

NAWGJ-VERMONT FALLING INTO JUDGING AGAIN NEWS UPDATE

WELCOME BACK: For those of you who have just begun to study for your optional exams, welcome back. Please read this newsletter carefully so you can get the most from your judging time.

For those of you starting out with the Compulsory exam first, read thoroughly. I have some tips for all of you.

TESTING AND DATES:

The first test date is Saturday, September 14th at 9:30 am at the Castleton Village School in Castleton, Vermont. This is where you took the exam 4 years ago. I feel it will allow for the best arrangements for testing and your success.

You must register in one of the following manners:

1. Online with USA Gymnastics OR
2. Download the form and snail mail

Remember, all registrations must be into the USA for online at least 7 days prior and for snail mail 14 day. Do not delay, just do it and commit. Sometimes you think you are not ready but I have found, if you put it off, you will continue to put it off so commit and study.

Here are some steps to registering for the test since it has been 4 years for most of you:

1. go to www.usa-gymnastics.org and log in, if not a member just continue
2. click on Women in the banner and then you will find a drop down on the left
3. click on Judges and click on the drop down to judges accreditation, here read through and you can either register online or download to snail mail or fax

CLINICS AND COURSES:

On Thursday, August 22nd, there will be a technique, rules and practice judging clinic at Casa McGann in Bomoseen for Level 10 judges. I have also invited Level 9 judges but the practice judging is on L 10 rules for now. 9's are more than welcome and could benefit greatly from the clinic. I must have a confirmed reservation so I know how many chairs, copies etc. I have 7 confirmed participants at this time. I will send Ken home with some work so you can all have a study session together. I hope those who are eligible will consider taking Level 10.

On Friday, August 23rd, I put out an invitation to the new judges to have an opening clinic at my home from 1-4 to get ready for Ken's course after 9-14. I most likely do not have all the names of the potential new judges. I do want it confirmed as I will cancel the clinic if less than 3 attend. At this time I have heard from 2 individuals who are unable to attend to participate in the course. I may NOT have some of the potential new judges email's so please forward this. I need to know by Friday, August 16th so I can make plans. **IF LESS THAN 3, I WILL CANCEL.** Location is McGann home, 64 Cliffdwellers, Bomoseen, Vt. 05732 for mapquest.

COMPULSORY: Level 4 and 5

Some of you may be taking the compulsory exam first. If so, you do have time to be prepared to take this exam. I had only three weeks between my National and the Compulsory, it can be done as long as you are organized in your study time and habits.

Here is how you can achieve success:

1. First make flash cards with all the deductions on the skills in the Level 4 and 5 routines
2. Do not forget to make flashcards for the general penalties deductions on pages through 161
3. Make a master flashcard (1 big card) with the FLAT deductions on each event.
4. Next make a card with the list of the major elements for each event in the correct order. For Level 4 it goes 9 bars, 9 Beam and 11 FX for Level 5 it goes 11 Bars, 10 beam and 12 Fx. (when I test, once they say begin, I take my scrap paper and write down the order of elements for UB, BB and FX for each level to refer to. Just helped me to reference.
5. If you need practice tests, go to the NAWGJ.org website and have fun. Loads of tests and quizzes.

NAWGJ.ORG WEBSITE:

This is wonderful. Once you get in, you click on education and can find loads of quizzes etc. to help all levels. Try some of quizzes with the scattering clouds that are just fun to try with the clock created by our brilliant judges from around the country. Every level has something there to help. Also, click on tool tyme for other videos, handouts to print out etc. It was helpful to me to go online and that many of those quizzes. There are answers also.

YES, there are quizzes for the compulsory tests also.

For those of you who purchased the new Level 10 DVD, the script is up online to copy for your convenience and the scores are also posted. I did forward this but there are two score changes on FX so look them up online.

MEMBERSHIPS:

For those judges who have current memberships, you **MUST** create an account online with NAWGJ. This is for all current judges: go to nawgj.org and click on membership. Where it says join/ or renew/ click there and start your account. Once you have entered the information you will be given a **NEW** membership number. Make sure you do this even though your dues are current. Read the instructions thoroughly.

NAWGJ SYMPOSIUM:

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAWGJ: WILL BE HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, DATE TO BE CONFIRMED SOON.

STATE USA MEETING: Tuesday, August 20th at Northern Lights Gymnastics beginning @ 5pm. Notify Jill if attending.

XCEL: I NEED AN XCEL PERSON TO RUN AN XCEL CLINIC AND BE THE GO TO PERSON FOR ANY XCEL QUESTIONS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

XCEL RULES: ARE ONLINE AT USA GYMNASTICS AND THERE IS ALSO A LINK FROM THE NAWGJ.ORG WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD. THERE ARE AROUND 13 PAGES OF INFORMATION.

JUDGING/ CONTRACTS/ CARDS:

Since I will see everyone at the test, I will have the blanket contract for all judges to sign. For this **YOU** must bring me the latest copy of your USAG card. I do not have a printer so you go to your account and copy for me so I can attach this to the contracts. If you did not renew your USA dues: shame on you and get it done. When you are copying, check to see if you are due for background or safety so you can complete that and hand me a totally updated membership card. It is too much anxiety for me to be sending emails saying, your background is due in 1 month etc. Do it now if needed and bring the card copy to me at the test site.

COMPULSORY CLINIC: I am working on setting up a Compulsory Clinic in Sept. to assist you with seeing the routines and discussion of deductions. I need someone to step forward to run this clinic (I am feeling that Ken will have a full plate training the new judges so am looking for someone else) I will have everything set up for you. Please step forward and volunteer.

BUDGET AND ANNUAL EXPENSES: I will be meeting with the Board members to set a budget and approve funds as we did this past year. I will discuss with many of you the best time. I am looking at early October. Board members: Ken Newton: Education, Kara Bissonnette, HS assignments and rules, Ruth Dunkley McGowan, VPA representative and Marylou Smith: CPE and fund disbursement review.

CONGRATULATIONS: Gail and Marylou for achieving their National Ratings and myself (Gail) adding the new Level 4/5 Compulsory rating.

In Closing: Communicate with each other and form study groups. Read each news update as more clinics and opportunities for education will be coming up. Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Your devoted SJD: Gail McGann