

VERMONT NAWGJ  
FALL 2009  
UPDATE

## WELCOME BACK:

Welcome back to the wonderful world of gymnastics. We have new rules and I am hopeful that everyone is prepared. I know the judges are as they have been studying all summer, meeting once a week and will test this weekend. Coaches, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email me. Any questions involving rules will be posted on the yahoo website that Alicia has set up for us along with the answer. This will eliminate any misinterpretation and may help others with perhaps the same question. I will email the answer to you but it will also be posted on the website. I will send it to Alicia to post. I will also keep a running record so I can send them all to Stano, our fabulous Webmaster to post on the Vermont site. [www.vermontgymnastics.com](http://www.vermontgymnastics.com)

You may want to consider hiring a judge to evaluate routines prior to your first meet if you have concerns.

## PROFESSIONALISM:

Just a reminder to all (judges) that it is your responsibility to let the assignor know if and what type of affiliation you have to a club. This may be as a parent, guardian, relative, sibling, staff, people who live in your home etc. You need to come forward so when assigned, you are not assigned as a Chief Judge. You may be assigned as the Meet Referee or Panel Judge.

A reminder to all: please do not let memberships lapse such as your USA Professional Membership. It is easy to forget that since your NAWGJ dues are covered by the Green Mountain Invitational. Also, review your USA membership card, which tells you when your Safety expires and when you must do another background check.

Just a note, that when renewing your Safety Online, you no longer can just click and go to the test. You must read through the course material. If anyone needs safety within the next 6 weeks, please let me know so I can schedule a course. I will probably schedule one for November. Renewal of Safety is every 4 years and the live course for renewal is free.

Just a reminder concerning new technology: chat rooms, Facebook, Twitter, email all can be traced. If sensitive information, never use these outlets. Never discuss any routines online or out of the judges room or off the floor. Please be aware of the ears nearby when in a conference and try to move away from any flashers, timers etc. Like Vegas "what happens in the judges room/floor, stays there." Once a comment is out there, you cannot take it back.

CELL PHONES/ TEXT MESSAGING: Think of your cell phone as a landline when on the floor judging. Absolutely NO TEXT MESSAGING. I know when I mention these items to all of you, you look at me as though I have two heads. Yes, I know I am preaching to the choir, you all have been fabulous and so professional but I must send out a reminder. Thank you for being wonderful examples to our membership and new judges.

When assigned meets, please do not ask for special favors (a free tee shirt or special meal) If you are on a special diet, please put a note on your contract that you will be putting in for per diem and why. That allows the Meet Director the opportunity to contact you if they prefer to make a special meal. (Champlain Valley would like to accommodate if possible) This way the meet director knows the situation and can make a decision financially for their meet. Reminder: if taking per diem do not take just the food you like at the site and then put in for per diem. One or the other. Again, I am preaching to the choir but I must send out these professional notes.

If you have not done so, go online to [www.usa-gymnastics.org](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org) and either download your new Rules and Policies or fill out the online form to have one mailed to you.

Any questions, concerns or situations, please follow the chain of command to get the answer or situation resolved. If not sure what do, ask me and I will let you know the proper contact if it involves something out of the realm of my position.

## THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE JUDGE/JUDGES:

Coaches/ Clubs: Please send me your meet schedule with the appropriate fee: \$3 per judge assigned or \$5 per judge if 30 days or less. There is a link on the Vermont Gymnastics website which you can download the request form for officials. I need as much information as possible. I do understand that times may be TBA until you know the entries so you may leave the meet times as TBA if unsure.

Since we designate a Meet Referee for each meet, it is now the Meet Referee's responsibility to assign the events. I may be the "assignor" but I am not always the Meet Referee so the sooner you get that request with the correct fees the quicker we can assign and contract the judges. I like to put the assignments on the contract so your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

My snail mail address: Gail McGann, PO Box 631 Bomoseen, Vt. 05732 and make the check out to NAWGJ-Vt. Thanks!!!

## JUDGES NOTES:

Flash or note Start Values for Level 7 and up at all meets  
Bring your neutral deduction cards (it helps to put them up with the score)  
Make sure your uniforms are ready for the season  
Study the other Levels that you are not testing  
Return your availability to me ASAP

## GREEN MOUNTAIN INVITATIONAL:

We no longer have St. Michael's College as a site and are currently looking for another. If any of you have possibilities, please notify Jill immediately so we can set the date. We are looking at either January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Martin Luther King weekend is booked for equipment use. Hopefully we will know the date soon so you can hold the weekend and the judges for college can hold that weekend out of their availability.

Reminder, this is a volunteer meet, we provide the hospitality and it is a themed meet. I will have that information out ASAP.

## CURRENT SCHEDULED MEETS:

November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Meet Wilder, Vt	Northern Lights	yes / no
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Royal Invitational 16 Tigan Ave. Winooski	Regal Gymnastics	yes/ no
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sectional Brattleboro, Vt.	Woodman's Athletics	yes/ no
Green Mountain February 7 <sup>th</sup>	TBA Sectional 16 Tigan Ave Winooski	Regal Gymnastics	yes / no
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	I love Vt South Burlington	Champlain Valley after HS states	yes / no
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sectional Wilder, Vt.	Northern Lights	yes / no
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hip Hop Meet Brattleboro, Vt	Woodman's Athl	yes / no

States will be either March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> or the 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>

Jill will still want to host another meet, she is working on the date.

In the meantime: respond to the above ASAP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USA member  
expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

(You may copy and paste this part and return to me via email)

## THANKS SO VERY MUCH:

Thanks so much to Patty Turley, Alicia McCurley and Kara Bissonnette for teaching many of the judging courses this summer. You gals did a fabulous job and helped me a great deal. You are wonderful and very dedicated.

## TIDBITS:

A possible Welcome Back to Jenna Lorenzini who contacted me today that she is at UVM and would like to judge. We hope we are able to get her back on board soon. She had been in Florida and judging there also. Laura also needs two more judges for the Oct. sectional. (Ashley, Nancy Ruth???)

Gail D. McGann SJD VERMONT