



2024
Acrobatic Gymnastics Program
Rules and Policies

Updated: October 2023

Governing Competitors and Competitions
sanctioned by
USA Gymnastics and
the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program

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Changes from the 2024 version are highlighted in yellow.

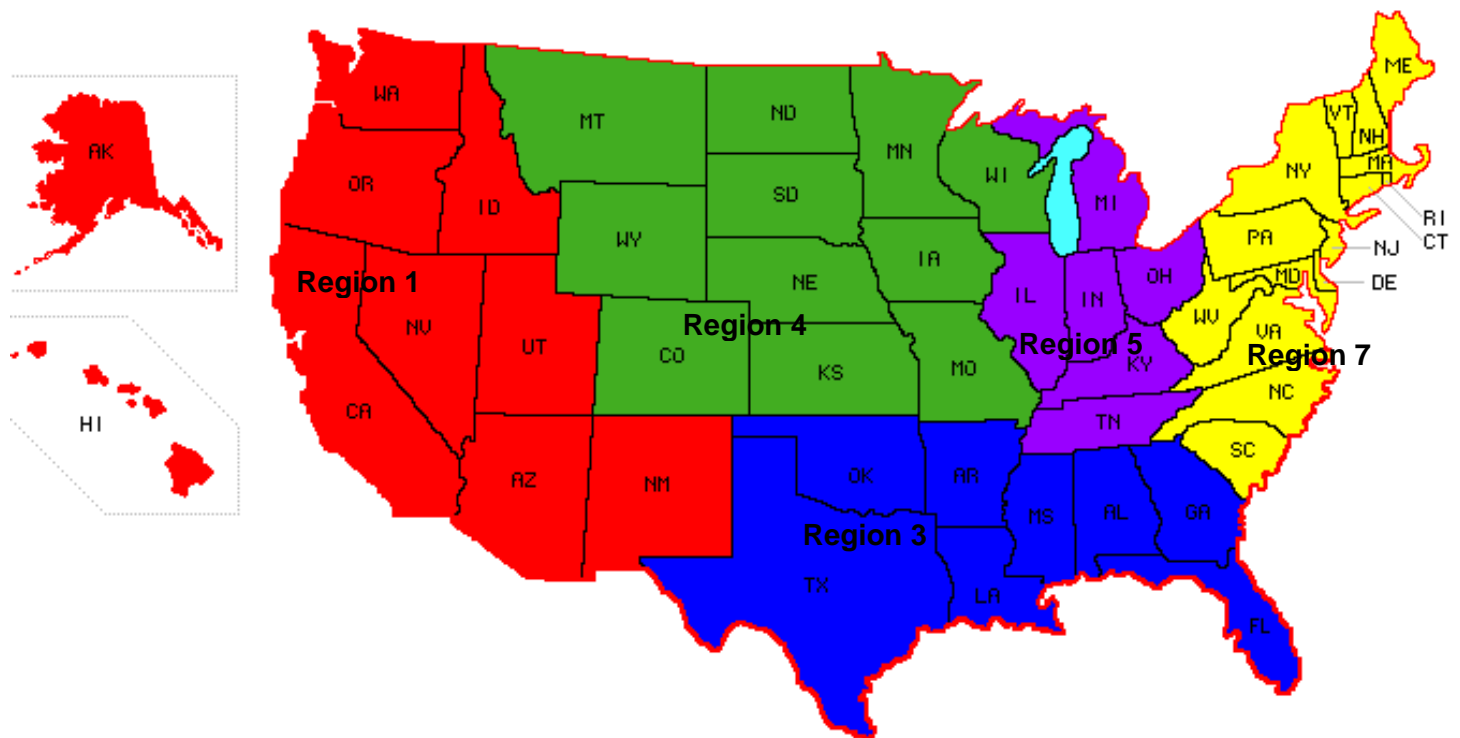
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ACROBATICS PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Please refer to [the Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code](#) and committee charters for complete information about the program's organizational structure, roles, responsibilities, and duties. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program is composed of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and its sub-committees, regional committees, and special committees. The committees function as per their respective Charters.

MAP OF ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS REGIONS



Region 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

Region 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas

Region 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee

Region 7: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

USA GYMNASTICS PURPOSE and MISSION

USA Gymnastics Purpose:

The purpose of USA Gymnastics, as set forth in Section 2 of the Bylaws, will be to serve as the National Governing Body for the sports of artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, and acrobatic gymnastics in the United States and to fulfill the other non-profit purposes stated in the Corporation's Certificate of Formation, as it may be amended or restated from time to time.

USA Gymnastics Mission:

To build a **community** and **culture** of **health**, **safety**, and **excellence**, where athletes can **thrive** in sport and in life.

Organizational Values:

Safety, Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Listening

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program of USA Gymnastics is to promote, serve, and administer the official Acrobatic Gymnastics program for athletes of all levels of ability throughout the United States. This shall be done by:

1. Carrying out the purposes and objectives of USA Gymnastics.
2. Providing for the expansion and improvement of Acrobatic Gymnastics programs through the training and certification of judges and the education of qualified instructors to conduct appropriate Acrobatic Gymnastics programs.
3. Organizing competitions for Acrobatic Gymnastics athletes of all levels of ability at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
4. Providing for the technical organization and development of specific guidelines, rules and policies, and providing a network of communication necessary for the implementation of these objectives.

Interpretation of this publication is the expressed duty and responsibility of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and the President of USA Gymnastics.

SECTION ONE: USA GYMNASTICS GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

The updated USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct can be found [here](#).

USA GYMNASTICS SAFE SPORT POLICY

The updated USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy can be found [here](#).

SECTION TWO: USA GYMNASTICS MEMBERSHIP

All participants in a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event must be pre-registered using the Meet Reservation system. Any participant who is unable to be verified as a current USA Gymnastics member will be ineligible to participate in any USA Gymnastics sanctioned event. In addition, any and all athletes who wish to compete at USA Gymnastics sanctioned events must be affiliated with a current USA Gymnastics Member Club. An athlete must be coached by a Competitive Coach of the same affiliated club, with the exception of an emergency situation.

Current membership types and requirements for the **2023-2024** season can be found online [here](#).

1. Athlete Membership

- a. Athlete membership is effective once a USA Gymnastics Athlete membership has been purchased for the current season.
- b. Athlete member numbers are effective only after:
 - 1) Athlete membership fee is paid.
 - 2) The online membership registration and/or membership application form is received fully completed with all required information and signatures.
 - 3) Athlete members 18 years old and older must complete the U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training. Athlete memberships will go into a pending status if this course is not complete once the athlete turns 18.
- c. Member benefits are paid out upon receipt of application; therefore, memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- d. The Athlete membership is valid for one competitive year, from August 1 through the following July 31.
 - 1) Members joining at any time during the year will receive benefits for the remainder of the competitive year.
 - 2) All Athlete memberships are automatically null and void each July 31.
- e. Membership forms are available online at usagym.org/forms. For more information regarding Athlete membership terms, conditions, and registrations, contact Member Services at 800-345-4719 or via e-mail at membership@usagym.org.
- f. In order for an athlete to compete, they must be affiliated with a member club of USA Gymnastics.

2. Membership and Responsibilities

- a. For information regarding membership terms, conditions, and registration, please contact Member Services at 800-345-4719 or via e-mail at membership@usagym.org.
- b. Member benefits are paid out upon receipt of application; therefore, memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- c. Membership is valid for one competitive year, from August 1 through the following July 31. 1. Members joining at any time during the year will receive benefits for the remainder of the competitive year. 2. Memberships are automatically null and void each July 31.
- d. Information about the various certifications, programs, and accreditations for members is offered in the USA Gymnastics University and is available online at: usagymnasticsuniversity.org.
- e. Competitive Coach members coaching at sanctioned events must have a minimum certification level of instructor Certified in USA Gymnastics University. Instructor Certification can be achieved by completing the U100 Fundamentals of Gymnastics Instruction course.

- f. The following membership roles are permitted to be on the floor of a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event, so long as the member is in good standing and all membership requirements are complete:
 - Competitive Coach
 - Judge
 - Meet Director
 - Photographer/Videographer
 - Medical
 - Volunteer
 - Athlete

3. Other USA Gymnastics Memberships and Educational Programs

For a complete and up-to-date list of other available memberships, various certifications, programs, and accreditations for members, please visit the USA Gymnastics [Member Services website](#).

SECTION THREE: FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

The US Olympic Committee recognizes USA Gymnastics as the governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States. As such, USA Gymnastics has authority over all gymnastics competitions, exhibitions, and training exchanges hosted in the United States.

USA Gymnastics is a member of the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG), the International governing body for gymnastics. As such, USA Gymnastics and all its members are subject to the FIG rules and regulations governing gymnastics exchanges between countries. All exchanges involving foreign athletes are under the jurisdiction of the FIG and the host Federation.

With the increased opportunities for participation in events involving foreign athletes, both in the United States and abroad, USA Gymnastics has the responsibility to inform its members of the FIG regulations governing these activities. The FIG and its member federations have jurisdiction over international events (events involving more than one country's athletes). Violations of the FIG regulations can result in restrictions of the member federation and/or its athletes. While USA Gymnastics realizes the cultural enrichment that these types of events provide to our members, strict compliance to the FIG Regulations **MUST** be followed.

The USA Gymnastics National office must be notified of any competitions in the U.S. involving athletes, coaches and/or judges who are non-citizens and who also reside in and/or represent a foreign country. The USA Gymnastics National office must be notified of any U.S. athletes, coaches, or judges' intention to participate in any gymnastics activities in a foreign country.

Any non-U.S. citizen residing in the United States, who intends to participate in any gymnastics activity within the United States, must notify their country of citizenship gymnastics federation of their intention to participate in gymnastics activities within the United States.

CONTACT THE USA GYMNASTICS MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTION. DO NOT DIRECTLY CONTACT ANY FOREIGN FEDERATION, CLUB, ATHLETE, COACH OR JUDGE.

1. Foreign Memberships

Athletes, Coaches, and/or Judges from Countries other than the United States.

- a. A foreign athlete/coach/judge membership must be obtained by submitting a completed membership form along with a fee of \$50.00 to USA Gymnastics member services department.
- b. All foreign memberships are null and void each July 31st.
- c. Foreign Memberships do NOT receive benefits of membership other than the required insurance coverage at the sanctioned event(s).

The Foreign Participant Membership form is available [here](#).

2. Duties and Responsibilities of USA Gymnastics members in regard to International Exchanges

- a. EXCERPT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE (FIG):

VII. OFFICIAL EVENTS OF THE FIG AND ELIGIBILITY OF GYMNASTS

Art. 36.3 Inter-Federation events and responsibilities of Federations: Federations may organize events among themselves in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations of the FIG. It is, however, forbidden for gymnasts or judges of a Federation to participate in competitions or demonstrations in the sphere of activity of another Federation without the prior consent of the Federations involved and that of the Federation organizing the event. Likewise, the participation of gymnasts or judges of a Federation in an event organized by a body other than a Federation must be subject to the prior consent of any Federations involved. Federations are also responsible to FIG for the behavior of their gymnasts, coaches, judges and other officials and they act as guarantors to the FIG in respect of these responsibilities. After every competition, the Federations will send to the FIG the requested documents (see FIG Rules "International Event Approval") as well as, within 30 days, the tax ratified by the Council (see art. 28.3).

Refer to the FIG Code of Discipline for additional information.

- b. Any competition/exhibition conducted in the United States, which includes foreign athletes, must be sanctioned by USA Gymnastics.
- c. The sanction fee will be determined based upon the particulars of the event (up to \$250,000.00). Do not send any invitations (foreign or domestic) until the USA Gymnastics Member Services department has notified you that approval has been granted.

3. Requirements for Foreign Exchanges

The following categories have been defined for participation of foreign athletes in this country and for participants of USA club athletes in a club exchange in a foreign country. All exchanges involving foreign athletes are under the jurisdiction of the FIG and the host Federation. Every procedure **MUST** be followed to protect the athletes and the federations.

- a. Competitions/Exhibitions conducted in the United States
 - i. Prior approval of Foreign Federation must be secured through request made by USA Gymnastics.
 - ii. All aspects of the event **MUST** be approved by USA Gymnastics. This includes but is not limited to:
 - 1) sponsorships
 - 2) marketing/property rights
 - 3) equipment/format
 - 4) television
 - 5) all promotional, marketing, and advertising materials
 - iii. The use of the word "INTERNATIONAL" in the title of a competition/exhibition is strictly **FORBIDDEN**.
 - iv. Promotion or advertising depicting the event as a competition between two or more countries is forbidden. (i.e., USA vs. Canada)
 - Athletes from a foreign country competing in the United States represent only their club at the exchange; they are **NOT** representing their country as a National Team member.
 - v. Higher sanction fees may be assessed for galas or exhibitions depending upon the level of the participating athletes.
 - vi. FIG has a 5% tax on prize money awarded at an event.
- b. Training Exchanges conducted in the United States
 - i. Prior approval of foreign Federation must be secured through a request made by USA Gymnastics.
 - ii. Only a letter of invitation with the specific information is required; however, it is not

- necessary to sanction.
- iii. Proof of Insurance coverage:
 - 1) It is the sole responsibility of the event host to secure proper insurance for the event. (Be aware that some insurance packages do not cover foreign athletes or coaches.)
 - 2) Training exchanges may not be "USA Gymnastics-sanctioned"; therefore, the Athlete Member insurance is not in effect.
- iv. Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange, and they are not participating as official USA representatives.
- c. Competitions, exhibitions, and training exchanges conducted in another country
 - i. USA Gymnastics must receive communication from the host country requesting permission for USA Gymnastics members to attend.
 - ii. USA Gymnastics must approve of your club's participation BEFORE your club accepts an invitation to participate in another country's event. Notification requesting permission to participate in a foreign competition, exhibition or training exchange must be provided to the Program Director at the USA Gymnastics office.
 - iii. Events sponsored by and/or held in a foreign country CANNOT be "USA Gymnastics-sanctioned"; therefore, the Athlete Member insurance is not in effect. Prior notification to USA participants that USA Gymnastics insurance does not cover their participation in an event sponsored by and held in a foreign country is required.
 - iv. Any judge (US or foreign citizens) must receive permission from the National Federation of their country of citizenship before accepting an invitation to officiate a competition that is conducted outside of their country of citizenship.
 - v. USA participants may only represent their club at these events/exchanges, and they may not participate as official USA representatives.
 - 1) For example: Official results may not reflect "USA".
 - 2) Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange, and they are not there as official USA representatives is required.
 - vi. USA National Team members may not represent their club in an international event without the approval of the Program Director.

4. Eligibility and Participation Requirements for Foreign Athletes Residing in the USA

- a. Because of the nature of partnerships in acrobatic gymnastics, the whole pair or group with a partner athlete who is a non-US citizen is considered under these regulations.
- b. **Foreign athletes (US Citizens residing in a foreign country or non-US Citizens residing in the USA):** Foreign athletes who have competitive experience outside the US and now reside in the US are eligible to petition by submitting a formal written request to the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman for entry into the Development Program and/or International Track at any level, commensurate with experience and preparedness. The petition must be accompanied by proof of residency (utility bill, credit card statement, lease agreement, driver's license) and citizenship (birth certificate, passport).
 - i. Within the Developmental Program (Levels 2-10), non-U.S. citizen athletes who are living in the United States and training in a U.S. gymnastics club are eligible to compete and receive awards for all USA Gymnastics sanctioned events, including State, Regional, and National Championships (e.g.; USA Gymnastics Championships) and invitational competitions.
 - A non-citizen athlete (and their partners) may receive awards respective of their ranking/placement at National Championships events; however, the athlete is not eligible to become a member of the Acrobatic Gymnastics

Development Team. Non-citizen athletes are not eligible to compete for their club team internationally.

