

"IN"

Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

WWW.ILNAWGJ.COM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 1 - Oct 31 - Reimbursements can be submitted for Education Package during "testing year" 2026
- Jan 2 -4 - NAWGJ National Judges Cup

New!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE GOOGLE FORM TO SIGN-UP FOR CONGRESS](#)

For those who worked 6 or more sessions at Judges Cup 2025

Congrats!

DONNA NOWAK
- LEVEL 10 -

These judges have passed into the next rating level for this 25/26 season.

TOP NEWS

- JEANNE WON THE 2024 GREEN FLAG AWARD!
- THE 2026 MILEAGE RATE HAS INCREASED TO \$0.725 PER MILE.
- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUYING A DISCOUNTED JUDGING JACKET? PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- PAGE 3 CONTAINS LINKS TO THE UPDATED USAG R&P AS WELL AS NAWGJ POLICIES & PROCEDURES.
- PLEASE ANSWER ALL EMAILS QUICKLY AND TIMELY.
- NATIONAL UPDATES TO XCEL AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. SEE PAGE 4.
- A "HOW TO GUIDE" ON THE EDUCATION STIPEND CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 5.
- **NEW!! [2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP REIMBURSEMENT GOOGLE FORM : PRESS HERE FOR LINK](#)**



CONGRATULATIONS



Jeanne Johnson

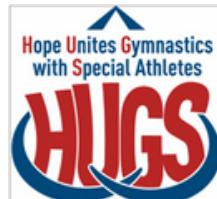
Green Flag Award Winner - 2024 -

Judging Jacket
for SALE!

\$60.00

size 10

contact Stacy Broderick
stacybroderick@aol.com



link to...
HUGS

Did you know several
gymnasts from Illinois
traveled to Ireland to
compete in 2025? As
this program grows,
please familiarize
yourself with the rules.



Click on the appropriate icon which provides a link to...

USAG Rules and Policies (R&P)

NAWGJ Policies and Procedures



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Women's Gymnastics Judges



Rules of Professional Conduct - Updated September 2025



Disciplinary Procedures - Updated September 2025 - Complaint Form link available on the Official Documents page.



Media Policy - Updated September 2025 - Complaint Form link available on the Official Documents page.



Social Media Policy - Updated 2025

Instead of CANONS, we now follow Rules of Professional Conduct.

Are you... **READY TO JUDGE?**

2025-2026 CHECKLIST

- Update all membership registrations and complete Safe Sport.
- Understand all recent rule changes as well as update the pages in your books. Links to Xcel and Dev updates on this page.
- GYMJAS
 - Update all expiration dates.
 - Update affiliations.
 - Complete your availability in your judging schedule.
 - Comments in GYMJAS should be general and not specific meet requests.
(e.g. Cannot stay in a hotel, Do not travel South, Judging Out of State on this date)
- See you the weekend of Nov 7-9 for Judges Cup 2025!
- Need a new uniform? You can see the great additions to uniform options by using the QR code.

Xcel & Dev

LINKS TO UPDATES

- [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](#)

Uniforms



Men's and Women's
Official Uniform Page – QR codes



Land's End Business offers

4 New Choices...

- Softshell Vest
- Custom Logo Insulated Vest
- Thermocheck Vest
- Thermocheck 100 Custom Embroidered Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover Top

HOW TO GUIDE...



EDUCATION STIPEND

Mentee's Responsibility:

