

IL-NAWGJSGC - Open Mtg

Open Meeting Minutes

Nov 8, 2025

In-Person

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm CST by Heather Forbes, SJD.

Roll Call

IL-NAWGJ SGC Members Present:

Christi Kearns - Education Chairperson
Heather Forbes - State Judging Director(SJD)
Mary Lou Ackman - Financial Assistant
Richard Sabel - Webmaster
Sarah Mark - Assignor
Sharon Sargeant - Judges Cup Chairperson
Sue Brosnan-McNamara - Assignor
Tanya Chmielewski - Administrative Assistant

IL-NAWGJ Members Present:

Mary Lou Ackman	Breanna Dumbacher	Linda McDonald	Fatbardha Shtrepi
Marilyn Anderson	Kimberly Dyer (via Zoom)	Katie McEnery	Molly Stuckey
Mihaela Anghel	Mya Fegaras	Amanda Meiner	Renee Tubbs
Betty Axelson-McClelland	Barry Green	Savanna Mensching	Connie Urich-Rodriguez
Appolina Barrientos	Billy Gurin	Jessica Morreale	April Van Dyke
Isabel Baskin	Judy Harwood	Donna Nowak	Sue Woloszyk
Brooke Bennett	Michelle Helmke	Abby Partain	Tessa Woodrey
Elizabeth Berg	Jeanne Johnson	Melissa Preston	
Hilary Carlson	Linnea Kangas	Tracey Rogers	
Amy Delaney	Kathy Krebs	Shane Sanders	
Karyn Domzalski	Ellen McDermott	Cheryl Schuh	

IL USAG Committee Member Present:

Norbert Bendixen - State Administrative Committee Chairman

A quorum was met.

Intro/Welcome

- SJD thanked past committee members for their service.
- Congratulations to all test takers given to those who passed their Practical Test on 11/8/25.
- The new IL -NAWGJ State Governing Committee Members were introduced.
- The 2024 Green Flag Award recipient, Jeanne Johnson was recognized and certificate and pin given.

Reports

- Financial Assistant - Mary Lou Ackman
 - The new Financial Assistant thanked Sue Woloszyk for a smooth and helpful transition.
 - The current status of the IL-NAWGJ finances was reported.
 - Last year approximately \$1900 in reimbursements went unclaimed.

- Benefits from Judges Cup 2025 must be claimed by October 31, 2026. Send all receipts and reimbursement forms to the Financial Assistant via the Google Form.
- Mary Lou, also the CPE Coordinator, gave an update and explained the proper process to complete and submit CPE forms.
- **State Judging Director - Heather Forbes**
 - The SJD gave an update.
 - State Meet Updates
 - You must have completed and submitted a PIF to be eligible to be assigned to any state meet/regional/national meet with USA Gymnastics.
 - IL NAWGJ bid on a State Championship competition, but was unsuccessful and was not selected.
 - IL NAWGJ SGC has approved Education Alternates again this year for STATE Championship competitions. We are still waiting for the IL State USAG committee to also approve the cooperative opportunity.
 - National Judges Cup
 - To be held in Anaheim, California in January of 2026
 - City Club's Level 7 team will represent Illinois at National Judges Cup. Their registration is paid by IL NAWGJ.
 - Tanya Chmielewski was selected to represent IL NAWGJ at National Judges Cup.
 - Meet Referees
 - Meet referees, you must state if the meet is a one or two judge panel on the sanction.
 - Meet referees should not reach out to the judges until contracts have been officially sent.
 - Testing
 - Thank you to Linda McDonald for being the official testing administrator.
 - No testing will occur from January 1, 2026 - Aug 1, 2026 as USAG is prepping for rule changes.
 - If testing at the National level for the first time, it must be in-person for both parts of the test.
 - Returning Nationals may test the written online, and the practical in-person.
 - Levels 6-10 will test the written online and the practical in-person.
 - NAWGJ is no longer using canons
 - NAWGJ is now using rules and procedures which are more defined versus the past canons which were just guidelines.
 - There is now a reporting system of "incidents".
 - Review the updates provided by USAG. There have been changes since the updates went out this summer, so be sure to review.
- **Education Chairperson - Christi Kearns**
 - The Education Chair gave an update.
 - Recruitment and Retention Stipends opportunities were reviewed

Recruitment Stipend

- **Eligibility:** Current Illinois NAWGJ members who recruit new judges.
- **Requirements:** The new judge must purchase all necessary memberships and complete required classes (SafeSport, safety certification, background check, etc.).
- **Amount:** \$50 stipend once the new judge is ready for assignment.