- ii. Within the International Track (AG 11-16, JE 12-18, JE 13-19, Senior), non-U.S. citizen athletes who are living in the United States and training in a U.S. gymnastics club are eligible to compete and receive awards for all USA Gymnastics sanctioned events, including State and Regional Championships and invitational competitions. Non-citizen athletes may participate at USA Gymnastics Championships for score only in the Development Program competition venue. The non-citizen athlete (and partners) is not eligible for awards and may not compete in the Elite combined Acro/Rhythmic/T&T session.
 - Participation of non-citizen athletes is not permitted at World Team Trials and other selection only competitions. Non-citizen athletes are not eligible to become a member of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Junior or Senior National Team, be assigned as part of Team USA to an international competition, or compete for their club team internationally.
 - iii. This process applies to gymnasts residing in the US who are non-Citizens, even if they have retained a green card.
 - iv. Foreign athletes (those that reside and/or train in another country) are eligible for individual as well as Team awards at any Invitational competition that has secured a foreign sanction from USA Gymnastics.
- c. **Foreign Elite athletes who have represented a foreign country and Foreign Elite National Team Members (current or former):** A non-US citizen Elite gymnast residing in the US who wants to compete in the Development Program and/or International Track who is currently named to, has previously competed for, or has represented a foreign national team, must petition to enter the Development Program by sending a formal written request and proof of residency (utility bill, credit card statement, lease agreement, driver's license) and citizenship (birth certificate, passport) to the Acrobatics Program Director. In addition to the formal request, the athlete must request documentation be sent to the Acrobatics Program Director at USA Gymnastics directly from the country's federation in which the athlete has competed, granting the athlete permission to compete in the Development Program or International Track for the US Club.
- i. The two-step process must be completed before the athlete's scores achieved in competition are valid for any qualifying purposes.
 - ii. Once proper documentation has been received by USA Gymnastics, the athlete may compete in the Development Program and/or International Track representing a US club according to the regulations for Development Program and International Track athletes in the section above.
 - iii. For the athlete to remain eligible to compete for a US club, this process must be completed annually.
 - iv. This process applies to gymnasts residing in the US who are non-Citizens, even if they have retained a green card.
- d. Once US citizenship is granted to an athlete who wishes to participate fully in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events and be eligible for national team selection, notification must be given to the Acrobatics Program Director, who will obtain any necessary final clearance from the former federation of citizenship and the FIG.

5. General Foreign Sanction Procedures

Competitions/Exhibitions conducted in the United States:

Every procedure MUST be followed to protect the athletes and the federations.

- a. If the event involves athletes and is a competition/camp/clinic/exhibition, a USA

Gymnastics Foreign Sanction is REQUIRED.

- b. Submit a completed Request for Foreign Sanction form, with the application fee of \$140 no later than 120 days prior to the event date to USA Gymnastics Member Services, Attention: FOREIGN SANCTIONS.
- c. ONLY one discipline per foreign sanction request. A separate foreign sanction request must be submitted for each competing discipline.
 - i. If received in less than 120 days, an additional \$100.00 rush fee is due.
 - ii. Additional countries may be added no less than (14) business days of the event for a fee of \$25 per country.
- d. The final Foreign Sanction fee will be determined based upon the particulars of the event (up to \$250,000.00). Do not send any invitations (foreign or domestic) until the USA Gymnastics Member Services department has notified you that approval has been granted.
- e. Higher sanction fees may be assessed for galas or exhibitions depending upon the level of the participating athletes.
- f. After receiving the Foreign Sanction request form/payment, USA Gymnastics will contact the foreign federation to request their approval for their athletes/coaches to participate.
- g. All participants residing in the USA must have the appropriate USA Gymnastics membership and certifications.

SECTION FOUR: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ATHLETES

1. The athlete has the right to:
 - a. Compete in a meet if all requirements for eligibility have been met and the athlete has been properly entered. Local meets are considered invitational.
 - b. Enter any sanctioned meet when affiliated with a club. The athlete must also be accompanied by a USA Gymnastics Competitive Coach Member of Acrobatic Gymnastics who is properly certified.
 - c. Use the facilities and services of any person connected officially with the meet.
 - d. Expect courteous and respectful treatment from all participants and meet personnel.
 - e. Expect that the competition site and equipment provide a safe and adequate environment.
 - f. Repeat an exercise in total or from the point of interruption if equipment failure occurs. The decision to repeat must be made prior to the flashing of the score.

2. The athlete is obligated to:
 - a. Be a properly registered Athlete Member with USA Gymnastics and be prepared to show his/her membership card.
 - b. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct and Safe Sport Policy.
 - c. Be competent at the level at which he/she is competing.
 - d. Be familiar with the rules of the meet and schedule of competition. Be ready for competition on time. Those who miss their turn will not be allowed to compete.
 - e. Be present at the site of the meet for sufficient warm-up.
 - f. Remain in the area of competition designated for athletes, as competitors or observers.
 - g. Wear the proper attire for training, warm-ups and competition as well as opening and closing ceremonies and awards presentations. See Section 10 for specific information.
 - h. Refrain from wearing jewelry and other prohibited accessories.
 - i. Wear hair secured away from the face **in accordance with the FIG rules**.
 - j. Perform to the best of his/her abilities.
 - k. Accept the received score without criticism or comment.
 - l. Be courteous, respectful, and polite to all meet officials and other participants. Turn off all cell phones (or set on vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing the competition.
 - m. Be aware that infringement of obligations could lead to deduction and/or expulsion by the Jury of Appeals or Meet Referee.
 - n. Athlete's Oath:

As a member of USA Gymnastics, I understand that USA Gymnastics is dedicated to the safe development of the Acrobatic Gymnastics discipline throughout the United States. I promise to abide by all rules and regulations of USA Gymnastics and the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program and to conduct myself in a safe and courteous manner at all times.

SECTION FIVE: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

1. COACHES

All Coaches are obligated to:

- a. Maintain a USA Gymnastics Competitive Coach Membership and visibly display or have readily available their USA Gymnastics membership card on their person at all sanctioned competitions.
- b. Maintain all requirements of the Competitive Coach membership. Click [here](#) to view all requirements.
- c. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct and Safe Sport Policy.
- d. Be professional.
- e. Display good sportsmanship.
- f. Dress in appropriate attire that reflects the best image of Acrobatic Gymnastics. The coaches' dress code is as follows (dress code applies to all training, warm-up, and competition sessions at sanctioned events):
 - i. Athletic warm-up pants or "Docker style" pants either full length or capri length (NO jeans or shorts).
 - ii. Collared shirts, business casual shirts, polo-style shirt or T-shirts with gym logo are acceptable (NO spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or midriff revealing shirts). Warm-up jackets are optional.
 - iii. Closed toe athletic shoes or gym shoes (NO flip-flops).
 - iv. No hats or visors.
 - v. Clothes should be in good condition, without holes or tears.
 - vi. Judges, who are also coaches, may wear judging uniform to coaching during warm-up times. High-heeled shoes may need to be removed.
- g. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order to provide the safest environment for the athlete.
- h. Turn off cell phones (or set on vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing the competition.
- i. Attend all coaches' meetings and be familiar with the meet set-up and organization.
- j. Continually update coaching knowledge and experience on a planned regular basis by means of study, certification programs, participation in clinics, etc.
- k. Be respectful of and responsible for his/her athletes at all times during the travel to and from the competition, at the training prior to competition, during the off hours, and during the competition itself.
- l. Treat all competitions the same regardless of skill level.
- m. No coach has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies.
- n. Follow all guidelines for the competition and the USA Gymnastics Rules and Policies for Acrobatic Gymnastics, including entry regulations.
- o. Submit legible and complete electronic tariff sheets for each exercise by the designated deadline according to the competition directives (e.g., via Online Tariff Sheet Submission Process (OTSM) and/or KSIS, or other tariff sheet manager). Coaches are responsible for the accuracy of tariff sheets.
- p. Provide music for each exercise, correctly marked **in accordance with meet directives**.
- q. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct. Constant criticism of officials gives the athletes a negative perspective of the sport.
- r. Show respect for all athletes, coaches, judges, meet personnel and officials, and committee

members. If a coach acts inappropriately, he/she may receive a written warning from the Meet Referee (which is also documented on the Meet Referee Report Form). On any subsequent violation, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken by USA Gymnastics, which may include removal from the current competition or future competitions.

- s. Coach only their own athletes unless another coach asks for assistance.
- t. Refrain from approaching a judge directly. Direct judging inquiries through the proper channels, generally through the Meet Referee.
- u. Instruct gymnasts and parents to discuss any concerns they may have directly with the coach.
- v. Inform athletes and their parents of all competitive requirements as well as their rights and obligations.
- w. Obtain an Accident Report Form signed by the Meet Director and/or medical personnel in the case of any injury to a gymnast for whom they are responsible. Accident Report forms will be included in the Sanction packet sent to the Meet Director, who will duplicate and provide copies for the medical personnel. The coach or parent of the injured athlete must be sure to secure this form, completed by the medical personnel and signed by the Meet Director, prior to leaving the competition.
- x. Show respect for the flag and the National Anthem. Remember that we teach young people by example.
- y. *Coach's Oath: In the name of all Coaches and other members of the athlete's entourage, I promise that we shall commit ourselves to ensuring that the spirit of sportsmanship and ethics is fully adhered to and upheld in accordance with the fundamental principles of Olympism. We shall commit ourselves to educating the gymnasts to adhere to fair play and drug free sport and to respect all USA Gymnastics Rules governing this event.*

2. JUDGES

All Judges are obligated to:

- a. Maintain their USA Gymnastics Judge Membership and visibly display or have readily available their USA Gymnastics membership card on their person at all sanctioned competitions.
- b. Maintain all requirements of the Judge membership. Click [here](#) to view all requirements.
- c. Maintain Judges' Certification ratings and active status requirements.
- d. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct and Safe Sport Policy.
- e. Be professional in conduct and attire:
 - i. Dress appropriately in the required uniform (see Section 13), including USA Gymnastics Officials patch, regardless of the level or type of competition.
 - ii. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order that the evaluations be as accurate as possible for all gymnasts.
 - iii. Be quick, cooperative and efficient in resolving differences during a conference.
- f. Turn off and put away cell phone while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing competition.
- g. Be familiar with the competition set-up and organization. No judge has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies.
- h. Continually update judging knowledge and experience on a planned, regular basis by means of study, judging as much as possible, practice judging, participating in clinics, etc.
- i. Fulfill all assignments. Only dire circumstances should prohibit a judge from fulfilling an assignment. If a judge must cancel an assignment, he/she must notify the appropriate officials at the earliest possible moment.
- j. Be confidential about meet matters; own scores, or other judges' scores or opinions. Refrain from conversation with other judges, coaches, parents, or others during the competition.
- k. Treat all competitions with the same regard, not affected by skill level.

- l. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct.
- m. Show respect for all athletes, coaches, other judges, and meet personnel.
- n. Show respect for all officials, participants, and committee members. If a judge acts inappropriately, he/she may receive a written warning from the Meet Referee (which is also documented on the Meet Referee Report Form). On any subsequent violations, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken by the Program Committee, following USA Gymnastics guidelines.
- o. Any conversation or comments with the athlete should be made only if requested by the coach.
- p. Show respect for the flag and the National Anthem. Remember we teach young people by example.
- q. Judge's Oath: I swear on my honor that while judging I shall proceed and act with sportsmanlike behavior and dignity and commit myself to evaluate honestly the exercises performed, regardless of the personality and affiliation of the performer.

SECTION SIX: SANCTIONING PROCEDURES

Sanctions: In order to host a USA Gymnastics Acro sanctioned competition, all Meet Directors **MUST** be a current USA Gymnastics Meet Director member with the appropriate requirements completed. Click [here](#) to view all requirements. In addition, the Meet Director must be affiliated with a current USA Gymnastics organization member. The Meet Director Exam is available online [here](#). An unaffiliated athlete will not be permitted to participate in the event.

1. Sanctioning a Domestic USA Gymnastics Event

- a. USA Gymnastics, as the national governing body for the sport, is responsible for the granting of sanctions.
- b. Sanctions are required for all USA Gymnastics competitions. See Chapters 6 and 8 for competition guidelines.
- c. Sanctions may also be obtained for clinics, workshops, educational events, and exhibitions.
- d. Only a current USA Gymnastics organization member may register athletes into a sanctioned event.
- e. A USA Gymnastics sanctioned event **CANNOT** be run concurrently in the same session with non-USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.

2. Procedures for Requesting a Domestic Sanction

- a. To apply for a sanction online, click [here](#).
- b. When requesting a sanction, equipment/venue set-up/ take down and training days must be included, as well as competition days.
- c. Only one discipline per sanction.
- d. Events conducted in more than one location must have a separate sanction for each location.
- e. Once a sanction has been granted, the USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies **MUST** be followed.
- f. Sanction Fee
 - The fee is \$140 for all sanctioned events. Sanction fees are not refundable, regardless of the reason for canceling a meet.

3. Sanction Violations and Penalties

SANCTION VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN A FINE, VOIDING OF A COMPETITION AND ITS RESULTS, AND/OR LOSS OF SANCTIONING PRIVILEGES.

- a. Sanction Violations: When a Meet Director and/or Competitive Coach, Judge, Medical, Photographer/Videographer or Volunteer member participating in the event fails to follow the USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies, actions can be taken against the Meet Director, hosting institution and/or the individual offenders by the USA Gymnastics National Office.
- b. Violations on the part of the Meet Director include:
 - i. Allowing individuals on the floor without current, valid memberships and/or educational/background check certifications.
 - ii. Violations of any regulation within the Rules and Policies.
 - iii. Failure to return required sanction forms and athlete fees by the designated deadline.
 - iv. Altering USA Gymnastics language on sanction report form.
 - v. Failure to obtain signatures/initials of officials/coaches on the sanction report form

- sign-in sheet(s).
- c. Violations on the part of the Competitive Coach, Judge, Medical, Photographer/Videographer, Volunteer member: Individuals who do not have the appropriate current membership and/or educational or background check certifications or falsifies one of the above-mentioned memberships and attempts to participate on the field at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition.
 - d. Meet Director Penalties for Violations:
 - i. A meet director may receive the following penalties for violating any of the above stated violations.
 - 1) A first-time violation results in a fine of \$100 for one violation plus \$100 for each additional violation associated with the same sanction.
 - 2) A second time violation results in a fine of \$500 for one violation plus \$500 for each additional violation associated with the same sanction.
 - 3) A third time violation results in a fine of \$1000 for one violation plus \$500 for each additional violation associated with the same sanction, and a one-year suspension of sanctioning privileges.
 - ii. Fines apply only to the individual and/or the Meet Director.
 - iii. Hosting institutions may also be denied sanctioning privileges if violations are repeated with multiple Meet Directors.
 - iv. The State Administrative Committee Chairman and/or Regional Administrative Committee Chairman will be notified of any violations by e-mail.
 - v. If a fine is assessed to a Meet Director, but not paid by the deadline indicated, the ability to sanction an event will be denied until all balances are paid.
 - vi. If the violation is due to the lack of mandatory forms being returned, the ability to sanction an event will be denied until all mandatory forms are returned.
 - vii. If a fine is assessed but not satisfied by the deadline indicated, the Meet Director's membership may be placed in a pending status.
 - viii. Escalating penalties accrue during the current competitive season (August 1-July 31).
 - ix. If a Meet Director incurs three sanction violations in one competitive season, he/she will be placed in pending status. He/she must re-take and pass the Meet Director Exam before being placed in active status.
 - e. Individual Member Penalties for Violations:
 - i. A Competitive Coach, Judge, Medical, Photographer/Videographer, Volunteer member may receive the following penalties for violating any of the above stated violations.
 - 1) A first-time violation results in a fine of \$100.
 - 2) A second time violation results in a fine of \$500.
 - 3) A third time violation results in a fine of \$1000 and possibly suspension of membership.
 - ii. Fines apply only to the individual and/or the Meet Director.
 - iii. The State Administrative Committee Chairman and/or Regional Administrative Committee Chairman will be notified of any violations by e-mail.
 - iv. If a fine is assessed to a member but not paid by the deadline indicated, their membership will go into a pending status until all balances are paid.
 - v. Escalating penalties accrue during the current competitive season (August 1st-July 31st)
 - f. Sanction Report Forms
 - i. An official USA Gymnastics Sanction Report Form is available online. To access the report forms, visit usagym.org/pages/membership, 'My Sanctions'.
 - ii. Keep a copy of the report form, then e-mail the Sanction Report Form, Safe Sport

Event Checklist, and all completed sign-in forms to sanctions@usagym.org within 72 hours.

