

## Travel Issues for Judges for NCAA Competitions

Judging for NCAA competitions requires more travel for judges than in years past due to the requests of the NACGC/W to have one-half of the judges assigned from outside the local area. While this can bring some diversity in judging it can also make travel to the site much more difficult on the part of the judge. I have compiled some things to keep in mind while traveling that can assist you if there is a problem.

- 1) Never go to a meet unless you have signed a contract
- 2) Take the contract and any other phone numbers listed along with you. The JAS site has an emergency number listed for each school. (Note: I have made a personal spreadsheet for myself with my schedule, site, date, event, who I am judging with and the emergency number. I carry this single sheet to all meets ,along with my rules.)
- 3) If you are arriving by air have a back-up plan in case the flight is late.
- 4) If you are expected to rent a car upon arrival use mapquest before you go to print out directions from the airport to the meet site. If renting a car you will most likely you will need to place the rental on your credit card and the school will reimburse you. Realize that a flight may arrive late and you may not be able to make it to the hotel prior to the meet. Be prepared to go directly to the meet site. Carry on luggage if at all possible and take a snack in case you do not have time for food upon arrival.
- 5) Carry cell numbers of the other judges assigned to the meet with you. You can obtain the names of who is assigned to the meet by clicking on the meet number on the "My Assignments" page of the JAS. Unfortunately, for privacy reasons we cannot list cell or email addresses but if you have concerns contact the Meet Director or the assigner who can give you that information. Some administrative assistants are astute enough to include that when they send the meet information.
- 6) You should be able to obtain the assigners name or number from the school if you do not have it. If you think there might be an issue the assigners and myself are your support system. Give us some notice if you think you may need to be replaced. Often, we are traveling and judging also. Waiting until Friday is probably too late. If you do have to come off a meet, CALL, do not just decline the meet online. We do not check the JAS everyday.
- 7) As much as I hesitate to do this: my cell is 215-534-6499 and my email is [idecarole@adelphia.net](mailto:idecarole@adelphia.net). I do check both periodically and have access to my email while traveling on a pda. As long as I am in an area to receive messages I will try to briefly respond. Try your local assigner first but I will and can be the back-up.
- 8) In an absolute emergency, if you have tried to contact the assigner and myself with no response, call the school. It is their responsibility not yours to find a replacement. Do not replace yourself without clearing it with the assigner or the coach under ANY circumstances. Only the JAS assigner or an NAWGJ SJD can do that if a true emergency arises.

After all this, safe travels and have a great season! *Carole Ide*