Retention Stipend

- **Eligibility:** Current Illinois NAWGJ members who are mentors.
- **Requirements:** Mentors must help their mentees test up to level 9 or level 10 and ensure they have all necessary credentials.
- **Amount:** \$50 one-time stipend upon successful completion of both parts of the level 9 or level 10 test by the mentee

- New Judge benefits were reviewed.
- Education Stipend was reviewed and discussed.

Education Stipend

- Eligibility: Current Illinois NAWGJ members seeking further education.
- Requirements: Judges may practice judge up to two sessions per year/season for a \$50 stipend per session. (Max stipend \$100 per year/season). Must schedule with the meet referee at least 2 weeks in advance so the meet ref can obtain permission from the meet director. A signed verification form from the meet referee is required for reimbursement.
- Limitations: No travel expenses reimbursed, and no more than 4 educational judges may attend any one meet with meet director approval.
- Advantages: This will be particularly helpful to judges testing up who logistically can't be assigned to sessions that include their new level

- New Judge books are available which have CPE forms and a sample guide on how to complete them
- For the 2026 season, all must re-test therefore there are no summer clinics planned. Does the membership want summer study groups? Any ideas, please email Christi at educationchristi@gmail.com
- An Education Package during “testing year” will be available for all IL-NAWGJ judges.
 - Available 1/1/26 - 10/31/26
 - Details of the benefits provided below:

Criteria	Benefit	Notes
Member of IL-NAWGJ	First optional test	This would include both written and practical and the national course for those qualified.
	USA Gymnastics Development Program Optional Code of Points. (this will be electronic)	Reimbursable with Receipt
	\$400 towards reimbursable expenses with receipts	i.e.- hotel for congress, travel to congress, uniform from Lands End, official (NAWGJ, USAG, NGA, AAU, GIJO approved) judging aids

- Assignors - Sue Brosnan-McNamara and Sarah Mark
 - The Assignors gave an update.
 - The Assignors reviewed the assigning protocols.
 - Review protocols of what is an appropriate comment or request in the GYMJAS note section
 - The ONLY person to contact if canceling is the meet assignor. It is not the responsibility of you as the judge to find a replacement.
 - Judges should not contact the Meet Director : The “chain of command” at a meet is: Judge → Meet Referee → Meet Director.
 - Update availability in GYMJAS otherwise it is too difficult to assign judges correctly.
 - Emphasized to all judges that it is important to confirm and create contracts as soon as an email is received.
- Judges Cup Chairperson - Sharon Sargeant
 - Update of Judges Cup 2025 was given and included:
 - It was the largest Judges Cup ever !
 - 839 Gymnasts
 - 30 clubs
 - 9 new clubs
 - 3 Out of State clubs
 - 14 sessions
 - 60 judges
 - Reviewed the Judges Cup 2025 Benefit Compensation package and explained an example
 - Table of Judges Cup 2025 Compensation Package provide below:

Judges Cup 2025 Compensation Package

One Session worked	Two or more Sessions worked	Six or more Sessions worked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first session worked will be volunteer time. Each judge is eligible to receive 4 hours towards CPE credits. Each judge earns Judges Cup 2025 apparel. Each judge will be reimbursed mileage with receipts and a hotel room will be provided, based on judges availability. (No Thursday or Sunday night stays) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the first session of volunteer time worked, each judge will receive \$70 per session. Each judge will get 2026-2027 NAWGJ Membership paid. Working set-up or take-down (not both), will give you one session paid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each judge will be eligible to receive an educational opportunity (i.e. Congress, Flippin Education or Symposium Registration) which will be paid at the early bird group rate, if available. Each judge will receive an additional \$250 towards approved reimbursement expenses with receipts.

- Webmaster - Richard Sabel
 - The Webmaster gave an update.
 - Please feel free to give any ideas or suggestions to improve the website.
- Administrative Assistant - Tanya Chmielewski
 - The Administrative Assistant gave an update.
 - Please feel free to give any ideas or suggestions to improve the newsletter.
- State Administrative Committee Chairman - Norbert Bendixen
 - Gave an explanation on the selection process for State Judges versus Regional Judges.

Closing - Heather Forbes

- MOTION at 8:35 p.m. CST
 - Motion to Adjourn
 - MOTION: Christi Kearns
 - SECOND: Sharon Sargeant
 - PASSED: Unanimously