- iii. Make copies of the Sanction Report Form and send them to the State Administrative Committee Chairman with the State competition fee (if applicable) within 72 hours.
- iv. Applicable competition fees/athlete head tax must be sent to the State/Regional Administrative Committee Chairman of the host state (based on physical location of the meet).
- v. If an event is canceled, written notification must be submitted to sanctions@usagym.org prior to the start date of the event.

4. Sanctioned Event Minimum Medical Requirements

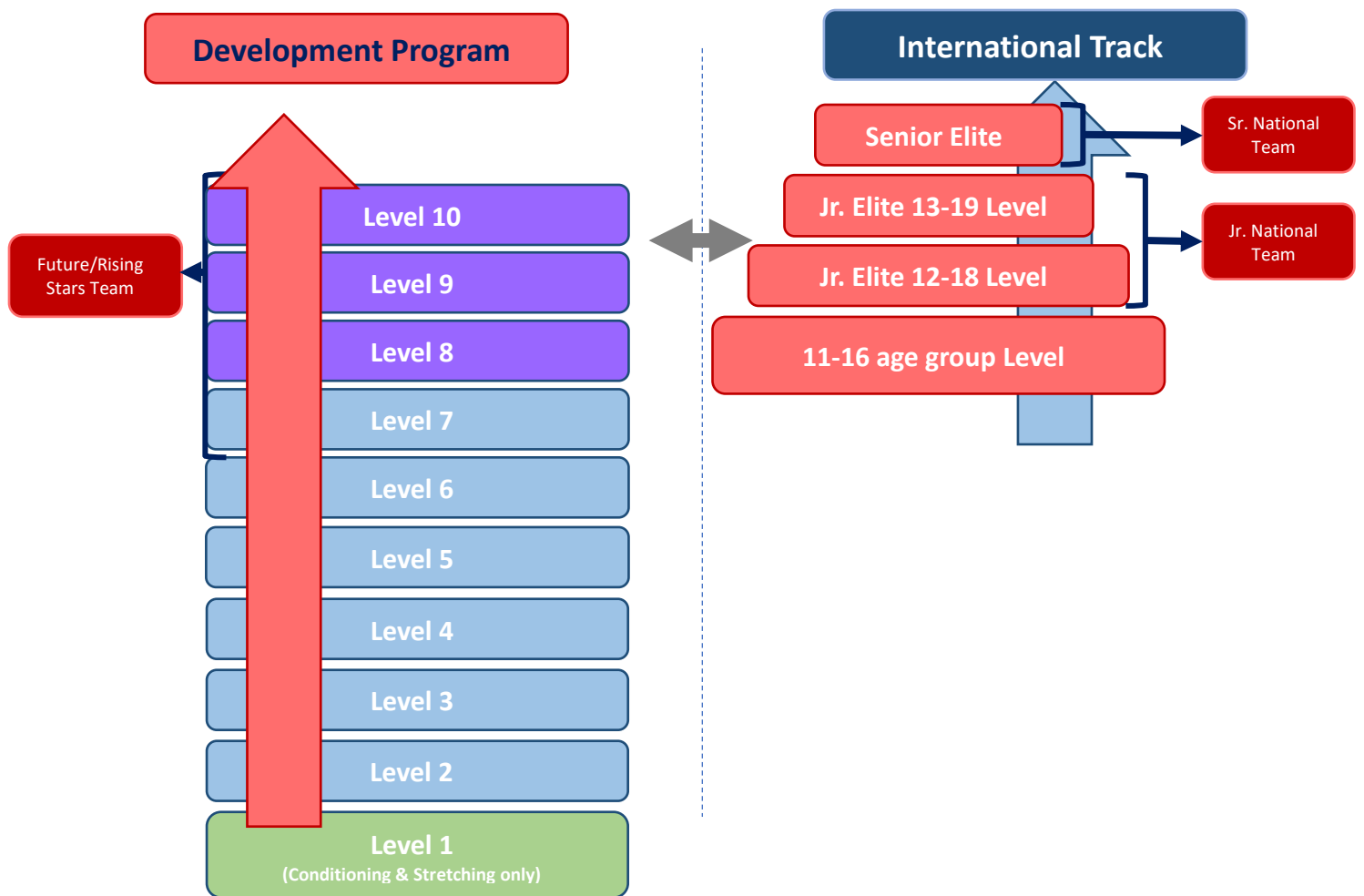
- a. High Risk: Acro – Levels 9 and Above
The performance of skills that pose a risk of severe injury, including fractures, dislocations, spinal cord injuries or deep wounds.
 - i. Requires the following level of medical staff present during warm-up, practice and competition: Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), EMT, Paramedic, Sports Med Fellowship trained MD/DO, or Sports Certified Physical Therapist (PT, SCS)
 - ii. Supplies: AED (recommended, not required), Splints, Gauze pads, rolled gauze, sling, advanced first aid supplies, ice cooler/bags, crutches
 - iii. Medical staff should complete incident report form
 - iv. 1 practitioner is required per 40 pair groups competing at once and one per venue.
 - 1) Example: 45 pair groups on the event floor at once in one room of a convention center would require 2 medical staff
- b. Moderate Risk: Acro – Levels 7-8
The performance of skills that pose a risk of injury likely limited to lacerations, concussions, sprains or strains
 - i. Requires a medical professional with first aid training (nurse, PT, ATC, MD/DO, EMT, Paramedic, PA, NP) present during practice and competition.
 - ii. Prefer practitioner who is familiar with signs and symptoms of concussion and is up to date on current concussion return to play guidelines.
 - iii. Medical staff should complete incident report form
 - iv. 1 medical staff member is required per 50 pair groups competing at any given time and 1 per venue.
 - 1) Example: If all events take place in one arena with 50 pair groups on the event floor at once, then one medical staff member is required.
 - v. Supplies: advanced first aid supplies with gauze pads to control bleeding, slings, ace wraps, ice cooler/bags
- c. Low Risk: Acro – Levels 6 and below
The performance of skills that pose a risk of injury likely limited to bumps, bruises or abrasions
 - i. No medical personnel required. Coach or meet director should be comfortable with basic first aid.
 - ii. First Aid Kit with breakable ice packs.
 - iii. Meet director would complete incident report form
- d. All levels would be required to submit a completed basic EAP for the gym or venue
- e. Click [here](#) to review the Safe Sport requirements for Medical personnel.
- f. Medical staff are responsible for following their state's scope of practice and practice guidelines.
- g. How to find qualified medical personnel for your meet:
 - i. Ask parents at your gym if they have proper qualifications or know anyone in the community who does

- ii. Search your local hospital or children's hospital's website for "Sports Medicine" and contact them via phone numbers or "Contact Us" form on the web page
- iii. Call your local hospital or children's hospital and ask for the Marketing and PR department and ask them if they have providers who would be willing to cover your event
- iv. Utilize a web-based service that matches ATCs to events such as [Go4Ellis](#)
- v. To find a sports certified physical therapist go to:
<https://aptaapps.apta.org/APTAPTDirectory/FindAPTDDirectory.aspx>
 - o In the search field "Find By Specialist", choose "Sports"
- vi. Call your community's fire department to see if they have EMTs or Paramedics available to work the event
- vii. Call your local orthopedics practice and ask to speak to the practice manager to see if their sports medicine physicians will provide event coverage
- viii. Use your search engine to search for "sports event medical professionals near me"

SECTION SIX: ACROBATICS COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

Development and International Track Overview

The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program is a coordinated program that encourages participation and prepares athletes for the highest level of competition. Within the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program, there are two competitive tracks, the Development Program and the International Track. The Development Program is designed to build fundamental skills, provide progressions and advancement opportunities to higher levels, including elite, and be inclusive, yet competitive. The International Track, including junior and senior elite levels, are solely based on FIG rules, and designed to develop athletes for international competition, especially World Championships.



The Development Program, which includes Levels 1-10, was developed with the goal of all athletes having a solid foundation of basic skills in order to advance to higher levels safely and proficiently. Its levels are carefully progressive in nature and include fundamental principles from the FIG rules. The Development Program begins with Level 1 as a stretching and conditioning program and introduction to partner skills. Levels 2-4 offer training in beginning skills, provide entry level competition opportunities, and prepare participants for competition at higher levels.

The Development Program competitive levels continue with Level 5, which can be mastered by athletes with no previous exposure to competitive acrobatics. As with Levels 2-4, Level 5 exercises are compulsory and fully choreographed, including music. Level 6 also has compulsory skills, but music and choreography are chosen by the coach and athletes. Choreography is optional at Level 6, allowing athletes to practice artistry and choreography skills without being penalized. Level 7 allows athletes to choose different elements from each row for balance, dynamic, and individual categories. These elements are included in an exercise along with choreography and music, of the athletes' and coaches' choosing.

Levels 8-10 comprise the optional levels. Choreography and music are required but may be determined by the athletes/coach. At the optional levels, two exercises, balance and dynamic, are performed. At Level 8, the choice of elements is from compulsory elements provided in the Development Code of Points and the FIG tables of difficulty. Levels 9-10 have the choice of elements coming from the FIG Tables of Difficulty. Minimum and maximum difficulty are defined, as well as special requirements and restrictions at each of these levels. The Future Stars Team is a program to identify and provide additional opportunities for the top Developmental Program pair/groups, which are determined from Levels 9-10. Rising Stars has the same purpose, but for level 7-8.

For all Development levels 2-10, please refer to the Development Code of Points for all exercise specifications.

The International Track includes the following levels: 11-16 Age Group, Junior Elite 12-18, Junior Elite 13-19, and Senior Elite. Rules, exercise specifications, and judging criteria for these levels is by the FIG rules, which include:

- FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Points,
- FIG Acro World Age Group Rules, and
- FIG Tables of Difficulty.

Only pair/groups participating within the International Track can be considered for Junior National Team, Senior National Team, and/or International Development Team (IDT). Additionally, only pair/groups currently training and/or competing on the international track may make a request to attend an international event with their club team. Development levels 2-10 can request to attend an international club meet in the PAGU region only.

Updates, clarifications and corrections to the USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies, Development Code of Points, and other program rules are published and distributed via the Acrobatics website, in the form of a *Technical Update*. Updates and clarifications to the FIG Acro rules are included in newsletters published by the FIG Acro-Technical Committee and available via the FIG website. Unless otherwise specified, updates and clarifications to program rules are effective immediately upon publication.

Xcel Competitive Blocks Program

In addition to these two competitive tracks, an Xcel Blocks Program is available through the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program and offers a third competitive option. The Xcel Blocks Program involves a routine of balance skills and holds performed on blocks, also known as stilts or pedestals. The Xcel Blocks Program is open to athletes participating in the Development Program, International Track, or even those not currently competing in acrobatics. This program provides additional and unique competitive opportunities for athletes, especially those without a partner; supplemental training opportunities; and competitive access for beginners in acrobatics. Please refer to the Xcel Blocks Program Code of Points for complete program information.

SECTION SEVEN: COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

1. General Competition Regulations

- a. All Acrobatic Gymnastics competitions must be sanctioned through USA Gymnastics.
- b. Each state and region determine the competition schedule at the start of the competitive season.
 - i. Because of geographic distance or special circumstances, a state can petition to have two state meets. Petitions should be made at the beginning of the competitive season to the Acrobatics Program Committee.
 - ii. Because of size or other special circumstances, a state may choose to combine their State Championships with another state in their region.
 - iii. Because of size or other special circumstances, a region may choose to combine their Regional Championships with another region.
- c. Regional Championships must be held at least four weeks prior to USA Gymnastics Championships. The National Office may determine and publish further requirements for the timing of Regional Championships based on registration and scheduling deadlines for the USA Gymnastics Championships. Deviations from this requirement must be approved through the Acrobatics Program Director.
- d. Judging assignments:
 - i. The Regional Judges Coordinator, in consultation with the Regional Technical Chair, makes assignments for local, state, and regional competitions.
 - ii. At USA Gymnastics Championships and other national-level competitions, the National Technical Committee will determine assignments, with approval from the Acrobatics Program Committee.
 - iii. For national-level and international invitationals not organized by USA Gymnastics, the meet director must contact the National Technical Committee Chair for judging assignments. The Regional Technical Chair and Regional Judges Coordinator of the respective region where the competition is held may also be involved in the assignment process.
- e. Refund policy:
 - i. Entry fee refunds for locals and state championships are the host club's decision. Intent to allow refunds or not should be posted in their invitation.
 - ii. Entry fees for Regional Championships are not refundable within ten days' notice prior to the meet. For refunds prior to the deadlines, the request must meet one of the following criteria: injury, illness, family emergency, or qualifying scores not earned and include proper documentation.
 - iii. The refund policy for national-level competitions is set forth in the competition directives.

2. Events

- a. The following events are contested in Acrobatic Gymnastics: Women's Pairs, Men's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Women's Group, and Men's Group. For the Development Program, Mixed Groups of 3 or 4 athletes are allowed. Internationally 11-16 allows for mixed group of 4 for PAGU Championships only.
- b. For Levels 2-4, competition is divided into pairs or groups.
 - i. Pairs: May be composed of male and/or female athletes, in a partnership of the coach's discretion (i.e.: a female base and a male top, all male, all female, etc.)
 - ii. Groups: May be composed of male and/or female athletes in a partnership of the coach's discretion (i.e: 2 female bases and a male top, all males, all females, etc.)

3. Types of Competition

- a. Competitions may be for individual pair/groups, for teams, or for individual pair/groups and teams.
- b. The following competitions must be held throughout the competition season: local meets, state championships meet, regional championships meet, and USA Gymnastics Championships (for Levels 7 and above).
- c. Special Meets: Invitational, open, dual, conference, qualification/selection meets, and international meets may be organized but are not involved in the process to qualify to higher level meets, unless specifically designated by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee. These special meets are to be guided by the rules contained in this document and the Development Code of Points.

4. Participation and Qualification Requirements of Competitions

- a. Pre-Team Level 1 is a pre-competition training level. Competition is not available at this level.
- b. Levels 2 - 6 are contested at the local, state, and regional levels.
- c. Levels 7-10, AG 11-16, JE 12-18/13-19 and senior elite may be contested at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
- d. Participation and qualification is by pair/group, not individual athlete. Each athlete in a pair/group must have a valid USA Gymnastics athlete membership. The pair/group must also be registered through the Online Registration System and receive a pair/group ID number. This ID number is specific to the pair/group, and if a partner changes during the season a new pair/group ID number must be requested.
- e. Local Meets
 - i. Any properly registered pair/group in good standing may enter a sanctioned local meet. However, local meets may be invitational in nature.
 - ii. Participation in a minimum of two sanctioned local meets, are required to advance to State Championships.
- f. State Championships
 - i. Any pair/group who has fully competed at the local level two or more times may enter the State Championships.
 - ii. A pair/group must compete at State Championships in their state in order to advance to the Regional Championships. The pair/group may compete in additional State Championships as desired or as needed to earn a qualifying score.
 - iii. Pair/groups may earn qualifying scores at any local meet or State Championships for advancement to USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - iv. Pair/groups must compete at the State Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying competitions.
- g. Regional Championships
 - i. A pair/group who has successfully competed at the state level may advance to Regional Championships.
 - ii. A pair/group must compete at Regional Championships in their region in order to advance to USA Gymnastics Championships. The pair/group may compete in additional Regional Championships as desired or needed to earn a qualifying score.
 - iii. Athletes may earn a qualifying score at any sanctioned competition for advancement to USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - iv. Pair/groups must compete at Regional Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying competition.
- h. **International Track Exception:** AG 11-16, JE 12-18, JE 13-19 and Senior Elite pair/groups are not required to attend both State and Regional Championships but must attend at least one of the two events (either State or Regional Championships).

