



RJD REMINDERS

As we approach the end of 4 years with the same rules, sometimes we need a review of those rules we think we remember. As state, regional, and national meets approach, please read the following, along with reviewing the Code of Points and the J.O. Compulsory Book. Thanks!

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COUNTING VALUE PARTS (OPTIONAL)

Remember that a Value Part may be counted two (2) times in an exercise provided the element occurs in different connections (Code of Points, p. 11, C). This affects difficulty, special requirements, and bonus.

Elements are different if

1. They have different numbers in the Code.
 - Example, UB: a short kip on the low bar and a long hang kip are different elements. Therefore, a LB kip cast handstand and a long kip, cast handstand are 2 different connections.
2. They have the same number but
 - Are saltos with different body positions
 - Elements with different degree of turn ($1/2$, $1/1$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, etc.) Quarter turns do not change the element unless listed separately in the Code.
 - Ex: on Floor: a switch leg leap with a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn (switch side) is the same as a switch $\frac{1}{2}$. They have the same number and the $\frac{1}{4}$ doesn't change the element.
 - Ex: on Beam: a straddle and a straddle $\frac{1}{4}$ are the same element and a straddle $\frac{1}{2}$ and a straddle $\frac{3}{4}$ is the same element. (Note: the straddle and straddle $\frac{1}{4}$ are important also because both are allowed in L. 7.)
 - Level 7 and 8 Bars have casts that have different values: $0^\circ - 44^\circ =$ no credit, $45^\circ - 21^\circ =$ A credit, $20^\circ - \text{vertical} =$ B credit. Therefore, for Levels 7 and 8 (and levels 9 and 10), a kip, cast to "A" handstand and a kip, cast to "B" handstand are 2 different connections.

**PLEASE REVIEW SPECIFIC EVENT DEFINITIONS
BEFORE EACH MEET**

RECOGNITION OF ELEMENTS, PART II (COMPULSORY)

When evaluating an element in compulsories, there are deductions for changing, substituting, and omitting major elements. (Refer to p. 161, JO Compulsory Book.)

- Changing an element is performing a variation of the prescribed element (up to the value of the element).
 - Example, FX L. 5: performing a back roll instead of a back extension roll is a change, deduction of .6 (p. 111)
- Substituting an element is performing a totally different element (double the value of the element).
 - Example, BB L. 6: performing a straight jump instead of a tuck jump in the series.
- Omitting an element is leaving it out completely (double the value of the element). Remember that an omitted element that is done later on in the routine is still considered omitted.
 - When applying this deduction, look for any resemblance to the skill. Example, UB: any cast no matter how poor is a cast. There are amplitude deductions to cover the lack.
- Some changes are covered by specific execution deductions. None of the following examples would be changing or substituting the element.
 - Example, L. 6 FX: if the handspring step-out lands on 2 feet, there is a .2 deduction.
 - Example, L. 5 FX: bending the arms on a back extension roll is an up to .3 general deduction.
 - Example, BB L. 5 & 6: Doing a heel snap turn instead of a turn requiring a weight transfer is -.3 (p. 162). Performing a weight transfer instead of a heel snap turn is -.2 (clarification in Technique and in general faults and penalties).

ARE YOU A JUDGE?

No, I'm not saying a bad word!! But, some of us have the title of "bar judge," "vault judge" or beam or floor. I love bars and they would always be my first choice, so I work to try to get put on other events. First of all, coaches want a variety of opinions (even though we are usually all in range). Second, if I stay on bars all the time, I begin to feel less confident on the other events. Finally, every time I get bars at a big invite, someone else loses out on that opportunity. States assign events differently – some assigners do it, some meet refs, etc. If you find yourself being at the same event all the time, it is your professional responsibility to ask for a different event.

CHANGING SCORES

We all make mistakes on scores (hopefully, rarely). That's why we have 2 judges. However, in the July 2006 Technique the procedure for changing scores was clarified. Both clarifications are quoted below.

"8. TIME FRAME FOR CHANGING A SCORE

Recommendation that once the final average score is submitted to the scoring system, it may not be changed unless an inquiry results in a score change. Inquiries must be submitted within 5 minutes of the end of the rotation. PASSED

D. CHANGE OF SCORE AFTER SUBMISSION BY JUDGE

Recommendation to allow a Chief Judge to change a score after submission to the scoring system if a neutral deduction (such as out of bounds or overtime) was inadvertently not applied. This change must occur prior to the end of the rotation. The coach must be notified of the score change and if possible, the new score should be displayed to the public. PASSED"

The only way you can change a score after it has been sent to the score table is if an inquiry is turned in. Obviously if both judges missed something that was a benefit to the gymnast, her coach will not inquire, so you have to live with it. (If another coach, judge, or parent points it out, it cannot be changed.) The **only** thing that can be changed after the score is turned in is a neutral deduction as listed above.

Hopefully, you won't make any mistakes, but it sometimes happens. Know what you can do and what you can't.

THE ETHICS CORNER

Judges in Region 5 are the best! We have the opportunity to see the best in the country from Level 4 on up and I don't know a nicer group of people. However, as the season gets longer, snow piles up, temperatures drop, and we're judging our 5th weekend in a row of 4000 gymnasts, even the best of us loses patience. Keep smiling! Remember that you judge because you love gymnastics.

Long meets, especially ones where we are sitting and watching warm-ups, can be trying. It's hard to remain professional (not talking with coaches, walking to another event, doing taxidermy, etc.). **I'll give a prize to everyone who gives me ideas of things to do at your table while watching warm-ups.**



Try as hard as you can to be that special smiling judge when the gymnasts come to present. As Paula Noe says, the last girl paid the same entry fee as the first girl.

And, our assistants.... At more and more meets families have to work multiple sessions, so friends, aunts, grandfathers, and siblings are called to help, often with no knowledge of the sport. Every session, review with them what they are supposed to do. Tell them if they have a question to wait until you have come up with a score and then ask. They want to help, but don't always know the protocol. Be careful what you say at the table because it is easy to be misunderstood. Even a comment about a leotard design could be misinterpreted. Gossip does not belong at the table.

Remember we all represent each other and our organization. Be nice.