Important Announcement: Judge Rating Updates

The International Elite Committee (IEC) would like to share a few updates to the judges' rating process that will take effect this fall. These changes are designed to support consistent judging standards and reflect updates to the way Elite Compulsory and TOPS athletes are assessed.

Elite Compulsory Rating

Beginning November 1, 2026, judges must earn an Elite Compulsory rating by successfully completing the required examination in order to judge Elite Compulsory competitions.

- Judges who currently hold an Elite Compulsory rating, will see that rating will expire December 31, 2026. Judges who are assigned to officiate at Elite Compulsory competitions in December 2026 and beyond must complete and pass the Elite Compulsory examination. Only judges who currently hold a Brevet/National Category 1–4, or FIG Brevet rating are eligible to take the Elite Compulsory examination and earn an Elite Compulsory rating.

Please note:

- Holding an Elite Compulsory rating does **NOT** guarantee a judging assignment.
- There is **NO** additional compensation for holding an Elite Compulsory rating.

TOPS Rating Update

The TOPS rating will be phased out, with all TOPS ratings expiring on December 31, 2026.

After reviewing the TOPS program, the IEC has updated the process for evaluating TOPS athletes. Under the revised process**,** TOPS skill assessments will no longer be conducted at local competitions**.** As a result, a separate TOPS judging rating is no longer necessary.

We are grateful to all of our judges for their time, dedication, and continued support of these athletes and programs. Thank you for helping us make these updates a smooth and positive transition!