- i. USA Gymnastics Championships (Levels 7-10)
 - i. L7-10 pair/groups must attend both the State and Regional Championships and earn a qualifying score at any local, state or Regional competition to compete at USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - ii. Pair/groups must compete at USA Gymnastics Championships at the level at which they qualified.
 - iii. Pair/groups must compete at USA Gymnastics Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying meet.

5. Qualifying Scores

- a. Levels 2-6 have no qualifying scores for state or regional competitions, other than the requirement to fully participate in the respective competitions as stated above in bullet #3.
- b. Levels 7, the qualification score for Nationals is the score from one combined exercise from any local, state or regional competition.
- c. Levels 8-10 and AG 11-16 – Pair/groups must compete a balance and dynamic exercise. Qualification score for Nationals is the sum of both routines.
- d. JE 12-18, JE 13-19 & Senior Elite – Pair/groups must compete a balance, dynamic, and combined exercise. Qualification score is the sum of scores from all three routines.
- e. A pair/group travelling internationally (as part of Team USA or as IDT/ICC) within 10 days before or after a local, state, or regional competition may use the scores from the international competition in lieu of competing at the local, state, or regional meet for qualification purposes. For the qualification requirement to be met, the coach must notify the Regional Administrative Committee Chair with the intent to use international meet results AND provide the official competition results for the international competition.

6. Character of Competitions

- a. Levels 2-7 compete one combined exercise. The final score from the exercise determines the winners in each level/age group.
- b. Levels 8-10 and AG 11-16 compete a balance and dynamic exercise. The all-around score, which is the sum of the final scores from both exercises, is used to determine the winners in each level/age group.
- c. JE 12-18, JE 13-19, and Senior Elite compete a balance, dynamic, and combined exercise. The scores from the qualification round balance and dynamic exercises will be used for the balance and dynamic awards. The top finishers, based on number of entries, from the qualifications (sum of balance and dynamic exercises) will advance to finals. In finals, scoring starts from zero and competitors will compete one Combined exercise. An all-around award will be given for the highest scores cumulatively in balance, dynamic, & combine.
- d. Competition format, which includes qualifications and finals competition, will only be used for national-level competitions and large invitationals if specified in the competition directives.
- e. Level 8-Elite will have a random draw for their first qualification routine, reverse order for their second qualification routine. For local to regionals, combined routine is random order. For nationals and selection events draws will be done per FIG rules.

7. Competition Organization

- a. All competitors are to be organized into groups according to competitive level and age group. The competition order is determined by random draw within each group. A separate draw should be done for each exercise performed (e.g., balance, dynamic, combined). All competitors within a particular group must compete in succession with the same panel of judges. If at all possible, competitors performing more than one exercise during the competition should be given time between competition routines (i.e., at least one rotation

- between routines).
- b. Athletes who compete outside of their assigned order for any reason lose the chance to win an award at the competition. However, scores may be used for qualification.
- c. Large meets must be divided into multiple sessions.
 - i. A session includes one general warm-up period and multiple competition rotations (up to 120 minutes of competition time).
 - ii. A rotation includes one touch-warm period and up to eight (8) competitors (one exercise per competitor).
 - iii. Judges require a minimum of a 10-minute break for every 2 hours of competition judged. Judges require a minimum of a 30-minute break for every 4 hours of competition judged. (Athletes warm up times can be used as break time for judges)
- d. There may be a tariff sheet review session with the Meet Referee, CJP, and DJ prior to competition. During this time, coaches may review judges' comments regarding tariff sheets from their own club only.
- e. Finals competition regulations:
 - i. Finals is used only for International Track levels when determined necessary for the competition (i.e., selection competition, invitational, international meet, etc.) and will be specified in the competition directives.
 - ii. The format for finals competition will follow that defined in the FIG Code of Points and Technical Regulations for senior elite, and in the World Age Group Rules for AG 11-16, JE 12-18, and JE 13-19.

8. Warm-up Procedures

- a. General warm-up:
 - i. A period of minimum 30 minutes and maximum 60 minutes must be provided to competitors immediately prior to the beginning of competition.
 - ii. Will be held on the competition floor unless a similar floor (similar in type, size and quality of apparatus, ceiling height, and lighting) is also available in the same or adjacent building.
 - iii. Each session of competition must have its own general warm-up period. Generally, it is acceptable to have a 30-minute general warm-up period for each 90 to 120 minutes of competition time.
- b. Touch warm-up:
 - i. An additional 3-5-minute warm-up on the competition floor may be provided before each rotation. This is considered a "touch" warm-up.
 - ii. If general warm-up sessions take place on a second floor, which is equivalent to the competition floor, the touch warm-up may be used, but is not required because athletes have access to a warm-up area until their assigned competition time.
 - iii. A touch warm-up must be provided to athletes competing 60 minutes or more after the conclusion of the general warm-up period, if a second, similar floor (see description in 8.a.ii above) is not available for continuous warm-up in the same or adjacent building.
 - iv. A maximum of eight (8) pair/groups, which constitutes one rotation, can be on the floor during the touch warm-up period.
- c. National-level competitions will make all attempts to provide a separate warm-up area equivalent to the competition floor, which will be used for all warm-up sessions. In this case, a touch warm-up will not be given on the competition floor.

9. Competition Petitioning Process

- a. Any pair/group who has not fully participated in the qualifying process may submit a petition for consideration to enter the next stage of competition. General procedures for petitions for

all Acrobatic Gymnastics competitions are stated below.

- b. Petitions may be considered for the following reasons:
 - i. Injury
 - ii. Illness, including COVID-related isolation/quarantine
 - iii. Family emergency (i.e., death, serious illness, natural disaster, requirements of business or employer).
 - iv. No qualifying meet available
- c. Petitions are submitted on the Petition Form by the pair/group's coach. Petitions must be communicated within one week following the last qualifying event. (i.e., a petition to enter Regional Championships, petitions must be submitted to the Regional Administrative Committee Chair within one week following the last State Championships competition.)
- d. Petitions must be accompanied by all relevant documentation which includes:
 - i. Evidence of pair/group's qualification to compete at the next stage of competition (including any of the following)
 - 1) Copies of original score sheets for score verification
 - 2) Video of pair/group in competition situation **if applicable**
 - 3) Complete tariff sheets documenting the pair/group skills
 - ii. Physician's statement
 - 1) Must be written by a licensed physician
 - 2) Must contain a date of injury or illness
 - 3) Must contain a diagnosis of injury or illness
 - 4) Must contain a date for clearance to return to acrobatic gymnastics participation
 - 5) All medical documentation must be submitted on official letterhead of the treating physician
 - 6) Medical documentation is subject to verification by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff
- e. Petitions to compete at State Championships and Regional Championships
 - i. Must be submitted to the Regional Administrative Committee Chair for decision by the Regional Administrative Committee.
 - ii. Written notification of decision will be given to the coach within two weeks of petition receipt.
 - iii. Petition appeals can be made to the Acrobatics Program Committee. Copies of the original petition and corresponding documentation, as well as the written decision from the Regional Administrative Member, must be submitted.
- f. Petitions to compete at USA Gymnastics Championships
 - i. Must be submitted to the Acrobatics Program Director for decision by the Acrobatic Program Committee.
 - ii. Written notification of decision will be given to the coach within two weeks of petition receipt.
- g. For petitions onto a national team, training squad, or international competition assignment, the criteria and petition process are specified as part of the respective selection procedures.

10. Scoring

- a. Each exercise performed in competition is judged for its technical execution of skills and choreography performed, difficulty of elements performed (level 9 and above), and artistic merit (artistry is for Levels 7 and above).
 - i. The Difficulty Judge determines the difficulty value of the exercise by comparing what was performed in competition against the declared elements on the tariff sheet. The difficulty value is converted to a D-Score.
 - 1) Levels 2-8: No Difficulty score will be given, pair/group will only receive a

- deduction, per the Development Program Code of Points, if they do not meet all skill requirements.
- 2) Age Group 11-16: the difficulty value of the compulsory elements only is added to get the D-score (maximum 0.5).
- 3) For Levels 9-10, JE 12-18/13-19 and Senior Elite: the difficulty value of performed pair/group and individual elements are added. The total is divided by 100 to get the D-score. There may be a minimum, maximum, and allowance difficulty value set for each level, reference the Development Program Code of Points.
- ii. Execution Judges evaluate the technical merit of the performed exercise. Deductions calculated to the nearest 0.1, are subtracted from a 10.0 to determine an E-score.
 - 1) When there are two or three execution scores, all scores are averaged.
 - 2) When there are four execution scores, the high and low scores are dropped, and the two middle scores are averaged.
 - 3) To place importance on the execution aspect of the exercise, the execution average is doubled in the total score calculation. This is done during the calculation of the final score, not by the individual judges.
- iii. Artistic Judges evaluate the artistic merit of the performed exercise. (Levels 2-6 do not receive an artistry score.) The score starts at a 5.0 and judges reward pair/groups (in 0.1 increments) for positive performance and exceeding criteria in their exercises to determine the A-score, with a maximum score of 10.0.
 - 1) When there are two or three artistry scores, all scores are averaged.
 - 2) When there are four artistry scores, the high and low scores are dropped, and the two middle scores are averaged.
- b. The total score is the score before any penalties by the CJP and/or Difficulty Judges are made, and is shown by the formula: $\text{Total Score} = \text{D-score} + (\text{E-score} \times 2) + \text{A-score}$
- c. The final score for the exercise subtracts the totaled CJP and DJ penalties from the Total Score. This is shown by the formula: $\text{Final Score} = \text{Total Score} - \text{Penalties}$
- d. A pair/group's All-Around Score is the sum of the Final Scores for each exercise they perform (Levels 5-7 have one exercise; Levels 8-10 & AG 11-16 have two exercises; JE 12-18, JE 13-19, and Senior Elite have three exercises).
- e. The difference in the marks of the execution judges or the artistry judges, called the range of scores or tolerance, may not exceed:
 - i. 0.5 if the average is below 9.0
 - ii. 0.3 if the average is 9.0 or above.
 - iii. If the range of scores is exceeded, it is the CJP's responsibility to resolve the situation with the panel. If the CJP cannot persuade the panel to come to an agreement, he/she shall turn to the Meet Referee and/or the Jury of Appeals to decide the final mark.
- f. The average E and A-scores, total score, and final score for the exercise is displayed to the nearest 0.001 without rounding.
- g. The D-score, (E-score x 2), A-score, Penalties (total of CJP and DJ penalties) and Final Score are displayed to the public and included in the final results book. Individual judges scores should be recorded, but not displayed on the score display or final results books.
- h. The public score display should happen as soon as possible following the conclusion of the exercise and submittal of the judges scores.

11. Appeals Procedure

- a. The objective of the appeals procedure is to ensure obvious errors in the difficulty score are corrected without causing significant delays in the competition.
- b. If a coach has a question about a difficulty score and/or CJP/DJ penalties, he/she may view

the difficulty slip, which is completed by the CJP and DJ and shows skills given/not given credit, missing special requirements, time faults and other penalties. The difficulty slips should be available in a designated area after judges' scores are entered and posted. There is no fee for this request and can be done without filing an appeal. A coach may request to review a difficulty slip for members of his/her own team only.

- c. After reviewing the difficulty slip, a coach may file an appeal if he/she feels an error was made in an area that is eligible for appeal (see below).
- d. Appeals must meet the following requirements:
 - i. The coach must submit an appeal in writing (in English) to the Meet Director using the Appeals Form.
 - ii. The appeal must be filed within 10 minutes of the end of the session.
 - iii. A coach may file an appeal concerning members of his/her own team or other teams. However, a coach may not view the difficulty slip for another team.
 - iv. Appeals may be made based on the difficulty score, special requirements, equipment failure, and/or mathematical error only. Other deductions (i.e., overtime, time faults in balance skills, fading of music, out of bounds, tariff sheet penalties (excluding Level 7 and 8 incorrect TS deductions), height deductions, elements out of order, or forbidden elements) may not be appealed. Execution and artistry scores cannot be appealed.
 - v. The appeal must clearly detail the elements or values that are in question.
 - vi. The coach of the athletes having an appeal lodged against them must be notified of the appeal.
 - vii. A fee will be charged for an appeal. The amount of the fee for local and state meets is \$20. The amount of the fee for regional and national-level competitions is \$40.
 - viii. A coach may withdraw the appeal prior to the Jury of Appeals' consideration (for instance, if the coach's concern is clarified by review of the difficulty slip). In this case no fee is charged.
- e. Resolution of an Appeal
 - i. The appeal is given to the Meet Referee, who convenes the Jury of Appeals. The Jury of Appeals makes every effort to resolve the appeal immediately but may need to wait until a break in competition (i.e., the end of the rotation or session).
 - ii. The Jury of Appeals will review the appeal and decide about changing the original score. To resolve the appeal, the Jury may:
 - 1) Consult the judging panel
 - 2) Use video review
 - iii. There must be clear and conclusive evidence in the appeal or on the video to overturn the original decision of the panel.
 - iv. CJP and/or DJ penalties may be reconsidered (positively or negatively) if there is a change in the difficulty score after an appeal. The execution and/or artistry scores given by the panel cannot be changed based on an appeal.
 - v. Should an appeal be sustained,
 - 1) an adjustment of the score will be made by the CJP,
 - 2) The Meet Director will inform the coach,
 - 3) the adjusted score is entered on the official score sheets and displayed to the public, and
 - 4) the fee of the appeal is returned to the coach.
 - vi. If the appeal is denied
 - 1) the Meet Director will notify the coach,
 - 2) The Meet Director retains the full fee of the appeal, and (verify where the money goes for local competitions)
 - 3) there is no change to any score.
 - vii. The decision of the Jury of Appeals is final.

SECTION EIGHT: COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. Competition Year

The competitive year is defined as the period from August 1 through July 31.

2. Age Determination and Requirements

- a. Age is determined by the competitor's age as of December 31 of the year in which the competition occurs.
- b. For the Developmental Program, minimum age requirements are listed below.
 - i. For Levels 2-4, minimum competition age is 4 years old.
 - ii. For Levels 5-8, minimum competition age is 5 years old.
 - iii. For Levels 9-10, minimum competition age is 6 years old.
- c. For the International Track: The age requirements listed below are for local, state, regional, national, and invitational competitions sanctioned by USA Gymnastics. For international competitions, selection competitions (e.g., World Team Trials), etc., age requirements specified in the FIG rules, event directives, and/or selection procedures take precedence.
 - i. For all International Track levels, there is no restriction on maximum age or age difference.
 - ii. 11-16 Age Group - minimum competition age is 6 years old.
 - iii. Junior Elite 12-18 – minimum competition age is 9 years old.
 - iv. Junior Elite 13-19 – minimum competition age is 10 years old.
 - v. Senior Elite – minimum competition age is 12 years old. *Please note: Senior World Championships, Pan American Championships, World Games requires athletes to be 15 years of age or older.*

3. Age Groups

Participants at USA Gymnastics Championships follow the same age categories as Regionals . Categories exceeding 15 entries will be divided into smaller competition groups. (i.e., if Level 7 WP has 25 entries, it will be divided into two, approximately equal competition divisions.)

