

## Judging Women's Artistic Gymnastics

This is quick overview on what it takes to become a judge for women's artistic gymnastics, the ratings, the training and criteria for each level, certification, continuing educational needs and the various organizations involved.

Interested individuals go through a series of clinics, practical judging experiences and a series of tests on the road to becoming a judge for women's artistic gymnastics. Below is a quick overview, and more information is also available through USA Gymnastics.

### I. How to become a Judge

1. One can earn a rating as a gymnastics official through a series of tests, both Written and Practical, administered under the auspices of the USA Gymnastics Judging Accreditation Program.
2. It is recommended that a series of clinics and practical judging experiences in compulsory and optional gymnastics routines are integral in developing the basic knowledge and skills required to become a judge.
3. It is recommended that you contact your NAWGJ (National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges) State Judging Director for information about upcoming clinics, exams dates, etc. It is very helpful to attend a judges' training clinic prior to taking judging tests. You can find the name and contact information for your NAWGJ State Judging Director at <http://www.nawgj.org/>.
4. In order to officiate women's gymnastics under USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic rules, judges must have knowledge of the rules and regulations included in the following publications (and addendums):
  - *USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Compulsory Handbook*
  - *USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Code of Points*
  - *Current USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies*
  - *USA Gymnastics Technique Magazine*, which includes minutes from the [USA Gymnastics Women's Technical](#) and [Junior Olympic Program Committees](#).
  - Note: All technical materials may be ordered from the USA Gymnastics on-line store at <http://usagym.sportgraphics.biz/> or by calling 1-800-345-4719.
5. In order to officiate International or U.S. Elite competitions, Brevet judges must have knowledge of the rules and regulations included in the following publications:
  - *FIG Code of Points*
  - FIG updates published by the FIG Technical Committee
  - Current FIG Technical Regulations (for International Competition)
6. Membership/Certification requirements:
  - Must be a current Professional Member of USA Gymnastics.
  - If under the age of 18, must be a current Junior Professional Member of USA Gymnastics; and must upgrade to a Professional Membership upon turning 18.
  - Must hold a current safety certification.

### II. Ratings

1. Any individual that has never held a rating may test at Compulsory Level 5/6 and/or at the Optional Level 7/8.
2. Individuals may choose to become rated for optional levels only. A Level 5/6 rating is not required.

3. The Accreditation year will be defined as August 1-July 31.
4. Test sessions will be scheduled within the USA Gymnastics Judging Accreditation Program by individual Test Administrators. A master list of all upcoming testing sessions, the test parts to be offered at each, and information on how to register for a test can be found [on-line](#).
5. Examinees may take the written and/or practical exam for a specific level a maximum of four (4) times per accreditation year in the attempt to pass.
6. Ratings Overview:

Level	Rating Prerequisite	Minimum Age	Written	Practical (Video)	CPE Hours
5/6	n/a	16	70%	n/a	n/a
7/8	n/a	16	70%	70%	n/a
9	7/8	18	76%	75%	12
	12 months				
10	9	20	80%	80%	16
	12 months				

7. Compulsory Level 5/6

- Must be a minimum of 16 years of age
- Must take a written exam and achieve a minimum score of 70%
- Once a rating is achieved, judge is certified to judge USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Compulsory Levels 5 and 6.

8. Optional Level 7/8

- Must be a minimum of 16 years of age.
- Must take a written exam covering both Level 7 and 8 and achieve a minimum score of 70%.
- Must take a practical (video) exam showing Level 8 exercises only and achieve a minimum score of 70%.
- Examinee is not required to take both parts at the same time, nor are they required to repeat any part previously passed.
- Must pass the compulsory 5/6 test in order to earn a Level 5/6 Compulsory rating.
- Once a rating is achieved, judge is certified to judge USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Optional Levels 7 and 8.

