

RJD NEWS MARCH, 2011

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ELECTIONS

2011 is an election year for Region V. Elections for Regional Judging Director were already held. No one ran against me so I'll be RJD for the next 4 years. State Judging Director and State Governing Board are coming up. If you are not involved and want to be, please feel free to run. If you are already involved and someone runs against you, please view it as someone wanting to be involved instead of as a personal attack.

Letters for those eligible for SJD were mailed on March 1. Candidates are required to have served on a State Governing Board for at least one year. It is recommended that you be a L. 10 or higher, but not a requirement.

If you are interested in running for SJD, the application must be mailed to the RJD (Hilary) by April 1. I will send out ballots by April 10 to all judges who have been in good standing for the last 90 days. **If you do not receive a ballot by April 17, please contact me!** Ballots must be postmarked by May 1. The election results will be done by May 5 with SJDs taking office on May 15.

For State Governing Board, the application form is due to the SJD June 15. Ballots will be sent July 1 and due back 21. Anyone may run for SGB if you are a member of NAWGJ, at least 21 years old and are in good standing according to the canons of the Code of Professional Responsibility. These can be found on the NAWGJ Website under important documents. Application forms will be available on state and regional web sites.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO A STATE OR REGION, PLEASE LET YOUR SJD AND RJD KNOW IF YOU HAVE EVER HELD A NAWGJ OFFICE SO THEY CAN KEEP THEIR RECORDS STRAIGHT. Also make sure you have updated your address, email, etc. with Betty Sroufe at the National NAWGJ office.

NOTE: Some people are concerned about the security and counting of ballots. A few days after the SJD ballots are due to be postmarked, I will count the ballots. I check the outer ballot and check off your name based on the return address. That envelope is discarded and the anonymous "Official Ballot" envelope is put in a counting pile. I then count the ballots in the presence of 2 other people (my neighbors who know nothing about gymnastics), who will sign the official count as witnesses. If you feel there may be irregularities, please contact Mary Lee Martin, NAWGJ Vice-President. Her contact information can be found on NAWGJ.org.

PLAN AHEAD FOR CPE'S

If your CPEs are finished for the year, go ahead and get them to your CPE Coordinator. No one is looking to see if you have more than the 12, 14, 16 or 20 required. There are no bonus points in judging!

If you plan on testing at the National or Brevet Level next time, remember to look at the clinics and volunteer things you need to do. If you have a question, please ask me.

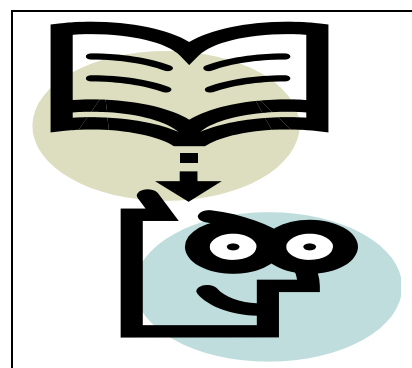
Everyone recertifying will need to be compliant with CPEs – so if you missed a year or more, those credits need to be made up.

You can always work backward. Summer clinics can count for either year. Remember the CPE year goes from July 1 to June 30.

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

NAWGJ Regional Symposium will be held in conjunction with the IN-NAWGJ state clinic. The contracts have not been signed but it is 99% sure that it will be the weekend of June 10-12 in Indianapolis. It will be a fantastic learning experience specifically designed for judges' education.

SAVE THE DATE!! MORE INFO WILL BE OUT WITHIN 2 WEEKS!



SUMMER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Plan ahead for your summer clinics! If you can't get your CPE's it won't be for lack of opportunity. As I said above, summer credits can go for the year (or years) before or the next year. I know testing is a few years away, but you will have to be current to test, so if you are behind now, get caught up now. Scheduled clinics are:

TENTATIVE: NAWGJ REGIONAL/IN SYMPOSIUM
JUNE 10-12 INDIANAPOLIS

FOR SURE: USAG NATIONAL CONGRESS/VISA CHAMPIONSHIPS
AUGUST 17-20 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

FOR SURE: USAG REGION V CONGRESS
SEPTEMBER 22-26 INDIANAPOLIS

CHECK YOUR STATE AND REGIONAL WEBSITES FOR STATE CLINIC INFORMATION.

START VALUES

Please remember that you need to show your start value at all optional competitions. It is **IMPERATIVE** that you come up with your own start value. Please **DO NOT** look at your partner's start value. Meet Directors are paying for 2 opinions. If you are not confident with showing your start value, perhaps you should consider not judging that level. Practice judge until you are more confident.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Please remember to continually review rules and updates for each level. It is very hard to explain to a coach at a state meet that his gymnast is missing a special requirement or has an unallowable element when it has not been caught all year. We all make mistakes but hopefully not the same one all year! With that in mind...

REMINDERS

Those of us who have gone through several Codes sometimes forget changes. As a reminder:

1. A gymnast may jump on the board and touch the equipment to check it. She may not do an element.
2. Nail polish is OK if it's not distracting.
3. There is an "A" clear hip on bars (below horizontal) and a "B" clear hip. If you are an optional judge, you need to be able to see the difference. If that's a problem, please get in a gym and/or get some DVDs to study. We are not doing anyone any favors if we cannot or do not differentiate.
4. **Only** back walkover to a flipflop or vice versa, 2 flipflops, and two saltos in a row fall under the "all or nothing" rule of connection. Two back walkovers and anything that has a side or forward element in the connection can still receive a rhythm deduction but get credit for a series.
5. The biggest complaint I hear is the lack of differentiation. **Great** routines need to be in the high 9's, poor routines can be in the 7's or lower if that is warranted. There is a huge difference between a 9.7 and a 9.4 and a 9.0!
6. With state and regional meets coming up, remember to judge as you have all year. This is not the time to get harder in your judging! Hopefully their routines are better than at the beginning of the year and the scores will reflect that.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

There are always funds that can use are help. Here are a few in the gymnastics community.

1. Kathryn Mahoney, former IGI gymnast, now a senior at Michigan State, broke her neck and is Chicago. Her surgery and rehab will be very expensive. If you would like to make a contribution you may send a check made out to the Kathryn Mahoney Fund and mail it to the Michigan State Federal Credit Union, 3777 West Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 or MSU Gymnastics head coach Kathie Klages, 312 Jenison Field House, East Lansing, MI 48824-1025.
2. Liam Quirk, the son of Kevin Quirk at United in IL, will be undergoing a stem cell transplant. He and his mother will have to re-locate to Bethesda, MD for 6 months. For information about Liam and how to help, go to Region5forLiam.com.
3. To donate to the fund that is working to save college gymnastics, send a check made out to Collegiate Gymnastics Fund and mail it to National Gymnastics Foundation, For: Collegiate Gymnastics Fund, 132 E. Washington St. Suite 700 Indianapolis, IN 46204

DROPPING OFF MEETS

We have all had times when something else comes up and we have to or want to drop off a meet. It has happened to me twice this year – once a necessity and once a desire. It didn't seem to be a problem as the assigner (THANKS MARY LOU!) could replace me. But, I didn't think through the repercussions. Not in my case but in another, a judge dropping off a meet ended up costing the MD more money. Two judges then needed a room. As the meet director said, "the MD has to abide by the contract. Why doesn't the judge?" Of course, if the meet ends up small, the MD can drop the number of judges if it is done more than a week before. There are times we have been taken off a meet we were contracted for, so it does work both ways. I am not trying to place blame here. Just keep in mind that judges and meet directors are contracting with each other and should try as hard as possible to honor that contract. Thanks!