- a. Competition groups are determined by the age of the oldest partner.
- b. Competition divisions are based on the number of entries the day of the entry deadline. Later "scratches" will not affect the previously announced groups or number of competitors in each group.
- b. At Regional Championships, the following age groups must be used:
 - i. Levels 2-4: 3 age groups – 8 and under, 9-10 and 11 and over
 - ii. Level 5: 3 age groups – 9 and under, 10-11 and 12 and over
 - iii. Level 6: 3 age groups – 10 and under, 11-12 and 13 and over
 - iv. Level 7: 3 age groups – 11 and under, 12-13 and 14 and over
 - v. Level 8: 3 age groups – 12 and under, 13-14 and 15 and over
 - vi. Level 9: 3 age groups – 13 and under, 14-15 and 16 and over
 - vii. Level 10: 3 age groups – 14 and under, 15-16 and 17 and over
 - viii. International track: no age groups
 - i. For State Championships and local meets, the above breakdown must be used for Levels 2-4 age groups if more than 8 pair/groups in a respective level. Division of age groups should be approximately equal in number and contain no more than 8 competitors. Multiple age groups can be used as needed and must be

- communicated to participants once determined.
- ii. For Levels 5-10, there must be a minimum breakdown of the age groups listed above but more age groups may be used if deemed necessary.
- iii. For international track, no age group divisions are required, but the competitive groups could be divided if warranted by participation numbers. All age groups used at a state or local meet MUST be clearly communicated in the pre-meet information.
- c. Meet directors at locals, state, and regional competitions can award as many places as they wish in each age group/level as long as they award a minimum of top 6 in each category.
- d. The age of the eldest member of a pair/group determines the age group in which the pair/group competes.

4. Penalties for Falsification of Documentation Concerning Age

- a. Loss of award for self and partner(s).
- b. Public announcement of any changes in placement of awards.
- c. Score not to be used for team score.
- d. Athlete and partner(s) not allowed to compete the remainder of that competitive year.

5. Pair/Group and Event Restrictions

- a. Athletes who compete at a level three times AND receive qualifying scores in the present and/or previous season, may NOT compete subsequently at a lower level with the same partner(s) in the same event. Declaration of level is made by submitting a completed Competition Entry Form. If a coach feels that their group needs to move down levels due to safety reasons a petition may be sent to the Program Committee for review. On the International Track athletes may move up and down levels as needed. You must follow qualification rules when choosing levels for specific competitions such as National Championships. Note – if a group competes at WAGC, WC or PAGU championships they cannot move levels unless the partnership changes members. Please review these rules in the FIG Code of Points.
- b. An athlete may compete in more than one pair/group; however, restrictions apply as indicated below.
 - i. At local, state, and regional competitions:
 - 1) An athlete CANNOT compete on both the international track and Development track at the same time.
 - 2) On the International Track, an athlete may compete in more than one pair/groups if they are different events (e.g.; WP, MP, MXP, WG, MG).
 - 3) No other restrictions apply; however, good judgment should be used in placing athletes at appropriate levels to create fair competition for all involved.
 - ii. At national-level competitions (e.g., USA Gymnastics Championships):
 - 1) An athlete may compete in any event (e.g., WP, MP, MXP, WG, MG) only once in any competition.
 - 2) If an athlete is participating in multiple events there can be a maximum of only 2 levels different. If there are 2 levels difference the athlete must switch positions (From base to a top or vice versa). If more than 2 levels difference a petition must be sent in.
 - 3) CANNOT compete on both the international track and Development track at the same time.
 - 4) Petitions will not be accepted for athletes to compete twice in the same category in the same position – for example competing twice in Women's Pair as a base.

6. State and Region Determinations

- a. For competitive and qualification purposes, a pair/group's State is determined by the location of the club for which the pair/group competes.
- b. For competitive and qualification purposes, a pair/group's Region is determined by the location of the club for which the pair/group competes.

7. Club Affiliation and Mobility

- a. Although an athlete may change clubs at will, competing for team score is controlled. If he/she has competed for one club in the competitive season and then changes club affiliation, he/she may not compete for team score for any club for the rest of the competitive season.
- b. At the JE 12-18/13-19 and senior elite levels, if partners comprising a pair/group come from multiple clubs, at the coaches' request, both clubs (and respective coaches) may be listed as the pair/group's affiliation.
 - i. The pair/group's scores may not count towards both teams scores. Pair/Group may compete for one team at a time for the purpose of team awards (the team the pair/group is currently registered with for that competition).
 - ii. The pair/group may compete at either State or Regionals in which the athletes club affiliation is with.

8. National Teams

National Team Program: The purpose of the Acrobatic Gymnastics National Team Program is to (1) assign pair/groups to represent the USA in international competitions; (2) identify, retain, and develop talented pair/groups along the elite pipeline, with the goal of reaching senior elite; and (3) recognize and reward the top pair/groups in the country. Pair/groups are selected for the various National Team by the Athlete Selection Committee at designated events. Full details of the teams and the selection process are identified in the respective selection procedures published on the USA Gymnastics website. The Acrobatic Gymnastics National Team Program includes the following teams:

- a. Junior (12-18 & 13-19) National Teams – The Junior National Team identifies top performing pair/groups in the Junior Elite age categories of 12-18 and 13-19. These strong pair/groups are provided further training and development opportunities to be as strong as possible for international competitions and to prepare for the senior level of competition. Benefits of selection to the Junior National Team are focused training and development opportunities and invitations, funded and non-funded, to international competitions representing Team USA.
- b. Senior National Team - The Senior National Team is the culmination of excellence in acrobatic gymnastics. The main goal is to best prepare pair/groups for success at international competitions including World Championships. Benefits of the Senior National Team are focused training and development opportunities and invitations, funded and non-funded, to international competitions representing Team USA. Additionally, financial funding and performance rewards may be available.

9. International Assignments

The Acrobatics program restricts participation in events (i.e., competition, training, exhibitions, etc.) outside the U.S. to those national team members assigned as part of Team USA and/or pair/groups approved through the international club competition request program.

- a. National Team Assignments - Members of the Senior National Team and Junior National Team (12-18 and 13-19), may be assigned to international competition as part of Team USA throughout their tenure on the team. Selection and assignment are the responsibility of the Athlete Selection Committee, as defined in the selection procedures. National Team

members not assigned to international competition, because of age restrictions or lack of available competitions, may apply for international competition opportunities through the international club competition request program, see Section 8, 9.b. If a national team member participates in an international competition approved through the international club competition program, they are representing their club, not the USA. See Senior and Junior National Team Selection Procedures for selection criteria and team benefits.

- b. International Development Team (IDT) – Members of the IDT, which can include Age Group 11-16, JE 12-18, JE 13-19, and seniors, may be invited to attend an international competition, representing their club team, coordinated as a delegation. Selection of IDT and assignment to international events are the responsibility of the Athlete Selection Committee, as defined in the IDT selection procedures. See IDT Selection Procedures for selection criteria and team benefits.
- c. International Club Competition (ICC) Program – This program provides flexibility and accessibility to international competition opportunities for pair/groups currently training and/or competing on the international competition track and Development Program (Pan American Gymnastics Union (PAGU) events only).
 - i. Coaches MUST submit written notification to attend international competitions via email to the Acrobatics Program Director. Parents CANNOT make requests.
 - ii. Notification must include the following information: [Click Here](#)
 - 1) Competition, name, location, dates
 - 2) List of participating pair/group(s)
 - 3) Athletes' names and USAG #s
 - 4) Pair/group ID
 - 5) Event category
 - 6) Level in USA program
 - 7) Level entered for the international competition
 - 8) Other clubs traveling with you
 - 9) Judge considerations
 - iii. Notification must be made BEFORE event registrations or travel plans are made/confirmed by the club.
 - iv. Notification of travel to and participation in international competitions is required per the FIG and USAG.
 - v. Coaches are encouraged to work together to arrange trips with multiple pair/groups and clubs represented.
 - vi. Club teams are required to follow Safe Sport and other guidelines for international travel.
 - vii. Judges may be required to attend international competitions with US pair/groups or clubs may be required to pay a fee for no judge attending. If there are four or more pair/groups attending a competition, it is strongly recommended to include a judge. Judges will be assigned by the Selection Committee.
 - viii. A club team may NOT attend any international competition that Team USA athletes are participating in.
 - ix. To view a list of possible competitions, check ([website](#)) and confirm with the Acro Program Director that the competition is available to attend as a club team. Not all competitions on this list may be available for club competition.
 - x. Pair/groups and their coaches participating in these international competition opportunities are representing their club team. No USA or national team apparel can be worn, results should list the club name (not USA), etc.
 - xi. To be eligible to request permission to attend an international competition, each pair/group must meet the following criteria:
 - 1) Must currently be training or have competed on the International Track – Age Group 11-16, Junior Elite 12-18, Junior Elite 13-19, and/or Senior Elite.

Development Program Levels 2-10 may use the ICC process to request permission to attend international events in the PAGU region only.

- 2) Pair/groups must meet the age requirements specified in the international competition directives/invitation for their respective level.
- 3) All members of the pair/group must be citizens of the USA.

10. Level Mobility

- a. Level Mobility is the general term used for pair/groups to progressively move to higher levels of competition. The Acrobatics Program Committee may set specific requirements to qualify into junior and senior elite levels of competition, which would be defined in this section of the R&P.
- b. It is possible to move up one or more levels during a season. Pair/groups may move up at any point in the season or off-season with the exception that they must compete at USA Gymnastics Championships at the level at which they qualified.
- c. Level 1-10 and AG 11-16 Advancement: The coach of Level 1-10 athletes determines when they will move to higher levels. Lower-level skills should be successfully performed before advancement.
- d. Junior Elite 12-18 and 13-19, and Senior Elite Advancement: Advancement to the junior and senior elite levels is at the coach's discretion. Athletes should be experienced in acrobatic gymnastics and have mastered fundamental skills at the Development Program level before advancing to elite. It is the coach's responsibility to make safe and prudent decisions concerning the advancement of athletes to these higher levels.
 - i. Please note, although skills testing or other pre-requisites are not required prior to competing at the junior or senior elite level, minimum difficulty requirements and associated penalties are in effect.
 - ii. The pair/group **MUST** meet the minimum age requirements for the level they wish to compete.

SECTION NINE: COMPETITION OFFICIALS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Meet Officials – Qualifications, duties, and responsibilities
 - a. Meet Director - is responsible for the organization and conduct of the competition.
 - i. There is one meet director per competition, as required by the USA Gymnastics sanctioning procedures. However, additional volunteers/staff can assist with the organization and conduct of acrobatics meets.
 - ii. Must be a USA Gymnastics Acrobatics certified Meet Director by taking and passing the Acrobatic Gymnastics Meet Director Exam and hold a current USA Gymnastics Meet Director Membership.
 - iii. Meet directors should review rules and policies changes prior to organizing an event.
 - iv. The Meet Director should have no other responsibilities during the competition except overseeing the meet.
 - v. If the meet director chooses to conduct a multi-gymnastics association event, they must adhere to the USA Gymnastics Concurrent Sanctioned Event policy and all governing rules and policies of USA Gymnastics.
 - vi. Give advance notice of the meet to eligible clubs: not less than one month prior to the event for local and state meets and three months prior to the event for Regional Championships.
 - vii. Plan the competition, obtain a sanction, ensure the safety of the competition equipment and site, and communicate with coaches.
 - viii. Determine the schedule of competition and rotation schedule/starting order and notify all coaches and judges of the schedule at least 14 days in advance.
 - ix. Work with the Regional Judges Coordinator to contract judges for the meet. Coordinate with assigned judges regarding travel needs for the competition.
 - x. Publish meet directives which include the date, time, location, directions, general schedule, tariff sheet deadlines, age groups, awards information/places, specific music requirements, scoring system, etc. Meet directives should be communicated to all coaches and judges at least 14 days in advance.
 - xi. Verify that all participating athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers are members in good standing with USA Gymnastics - Acrobatic Gymnastics and that they comply with the rules. The event staff at USA Gymnastics sanctioned events that are recognized as having "Regular Contact and Authority Over Minor Athletes" must take the U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Training and pass a background check before contact with minor athletes is permitted. This includes volunteers, photographers, videographers, medical staff and volunteers with direct access or authority over athletes.
Event Directors and/or personnel are required to scan the QR code on the membership card of any individual that did not previously enter into the event using Meet Reservation to verify that their membership and all certifications are active.
 - xii. Any participant listed on the USA Gymnastics Permanently Ineligible and Ineligible Members and Participants List or as "suspended from all contact" on the USA Gymnastics List of Suspended and Restricted Persons. is prohibited from participating in events sanctioned by USA Gymnastics in any capacity.
 - xiii. Meet directors or sanction administrators must add on-site and late entries (athletes, coaches, judges and volunteers) into the Meet Reservation system before the sanction is closed.
 - xiv. Provide the tools, space and time in the schedule for the athlete height measurements.

- xv. Assist with the printing and organizing of tariff sheets along with the meet referee, DJ and CJP prior to competition. Additionally, the meet director will print tariff sheets for all execution judges at Regional, National, and selection events. (unless Acro Companion is being used at the event)
- xvi. Assist in the channeling of inquiries and appeals between the coaches and the Meet Referee.
- xvii. Provide judges slips, a means to record scores, and display scores to the participants and public.
- xviii. Ensure that scores are correctly recorded, and awards are correctly distributed.
- xix. Ensure that proper signage is displayed including the required USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Reporting Signage and the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Bathroom/Changing Area Signage.
- xx. Ensure bathrooms and changing areas are monitored at a minimum of every 2 hours.
- xxi. Send to the Regional Administrative Committee and the Acrobatic Gymnastics National Office properly prepared Competition Report Forms by the designated deadlines. A head tax per athlete entered in the competition must accompany the report form that is sent to the National Office and Regional Office.
- xxii. Send meet results to the Regional Administrative Committee Chair, all participating clubs/coaches, and others as needed.
- xxiii. Submit the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Event Checklist to the National Office.
- xxiv. The USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy mandates that all members follow state and federal laws governing reporting child abuse. All members 18 years-of-age or older are subject to USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy and required to report all instances of possible child abuse or neglect to law enforcement and state child protection services.
- xxv. Make sure that all judging papers and difficulty slips are returned to the Meet Referee.
- xxvi. Works with the Meet Referee to determine length (time) of meet/session for judges pay.
- xxvii. If electronic scoring system is used, it must be approved by the PC – for example KSIS.
- b. Jury of Appeals - is the ultimate decision-making body of the competition. Its decisions are final.
 - i. The Jury acts on appeals and other competition controversies not resolved at lower levels.
 - ii. The Jury may remove any judge for committing flagrant errors in judging and/or bias.
 - iii. Composition of the Jury of Appeals for local, state, and regional competitions:
 - 1) All Juries must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of three.
 - 2) The Meet Referee, who chairs the jury
 - 3) The CJP of the panel to which an appeal has been issued
 - 4) The Meet Director and Meet Referee together may appoint additional members from qualified judges, coaches, or administrators as needed.
 - iv. Composition of the Jury of Appeals for national-level competitions:
 - 1) All Juries must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of five.
 - 2) Meet Referee, who chairs the jury
 - 3) The CJP of the panel to which an appeal has been issued
 - 4) Acrobatics Program Director
 - 5) Additional members are appointed as needed by the Acrobatics Program Committee and can be a current member of the Program Committee, national subcommittee, and/or Assistant Meet Referee for the respective competition.
 - v. The composition of the Jury of Appeals must be announced before competition begins.
- c. Meet Referee – is the overall superior judge of the competition.
 - i. One Meet Referee is assigned per Local Competition. At USA Gymnastics State,

Regional, and National Level Events 2 Meet Referees should be assigned.