9. Optional Level 9

- Must have held an Optional Level 7/8 rating for a minimum of twelve (12) months.
- Must meet the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements of 12 hours (minimum 6 clinic hours).
- An exception to the above (2) requirements will be made for any former or present Level 10 or Collegiate Regional coach, or Level 10 senior gymnast. Those qualified individuals may begin testing at Level 5/6 and Level 9 concurrently. Level 10/Collegiate coaches and eligible athletes must complete an Exemption Eligibility Form, which is available [on-line](#). A USA Gymnastics National Regional or State officer must sign off on this form prior to testing. This form must be brought to the test site and given to the Test Administrator prior to administration of the test.
- Must be a minimum 18 years of age.
- Must take a written exam and achieve a minimum score of 76%.
- Must take a practical (video) exam and achieve a minimum score of 75%.
- Examinee is not required to take both parts at the same time, nor are they required to repeat any part previously passed.
- May achieve a Level 7/8 rating provided the minimum score of 70% is met on both test parts.
- Once a Level 9 rating is achieved, judge is certified to judge USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Optional Levels 7, 8 and 9.
- Must pass the compulsory 5/6 test in order to earn a Level 5/6 Compulsory rating.

10. Optional Level 10

- Must have actively held an Optional Level 9 rating for a minimum of twelve (12) months.
- Must meet the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements of 16 hours (minimum 8 clinic hours).
- An exception to the above (2) requirements will be made for any former or present Elite Coach or Senior Elite gymnast who participates at a National Elite Classic. Those qualified individuals may begin testing at Level 5/6 and 10 concurrently. Elite Coaches and eligible athletes must complete an Exemption Eligibility Form, which is available [on-line](#). A USA Gymnastics National, Regional, or State officer must sign off on this form prior to testing. This form must be brought to the test site and given to the Test Administrator prior to administration of the test.
- Must be a minimum of 20 years of age.
- Must take both a practical (video) and written exam. Must receive a minimum score of 80% on each examination part. Examinee is not required to take both parts at the same time, nor are they required to repeat any part previously passed.
- May achieve a Level 9 rating provided a minimum Written test score is 76% and a minimum Practical test score is 75% are both met.
- May achieve a Level 7/8 rating provided the minimum score of 70% is met on both test parts.
- Once a Level 10 rating is achieved, judge is certified to judge USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Optional Levels 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- Must pass the compulsory 5/6 test in order to earn a Level 5/6 Compulsory rating.

11. Brevet and National Judges

- Must attend a Brevet or National Judges' Course, by invitation only
- Must successfully pass all the requirements of the course.
- Are certified to judge all Junior Olympic Optional Levels 7, 8 and 9, and 10.
- Must pass the compulsory 5/6 test in order to earn a Level 5/6 Compulsory rating.

## IV. Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements

1. Annual CPE credits are required to test up to the next level and to be assigned to USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.
2. CPE credits will be calculated in actual clock hours.
3. Accreditation year is August 1 – July 31.
4. Required CPE hours are as follows:

Highest Rating Held	CPE Hours Required per Accreditation Year	Required Clinic Hours per Year (as part of the Total)	Maximum Number of Clinic Hours allowed to carry forward to the next Accreditation Year
Level 5/6	12	6	2
Level 7/8	12	6	2
Level 9	16	8	3
Level 10	20	10	4
National	20	10	4
Brevet	20	10	4

5. Clinic CPE credits will be defined as hours spent at a State, Regional, or Nationally organized events such as Congresses, Clinics, Courses, or Symposiums. These events must be publicized in advance and open to all judges in the state, region, or nation as applicable to the event (Exception: eligibility requirement must be met for judges' courses.) USA Gymnastics University will develop CPE certificates to be issued at the conclusion of an (clinically) approved session by the Clinician or organizational personnel.
6. Clinical Activities will be designated as "Approved for CPE" by the following:
  - National- USA Gymnastics National Office
  - Regional- USA Gymnastics Regional Technical Committee Chairman (or designee)

