



*Carole Ide
President, NAWGJ*

Dear College Judges,

As we begin the NCAA judging season there are a few reminders that we need to give attention to in order to make the 2009 collegiate judging season a success in all areas and all arenas. On behalf of the NAWGJ NGB, I wish to thank our new National Assigner, Robin Ruegg and the 13 NAWGJ collegiate assigners throughout the US for their continued dedication to both NAWGJ standards and the Collegiate Judges Assigning System. Please remember, assigning can still occur as there are always emergencies and cancellations. There were numerous replacements of judges last year so **please keep your availability current**. Example: If you have already have meet assignment on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday and you do not want to be sent someplace else on a day prior to or following make sure you **delete** that date as available.

JUDGING ISSUES for the NCAA 2009 SEASON

The following points of clarification listed are either new or are listed as a result of situations that have occurred or questions that have been raised during past seasons. These clarifications are not intended to be a complete reference - refer to the NCAA Rules Modification for complete rulings. They are valid through the 2009 competitions and may be changed in the future.

PRE -MEET PROCEDURES

NEW: It was proposed and passed by the NACGC/W that coaches be permitted to acknowledge and greet officials in a cordial manner in the same format that a casual greeting is permitted with student-athletes.

NEW: Additionally, NAWGJ proposed and it was passed by the NACGC/W that judges be allowed to watch warm-ups, march-in and the 3-minute touch during all regular season and NCAA Championships meets.

Note: This is a privilege that should not be abused in any way. It is advised that judges do not wear their jackets in the arena if they are watching warm-ups Also, knowing that perceptions are so important in our sport, please do not sit with another judge during the warm-up period or in any way pre-judge an athlete or form expectations for competition.

NEW: Judges will not be introduced at NCAA competitions (names may be listed on the Troester site and or in the program.

GENERAL MEET PROCEDURES

RANGE OF SCORES The two counting or middle scores determine the range of scores. If the average score is between those listed below then the two counting scores must be within the range of:

9.5 – 10.0	0.2
9.0 – 9.475	0.3
8.0 – 8.975	0.5
Below 8.0	1.0

Conferences should occur only when the two counting scores are out of range, if there is an impossible start value that can have an impact on the average score, or if there is an inquiry submitted.

(The allowable range of scores changed for Optional JO meets on August 1, 2008. It has NOT changed for NCAA competitions for the 2009 season.)

OPEN SCORING Review procedures and make sure SV and Score are flashed simultaneously.

INQUIRIES and VIDEO REVIEWS

NEW: Judges must process all inquiries prior to the start of the next event.

Inquiries may occur at conference championships through Nationals. Please make sure they are “legal”. Meet Referees, please review what is a legal inquiry (SV, neutral deductions, unusual occurrences, scores out of range) in your judges meetings. For example, execution on a vault is not a legal inquiry unless the execution results in judges disagreeing on SV. A score may be raised or lowered or stay the same. Video Reviews will not be handled at regionals or nationals.

EQUIPMENT ISSUES: Since judges are now permitted on the floor prior to the start of the meet please check equipment, proper matting, etc. The meet referee can and should do a review of the meet set-up. If there is a separate MR there is time for this to occur. Please make sure that all equipment rules are followed. Review the Equipment and Procedures section of the rules document.

- If ½” plywood is used under the springboard for mounting bars and beam it **must have a non-skid surface on both sides**. Non-skid strips or paint are acceptable.
- Chalk in corners only of FX, small chalk marks only on top of the beam, not down the sides
- No chalk on vault runway- must be tape or velcro

- Roundoff Entry Mat – Sting mats are no longer allowed for use as a Round-off (RO) entry hand placement mat for vault. The only allowable entry pad is the AAI TAC-10 RO pad. The use of a sting mat or bath mat is illegal as a hand placement mat and should be penalized .3 off each athlete's score.
- If a mat used on floor exercise exceeds the boundary lines, the mat must be clearly marked with tape or chalk to indicate the actual boundary lines. Failure to mark the mat will result in a .10 deduction taken off the average.

SCORING: If electronic scoring is used the Meet Referee and Chief Judges should fully understand the process and make sure that the judges are informed of the procedures prior to the three-minute touch.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Please review the following procedures in the judges meeting. All judges should carry a yellow card. The use of a yellow card is to serve as a warning if the following behaviors are exhibited. Without the use of a yellow card the 0.1 deduction cannot be applied when it is applicable.

The following procedures may be executed by any panel judge, chief judge or the meet referee (MR) and will appear as a neutral deduction on the score sheet. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a coach needs to be handled immediately when the infraction occurs.

Coach's unsportsmanlike conduct:

1. *First-time will be a warning -- **yellow card** (MR is notified).*
2. *Second-time MR is notified there will be a **.10 deduction taken from the team score by the MR for each violation.***

The use of the yellow card cannot be overemphasized. Do not hesitate to use it if a coach displays any inappropriate behavior or distracts a judge from doing their job. The .1 deduction cannot be applied unless the yellow card is first implemented.

LANDINGS: Landing deductions are taken for lack of control and/or movement occurring prior to presenting to the judges (i.e., celebrating on the mat prior to presenting to the judges or failing to show a controlled landing prior to turning to present to the judges will result in a deduction). Please review and request that judges abide by this.

*Best Regards,
Carole Ide, President, NAWGJ*