- ii. Should not have any conflict of interest with participating teams, whenever possible.
 - iii. Should not serve as CJP for a panel unless necessary.
 - iv. Must be a National Superior Judge or higher for national-level competition, must be a National Judge or higher for regional competition, must be a Regional Judge or higher for state competition, and must be a State Judge or higher for local competition.
 - v. Review and evaluate tariff sheets submitted by coaches through the designated online platform (ex: Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM), Acro/Gym Companion, or KSIS) prior to a competition. Oversee the CJP and the Difficulty Judge as they evaluate the tariff sheets prior to the competition.
 - vi. Verify the submission date of tariff sheets against deadlines and verify all updates posted to the designated platform. Communicate any due fees and/or late tariff sheet penalties to coaches/clubs. The Meet Referee retains late tariff sheet fees.
 - vii. Collect information regarding deficiencies with tariff sheets and immediately inform the coach and the other judges concerned (i.e., CJP and/or DJ). However, correct tariff sheets are ultimately the responsibility of the coach.
 - viii. Be responsible for the conduct of the judges on the panel(s).
 - ix. Settle controversies regarding the rules.
 - x. Oversee the athlete height measurement process per the Development Program Code of Points and the Development and FIG Code of Points. Record measurements and communicate applicable deductions to the CJP to apply during competition.
 - xi. With the assistance of the Meet Director, receive appeals from coaches and deal directly with the judging panels concerning those appeals. Request video review by the Jury of Appeals, if deemed necessary.
 - xii. Act as a member of the Jury of Appeals.
 - xiii. Determine a control execution score and artistry score for each exercise. Records own scores before reviewing the scores from the panel judges.
 - xiv. Meet Referee reserves the right to change data entry or mathematical error and post the correct score outside of the appeals window.
 - xv. File an online Meet Referee Report within ten days of the meet with the specified individuals. If judges from other regions participate as active judges at the competition, a copy of the Meet Referee Report must also be sent to the designated individuals in the respective region(s).
 - xvi. Collect all judges slips including difficulty sheets at conclusion of competition. Turn into the Regional Technical Committee Chairman to be kept all season for possible audits.
 - xvii. Works with the Meet Director to determine length (time) of meet/session for judges pay.
- d. Chair of Judges Panel (CJP) - Is the superior judge of the panel and responsible for the organization and activity of the judges on the panel, giving both an execution and artistry score for each exercise, and determining CJP penalties.
- i. There is one CJP per judging panel.
 - ii. Should not have any conflict of interest with participating teams, whenever possible.
 - iii. Must be a National Judge or higher for national-level competition, must be a Regional Judge or higher for regional competition, or must be a State Judge or higher for local and state competitions.
 - iv. Review and evaluate tariff sheets submitted by coaches through a designated online platform (ex: Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM), Acro/Gym Companion, or KSIS)

- prior to a competition. Immediately inform the Meet Referee of any deficiencies found in the tariff sheets.
- v. Act as the superior judge of the panel.
 - vi. Be responsible for the organization and activity of the judges on the panel during competition, including their entry and exit from competition.
 - vii. Signal the start of the exercise and takes part in its evaluation.
 - viii. Be responsible for the timing of the music/exercise. May ask for assistance from a volunteer timekeeper.
 - ix. Determine an execution score and artistry score for each exercise. Records own scores (on judging slips or electronic entry) before receiving scores from the panel judges.
 - x. Work with the DJ to complete the Difficulty Slip.
 - xi. Check differences between the judges' marks to be sure they are within tolerance.
 - xii. Watches for discrepancies in the judges' evaluations and calls the judges together, if necessary, to resolve problems.
 - xiii. Take appropriate CJP deductions from the total score.
 - xiv. Be responsible for the calculation and display of the final score at the panel.
 - xv. Sign the master score sheet to verify that individual judges' marks are accurately entered.
- e. Difficulty Judge (DJ) - Determines what elements are performed in competition and calculates the difficulty value of the exercise.
- i. There is one DJ per judging panel.
 - ii. Must be a National Judge or higher for national-level competition, must be a Regional Judge or higher for regional competition, or must be a State Judge or higher for local and state competitions.
 - iii. Review and evaluate tariff sheets submitted by coaches through the through the designated online platform (ex: Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM), Acro/Gym Companion, or KSIS) prior to a competition. Immediately inform the Meet Referee of any deficiencies found in the tariff sheets.
 - iv. Based on the performed exercises, determines the difficulty value and D-score of the exercise.
 - v. Determines short hold penalties and all other DJ penalties per the Code of Points.
 - vi. Works with the CJP to complete the Difficulty Slip used in the score keeping and appeals process.
- f. Panel Judges
- i. Must have a current Acrobatic Gymnastics judge certification at any level (local, state, regional, national, national-superior, or international) to judge at a sanctioned competition.
 - ii. Attend all meetings of judges, prior, during or after competition.
 - iii. Follow all instructions given by the CJP and/or Meet Referee, including instructions given during judges meeting.
 - iv. Help evaluate exercise tariff sheets if requested to do so by the CJP.
 - v. Evaluate the performed exercise in strict accordance with the rules.
 - 1) Artistry judges evaluate the choreographic structure and design, variety, relationship between partners, and musicality of the exercise.
 - 2) Execution judges evaluate the quality of the technical performance of the exercise.
 - vi. Keep written record, including shorthand notation, of how each exercise was evaluated, using the respective artistry and execution judging forms. Submit forms to the CJP at the end of the competition.

- vii. Has the right to appeal, in writing, to the Jury of Appeals against unjust actions of the CJP.
- g. Regional Judges Coordinator
 - i. Communicate with meet directors about meet specifics and judging needs.
 - ii. Assign meet panels per the Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code for local, state, and regional competitions.
 - 1) Judges should be assigned as early as possible before the competition to allow for travel arrangements, tariff sheet evaluation, check of professional memberships, etc. (within 30 days of competition is highly suggested)
 - 2) Judging assignments and specific panel roles must be communicated to the involved judges and the meet director. Acceptance of judging positions is considered a binding contract. Judges should make every effort to fulfill their assignment. Should a judge need to cancel their assignment after accepting a position, judge MUST notify the Meet Referee as soon as possible. The Meet Referee will contact the Regional Technical Chair to resolve any panel issues. Future assignments could be affected.
 - 3) Reserves the right to change panels, if needed, per schedule/registration.
 - iii. Considerations for judging assignments include: judge rating, experience, past performance, requirements needed to maintain and advance ratings, availability, conflict of interest, travel/proximity to competition, etc.
- h. Technical Personnel (volunteers or staff) (Must have current Safe Sport certification and an active USAG Membership.)
 - i. Timekeeper - works near the CJP and times the duration of the exercises and reports this information to the CJP. Minimum age is 16.
 - ii. Line Judge - sit at opposite corners of the competition floor and signals, by raising a hand, if there is a boundary fault. There can be one or two line judges.
 - iii. Runner - takes the marked score sheets from the panel judges to the CJP and then to the Scorekeeper.
 - iv. Scorekeeper - accepts the judges' score sheets, records them, and determines the final score, which is posted/saved, then displayed immediately to the participants and audience. The Head Scorekeeper may be assisted by a staff and may use computers for the score entry and recoding. There must be a backup to any computer scoring. The Head Scorekeeper obtains the CJP's signature on the official master score sheet at the end of the competition. Minimum age is 16.
- i. Medical personnel - are responsible for first aid for injuries, follow-up on further aid if needed, and written records of the injury. They must comply with the guidelines set up by USA Gymnastics.

2. Judging Panel

- a. One judging panel consists of (1) CJP, (1) DJ, (1-4) Artistry judges, (1-4) Execution judges.
- b. A competition may utilize one or two judging panels, dependent on the number of participants and Meet Director's schedule. If two judging panels are used, routines should alternate between the panels and the schedule must be set accordingly.
- c. Organization of a Judging Panel:
 - i. Minimum for Local Meets: 1 CJP (also throws an execution and an artistry score), 1 Difficulty Judge, 1 Execution Judge, 1 Artistry Judge. For local meets in developing areas with few available judges, an exception may be made up to one time per season to run a judges' panel with fewer than four judges. In this case, the Meet Director must submit a petition to the Regional Technical Committee for consideration. If approved, the Regional Technical Chair and Regional Judges Coordinator will determine panel assignments and judging responsibilities to ensure

an efficient competition.

- ii. Minimum for State and Regional Meets: **1 Meet Referee per panel**, 1 CJP (also throws an execution and an artistry score), 1 Difficulty Judge, 2 Execution Judges, 2 Artistry Judges
- iii. Minimum for USA Gymnastics Championships: **1 Meet Referee per panel**, 1 CJP (also throws an execution and an artistry score), 1 Difficulty Judge, 2 Execution Judges, and 2 Artistry Judges
- iv. For other national-level competitions, the National Technical Committee, in conjunction with the Acrobatics Program Committee, will determine the number of judges and judging panels.

d. Procedures of the Judges' Panel

- i. Judges should be seated no less than 3 feet apart. Judging positions should alternate, execution then artistry, etc. on the panel.
- ii. A panel of judges must all be seated along one side of the floor. It is possible to place two panels along the same side of the floor.
- iii. The height of the competition podium must ensure that the judges, when seated, can clearly see the front and back line marking of the floor area.
- iv. Judges should indicate total deductions and score on judging slips. All slips must be signed.
- v. A judge may not change his/her mark once it has been submitted unless the CJP and/or the Jury of Appeals request the judge to reconsider. If a judge realizes a mathematical mistake or entry error after submitting the score, he/she must immediately notify the CJP and ask to make the correction.
- vi. All judging papers/slips used during competition must be turned into the Meet Referee.

3. Conflict of Interest of Officials

- a. Conflict of interest refers to an association between a meet official and a particular team(s).
- b. Conflict of interest is determined each competitive season.
- c. An official is considered to have a conflict of interest with a team if there is a current association, as defined below, or has been associated within the previous two years (i.e., conflict of interest remains for two years following the termination of the association). For example, a judge has a child who competes for "Gym USA" during the 2016-2017 season but quits at the end of the season in 2017. This judge is considered to have a conflict of interest with "Gym USA" for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons, then is considered without a conflict of interest in subsequent seasons.
- d. It is possible for an official to have a conflict of interest with more than one team, either because there are two current associations or not more than two years removed from a past association and one current association.
- e. An official is considered to have a conflict of interest with a team/club if he/she meets any one or more of the conditions listed below:
 - i. An immediate family member of an athlete or coach, including parent, grandparent, sibling, cousin, aunt/uncle, etc.
 - ii. An owner or paid employee of the athlete's club
 - iii. A team member
 - iv. Coach of the athlete
 - v. An athlete or the immediate family of an athlete in a different sport at a club is not considered affiliated with the acrobatic gymnastics team.
- f. A judge with a conflict of interest may be assigned as a panel judge or DJ, but not as CJP.

- i. No more than one judge with a conflict to the same club may be assigned per panel, whenever possible.
- ii. These restrictions shall apply to all competitions but local meets.
- iii. If the above restrictions cannot be met, the Regional Judges Coordinator and Meet Director for the competition must petition for a waiver to the National Technical Chair (with copy to the Regional Technical Committee Chair).
- iv. At USA Gymnastics Championships (levels where national team selections occur) and national-level selection competitions, (i.e., for National Team, World Team, etc.), conflict of interest is not allowed on the judges' panel in any role.
 - a. Judges on panel may change between sessions/events to provide experience for judges at national events, provide a conflict of interest free environment for the athletes, and maintain a competition of the highest quality.
 - b. The National Technical Committee Chair and Acrobatics Program Committee will consider conflict of interest along with judging experience, rating, and past performance when assigning judges to these competitions.

SECTION TEN: REGULATIONS AFFECTING ATHLETES

1. Competitive Attire

- a. All competitors must be neat and clean in appearance.
- b. Competition attire must be gymnastics in character and design. Attire must be elegant and compliment the artistry of an exercise. It should not divert attention from the performance of the athletes nor require adjustments during an exercise.
- c. Partners must wear identical or complimentary attire.
- d. An athlete may choose to wear any of the allowable attire specified below in this section, regardless of gender. NOTE: this is for competitions in the USA only. International competition is governed by FIG attire rules.
- e. Women/girls may perform in leotards, one-piece unitards, or leotards with skirts.
 - i. For women/girls, flesh-colored tights are allowed.
 - ii. Leotards may be with or without sleeves, but dance style leotards with narrow straps are not allowed.
 - iii. Unitards are allowed.
 - iv. Shorts are allowed to be worn over leotards. NOTE: this is for competitions in the USA only. International competition is governed by FIG attire rules.
 - v. Skirts must cover, but not fall further than the pelvic area of the leotard, tights, or unitard.
 - 1) The style of the skirt (cut and decoration) is free, but the skirt must always fall back on the hips of the gymnast.
 - 2) Ideal skirts are fitted close to the body, do not have several layers that separate, follow the line of the leg and cut of leotard, be attached at the sides of the leotard underneath, and include a design on the leotard underneath.
 - 3) The look of “ballet tutu”, “island grass skirt” and “dress style” is forbidden.
 - 4) The skirt must be integrated into the leotard (it cannot be removeable).
- f. Men/boys may compete in leotards with gymnastics shorts or long gymnastics trousers, OR pullover shirts with gymnastics shorts or long gymnastics trousers. One-piece suits/unitards are also allowed.
- g. Dark colored (i.e., black, navy blue, dark brown, dark red, dark green, dark purple) legs of trousers, unitards or tights are allowed only if the color on the leg is broken the whole length of leg, from the hip to the ankle, with a light-colored decoration or pattern. The breaking must be on the side of the leg and be clearly visible but not be exaggerated. The length and type of the fabric covering the legs must be identical on both legs. Only the decoration may be different,
- h. For safety reasons, loose clothing, raised attachments, and accessories are not allowed. All attire for men and women must be close fitting to allow the judges to properly evaluate body lines.
- i. All attire must be modest including the use of proper undergarments. The neckline must be no further down than half the sternum in the front, or below the lower line of the shoulder blades in the back. Lace and transparent material on the torso **must** be fully lined.
- j. Provocative, swimsuit, and photographs in the design are forbidden.
- k. Competitors may perform with or without footwear (such as gymnastic slippers, acrobatic shoes, or socks), which must be flesh colored, white, or in the color of the trousers, clean and in good repair. For men/boys, footwear must be worn with pants/trousers. However, it is optional to wear footwear with shorts. Partners’ footwear need not be the same.
- l. The following items are forbidden for competition attire and may incur a -0.5 penalty:

- i. Provocative attire
 - ii. Cabaret, bikini, swimsuit styles
 - iii. Immodest designs or coverage, design or transparency of attire must not allow exposure of undergarments, trunk, navel, or private body parts
 - iv. Midriffs are not permitted
 - v. Pictures or photographs in the design
 - vi. Spaghetti straps/narrow straps
- m. The following attire are not permitted, and infringements may incur -0.3 penalty:
 - i. Loose-fitting clothing
 - ii. Raised attachments or accessories
 - iii. Skirt infringements, including length, curly layers, etc.
 - iv. Colored tights and/or designs
 - v. Unbroken, dark colored legs of pants
 - vi. Dress-style skirted leotards
 - vii. Footwear infringements
 - viii. Accessory and aid infringements
- n. Advertising on competitive attire must be confined to the manufacturer's name or logo and must conform to USA Gymnastics and FIG standards. For competitions within the USA Program (not international competitions), a team/club name or abbreviation leotards may be included in the design. It must be reasonably sized, and placement must be in good taste. The athlete's name may not be included on the leotard.
- o. For International competitions, the identification of the athlete's federation must be clearly visible on competitive attire. Identification can be in the form of a badge, sewn on, or also the name of their country or federation written out or abbreviated, or in the form of a crest in their national colors on the leotard. The minimum size of the emblem is 30 sq. cm.

2. Attire for warm-up and training sessions

- a. Competition-like attire must be worn during warm-up and training sessions at all meets.
 - i. For women/girls: long sleeve or sleeveless leotard or training top. Bike shorts or leggings (full-length or capri) may be worn. No baggy shorts or t-shirts allowed. Girls should make all efforts to NOT have exposed undergarments or straps. It is acceptable for the strap of a black, dark colored, or a color matching the leotard t-back sports bra to be visible. Girls must wear a leotard over the sports bra.
 - ii. For men/boys: shorts and t-shirt or competition leotard/unitard are acceptable. Boys must wear a shirt at all times.
- b. The rules regarding accessories and aids (below) should also be followed for training and warm-up sessions. Exception: equipment and/or colored braces/taping may be used during training and warm-up times.
- c. All attire must be appropriate and in good repair.
- d. Current National Team athletes and coaches may wear Team USA gear at any Local-Regional competition. Team USA gear may not be worn at any selection event including USA Gymnastics Championships and World Team Trials. Those athletes and coaches not following apparel guidelines will be asked to change or leave the field of play.
- e. National Team apparel may not be replaced if lost or damaged or traded.

