

To All: I apologize not having my lesson plan last evening. I had taken it off the desk and placed it on the chair when I took the box of books out so it was nicely on my chair when I arrived home. I am going to go over all the details I wanted to cover:

1. Introduction:

2. What it means to be a Judge:

Professional

Unaffiliated (check the Rules and Policies for a definition but basically, one who is not working for a club/ parent or relative)

You may be a judge on a meet with affiliation but NEVER can be a Chief Judge.

If you work for a club or are a relative to a gymnast

and that club or gymnast is not in the meet, you may be a Chief Judge if your rating allows that.

Never guessing a score or judging to the average: often you are very nervous especially first time judges or judges doing a state/ regional or college meet. Do not try to play it safe and "judge to the average" by changing your score to be where you think the other judge may be. It is important to have your view point and that one may be correct. You may also see something the other judge did not and that is as important to the gymnast as performing a great routine. If you see an error, it is important to take it, so the gymnast and coach can correct this. MOST OF ALL, BE INDEPENDENT AND JUDGE WHAT YOU SEE.

Uniform: May be purchased through LandsEnd on the NAWGJ website. It is costly but will last a long time. However, you may also wear Navy Blue with a white blouse/sweater/ pullover. For Holiday times, we feel that a change of color of the top is permissible. Look professional and I am very lucky that all my judges want to look like JUDGES and not a spectator in the crowd. THANKS!!!!

CONTRACTS WILL STATE IF THE MEET IS A THEME MEET AND THAT CASE COSTUMES ARE REQUIRED OR YOU CAN WEAR THE UNIFORM IF NOT A COSTUME PERSON. DUNGAREES ARE NOT A COSTUME WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WILD WEST OR HIP HOP.

Memberships: Must be a NAWGJ member to judge any meet. To also judge club meets, you must be a USAG professional member, which requires taking the Safety Course and having a background check. All of these can be arranged by contacting USAG 1-800-345-4719. I will be scheduling a Safety Course for sometime in the fall. I cannot schedule until I attend the updated course in Dallas, Texas in August. I know several of you are due to expire. If you know you are due and need a course before November, Let me know as I will schedule it for sometime in Oct.

Must renew memberships before they expire.

Communication: When I need information I need responses either way, such as the above I will send out information on meets so availability needs to be responded with either yes/or no.

BE PRO-ACTIVE: Communicate with other judges, carpool when it is at all possible, rotate drivers, for High school or I should say Junior High, use map quest and contact the schools prior to the meet to give them your mileage. You may also have it figured out in advance what the actual cost is also so they have the checks ready. Coaches: it is important if judges are not paid correctly that you back them up and go to bat for them to fix any mistakes. We are not in the schools and it often involves long distance phone calls etc. So, be our backbone also, I feel since we offer all of you the opportunity to attend out clinics free of charge, this is one service where you can help us out.

ONLINE and Technical: Most everything is handled via email or other online services, this simply makes it much easier for the assigners and coaches who can get information out with judge the press of a button. If you do not have a computer, I know my local library and the college library allows me to use their computers. The local library just asks that I provide my own paper. You need to check emails daily or at least 3 times per week. You must understand that the assigners and people sending out rule changes, meet times etc. usually have two full time jobs and it I know for me, to just forward the information is truly a blessing and time saving issue. Sometimes people cannot download files, let me know and I will try to get printed copies to you or best idea: use a study buddy who can download so you can receive the information more quickly. I am terrible with snail mail. Sorry, but the post office is closed when I go to work and closed when I go home many times. Since sending this information requires me to have the letter weighed, it may be quicker for you to find someone near you to copy. I will fulfill my obligations as SJD and get it to you as best I can. Download Adobe Acrobat for free on you computer that should print out most anything.

MEETS: must carpool if coming from the same area. If not carpooling due to not near anyone (Marylou, me, Kim) you must deduct 30 miles from your roundtrip mileage. If you carpool (find a common place on the way that is SAFE to leave a vehicle) then you do not have to take the 30 miles.

If you are on your way to continue on to visit a relative/ close friend etc. so CANNOT carpool, sorry, but no mileage. You would not have received mileage to visit you friend or family without the meet. You CAN, however, take the mileage you would have had to the carpool site if over 30 miles.

Example: Susie meets Josie and the Pusscats in South Royalton. Her mileage to South Royalton is 16 miles one way so she can be reimbursed for 32 miles as that is the carpool spot. If Susie does not have any possible carpool at all, ever due to where she lives and always drives alone and is assigned the meet and decides to visit relatives after, since she would not have had a carpool, she can claim that mileage -30 miles.

Overnight stays, 2 to a room. Judges ratings must match the sanction of the

meet. If the meet has 5-10 and you just have a 5/6 rating, chances are, unfortunately, you WILL NOT be assigned unless there are not enough judges available for that day and in that case, you get VAULT. Same when you just have a 7/8 rating, if no others available, you will get vault. It is important to try to test up. Sometimes we have cases where someone backs out due to an emergency and we move the most experienced judge to another event. I do not worry about Vt. judges as our high school competes Level 9 rules so many are prepared.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN INVITATIONAL:** This is the fund raising meet for both USAG and NAWGJ Vermont. All judges are MANDATED to do this meet. Usually, you only do one day depending on the number of judges we have. Sometimes we need volunteers to add a session on the next day. You receive CPE volunteer credit for this. This is our only fundraiser. Our dues go to the National and Regional Office so the funds raised is what pays for your dues, Books, clinics and the SJD's required meetings

**SELECTION OF JUDGES FOR MEETS:** Start with those with the correct rating, those in the vicinity (to save clubs on travel money) The Judges for the STATE USA Meet are selected by the USA Board. They usually refer to me after a few recommendations and I have Jill check the list. The highest rated and most experienced are assigned.

We have a great group of coaches and judges in Vermont. Gymnastics is really FUN here. To keep everyone from getting into any drama, we do request that any questions be sent to me concerning rules for Club, any questions on High school rules can go to either Alicia or Patty. We want all questions and answers posted on the website, either the [www.vermontgymnastics.com](http://www.vermontgymnastics.com) website or the other (Alicia will get me the address again) I will send any questions with answers to Stano to post on the website. This way there is not misinterpretation or he/she said etc. Please go to the Vermont gymnastics website often as Stano always posts my newsletters and updates there. We want everyone on board.

There will be a training day later in the fall to prepare judges for the High School rules which are tweaked just a bit from Level 9. I will meet with Nancy, Patty, Alicia and Kara to discuss any changes for the new season.

Jody will be contacting or sending people the NY High School schedule soon. Remember to keep your receipts for the ferry and also, have the coach initial your voucher that the receipt was attached. (you may want to insist they get a stapler or bring paper clips with you) I know that both Kim and Alicia lost out this past season and it was the school's fault. Those issues need to be brought up and individuals do not need to be chastised because it has happened to them more than once. Again, be pro-active. Be prepared.

Thanks and good luck studying:  
Flash cards, make cheat sheets and Practice judge, practice judge, practice

judge. This makes you stay on top of the rules. Know all the new changes.

A HUGE THANKS TO GREEN MT. GYMNASTICS FOR OFFERING THEIR FACILITY LAST EVENING AND AGAIN IN AUGUST. ROBIN, YOU ARE ALWAYS WONDERFUL ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR NEEDS.

Gail McGann, SJD