

# National Association of Women's Gymnastic Judges



## Social Media Policy

# **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.

This NAWGJ Social Media Policy ("Policy") is issued by NAWGJ and comes into force on September 1, 2025, and supersedes all previous social media policies. This Policy may be amended from time to time by NAWGJ.

### **1. Purpose**

This Policy outlines the expectations for all NAWGJ judges regarding their online conduct and use of social media platforms. As ambassadors of NAWGJ and the sport of gymnastics, judges are held to a high standard of professionalism, integrity, and impartiality. This Policy aims to protect the reputation of NAWGJ, its members, the athletes, coaches, and institutions involved in gymnastics, and to ensure fairness and confidence in the judging process.

### **2. Scope**

This Policy applies to all NAWGJ judges, whether on or off duty, and encompasses all forms of social media, including but not limited to:

- a. All means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort via digital applications or on the Internet, including any social network, blog, podcast, journal or diary, personal website, web bulletin board, or a chat room, as well as any other form of electronic communication.
- b. Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, BlueSky, TikTok, and LinkedIn.
- c. Any and all other online platforms where information, opinions, or images can be shared publicly or with a group.

### **3. General Principles**

All NAWGJ judges are expected to adhere to the following principles when engaging with social media:

- 3.1. Adherence to Applicable Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines provided by the applicable governing body and/or contracting entity (such as USAG, NCAA, AAU, etc.).
- 3.2. Professionalism:** Always maintain a professional demeanor. Judges' online conduct should reflect positively on NAWGJ and the sport.
- 3.3. Impartiality:** Avoid any online activity that could create the appearance of bias, favoritism, or a conflict of interest.
- 3.4. Respect:** Treat all individuals with respect, including gymnasts, coaches, fellow judges, meet officials, parents, volunteers and fans. Do not engage in discriminatory, harassing, or demeaning behavior.

- 3.5. Confidentiality:** Do not disclose confidential information obtained through judging duties. This includes, but is not limited to, scoring discussions, specific judging assignments (unless announced *publicly* by NAWGJ), or private information about individuals.
- 3.6. Integrity:** Uphold the integrity of the judging profession. Do not post or share content that undermines the credibility of gymnastics judging.
- 3.7. Think Before Posting:** Remember that anything posted online can be public, permanent, and widely shared, even if privacy settings are in place. Consider the potential impact of posts before sharing.

#### **4. Prohibited Conduct:**

The following actions are strictly prohibited on social media:

- 4.1. Commenting on Assignments or Duties:** Commenting on any topic related to officiating assignments or NAWGJ duties. This includes specific meet assignments, locations, dates and the scores or outcomes of any meet.
- 4.2. Commenting on Scores or Routines:** Discussing, critiquing, or offering opinions on specific scores, deductions, or routines from past, present, or future competitions, whether publicly or in private groups, whether specifically judged or judged by others. This includes routines specifically judged or routines judged by others. Keep in mind that even a “generic” comment can be identified or misconstrued.
- 4.3. Criticizing or Undermining Fellow Judges:** Posting negative, critical, or unprofessional commentary or speculation about the performance or decisions of other judges.
- 4.4. Criticizing a Coach or a Participant:** Using social media to complain about a coach, athlete, team, meet personnel, or spectator.
- 4.5. Posting on Social Media During a Competition:** Using a cell phone, computer, tablet, or any other similar device for social media while officiating.
- 4.6. Sharing Unofficial Information:** Sharing unofficial rules interpretations, scoring insights, or internal NAWGJ communications.
- 4.7. Posting Inappropriate Content:** This includes, but is not limited to, content that is:
  - a. Obscene, vulgar, or sexually explicit.
  - b. Defamatory, libelous, or slanderous.
  - c. Hate or discriminatory speech, or speech that promotes violence.
  - d. Reflecting poorly on NAWGJ, your character or your ability to judge impartially.
  - e. Depicting alcohol or drug consumption or other potentially inappropriate behaviors in a manner that would undermine your role as a judge.
- 4.8. Creating NAWGJ Specific Websites/Pages/Blogs/Social Media Profile:** Creating NAWGJ websites, pages, blogs, or social media profiles, without the express prior written consent of the NAWGJ Executive Committee.

- 4.9. Posting Photos/Videos from Meets Without Permission:** Posting photos or videos that have been taken of gymnasts or competitions without explicit permission from the appropriate parties (e.g., event organizers, gymnasts, or their guardians if minors). Exercise extreme caution when sharing any media involving minors.
- 4.10. Soliciting or Accepting Gifts/Favors:** Using social media to solicit or accept gifts, endorsements, favors, or preferential treatment from anyone associated with gymnastics.
- 4.11. Endorsing or Promoting Products:** Using any form of social media to endorse products, accept or make endorsements, or receive payments for the endorsement and/or approve products or personal services while in a judging role. This includes, but is not limited to, any public or private posts, comments, shares, or messages that could be perceived as leveraging a judge's position for personal commercial gain.
- 4.12. Commenting on Pending Legal Matters:** Comment on any ongoing investigations, disciplinary actions, or legal proceedings related to judging or NAWGJ.
- 4.13. Violating Laws:** Violating any laws, including but not limited to copyright, trademarks, and publicity and privacy rights. NAWGJ trademarks, service marks, and other proprietary terminology cannot be used on social media without the express prior written permission from the NAWGJ Executive Committee.

## **5. Permitted Conduct:**

Judges are permitted to do anything that does not violate this Policy or any other NAWGJ rule or policy (or other applicable rules or policies of any third party organizations), which may include:

- 5.1. Maintaining Personal Social Media Accounts:** Using social media for personal purposes.
- 5.2. Engaging in Educational Discussions (Privately):** Privately engaging in discussions with other judges for educational purposes.
- 5.3. Stating Personal Opinions:** Unless authorized to speak on behalf of NAWGJ, judges must state that the views expressed are their own. No one should speak on behalf of NAWGJ without the express prior written permission from the NAWGJ Executive Committee.

## **6. Reporting Violations:**

Any concerns regarding the violation of this Policy should be reported to the NAWGJ Executive Committee (emails, available [here](#)) and/or via the Complaint Form provided on the NAWGJ National website, available [here](#).

## **7. Consequences of Violations:**

NAWGJ respects the right of its members to participate in social media and does not discourage self-publishing or self-expression that is not in violation of this Policy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, NAWGJ members are expected to follow this Policy. As such, inappropriate activity that is in violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action pursuant to the NAWGJ Disciplinary Procedures.