3. Attire for Opening/Closing Ceremonies and Awards Ceremonies

- a. Athletes should present for awards in competition attire/leotard (not warm-up) for USA Gymnastics events.
- b. All athletes should wear a club warm-up, including jacket and pants, for opening and closing ceremonies, unless otherwise specified by the Meet Director. Athletic shoes, socks, or bare

feet are acceptable. (No boots or flip-flops.)

4. Accessories and Aids

- a. Visible jewelry, including but not limited to, earrings and studs, watches, bracelets (except medic-alert bracelets), anklets, necklaces, broaches, rings (including wedding bands), nose and navel rings and studs, is not allowed.
- b. Sequins, stones, cummerbunds, and lace must be either integrated into the fabric of the attire or attached securely, but any injury occurring consequently is the responsibility of the coach and athlete.
- c. Hair clips, slides, bands, barrettes, ribbons, scrunchies and bun nets, if worn, must be secure.
- d. Character hair accessories (i.e., tiaras, feathers, flowers) and scrunchies or hair clips with loose pieces are not allowed.
- e. Face painting is not allowed. Make-up must be modest and not portray a theatrical character (i.e., animal or human).
- f. Equipment such as belts or head-rolls, to aid execution of elements, is not allowed. For taping and support bandages, skin-color is recommended. Any exceptional support, such as a knee brace that is not a neutral color, may be worn without penalty.

5. Music

- a. All exercises are performed to music. Music should be appropriate for competition, as well as the age and ability of the pair/group.
- b. Music reproduction must be of high quality.
- c. Levels 2-5 exercises use compulsory music, which can be found on the [Acrobatic Gymnastics website](#).
- d. At Levels 6 and above, the music selection is of the coaches' and athletes' choosing.
- e. Instrumental music with one or more instruments including special effects and synthesizers is permitted.
- f. Music with lyrics is permitted at all levels. Inappropriate (i.e., offensive, sexual, aggressive, violent, contain swear words, etc.) lyrics are forbidden.
- g. Music infringement penalties:
 - i. Penalties are defined in the Development and FIG Code of Points.
 - ii. At local, state, and regional meets, if a first-offense music infringement occurs, the CJP will give written warning to the coach, defining the objectionable lyrics. A copy of the warning should also be included with the Meet Referee's report form. A second offense at a subsequent meet (local, state, or regional) will incur the respective penalty.
 - iii. At USA Gymnastics Championships or other national-level competitions, all music infringement penalties apply.
- h. Music must be submitted prior to competition per the Meet Director's request (i.e., MP3 files). The music files should be clearly titled with the competitors' names, club, and the event (balance, dynamic, or combined). Tape cassettes are not allowed.
- i. Competitors are advised to have back-up copies of music files (i.e., on a smart phone, tablet, USB drive, etc.) with them in case of loss, damage, or other problems with originals.
- j. For all levels, manually turning off or fading the music before the music ends will result in a - 1.0-penalty taken by the CJP. If athletes finish their exercise and leave the floor while the music is still playing, the music may then be turned off (however, the CJP penalty for finishing before the music may apply).

6. Continuation and Repeating of Exercises

- a. If there is a technical failure causing the music to stop, competitors should continue the exercise unless stopped by the CJP. In this case, there will be no penalty for performing without music and the timing of the music will stop.
- b. If competitors do not start or stop their exercise because the music is incorrect, there is a technical failure, or the exercise was interrupted for a reason beyond the control of the athletes and coach, the Meet Referee and/or CJP may allow athletes to re-start or repeat an exercise without penalty. If the problem cannot be immediately rectified, the exercise may be rescheduled for the end of the rotation/session.
- c. If the athletes do not start or stop their exercises because of poor quality or incorrect music, which relates to the responsibility of the athlete or coach, re-start will be at the discretion of the Meet Referee and/or CJP.
- d. The Meet Referee and CJP will direct the coach if and when the repeat may be done.
- e. It is a requirement to perform the same elements in the repeated exercise as performed on the first attempt or intended to be performed in the original exercise. Otherwise, the repeated exercise will not be scored.
- f. An exercise cannot be repeated once completed with or without music.
- g. There is no other repeating of exercises.

7. Length of Exercises

- a. Exercises have no minimum time limit.
- b. Maximum length of exercises is defined for each level below (maximum time of music).
 - i. Levels 6-7 maximum time is 2:30.
 - ii. AG 11-16 maximum time for balance and dynamic is 2:00.
 - iii. Levels 8-10 maximum time for balance is 2:30 and dynamic is 2:00.
 - iv. JE 12-18/13-19 and Senior Elite maximum time is 2:30 for balance and combined and 2:00 for dynamic.
 - v. Note, timing of Levels 2-5 exercises is not necessary since compulsory music is used.
- c. The timing of the music starts at the first note of music and goes through the final note of music. (A beep is not included in the timing of the music.)
- d. The start position cannot include the building phase of an element
- e. The first move made by one or more competitors from the start position is considered as the start of the exercise. The end of the exercise is the final static position of all partners, which must coincide with the music. Penalties for starting before the music and finishing before or after the music are defined in the Development and FIG Code of Points.

SECTION ELEVEN: AWARDS

1. General Regulations

- a. Awards for State Championships, Regional Championships, and USA Gymnastics Championships must be ordered from the [Official Awards Supplier of USA Gymnastics](#). Exceptions must be approved by the Acrobatics Program Director and may be made only if awards are donated by state governments, sponsors, etc.
- b. Awards are given per level, event, and age group.
- c. The minimum number of places awarded in each category can be set by the Regional Administrative Committees.
- d. At USA Gymnastics Championships, in each category medals will be awarded for first through third places. Awards (i.e., ribbons) for fourth through sixth places are also required.
- e. If an award is given in error, the athlete may keep the award. The correct award and title will be given to the correct athlete(s).
- f. Ties are not broken. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given, and the next place(s) will be skipped.
- g. Awards are determined by:
 - i. Levels 5-7, one combined exercise (final score).
 - ii. Levels 8-10 and AG 11-16, all-around, which is the sum of the final scores for balance & dynamic exercises.
 - iii. JE 12-18, JE 13-19 and Senior Elite, all-around (sum of the final scores for balance, dynamic, and combined) is up to the discretion of the Meet Director at state and regionals. This must be clearly stated in the meet directives. At USA Gymnastics Championships awards will be given to the top scores in qualification from balance and dynamic qualification scores. An award will be given for the top scores in combined routine and for the all-around winners with the highest total of all three routine scores cumulative.
- h. The awarding of individual exercise (Balance and Dynamic) places is not required at local, state, and regional competitions, but may be done at the discretion of the Meet Director.

2. Team Awards

- a. Team Awards must be given at State Championships, Regional Championships, and USA Gymnastics Championships.
- b. Team awards are given per Development Program and International Track levels of competition.
- c. There is no entry fee required to be eligible for team awards.
 - I. Team awards are required for levels 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11-16, 12-18, 13-19, and Senior Elite
 - II. At State, Regional, and USA Gymnastics Championships, the top scores from three different categories (WP, MP, MxP, WG/MxT, MG/MxG) from a single team will be added together. The top combined score will win the team award for that team. If a team only has two different categories (WP + WG for example) their 3rd score will be a 0. A team with 2 or 1 pair/groups in a category can still win the team award if their combined score is the highest.

3. Achievement Awards

- a. Achievement awards are given annually at USA Gymnastics Championships, honoring top athletes and coaches in our sport.

Award	Award Description	Eligibility	Selection Procedures
Glenn Sundby Award for Outstanding Pair/Group Performance (Development & International Track)	Outstanding overall performance (including skills, artistry, presence on floor, etc.) at USA Gymnastics Championships	<p>Pair/groups participating at USA Gymnastics Championships.</p> <p>Given to a pair/group competing at the Development Levels 7-10</p> <p>Given to a pair/group competing on the International Track at AG 11-16, JE 12-18 JE 13-19, or SR</p>	Selected by the Meet Referee – more than one may be awarded
Pair/Group of the Year	Awarded for the highest achievement in athletic endeavors throughout the season (national and international competition). Based on competitive results, with emphasis placed on international success at World Championships, World Games, World Cups, Pan American Championships, etc.	All senior elite athletes who have competed in the current competitive season are eligible for this award	Selected by Acrobatics Program Director, in consultation with the Acrobatics Program Committee
Sportsperson of the Year	Given to the athlete whose performance that year most embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and achievement. An athlete exhibiting the strongest positive voice of the discipline.	All senior athletes qualified to USA Gymnastics Championships	Selected by a vote of all 12-18, 13-19 and senior elite athletes competing at USA Gymnastics Championships
Development Coach of the Year	<p>Awarded for the highest achievement in Development Program coaching endeavors.</p> <p>Based on performance of his/her athletes throughout the respective competitive season at local, regional, national, and invitational competitions (including USA Gymnastics Championships)</p>	<p>Development Program Coaches nominated prior to USA Gymnastics Championships, including Regional Development Coach of the Year honorees.</p> <p>Limit one coach per club.</p>	<p>Selected by a vote of Development Program Coaches (Levels 6-10) at the USA Gymnastics Championships.</p> <p>Limit one ballot per club.</p>

Award	Award Description	Eligibility	Selection Procedures
Coach of the Year	<p>Awarded to the coach with the athlete(s) having the highest competitive achievement throughout the respective season.</p> <p>Based on competitive results, with emphasis placed on international medals at World Championships, World Games, World Cups Pan American Championships, etc.</p>	<p>All coaches who have a 13-19 or senior elite pair or group competing at USA Gymnastics Championships are eligible for this award.</p> <p>Limit one coach per club.</p> <p>All coaches meeting the eligibility will be listed on the ballot. A club may decide which coach to list on the ballot.</p>	<p>Selected by a vote of the 12-18, 13-19 and Senior elite coaches at USA Gymnastics Championships.</p> <p>Limit one vote per club.</p>

- b. The following volunteer awards may be presented annually at USA Gymnastics Championships.

Award	Award Description	Eligibility	Selection Procedures
Star Service Award	Given for outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program	All members, volunteers, or others involved with the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program	Selected by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee
Janet VonBargen Award	Given for outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program as a judge	Any judge for the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program	Selected by the National Technical Committee

- c. Additional awards may be added by the Acrobatics Program Committee in a given year. If an additional award is given, the award description, eligibility, and selection process will be published in advance to the Acrobatic Gymnastics community.
- d. If voting for any of the achievement awards results in a tie, the Acrobatics Program Director breaks the tie.
- e. Each region may determine if these and/or other (i.e., Rookie Coach of the Year, etc.) awards are given at Regional Championships.

SECTION TWELVE: EQUIPMENT AND ARENA

1. Floor

- a. Athlete safety guidelines, as listed in the *USA Gymnastics Safety Handbook*, should always be considered.
- b. Exercises are performed on a level mat area that is 12 meters by 12 meters square (39'4" by 39'4").
- c. A 1 ¼ inch thick foam pad is the minimum requirement for padding.
- d. A 4" spring or 4" foam cube block floor is required for all state, regional, and national competitions. If local competitions involve only Level 6 and lower levels, the host may petition their Regional Administrative Committee for a waiver of this requirement.
- e. The competition surface must be covered with a floor exercise mat or carpet.
 - i. The carpet pile must not be higher than 1 cm. (.4 in.).
 - ii. The color must be plain (no pattern), but choice of color is left to the manufacturer's discretion. Dark colors are not allowed.
 - iii. The boundary shall have a clear contrast to the performance area.
- f. The borderlines of 5 cm. (2 in.) width are considered inside the performance area.
- g. For the safety of the athletes, no additional tape may be placed on the surface to mark places for competitors to stand or perform. No markings of any kind to assist performance including chalk may be made on the floor.
- h. Any obstacles such as walls or posts within six feet of the competition floor must be covered with matting during the competition and should be noted in the competition invitation.
- i. The unobstructed ceiling height must be 18 feet above the competition floor for Levels 5-9 and AG 11-16, 20 feet for Levels 10, Junior Elite, and Elite. Women's Groups and Men's Groups may require additional height. If such is the case, the minimum standard of 25 feet must be used. State and above competition sites must meet these standards. Petitions for exceptions must be sent to the appropriate Regional Administrative Committee for state competitions and to the Acrobatics Program Committee for regional competitions.
- j. Deviations from normal standards, if permitted above (i.e., obstacles such as walls or posts or lower ceiling height for local competition), must be noted in the competition invitation. Colored carpet should be noted if not a standard color.
- k. For the safety of the athlete, an air-conditioned unit is, if possible, to be used for State and Regional Championships. Competitions must indicate, in advance, if venue is not air-conditioned.

2. Landing Mat

- a. A landing mat is allowed for Levels 9, 10, Junior Elite 12-18/13-19, and Senior Elite Men's Group/Mixed Group balance and combined exercises only.
- b. The landing mat may be 20-50 cm. thick.
- c. Landing mat must be placed in contact with the perimeter of the floor. It must remain in place for the entire exercise. The coach is responsible for the placement of the mat prior to the exercise and for removal of the mat immediately following the exercise.
- d. Use of a mat for any other levels or exercises is not allowed and if used is penalized according to the Development Program Code of Points.

SECTION THIRTEEN: JUDGING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Judging Certification

- a. Current acrobatic gymnastics judging certification is required to officiate at sanctioned competitions.
- b. To become a certified judge in Acrobatic Gymnastics an individual must be at least 18 years of age, take a judging certification course, and pass an exam (see below for details). Before judging at a sanctioned event, a USA Gymnastics Judge Membership is required.
- c. An individual who is age 16-17 years old may become a Junior Acro Judge by taking an acro judges certification course and passing the exam. Junior Acro Judges may hold a local level rating and officiate compulsory levels 1-7 only. Upon turning 18, the judge may be eligible to judge all level competition as a certified Acro Judge. Upon turning 18, the Junior Judge must complete the additional membership certification courses (list for members 18 years and older) and notify USAG Membership Services to change their membership status from Junior to a full Judge Member.
- d. Once certification is achieved, annual requirements of continuing education, attendance at judges' clinics, passing exam results, and judging experience are required as detailed below to maintain certification.
- e. The following judge certification levels are available within the Acrobatic Gymnastics program and progress in the order listed.
 - i. USA Introductory
 - ii. USA Category 4
 - iii. USA Category 3
 - iv. USA Category 2
 - v. USA Category 1
 - vi. International
- f. Judges who come to the United States with an international rating in acrobatic gymnastics and wish to judge in USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitions must take a certification course and pass an exam for the level at which they wish to judge, the highest initial level is **Category 2**. The test may be given orally or in written form as needed to accommodate language.
- g. The Acrobatic Program Committee reserves the right to expedite judging certifications based on previous experience as a coach, judge and/or athlete or other special circumstances.
- h. Each Regional Technical Committee Chair must keep accurate records of judge's ratings, certifications, assignments throughout the season, and performance notes. A Regional Judging Report (analysis) is due to the National Technical Committee Chair within 30 days following the conclusion of Regional Championships. Meet results from Regional Championships should also be submitted along with the report/analysis. All Artistry and execution judging notes, DJ slips should be kept with the Regional Technical Chair until the conclusion of National Championships of that competition season.

