

It has been a year since our last Canon article. If you have been remembering all of the Canons and following them, you are ALMOST perfect. NAWGJ has added one new Canon.

**Canon 17: Judges may not participate in any wagering activities involving amateur, collegiate or professional gymnastics, nor can they provide any information to individuals involved in any type of gymnastics wagering activities.**

Does the name “Pete Rose” make you think of anything? Whether or not he really bet and/or profited by betting on baseball, the perception (which is everything) is that he did. The problem was not betting, but betting on the sport in which he was involved.

It’s one thing when a person says “Who will make it to the Super Bowl?” or “I’ll bet you \$5 that the Bears make it to the Super Bowl this year.” It is totally different if a judge says “I think Jane Doe Northern University will win the NCAA this year” or “I’ll bet Region 10 will win JO Nationals this year.” Even in jest, someone will hear it and misinterpret it.

Therefore...

- Do not bet on any gymnastics event.
- Do not make a pool on any gymnastics event.
- Do not, even in jest, make “betting comments.”
- If someone asks you who you think will win an event and you suspect they are involved in a pool, do not comment.



This does not mean that we can’t discuss who might make it to the Olympics or win NCAA or JO’s, but be smart. No betting discussion and absolutely **nothing** on social media.

Go forth and be a good judge with good judgment in **all** levels.

Hilary Carlson

Commissioned by Region 6