

FAQ for NAWGJ Members

Updated 10/8/2026

We are providing this list of Frequently Asked Questions to help our members understand some of the most common inquiries. NAWGJ receives many questions about judges, several of which are related to other organizations.

Your NAWGJ Board of Directors answered questions related to NAWGJ. We reached out to directors in other organizations for their answers.

If you have further questions, submit them to: rjdr1@nawgjngb.com

1. Judges Pay

a. Who sets the pay rate for judges?

- i. **USAG:** The USAG National office, specifically the leadership team/National Governing Board. See the 2026-2027 USA Women's Artistic Rules & Policies (R&P), Meet Officials. [rulespolicies.pdf](#)
- ii. **AAU:** We follow the USAG pay scales. When their rates change, so do ours.
- iii. **NGA:** The pay rates are set by the NGA National Board. See NGA Judges Compensation Package (Rules and Regulations pg. 43) which is used for all sanctioned competitions.
- iv. **USAIGC:**
We will update when information is provided.

b. What criteria are used?

- i. **USAG:** Several factors, including but not limited to rates across other disciplines, market competitiveness, internal equity, etc.

c. How often is this reviewed?

- i. **USAG:** Yearly

2. Clinicians pay

- a. NAWGJ (2026) pays its national clinicians \$219 for preparation and \$219 for presenting, a total of \$438 for a 1-session (50-60 minutes) presentation. This amount is increased annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). We encourage state and regional NAWGJ to pay clinicians similarly.
- b. USAG: As it applies to State Congresses/clinics, the State committee may set the rate. As it refers to Regional/National Congresses, that rate is set by the USAG office.

Based on feedback from clinicians who presented at Regional Congresses in 2026, we believe the 1-session rate was \$150. We will update this information when we receive verification.

- c. AAU negotiates this separately with each clinician hired.
- d. NGA: At non-sanctioned events, judges/clinicians may negotiate pay.

3. Travel, hotels

a. USAG

- i. For judges requesting single rooms, why can't the shared hotel room expenses be based on the local city/state per diem rate for hotels?

The standard CONUS rate applies, just as the standard IRS rate for mileage. See the USAG R&P, USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package.
[rulespolicies.pdf](#)

The resort fee and taxes are the responsibility of the meet host/director. Sometimes it is difficult for the hotel to separate that out.

- ii. Do I have to share a hotel room?

The form of accommodation must be specified in the judge's contract with the meet director. If the meet

director does not provide a single room, a judge may request a single room and pay the difference between the actual room rate and the current CONUS lodging rate. See USAG R & P, USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package. [rulespolicies.pdf](#)

b. Do I have to carpool?

Judges are not required to carpool. Refer to USAG R&P, USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package. [rulespolicies.pdf](#)

4. Taxes

a. Why do I have to fill out a W9 if I won't make over \$2,000?

Each meet director, school or organization has its own criteria for collecting W9's. Our accountant advised NAWGJ to collect W9s no matter the amount, since judges may be paid more than once.

NAWGJ only issues 1099s for those amounts over \$2000.

5. Judge Assigning

a. USAG

i. How can I be assigned to higher-level Dev Program invitationals?

1. Assigning is done on a state-by-state basis. See the USAG R&P, Contracting of Officials. [rulespolicies.pdf](#) Meet hosts of invitational competitions may request specific judges.

We understand your frustration. There is a significantly greater need for judges at Xcel, Compulsory and 6-7 than there is a need for judges at the 8-9-10 Levels. Be professional, be positive, know and apply the rules consistently and be patient. Opportunity can come unexpectedly.

ii. Who selects judges for state and above meets?

