

# "IN" Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

WWW.ILNAWGJ.COM

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 1 - Oct 31 - Reimbursements can be submitted for Education Package during "testing year" 2026
- Feb 2 - IL NAWGJ SGC online meeting
- Feb 3 - Early bird sign up for region 4/5 congress



*Congrats!*

Lillian Carrico  
Michelle Helmet  
April VanDyke

*These judges were chosen to participate in the Educational Opportunity.*

## National Judges Cup



- TANYA & ELLEN -  
AT NATIONAL JUDGES CUP

## TOP NEWS

- THE 2026 MILEAGE RATE HAS INCREASED TO \$0.725 PER MILE.
- CLARIFICATION OF 2026 JUDGES CUP BENEFITS VERSUS 2026 EDUCATION BENEFITS ON PAGE 2.
- WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION.
- NAWGJ HAS A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY. PLEASE CLICK THE LINK ON PAGE 3 TO REVIEW.
- INFORMATION CONCERNING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS AS WELL AS USAG HUGS PROGRAM ON PAGE 2.
- [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS NAWGJ OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM:](#) REPORTING OF A NAWGJ MEMBER IN VIOLATION OF THE NAWGJ RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

In 2026,  
**ARE YOU**  
testing L6-10?  
[TAP THIS LINK FOR MORE INFO](#)

# *JUDGES CUP BENEFITS*



# *EDUCATION BENEFITS*

## ***2026 JUDGES CUP BENEFITS***

These benefits were earned at Judges Cup 2025. You must use these benefits prior to **10/31/2026**. Based on how many sessions you worked determines what you are eligible for:

- If you worked 1 Session- you received 4 volunteer CPE hours
- If you worked 2-5 Sessions- you received 4 volunteer CPE hours and your NAWGJ Dues paid
- If you worked 6 Sessions- you received 4 volunteer CPE hours, NAWGJ Dues paid, educational opportunity (paid at early bird, group rate), \$250 towards reimbursable expenses,
  - Educational opportunity = i.e. national congress, regional congress, state congress, Flipping Education, Symposium - If you are unsure, please ask
  - Reimbursable expenses= i.e hotel for congress, travel to congress, uniform from Lands End, official (NAWGJ, USAG, NGA, AAU, GJO approved) judging aids, memberships to organizations - if you are unsure, please ask

## ***2026 EDUCATION BENEFITS***

All members of IL-NAWGJ are eligible for these benefits. You must use these benefits prior to 10/31/2026. You are eligible to receive:

- First optional test- this includes both written and practical. If you are testing National it will include the required course
- USAG Developmental Code of Points- this will be electronic and you must provide a receipt
- \$400 towards reimbursable expenses
  - Examples- registration to congress, hotel for congress, travel to Congress, uniform from Lands End, official (NAWGJ, USAG, NGA, AAU, GJO approved) judging aids, iPad (up to \$399), memberships to organizations- if you are unsure, please ask

There are Google forms available on the website and in the monthly IN that you must fill out to be reimbursed. There is also a Google form to register for Congress. Our first deadline is FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please complete the form.

**CLICK HERE FOR THE  
GOOGLE FORM TO SIGN-  
UP FOR CONGRESS**

**CLICK HERE FOR THE  
GOOGLE FORM FOR  
MEMBERSHIP  
REIMBURSEMENTS**

THANKS EVERYONE AND THANKS IL-NAWGJ FOR PROVIDING SUCH GREAT BENEFITS

# HELP

PLEASE



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We need your help at  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.  
If you'd like to volunteer,  
click the link below.**

**GOOGLE SIGN-UP FORM FOR  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**



*Did you  
know?*

*For Example...*

#### NAWGJ - SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- 4.2. Commenting on Scores or Routines: Discussing, critiquing, or offering opinions on specific scores, deductions, or routines from past, present, or future competitions, whether publicly or in private groups, whether specifically judged or judged by others. This includes routines specifically judged or routines judged by others. Keep in mind that even a "generic" comment can be identified or misconstrued.

