

IL-NAWGJSGC : In-Person Mtg

Committee Meeting Minutes

Sep 13, 2026

In-Person

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am CST by Heather Forbes, SJD.

Roll Call

Present:

Mary Lou Ackman - Financial Assistant

Sue Brosnan-McNamara - Assignor

Tanya Chmielewski - Administrative Assistant

Heather Forbes - State Judging Director (SJD)

Christi Kearns - Education Chairperson

Sarah Mark - Assignor

Richard Sabel - Webmaster

Not Present: (excused)

Sharon Sargeant - Judges Cup Chairperson

A quorum was met.

Old Business

- August Minutes approved online via Google Forms.

New Business

Review of Financials

- The current status of the state of the IL-NAWGJ finances was reported.
- The current status of the state of finances for Judges Cup 2025, Educational Package 2025 & Judges Cup 2025 Benefits were reported.
 - Judges Cup 2025
 - Educational Package 2025
 - This educational benefit helped IL NAWGJ members during the testing year 2026. Approximately \$19,000 has been paid. Approximately 31 judges have not claimed their benefit.
 - Judges Cup 2025 Benefits
 - For benefits from Judges Cup 2025, approximately \$4600 has been paid. Approximately 26 judges have not claimed their Judges Cup Benefit.

Judges Cup - Sharon Sargeant

- The current status of IL-NAWGJ Judges Cup 2026 was reported.
- More than 1000 gymnasts have registered for Judges Cup 2026
 - The meet is closed and coaches must contact Sharon Sargeant directly to add

gymnasts.

- A&P was approved to be the equipment vendor by an online vote via Google Forms in August.
- Proposed Agenda for Judges Cup 2026
 - Meet start times will be at approximately 8:00 am for all three days; Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
 - IL NAWGJ SGC will host an Educational Clinic after the last session on Saturday evening.IL NAWGJ SGC commitment is needed Thursday - Sunday
- **MOTION** at 9:44 am CST
 - Motion to approve the revised admission fees to IL-NAWGJ Judges Cup 2026
 - ❖ Weekend Pass - \$35 Adult / \$25 Senior, Student & Veteran / \$10 Kids (5-10 yrs)
 - ❖ One Session - \$20 Adult / \$15 Senior, Student & Veteran / \$5 Kids (5-10 yrs)
 - ❖ Kids under 5 are FreeMOTION: Mary Lou Ackman
SECOND: Richard Sabel
PASSED: Unanimously
- **MOTION** at 9:55 am CST
 - Motion to send two IL-NAWGJ judges to National Judges Cup 2027 to represent Illinois at National Judges Cup 2027 in Niagara Falls.MOTION: Tanya Chmielewski
SECOND: Richard Sabel
PASSED: Unanimously
- **MOTION** at 9:57 am CST
 - Motion to provide up to \$8000 (\$4000/each) in reimbursable expenses (with receipts) for the two IL-NAWGJ judges to attend the National Judges Cup 2027 in Niagara Falls, New York.MOTION: Christi Kearns
SECOND: Sarah Mark
PASSED: Unanimously
- No State Judges Cup can count towards CPEs.
- Educational Clinics provided on Saturday night and Sunday morning may be used towards CPEs.
- **MOTION** at 10:20 am CST
 - Motion to approve IL-NAWGJ Judges Cup 2026 Compensation Package. All benefit money must be claimed by IL-NAWGJ membership by October 1, 2027.MOTION: Christi Kearns
SECOND: Mary Lou Ackman
PASSED: Unanimously
- Judges Cup 2026 Compensation Package will be published once they are approved by NAWGJ's National Office.

Education - Christi Kearns

- The current status of upcoming educational events and the education benefits for IL-NAWGJ members was reported.
- An Educational clinic is planned for Saturday evening at IL NAWGJ Judges Cup 2026.
 - This event focuses on the changes to the Optional Dev Code of Points.