2. Judging Course and Testing Procedures

- a. Judge's education and exams are administered annually. May be done via online platform if approved by the National Committee Chairman.
 - i. National Judges Course
 - 1) One national course held annually
 - 2) 2 to 2.5-day course (approx. 8 hours/day)
 - 3) Open to judges holding Regional or higher ratings

- 4) National and National-Superior level upgrade exams are offered only once annually.
- 5) Attendance is required for all national and higher rated judges in the first year of the new quadrennial.
- ii. Regional Judges Courses
 - 1) One or more regional courses held annually in each region
 - 2) 1.5 to 2-day course (approx. 8 hours/day)
 - 3) Open to all level judges for recertification and upgrades to **USA category 3 or 4.**
- iii. New Judges Courses
 - 1) Held as needed in each region, but opportunities should be offered annually.
 - 2) One-day course (approx. 8 hours)
 - 3) Specifically designed for new **USA introductory** judges learning acrobatic gymnastics rules and regulations for the first time. Exceptions are only for judges that have worked previously, but have been removed from judging for at least 2 seasons and are starting over with the judging progression policies. Or, any judge that does not pass their recertification course and must start over at the **USA introductory level**, attending a clinic for the first time.
 - 4) It is best if this course is held independently of the regional judges' course but may be combined based on participation numbers. The National Technical Committee Chair's approval is required to combine the regional and new judges' courses.
- b. The National Technical Committee Chair, per the Operating Code, sets the date and agenda for the National Judges Course and approves the clinicians and dates of regional and **introductory** judging courses. All course dates should also be communicated to the Acrobatics Gymnastics Program Director.
- c. Course content and materials, minimum time requirements of courses, and exams will be reviewed and revised annually by the National Technical Committee. The National Technical Committee Chair will communicate this information with approved clinicians.
- d. The National Technical Committee maintains a list of approved clinicians who may conduct regional judges' courses and/or **introductory** courses. Regional Technical Committee Chairs are approved to conduct the **introductory** judges course.
- e. Judging courses involving athletes (training, demonstrators, etc.) must be sanctioned through USA Gymnastics.
- f. Approved clinicians may administer exams, but grading is done by the National Technical Committee Chair or designated representative. The National Technical Committee Chair makes determinations on judges' rating based on annual clinic participation/continuing education requirements, exam results, and experience requirements.
- g. Participants are to be notified of exam results within 30 days.
- h. The National Technical Committee Chair or designated representative is the only person that may give the exams for upgrades **for USA category 2 or 1.**

3. Judging Progression Policies

- a. **USA Introductory Judge** – must do the following to obtain a judge rating:
 - i. Attend an introductory judges' course or approved Regional Judges course.
 - ii. Pass the **introductory** written test at 80% (open book).
 - iii. Pass an online practical (video) exam by 70%.
 - iv. Pass a practical evaluation in a competition setting at 70% or higher.
 - v. Judge at minimum one LOCAL competition the first season to complete active

certification.

UPGRADE requirements to USA Category 4:

- i. Judge two consecutive seasons as a USA introductory judge.
 - ii. Judge a minimum of four competitions, of which two are execution assignments and two are artistry assignments.
 - iii. Pass approved USA category 4 written test at 80% minimum (closed book). Exam may also include evaluation of tariff sheets and video judging portions.
- b. USA Category 4 Judge - To retain active status as a USA category 4 judge you must:
- i. Attend annual Regional Judges' course
 - ii. Pass exam at 80% or above
 - iii. Judges at minimum of one competition annually.

UPGRADE requirements to USA Category 3:

- iv. Judge two consecutive seasons as a USA category 4 judge.
 - v. Judge at a minimum of 4 competitions, which should include a minimum of one state and one regional championships in those 2 consecutive seasons.
 - vi. Serve a minimum of one CJP or DJ assignment at a competition with optional exercises and at least two hours of competition in each of the 2 consecutive seasons.
 - vii. Pass approved USA category 3 written test at 80% minimum (closed book). Exam may also include evaluation of tariff sheets using the FIG Tables of Difficulty and video judging portions.
- c. USA Category 3 Judge- To retain active status as a USA category 3 judge you must:
- i. Attend a Regional or National Judges' course
 - ii. Pass exam at 80% or above
 - iii. Judge a minimum of one competition annually.

UPGRADE requirements to USA Category 2:

- iv. Judge two consecutive seasons as a USA category 3 judge.
 - v. Judge at a minimum of 5 competitions, which should include one state or regional championship in each of the two seasons as a regional-rated judge.
 - vi. Judge at or attend one approved national-level event (see list below).
 - vii. Serve a minimum of one CJP and one DJ assignment in each of the 2 seasons at a competition with optional exercises and at least two hours of competition.
 - viii. Pass approved USA category 2 written test at 80% minimum (closed book). Exam may also include evaluation of tariff sheets using the FIG Tables of Difficulty and video judging portions. Exam is only given once annually, usually at the National Judges Course.
- d. USA Category 2 Judge - To retain active status as a USA category 2 judge you must:
- i. Attend a Regional or National Judges course annually and pass exam at 80% or above.
 - ii. Attend National Judges' course at the beginning of each new quadrennial.
 - iii. Judge one State or Regional Competition each season.
 - iv. Judge as CJP or DJ a minimum of once each season.
 - v. Serve as Meet Referee once every 2 years.
 - vi. Judge or attend one National-level event every 2 years.
 - vii. USA category 2 judges should make all efforts to attend the National Judges Course annually, although this is not required.

UPGRADE to USA Category 1:

- viii. Judges interested in earning the USA category 1 judges rating must submit a letter of intent to the National Technical Committee Chair in the year prior to eligibility. Deadline for the letter of intent is at the conclusion of USA Gymnastics

Championships the season prior to exam. Judges must be willing to attend national-level events and/or education in order to qualify. The National Technical Committee will approve applicants to sit for the **USA category 1** exam based on completed qualifications, performance at national-level competitions, conduct as a judge, and participation in the acrobatic community.

- ix. Judge two consecutive seasons as a **USA category 2** judge.
- x. Judge at a minimum of one state or regional championship in each of the two seasons as a **USA category 2** judge.
- xi. Judge or attend one approved national-level event annually (see list below).
- xii. Serve a minimum of one CJP and one DJ assignment at a competition with optional exercises and at least two hours of competition in each of the two seasons as a **USA category 2** judge.
- xiii. Serve as Meet Referee at least once.
- xiv. Provide verification of participation in the acrobatic community. This could be done by serving in a committee role or providing materials/videos to the National Technical Committee for educational purposes. Acrobatic resume would also work in this instance.
- xv. Pass approved **USA category 1** written test at 80% minimum (closed book). Exam may also include evaluation of tariff sheets using the FIG Tables of Difficulty and video judging portions. Exam is offered at minimum once a year at the National Judges Course.

e. USA Category 1 Judge

- i. **USA category 1 judge** is the highest rating a judge can achieve in the USA.
- ii. A **USA category 1 judge** is expected to go above and beyond in the acrobatic community. Be a good role model to other judges and help with mentoring new judges.
- iii. Serve in a committee role and/or continue to provide educational content/materials for judging purposes.
- iv. To retain active status as a **USA Category 1 Judge** you must:
 - 1. Attend a Regional or National Judges' course every year, pass exam at 80% or above.
 - 2. Must attend the National Judges' course at the beginning of each quadrennial.
 - 3. Judge one State or Regional Competition per season.
 - 4. Judge or attend one National-level event every 2 seasons.
 - 5. Serve as a Meet Referee once per season.
 - 6. Serve as CJP or DJ a minimum of once per season
 - 7. **USA category 1** judges should make all efforts to attend the National Judges Course annually, although this is not required.
 - 8. If a **USA category 2** or **USA category 1** judge is unable to attend the NJC at the start of the new cycle, a petition may be submitted to the National Technical Committee Chair for review by the Program Committee. A decision will be given within two (2) weeks of the submitted petition. Petitions must be accompanied by all relevant documentation regarding the circumstance preventing attendance.

f. International (Brevet) judge

- i. The Acrobatics Program Committee invites qualified judges to participate in FIG International and/or Intercontinental Judges Courses. If the course is successfully passed, the FIG will assign a judging brevet category rating, good for a four-year cycle.
 - 1. Consideration for invitations to an international judges' course includes, but

is not limited to, minimum **USA category 1** judges' rating, judging performance history, conduct as a judge, experience level, professionalism, and international experience. Candidates who have other extraordinary circumstances may also be considered. The FIG also lists minimum qualification standards that must be observed.

2. Judges will first be invited to take an international judges' course hosted in the USA. Only those judges who have taken and passed an international course within this country will be recommended to take a FIG Brevet course given elsewhere in the world.
 3. Participants must take and pass a course given by FIG Technical Committee members. Course expectations and exam requirements can be found in the FIG Acro Specific Judges Rules and FIG General Judges Rules.
- ii. Judges with current FIG Judging Brevets are eligible to judge at FIG-sanctioned international competitions, as well as friendly international meets.
 1. The Acrobatic Selection Committee selects judges for international competitions with advisement from the National Technical Chair.
 2. Not all judges holding a current FIG judging brevet may receive an assignment annually.
 3. Criteria for assignments include FIG rating level, experience, performance, event requirements, availability, etc. For certain events, Judges selection procedures may be defined and published.
 - iii. To retain active status as an International judge you must:
 1. Attend a Regional or National judges' course every year, pass exam at 80% or above.
 2. Must attend the National Judges' course at the beginning of each quadrennial.
 3. Judge one State or Regional Competition per season;
 4. Judge or attend one National-level event every 2 seasons;
 5. Serve as Meet Referee once per season; and
 6. Serve as CJP or DJ a minimum of once per season.
 7. Attend an international or intercontinental judges' course once every 4 years/quadrennial and pass associated exams.
 - iv. Judges who currently hold or previously held an FIG judging brevet will receive the pay scale for International level at USA Gymnastics-sanctioned competitions.

4. Judging fast-track certification process

- a. The fast-track certification process was created with the intent of acknowledging and rewarding former senior athletes by giving them the opportunity to test their knowledge of the Acrobatic Rules and Policies, Code of Points and other aspects of the sport. The purpose is to have the athlete enter the judging progression at the level that aligns with their current knowledge and is not intended to be an automatic advancement to the top of the judging ranks.
- b. This expedited certification progress is available to former acrobatics gymnastics athletes, who have competed as a senior elite athlete at a national-level event (i.e., USA Gymnastics Championships, World Team Trials, Acro Cup, etc.).
- c. Qualified individuals may choose to start certification at the **USA introductory, USA category 4** or **USA category 3 ranking** by taking the judging course and full examination for the respective level.
- d. If passed, the individual can judge at the qualified **ranking** and progress up to higher levels of **ranking** in one-year increments, with the cap of the Fast-Track program being **USA category**

3. From **USA category 3**, progressions will be the same for all judges, as currently defined in #3 above.
- e. To progress to the next judging level after one year of experience, all progression criteria must be met. Progression criteria includes those outlined above in this section as well as judging performance and professionalism at events. Fast-tracking does not replace the experience that is needed by actually judging events. Fast-track judges will advance as they are individually prepared, as each judge will have their own timeline of readiness.
- f. Regardless of level of entries, a Fast Track judge must have an artistry and execution assignment before any key role positions.

5. Judging Special Circumstances

- a. Readiness for DJ, CJP and Meet Ref positions:
 - i. The responsibilities of the DJ, CJP and Meet Ref positions require experience, knowledge, skills and a level of professionalism beyond those required for an Artistry or Execution panel judge. These positions not only require a depth of knowledge and experience about the Rules & Policies and CoP beyond artistry and execution, they also require understanding of tariff sheets/Google sheets, organizational and communication skills.
 - ii. Judges will be assigned artistry and execution positions until proficient, typically 2-3 times each and, at minimum, one assignment each. This applies to all judges, even those entering by the fast-track option.
 - iii. **USA category 4** ranked or higher judges are eligible for the positions of DJ, CJP and Meet Ref. The position of DJ will be held first. Once, the judge can proficiently perform DJ duties and throw a reference execution score, the position of CJP can be assigned. To hold a MR position, a judge must have successfully served as a DJ and CJP. The MR position will include the additional responsibilities of communicating in a timely and effective way with the judges panel and coaches during tariff review and during the event.
- b. Judging hiatus or failure to meet requirements to maintain rating:
 - i. If a judge fails to meet all requirements to maintain status, the judge must retake the certification course and pass the exam at the rating last held or at a lower level. If the judge chooses to take a lower certification level test, he/she must follow the above requirements for progression from that point.
 - ii. Judging Hiatus: If a judge has special circumstances and needs to take time off, a letter of intent is needed to explain the circumstances of their request. The request will be reviewed by the Technical Committee. A reply will be given within two (2) weeks of the date of the request. (EX: maternal leave, cancer treatment, etc).
 - iii. Re-certifying as a judge after a hiatus:
 - a. Following a one-year or less hiatus from judging, a judge may re-enter at the same level by taking the certification course and “re-cert” examination. All upgrade requirements will start anew from that point.
 - b. Following a hiatus of more than one year, a previously certified judge may choose to re-enter the judging ranks at the last held level or a lower level. To do so, the judge must take a certification course and pass the respective certification exam. Judging progressions start anew from that point.
 - iv. The following are considered national-level events for judging certification and requirements: USA Gymnastics Championships, World Team Trials, Acro Cup, National Team Qualifier, National Judges Course, other national-level judge’s education, national team training camps and national developmental camps. The Program Committee may designate additional events as “national-level”, and

- therefore fulfilling stated requirements.
- v. National-level events and international judging assignments can be used in lieu of a regional or state competition requirements. Proper documentation may be required to provide to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman and the Regional Judging Coordinator.
- vi. Definition of “every two years” is a rolling two-year period. Meaning that a judge may not go two consecutive years without completing the requirements.

6. Judges' Uniforms

- a. Judges must wear the correct uniform for all competitions.
- b. Women:
 - i. Black blazer (must be worn during march-in and athlete presentation at minimum)
 - ii. Black skirt/slacks/split skirt (skort). The hemline is to be no shorter than 3” above the knee. No capris or shorts allowed.
 - iii. White blouse
 - iv. Any colored scarf
 - v. Black closed toe or peep toe shoe (no flip-flops, or sandals)
- c. Men:
 - i. Black blazer and slacks
 - ii. White shirt
 - iii. Any colored tie
 - iv. Black shoes
- d. An official USA Gymnastics judges' patch is required to identify officials. Contact your Regional Technical Committee Chairman for purchase.
- e. Turn off cell phone (or set at vibrate mode) while in the “field of play” to avoid disturbing the competition. Phones should not be sitting on the table.

7. Judges' Compensation

- a. At local, state, regional, and invitational competitions, judges are paid an hourly fee, which is based on current rating.
 - i. USA Introductory - \$18.00
 - ii. USA Category 4 - \$20.00
 - iii. USA Category 3 - \$22.00
 - iv. USA Category 2 - \$27.00
 - v. USA Category 1 - \$29.00
 - vi. International - \$32.00
 - vii. Judges may serve as a time or line judge in a volunteer capacity and count toward their judging requirements.
- b. Additional Compensation for local, state, regional, and invitational competitions.
 - i. Meet Referee receives \$75.00 per meet day in addition to their hourly fees.
 - ii. CJP and DJ receive an additional \$25.00 per meet day in addition to their hourly fees for judging Level 7 and below, \$50.00 per day for judging Level 8 and above.
 - iii. If a judge holds two positions (i.e., Meet Referee and CJP), the higher compensation is paid, not both.
- c. There is a two-hour minimum guarantee for each competition day.
- d. All judges are paid for all hours they are required to be at the meet site, which may include meetings, height measurement, warm-up time, competition time, lunch break, and appeals resolutions. For local, state, and regional competitions, judges are required to report 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition and remain on the clock until at least 5 minutes

following the end of the competition.

- e. Judging time is determined to the quarter hour, rounding up.
- f. Policies for reimbursement of judges' travel expenses is set by the region.
- g. Judges should be paid at the conclusion of the competition, except for national-level competition.
- h. For USA Gymnastics Championships and other national-level events, judges may be paid hourly fees as listed above or may be paid a daily rate. Compensation and travel reimbursements will be disclosed to judges in their invitations for the respective event.
- i. For international competition, it is typical that no judging fees/honorariums are paid.
- j. Clinician Fees: Regional and National Judges' Course Clinicians will receive \$175 per clinic day plus reimbursement of all travel and course expenses. USA Introductory Judges' Courses Clinicians will receive \$150 per day plus reimbursement of any travel and course expenses.