*Please click the link below to review  
NAWGJ's official Social Media Policy.*

**LINK TO NAWGJ'S  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

National Association of Women's  
Gymnastic Judges

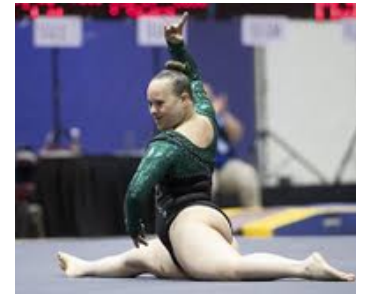
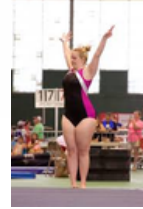


Social Media Policy



# **Special Olympics**

## **Illinois**



**Special Olympics will be hosting their Special Olympics Gymnastics Meet on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Palatine High School. This will include 2 shifts of Artistic Male and Female competition as well as 2 shifts of Rhythmic competition.**

**Please let me know if you are available to vounteer as a judge for that competition.**

**Thanks, Brianna**

### Contact Information

Brianna Beers

Director – Sports & Competition | Special Olympics Illinois

1724 S Finley Road | Lombard, IL 60148 | P: 847-845-6481

[www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)



**As the HUGS program grows in USAG, please familiarize yourself with the rules.**



*link to...*  
**HUGS**



## ARE YOU A NEW MEET REF ?

I JUST FOUND OUT I'M A MEET REFEREE.  
WHAT DO I DO?  
HERE ARE GREAT LINKS TO HELP...

[IL MEET REFEREE CHECKLIST](#)

[IL MEET REFEREE JUDGES MEETING TEMPLATE](#)

## ARE YOU A NEW JUDGE ?

*Please contact me, Christi Kearns if you are a new judge. I can help assign you to a mentor!*

[educationchristi@gmail.com](mailto:educationchristi@gmail.com)

**Link to Updates**

<https://nawgj.org/https-usagym-org/updates/>

# NATIONAL LINKS

- [Category Description & Eligibility Criteria - USA Brevet & National](#)
- [Brevet Course Eligibility Form](#)
- [National Course Eligibility Form](#)
- [Documentation - USA Brevet & National](#)
- [Activity Involvement - USA Brevet & National](#)
- [Leadership Approval Form - USA Brevet & National Eligibility Course-Leadership Credit](#)

# "IN"



## IMPORTANT COMMITTEE LINKS

- [Joint Xcel/Technical Committee minutes from May 13, 2025](#)
- [Xcel Committee minutes from May 13-14, 2025](#)
- [Joint Dev. Program/Technical Committee minutes from May 12, 2025](#)
- [Dev. Program Committee minutes from May 12-13, 2025](#)
- [Technical Committee minutes from May 12-14, 2025](#)

## IL NAWGJ Committee Contact Information

- Christi Kearns-Education Chairperson
  - [educationchristi@gmail.com](mailto:educationchristi@gmail.com)
- Heather Forbes - State Judging Director (SJD)
  - [ilsjdheather@gmail.com](mailto:ilsjdheather@gmail.com)
- Mary Lou Ackman - Financial Assistant
  - [Financeackman@gmail.com](mailto:Financeackman@gmail.com)
- Richard Sabel - Webmaster
  - [ilwebmasterrichard@gmail.com](mailto:ilwebmasterrichard@gmail.com)
- Sarah Mark - Assignor
  - [ilnawgjassignorsarah@gmail.com](mailto:ilnawgjassignorsarah@gmail.com)
- Sharon Sargeant - Judges Cup Chairperson
  - [judgescupsharon@gmail.com](mailto:judgescupsharon@gmail.com)
- Sue Brosnan-McNamara - Assignor
  - [ilnawgjassignorsusan@gmail.com](mailto:ilnawgjassignorsusan@gmail.com)
- Tanya Chmielewski- Administrative Assistant
  - [tanya.ilnawgjadmassist@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.ilnawgjadmassist@gmail.com)