



END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

As the end of the year approaches the 2015-2016 gymnastics season is just beginning. I do not send many newsletters but thought a newsletter would be fitting since there are several reminders for the upcoming season. I would like to begin by saying THANK YOU for all you do. Each and every judge in Illinois plays an integral part in the success of our state. Endless weekends and endless hours of judging are covered by the dedicated judges of Illinois. Whether it is USA Gymnastic, AAU, or YMCA, the judges of Illinois step up and provide the gymnasts of Illinois with outstanding judging. Thank you for your dedication, your knowledge and expertise, and for your professionalism while representing Illinois NAWGJ.

LOOK WHAT IS ON THE HOME PAGE OF www.nawgj.org

As was discussed at the Open Meeting back in October, scarfs are not part of the uniform. Leggings and yoga pants are also not to be worn with the uniform. Think about other professions requiring uniforms. How silly would a police officer, a circuit court judge, a member of the armed forces, a football referee, an umpire, or a TSA agent look with a big scarf wrapped around their uniform? Please conform to the uniform guidelines. Choosing to disregard the uniform guidelines is a contract violation and makes the statement that you do not feel the rules pertain to you!

JUDGES CUP 2015

Our Judges Cup Meet was a huge success. We received many complements from coaches. The critiques were viewed as very valuable and all who attended were very happy with the feedback they received. Thank you all for your continuing efforts in making our fundraiser a success!!! I would also like to thank our Judges Cup Chair Brooke for running a great Judges Cup Meet!

CANON #12



TWO BALANCE BEAM FORMAT

The Illinois USA Gymnastics Committee has received approval from USA Gymnastics to use two balance beams during competitions using Modified Traditional format. Generally there is one of each set of equipment and the gymnast warm up and immediately competes that event. With this format there will be two balance beams and one of everything else. This format has been done in Illinois at past meets and is now approved for all USA Gymnastics sanction meets in Illinois for this upcoming season.

NEW BREAK TIME PAY

Please make sure you have the new pay chart from Rules & Policies. Break time has changed. The wording is a little confusing and I have a clarification from Connie. Judges must have at least one continuous 45 minute break during a full day, seven hours or more, of judging. If required break time is not provided we are to be paid from the scheduled start time of the first session until the final session is finished. Meet referees will need to note on the sanction that judges did not receive required break time as this is a sanction violation. Meet referees, please do not ask judges to leave the floor before the session is over. This does not make extra break time for ALL judges and we are ALL paid the same amount of hours judging. In Illinois we are on the clock until scores are checked and score sheets are signed. ALL judges are required to help with score checking. The Rules and Policies states that all judges shall remain at their event until the last gymnast finishes. It is disrespectful to the gymnast competing and to the judges on the long events to get up and leave before the competition is over. All judges receive the same amount of break time and break time starts when the score sheets are signed. If you are judging a meet with short break time, Connie suggests that judges do not take the floor during the first warm up to extend break time.

SCORE CHECKING

Chief Judges', if your event finishes and you are able to check your scores while the meet is still in progress, you must return to your event. Please do not hang out at the score table. At the conclusion of the meet all chief judges must promptly go to the score table and sign the score sheets. Remember, ALL judges are on the clock and paid until the score sheets are signed. This is required by Illinois USA Gymnastics.

NATIONL CONGRESS

If you are eligible for a clinic and plan to attend the National Congress in San Jose, CA you must contact Kathy Krebs by January 11, 2016. Kathy will put together the group registration. All eligible members who plan to attend National Congress may only redeem this clinic through group registration. Eligibility to redeem the registration fee through Illinois NAWGJ is based on the 2015 Judges Cup. You must contact Kathy by 1/11/2016 to participate in Illinois NAWGJ group registration.

Kathy Krebs kmkrebs@comcast.net

LEVEL 4 & 5 TAP SWINGS

Question has been brought up about the Level 4 and 5 tap swings and when the .30 deduction takes place. According to Tom Koll, that deduction is to be taken when the gymnast flares, stretches and extends her legs extending her body over the low bar while swinging backward. This deduction is NOT for an early tap during the downward forward swing.

ASSIGNING IS FAR FROM FINISHED

Please make sure you keep yourself available. Christy and Mary Lou are still assigning and I am about to begin assigning AAU meets for January and February. Please remember that as members of NAWGJ we judge ALL organizations! You are provided a NAWGJ contract and paid the same for AAU and USA Gymnastics.

AAU

AAU has adopted the same number of judgements allowed per session as listed in USA Gymnastics Rules and Policies. If you judge a meet and the number of judgements exceeds the allowable per session please report the infraction to the GJO President, [Karyn Domzalski](mailto:karynrd@aol.com) <karynrd@aol.com>

DECLINING MEETS

We have had way too many judges decline meets. If you are available in the system you should not be declining an assignment. If you are a chronic decliner, you will be put on the bottom of the list and used only if all other judges are unavailable. Number of declined meets will be a fact shared with the USA Committee next year for their state meet judge selection. Please make sure you go in and update your availability on a regular basis.

RESPECT

Please respect your judging partner. Whether you are mentoring a new judge, a support judge, or a chief judge, respect your judging partner. Most of us are A type personalities and we all think our score is the right score! We can agree to disagree. The gymnasts are paying for two opinions. When mentoring don't force your opinion on the "new" judge. Allow new judges to come up with their own scores but if they are struggling it is our job as mentors to guide them to the path of the start value or deductions. As a support judge remember to allow the chief judge to control the event. It is the chief judge's job to instruct the helpers and deal with inquiries and coaches. I know it is difficult for many of us to stay silent but do not overstep when you are the support judge. Chief judges should be respectful of your support judge and allow them to justify their deductions. Seasoned judges have years of experience and a wealth of judging experience to bring to the table. Our younger judges are fresher off the competitive scene and also bring knowledge to the table. We can learn from each other and can respectfully agree to disagree if our scores are apart but in range.

Enjoy the holidays and get ready for a great competitive gymnastics season!