Per USAG R&P, Meet Officials. [rulespolicies.pdf](#)

- a. State Meets: The USAG State Administrative Chair (SAC) selects the officials. Chief judge and panel judge assignments are the responsibility of the SAC. It is strongly recommended that the SAC ask the assigned Meet Referee to make the Individual Event assignments. Rotation of recommended officials is encouraged but not required.
- b. Regionals: In consultation with the USAG Regional Administrative Committee Chair (RACC) and the USAG Regional Technical Chair (RTCC), the Regional Committee Chair (RAC) selects the officials
 - i. Each SAC must submit their recommendation in rank order (or groups of rank order)
 - ii. Rotation of officials is not required but may be considered
 - iii. Meet Referee, Chief Judge and Panel Judge assignments are the responsibility of the RAC.
- c. Level 9 Eastern/Westerns and Level 10 Nationals and National Xcelebration: Assignments will be made by the National Technical Committee Chair (NTCC), in consultation with the Women's Program Technical Director after reviewing the regional recommendation.
 - i. The RTCC must submit their RAC's recommendations in rank order to the NTCC no later than November 1

- ii. Rotation of officials is not required but may be considered.

b. Other Organizations:

Each organization NAWGJ serves has its own criteria for selecting judges, for example, AAU, High School, NCAA, NGA, USAIGC.

c. How are new judges assigned?

This varies state by state. We encourage NAWGJ assigners to work with the requesting organization and/or the meet directors to figure out how to best give experience and assignments to new judges.

3. For USAG, will the new categories for National/Brevet be considered for judging assignments?

Holding a specific rating does not insure a judging assignment. Assigners are to consider Meet Director requests for specific judges, the minimum rating required, geographics and keeping travel costs at a minimum. Rules & Policies, Meet Officials [rulespolicies.pdf](#)

4. Do I have to join NAWGJ before I can judge a meet?

If contracted by NAWGJ, yes

If you want to be covered by NAWGJ insurance, yes

To receive benefits from NAWGJ fundraisers (Judges' Cups etc.), yes

5. Do I need a separate rating to judge Xcel?

If you have a Developmental rating, you may judge Xcel meets. An Xcel only rating allows you to judge Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions. Refer to USAG R&P, Meet Officials [rulespolicies.pdf](#)

6. Collegiate Judging

a. How can I be assigned to higher-ranked team NCAA meets?

Judges are never guaranteed an assignment. Mileage is the main focus for assigners. Institutions are not required to fly in judges. See the Judges Manual [2027 Collegiate Judges Manual - Working Draft](#)

The following affects assignments:

- Eligibility including memberships, rating, examinations, clinics, affiliation disclosures & applicable training
- Accurate availability, travel limitations, mileage restrictions, travel feasibility & cost
- Meet-host and panel needs, including division, event, experience & Meet Referee needs.
- Assignment history and efforts to rotate judges among institutions, events, judging partners, divisions, conferences, rankings, & pay scales
- Locality, impartiality, compliance with meet-count and other assigning restrictions.

Judges may not delay entering availability or change their availability for the purpose of avoiding local assignments or seeking particular travel assignments. Availability entered or materially changed after assigning begins may not be considered during the initial assigning process. Such conduct may result in removal from some or all regular season and post-season assignments.

b. How are judges selected for Conference Championship meets?

The process is the same as for regular season meets.

c. How are judges selected for Regional/National NCAA meets?

- i. The National Coordinator of Officials (NCO) reviews all evaluation information when presenting the list of judges to the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee for potential post-season selection.

- ii. The NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee selects all post-season judges. Evaluation information is used for both regular season and post-season purposes. The postseason selection procedures are found in the NCAA Pre-Championships Manual which should be available on the NCAA Championships page for Women's Gymnastics before the start of the 2027 season.
- d. Do I need a USAG membership to judge NCAA gymnastics?
 - i. Yes.
 - ii. Throughout the assigning process and competitive season, every judge must maintain current NAWGJ and USA Gymnastics memberships and have at least a Level 10 rating. Eligibility to judge also depends on timely completion of the examinations, required clinics, affiliation disclosures, and any role-specific training (such as meet referee).

7. Other Opportunities

- a. How can I be on the NAWGJ Committee?
 - i. We encourage you to apply for your State Committee. We need more volunteers at the state level who then become eligible for SJD, RJD and National Board of Directors positions.
 - ii. State Committee elections are held every 2 years, with odd numbered Regions in odd years and even Regions in even years. Any judge in good standing who has been a NAWGJ member for at least one year is eligible to run for their State Committee.

If you have further questions that would be helpful for other NAWGJ members, submit them to: rjdr1@nawgjnbg.com