to endorse commercial products or services, or for personal gain in a manner that suggests any NAWGJ endorsement, unless expressly authorized by NAWGJ in writing.

Rule 19 Media and Social Media Policies:

Judges must not, at any time, participate in any media interviews or meetings with media from which their statements relating to officiating can be printed, broadcast, posted on social media, or otherwise publicly disseminated without the approval of the NAWGJ Executive Committee, pursuant to the NAWGJ Media Policy. Judges must follow the NAWGJ Social Media Policy.

Rule 20 Reporting Violations:

Judges who believe that they possess credible information indicating a violation of any of the Rules, by another NAWGJ member, should report such information to NAWGJ (via the Complaint Form provided on the NAWGJ National website, available [here](#)), the appropriate governing body, Safe Sport, and/or the authorities, as applicable.

Rule 21 Cooperation with Investigations:

Judges must cooperate fully with any investigation and/or proceedings with respect to violations of these Rules, including application of the NAWGJ Disciplinary Procedures.