1. Reach out to Mentor to get approval to practice judge at a meet. This does not have to be a meet that your mentor is attending.
2. Once Approved, go onto gymjas.com and fill out the activity report so that you are covered by insurance during the meet.
3. Wear a NAWGJ uniform or dress in themed meet wear. The no leggings rule still applies if you are practice judging.
4. At the meet, you will start at an event and rotate in reverse Olympic order to see different teams / levels. (If you rotate in Olympic Order, you would follow the same team around and this is not what should be done).
5. Make sure that the head judge knows that you are there to practice judge and find out where they would like you to sit. Many times this will be back away from the table as table sizes are small at many meets. Please try to note the gymnast's number and average so that you can ask questions at the end of the rotation if there is time. Many meets are run on such a tight schedule that the only discussion time is only available during breaks between sessions. (This could also be a reason that you could be denied a practice judging experience.)
6. Be prepared for the levels that you are going to be practice judging. There are many resources on nawgj.org where you can find cheat sheets / judging sheets. Your mentor can help you become prepared.
7. Be ready to learn and get tips and tricks from other judges. We all want you to succeed.
8. You will not need to sign the sanction for the meet. However, the meet director may want proof of your membership so have your card ready to show if asked.
9. The meet doesn't have to provide you with a meal between sessions so be prepared to bring food if you are staying over a meal.
10. Your meet referee for the meet will be filling out a google form stating that you practice judged. Once that is filled out, a check for \$50 per session (max \$100 for the season) will be issued to you. This can take several weeks to receive.

Mentor's Responsibility:

1. Contact the meet referee several weeks prior to the meet with your mentee's request to practice judge.
2. Help your mentee get study / judging materials together for the levels that they will be judging.
3. Help your mentee know what to wear for the meet and explain how to rotate reverse Olympic Order. Explain to your mentee that they will not be staying with you the whole time and will only judge 1-2 rotations of each event depending on the meet format.
4. Make sure that your mentee knows what time the meet is and what levels that they will be practicing.
5. Help to answer any questions that the mentee may have about special judging situations that happened during the meet and questions that they have about their scores.
6. Be the go between with any information given by the meet referee for the meet.
7. Mentors and upper level judges also have the opportunity to earn the education stipend. Please contact the SJD or education chair to help set up practice judging opportunities at meets where you are not judging.

Meet Referee Responsibilities:

1. Contact the meet director to see if they can allow someone to practice judge at their meet.
2. Contact the mentor / mentee with all information.
3. Let the education chair / SJD know that someone will be practice judging at your meet so we can be looking for the google form.
4. Let the mentee know what event to start at and inform the head judges that they will have someone practice judging.
5. Fill out the Education Stipend Google Form so that the practice judge can receive their stipend.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yHsU2Px850UyrO9qb7iE0R4DTVGBk3cU1ETTYMKvbVc/edit>

Head Judge Responsibilities:

1. Your primary responsibility is to judge your event and keep the meet running. Provide feedback to the person practice judging as soon as you have time. This might be between rotations or between sessions. If you are on a fast event, you might be able to give immediate feedback. Remember that this could be the first time that they have even seen this level and they are there to learn.
2. Share tips and tricks that you have learned over the years.

Please contact Christi Kearns if you have more questions. educationchristi@gmail.com

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 ?

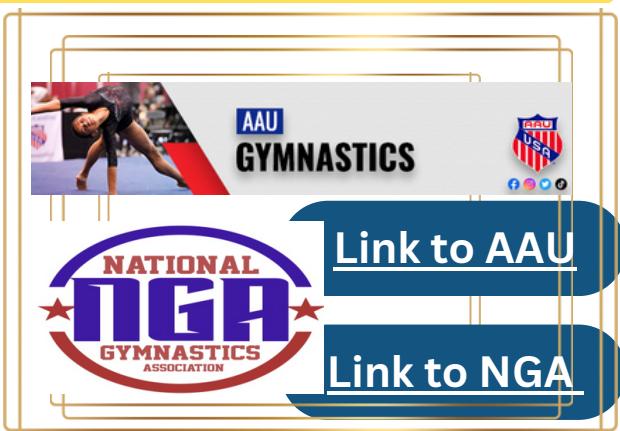
Please contact me, Christi Kearns if you are a new judge. I can help assign you to a mentor!

educationchristi@gmail.com

Link to Updates

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

"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](#)

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](#)

IL NAWGJ Committee Contact Information

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