- This event will be held in one group setting.
- All judges and coaches are encouraged to attend.
- An Educational clinic is planned for Sunday morning at IL NAWGJ Judges Cup 2026.
 - This event will focus on topics such as; Shorthand, Practice Judging and Determining Start Values.
 - This clinic is for judges.
- Education Benefits include: Recruitment, Retention and Education Stipends
 - Problems with the process for those wanting to participate in receiving the Education Stipend were discussed and possible solutions proposed.
 - The next IL-NAWGJ newsletter ("IN") will explain the process and have an easy to follow "How To" section for each education benefit.
- Due to the need to use new judges at XCEL sessions on their first assignment, receiving a start value chart sooner versus later was determined necessary.
- **MOTION** at 10:50 am CST
 - Motion to buy 10 new Neutral deduction charts and 5 new Start Value charts to be used for the new judge benefit.
 - MOTION: Christi Kearns
 - SECOND: Richard Sabel
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- **MOTION** at 11:14 am CST
 - Motion to approve budgeting \$50 for 5 New Judge information packets.
 - MOTION: Christi Kearns
 - SECOND: Sue Brosnan-McNamara
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- **MOTION** at 11:25 am CST
 - Motion to approve budgeting \$4000 to pay for Educational Alternate Judges for Illinois State Meets.
 - MOTION: Richard Sabel
 - SECOND: Sue Brosnan-McNamara
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- National NAWGJ Symposium is scheduled for July 2027
- **MOTION** at 11:31 am CST
 - Motion to approve paying a hotel room reservation for the State Judging Director position at National Symposium 2027.
 - MOTION: Christi Kearns
 - SECOND: Richard Sabel
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- For Summer 2027, there will be no additional State Educational Clinic from IL-NAWGJ
- NAWGJ will potentially have 3 years of consecutive testing expenses starting in 2028:

Webmaster - Richard Sabel

- The current status of the IL-NAWGJ website was presented and ideas gathered for future improvement.
- Goals for the website were discussed.

Assigning - Sarah Mark & Sue Brosnan-McNamara

- The assigning protocols were reviewed and revised.

- Assigning protocols will be published once they are approved by NAWGJ's National Office.
- The first assigning meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2026.
- **MOTION** at 11:56 am CST
 - Motion to approve the 2026-2027 assigning protocols and are subject to approval by the National office.
- MOTION: Mary Lou Ackman
 - SECOND: Chrisit Kearns
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- There will be a standardized template on the IL-NAWGJ website which must be used by meet referees when sending meet assignment information to judges.
- Meet referees will have a deadline to send meet assignment information to judges.

Administrative Assistant - Tanya Chmielewski

- The current status of the IL-NAWGJ newsletter was presented and ideas gathered for future improvement.

Financial - Mary Lou Ackman

- The current status of IL-NAWGJ finances was again reported.
- Each committee member reviewed and agreed to their specific line items on the IL-NAWGJ budget.
- **MOTION** at 1:27 pm CST
 - Motion to approve the 2026-2027 IL-NAWGJ Budget
- MOTION: Chrisi Kearns
 - SECOND: Sue Brosnan-McNamara
 - PASSED: Unanimously
- **MOTION** at 1:34 pm CST
 - Motion to approve Judges Cup 2026 Budget
- MOTION: Richard Sabel
 - SECOND: Sarah Mark
 - PASSED: Unanimously

State Judging Director - Heather Forbes

- All State NAWGJ Committee members are to watch an online zoom presentation hosted by NAWGJ National office. The presentation focuses on Rules and Protocols. Links were sent via email.
- Spring 2027 will be a voting year for IL NAWGJ members to elect their State Governing Committee(SGC).
 - All current members are to review their current job descriptions and make appropriate changes.
 - The committee may have between 5-9 voting members on the board.
 - All voting members on the board must be elected.
 - Two required roles to be elected to the SGC board must be the Financial Assistant and Assignor.
- General online meetings for IL-NAWGJ SGC members will be on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30pm starting October 6, 2026.

CLOSING -

- **MOTION** at 1:55 pm CST
 - Motion to Adjourn
MOTION: Richard Sabel
SECOND: Sarah Mark
PASSED: Unanimously