



MEET REFEREE AND JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES 2008

The following proposals were passed by the NACGC/W and are placed on this website to be implemented for the 2008 regular season gymnastic competitions. They are from the NACGC/W May 2007 minutes for the 2008 season.

Judges remain off the competition floor until the first 3 minute touch and should not observe or be within hearing distance of the meet introductions. During the 3 minute touch they will take their places and be introduced. All pre-meet promotions of the athletes must happen prior to that 3 minute touch.

Rationale: The above proposal would be an addition to what is already included in our handbook (included on page 52 under Appendix C 4.a. *Duties and Responsibilities*): "Judges may not observe warm-ups before regular-season and championships competitions." In an effort to lessen bias and create a fair competition, judges should not watch pre-meet videos of the athletes, hear their accolades, or be made aware that this is their LAST home competition. All of these things are important to fire up the fans and celebrate our seniors, but they do not need to take place while the judges are present prior to the competition.

Summary: While some coaches felt that this would either not result in bias or it would not matter either way because bias already existed, many felt this is a step toward preventing bias.

Motion passed

Officiating Assignments: In order to promote the education of judges, it was proposed that judges who would like to judge collegiate meets, who have no prior collegiate judging experience, will need to either: 1) complete practice judging at an intrasquad with a certified official; 2) have practice judged at a regular season competition; or 3) have attended the College Judging Symposium. Compliance will be determined by the Assigner via the JAS entry system currently in place. *In addition, designated meet referees shall have a mandatory review of collegiate rules modifications with assigned officials at each competition site prior to the start of competition*

Rationale: Our (collegiate) rules are unique in comparison to the JO rules. Thus, it is necessary for judges to practice our collegiate modifications in the actual competition setting. Judges will have the opportunity to understand collegiate competition format and the time frame expected for judges to typically compile scores. Our experience with new judges is that they came unprepared with the collegiate rules, they took far longer to compile their scores and several inquiries needed to be submitted. Inquiries should not be a teaching tool for judges.

Summary: Concerns were raised about meet time slowing down, the location of the judges home location could make this difficult, and could this affect open scoring. The idea of using a DVD prior to the judges coming onto the competitive floor arose. Discussion: If a judge practice judges, have them rotate to all events. Put a field in the JAS system to mark that they have completed this so the assignor is aware. The NAWGJ will inform interested judges about this.

Motion passed

Proposed that we eliminate the need to measure springboards at any NCAA competition.

Summary: The boards are already made to our specifications and this is never an issue. One coach brought up the idea of the creation of a new spring board in the future. Generally, coaches agreed that the boards are all created equal.

Motion passed

Coach/Judge Interaction

It was asked that the interaction between coaches and gymnasts with judges throughout the year be clarified. The ethics committee will discuss affiliation rules and policies with Carole Ide and give information to the organization. The NAWGJ in conjunction with the NACGC/W Ethics committee has recommended the following:

NAWGJ COLLEGIATE ETHICS GUIDELINES

The following suggestions are presented to establish boundaries between judges and coaches during the competitive NCCA season (January 1 through NCAA Championships Finals):

- Verbal contact during a competition must be limited to the coach and the Meet Referee or the Acting Meet Referee.
- Paid or unpaid intersquad competitions should be completed prior to the first competition of the season.
- Judges who are coaches and coaches who are judges must limit their interaction to professional obligations only (ex: work environment or in an age group judging situation is acceptable).
- Contact (phone, email) is acceptable with the assigner based on the assignment of judges or unusual situations regarding the contracting of officials.
- A judge desiring to “practice judge” at a college competition must receive permission from the assigned meet referee or acting meet referee. Ideally, this can occur through the assigner.
- Contact during the season should not be entered into either coach-judge or judge-coach unless it includes both coaches at the meet site.
- Coaches hosting age group invitational competitions must clearly be cognizant of contact and limit discussions to the meet organization.
- Contact during the off-season is permitted.

Submitted by: Carole Ide, President, NAWGJ and National Assigner