- State- USA Gymnastics Regional Technical Committee Chairman (or designee)
  - Those wishing to have a clinic approved for CPE simply need to e-mail their respective Regional Technical Chairman with the date and topic(s) of the clinic(s), anticipated attendance, and name(s) of the clinician(s). The Regional Technical Chairman or their designee will send or bring the appropriate number of CPE certificates to the event.
7. A maximum number of CPE hours may be acquired for the following miscellaneous activities:
- Coaching (6 hours); to be signed by supervisor or club owner
  - In gym observation, critiquing/consulting with coaches and gymnasts (6 hours); to be signed by the coach
  - Volunteering at a judging related activity (4 hours); to be signed by the event coordinator. Two of these four hours can come from service as a USA Gymnastics or NAWGJ Board member.
  - Video or live practice judging at a level equal to or higher than your current rating (3 hours); to be signed by the supervising judge. Practice judging will require pre-approval you're your USA Gymnastics State Chairman or NAWGJ State Judging Director. For pre-approval, simply send an e-mail to the appropriate officer requesting permission. Please note that live Practice Judging will also require pre-approval from the Meet Director. This is done by contacting the Meet Referee for the event and not by contacting the Meet Director directly. The practice judge should come prepared with all judging materials and wear the appropriate judging uniform. Video Practice Judging will be recorded in hours and requires written verification from the supervising judge.
8. Miscellaneous CPE activities are to be recorded on the Miscellaneous CPE Form, which can be found [on-line](#).

## H. Continuing Professional Education Tracking

1. Each judge is responsible to keep accurate records of their CPE, including documentation of attendance at approved CPE experiences. Documentation should correspond to the hours submitted on the Annual CPE Record Form.
2. Each USA Gymnastics State Chairman will be responsible for designating a USA Gymnastics CPE Coordinator. CPE Coordinators must be proficient in Excel. The CPE Coordinator will maintain a list of all the judges in the state, the number of CPE hours they complete each year, and the number of clinical hours they will carry forward to the next year.
3. Each judge is responsible for recording a summary of their total annual CPE hours by category, recorded on the Annual CPE Record Form, and submitting their form to their respective CPE Coordinator by June 30 of each year. The Annual CPE Record Form is available [on-line](#), or may be obtained from the State Judging Director and/or CPE Coordinator.
4. The CPE Coordinator is responsible to send a master list of all judges who have successfully completed their annual CPE requirements to the USA Gymnastics National Office, the respective SJD, RJD, and the respective USA Gymnastics State and Regional Chairman by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. If a judge does not complete all of their required CPE hours within a given year, they may apply CPE hours from the successive year to make up for the hours they were lacking. When completed, they must still send the proper documentation to their CPE Coordinator. Note that CPE hours cannot be used twice, meaning, if hours are being used to make up from a previous year, those same hours could not be applied to the current year as well.
6. The National Office will conduct audits each year that will require randomly selected judges to provide actual documentation of the CPE, as reported on the Annual CPE Record Form to their CPE Coordinators.

## I. Governing Bodies and Other Gymnastics Organizations

1. FIG- Federation of International Gymnastics
  - The FIG establishes the rules and policies for competition on the international level.
  - The FIG is an international organization composed of member nations. It is divided into an Executive Committee and Women's and Men's Technical Committees. The personnel seated on these committees are

elected by a vote of all member nations.

- The Technical Regulations of the FIG provide all rules governing World Championships, officially registered international competitions, and most aspects of the Olympic Games that are not covered by the rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

## 2. USA Gymnastics

- USA Gymnastics is the National Governing body for all USA competitions through a system of sanctioning, and is the affiliated member to the FIG and IOC for the sport of gymnastics.
- USA Gymnastics establishes the rules and policies for competition in the United States through its Committee structure. The Women's Technical Committee is specifically charged with the responsibility of judges' training, education, and Judging Accreditation certification procedures.

## 3. NAWGJ- National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- The NAWGJ is a professional organization for women's gymnastics officials.
- The committees of NAWGJ contract judges to USA Gymnastics, AAU, USAIGC, YMCA, and Collegiate competitions as requested by the State and Regional Committees, or specific meet directors.
- NAWGJ provides educational opportunities and disseminates information by way of Regional, National, and State Symposia and Newsletters.
- NAWGJ represents gymnastics officials on the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors.