



HOW-TO GUIDE FOR WOMEN'S ARTISTIC JUDGES

WHO SHOULD BE A JUDGE?

Judges come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some judges are or were gymnasts, and even previous National Team Members, while others are coaches, parents, or gymnastics fans who have an appreciation for the sport but have no previous experience as an athlete. If you are thinking about becoming a judge, remember that ALL ARE WELCOME.

Becoming a USA Gymnastics Judge is a relatively straight-forward process that requires appreciation for, interest in, and dedication to helping further the sport.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The first step to becoming a judge for the Women's Program is contacting your USA Gymnastics State Administrative Committee Chair or your National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges (NAWGJ) State Judging Director to let them know of your interest. The contact information for these individuals can be found in the directories on each organization's website: SACC (State Administrative Committee Chair) at usagym.org; SJD (State Judging Director) at nawgj.org or view the list of [State Judging Directors here](#).

The second step towards preparing for your judging exam is purchasing the necessary study materials.

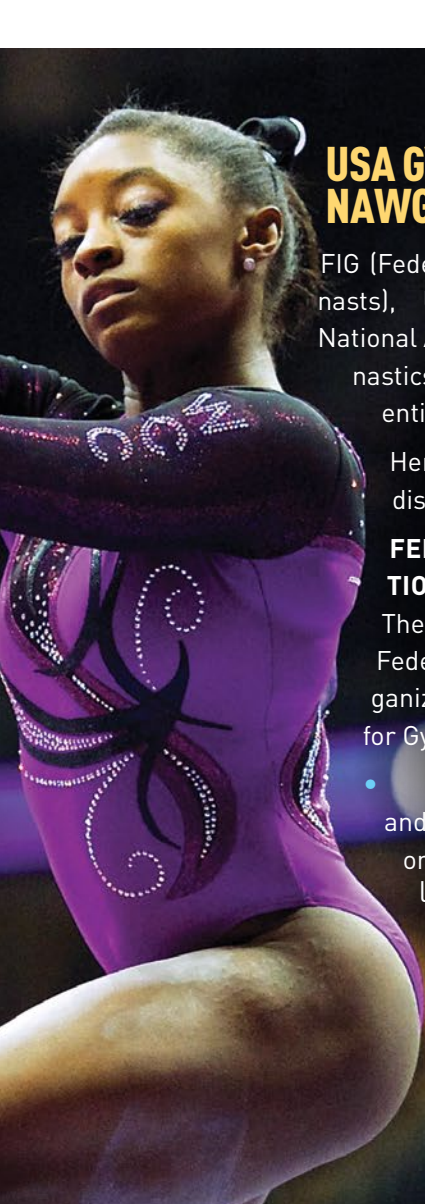
If taking the Level 4/5 Compulsory exam you will need to purchase the [Women's Jr. Olympic Compulsory Book](#) that includes illustrations, definitions, deductions and rules for Compulsory routines Levels 1-5. To prepare for the Optional Level 7/8 exam, you will need to purchase the [Women's Jr. Olympic Code of Points](#). In addition to these items, practice judging DVDs for the compulsory and optional levels are available at the [USA Gymnastics Technical Materials Store](#).

*There are also **electronic versions** of the judging study materials available for purchase/download on your digital devices.

While the third step is not a requirement, it is highly recommended that you attend a local judges' clinic or Regional/National Congress to develop the basic knowledge and skills necessary to become a judge. These educational events will definitely assist in your preparation.

And lastly, try contacting your local gymnastics clubs to ask permission to observe Compulsory Level 4 and 5 workouts to become better acquainted with the routines.

JR. OLYMPIC COMPULSORY	COMPULSORIES Five DEVELOPMENTAL levels designed for building a solid foundation of basic skills and competitive experience. Athletes must show proficiency at Level 4 and 5 to advance levels.	LEVELS 1-3 (Can be used as an in-gym achievement program or introduction to competition) 4-5 (Local, sectional and state competitive opportunities)
JR. OLYMPIC OPTIONAL	OPTIONALS Five levels — Individually composed routines. Each level has specific event requirements and difficulty expectations.	LEVELS 6-7 (Beginner to Advanced Beginner Optional) 8-10 (Intermediate to Advanced Optional)
XCEL	XCEL An alternative broad-based RECREATIONAL competitive program separate from the Jr. Olympic Developmental Program.	DIVISIONS Bronze & Silver (Beginner) Gold & Platinum, (Advanced Beginner-Intermediate) Diamond (Intermediate-Advanced)



USA GYMNASTICS, NAWGJ, AND FIG

FIG (Federation of International Gymnasts), USA Gymnastics and the National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges are each separate entities that work together.

Here are some quick facts to distinguish between the three.

FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS (FIG)

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), a nonprofit organization, is the governing body for Gymnastics worldwide.

- FIG establishes the rules and policies for competition on the international (Elite) level.

USA GYMNASTICS

USA Gymnastics is the sole national governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States. USA Gymnastics sets the rules

and policies that govern gymnastics in the United States. The functions of USA Gymnastics are:

- USA Gymnastics establishes the rules and policies for competition in the United States through its Committee structure. The Women's Technical Committee is specifically charged with the responsibility of judges' training, education, and Judging Accreditation procedures.
- USA Gymnastics provides educational opportunities for coaches, judges, gym club owners and administrators.

NAWGJ

The National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges (NAWGJ) works at the local, state, regional and national levels of the United States, servicing the gymnastics community and its judges.

- The NAWGJ is a professional organization for women's gymnastics officials.
- The committees of NAWGJ contract judges to USA Gymnastics, AAU, USAIGC, YMCA, and Collegiate competitions as requested by the State and Regional Committees, organizations or specific meet directors.



- NAWGJ provides educational opportunities and disseminates information by way of State, Regional, and National Symposiums and Newsletters.
- NAWGJ represents gymnastics officials on the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors.

The distinguishing factor between the entities is knowing the FIG (Federation of International Gymnastics) is the international governing body for Gymnastics, USA Gymnastics creates the rules and policies for judging gymnastics on the competitive level Nationally and NAWGJ is a constituent of USA Gymnastics that aids in helping enforce and share that information on a National, Regional, and State level for judges only.

HOW CAN I REGISTER FOR THE JUDGES EXAM?

In order to register online, you must create an online profile. Please see steps below to create a profile online.

TO CREATE A USERNAME AND PASSWORD

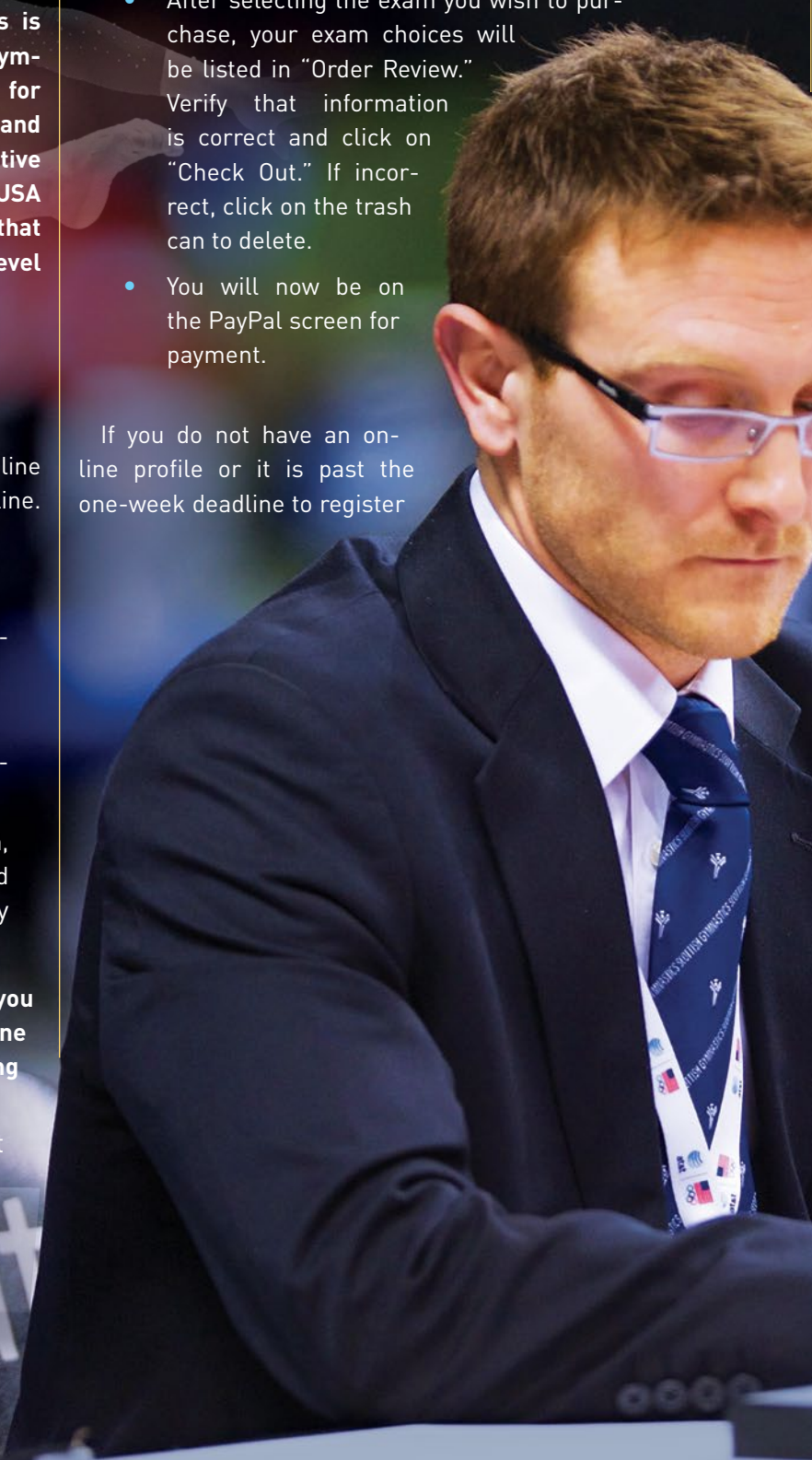
- Click on the Member Services page
- Select the "Login" button in white on the upper right-hand side of the screen
- Select the "Click Here to Register" button
- Fill out the information under the "User Information" option
- After you have typed in your information, including a newly created username and password, you will be sent an email to verify your account.

Once you have established an online account, you will be able to register for an exam online up to one week prior to the exam date. To register for a judging exam in your area, please follow the steps below.

- Go to the USA Gymnastics Website at usagym.org.
- Click on the Women's page at the top of the screen.
- Once on the Women's Artistic page, look to the left side of the screen and select the "Judges" link
- Select the "Judging Accreditation/Master Testing Schedule" link.

- Click on the red words "Click Here" for schedule at the top or bottom of the screen.
- On the next screen, select the testing location/date
- Then select the level and specific form for written (A1, B1, A2, B2) then click submit
- After selecting the exam you wish to purchase, your exam choices will be listed in "Order Review." Verify that information is correct and click on "Check Out." If incorrect, click on the trash can to delete.
- You will now be on the PayPal screen for payment.

If you do not have an online profile or it is past the one-week deadline to register



online, there is an option to download/print the Registration for Judges Exam form (posted on the Women's page under Judges "Forms") and send to our National Office by mail fax or scan/email. Please contact the Women's Jr. Olympic Technical Director Connie Maloney at cmaloney@usagym.org for additional questions.

TAKING THE EXAM

There are two entry levels for judges: The Compulsory Level 4/5 exam tests only Level 4 and 5, but the rating certifies the official to judge all levels of the Jr. Olympic Compulsory Program (1-5). The Beginner Optional exam covers Levels 7 and 8, but this rating also certifies the judge for Level 6. Please note that the Level 7/8 judges rating must be held for one year before testing at a higher level. ***There is currently no testing requirement to judge for the Women's Xcel Program; however, all rated officials and Professional member coaches are eligible. Specific requirements are determined by the State Administrative Committee.***

An individual must be a minimum of 16 years of age to be eligible to take the **entry-level exams**. USA Gymnastics strongly encourages first-time examinees to take one Level exam at a time. If you are not coaching Optional Levels (6, 7, & 8) but plan on testing for both compulsory and optional levels, USAGym strongly suggests taking the Level 4/5 exam and the Level 7/8 exam on different days. The Level 4/5 Compulsory exam is a written test only (**50 question multiple-choice exam**). The Level 7/8 Optional exam is a written test (covering Levels 7 and 8) and a separate **Practical (video) exam in which only Level 8 routines are judged (6 routines per event).**

If you are a previous Sr. age Level 10 gymnast who competed at Level 10 Regionals (or a coach at Level 10 Regionals), you may begin testing at Level 9. If you are a previous Elite gymnast who competed at Elite Classics, (or a coach at Elite Classics) you may begin testing at Level 10.

Exemption Eligibility form (located on the Women's page under Judges "Forms") must be submitted to the Test Administrator

if you are qualified for this process. The Level 4/5 Compulsory exam must be completed regardless of Optional rating.

You are not required to have a USA Gymnastics Membership to take the judges exam; however, a Professional membership should be obtained once the exam is passed in order to be eligible to judge at a sanctioned competition.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AFTER TAKING MY EXAM?

Judges exams are processed within two weeks of receiving the exam packet from the Test Administrator in the National office. Exam results are emailed on the day the exam is processed. If the exam is failed, a letter indicating the area(s) of weakness will be sent by mail. If the exam is passed successfully, the judge will have an accredited judges' rating and card that is available for download/print (active Professional Membership required for printing) on the "My Profile" page under "Certificates." For the Optional levels, the judge must pass both the Written and Practical exams in order to earn a rating. If only one part is passed, only the failed part must be re-tested if within the 4-year cycle.

I PASSED THE EXAM: WHAT REQUIREMENTS ARE NEXT?

- Join USA Gymnastics as a Professional Member or a Jr. Professional Member — usagym.org
- Take the U101 Safety/Risk Management Course on-line or at a live face-to-face workshop offered through USA Gymnastics. Successful completion of this course is REQUIRED to judge any sanctioned USA Gymnastics competition and MUST be renewed every four years.
- Complete a Criminal Background Check – go to the USA Gymnastics website for additional information
- Join NAWGJ — www.nawgj.org
*recommended, but not required
- Complete Availability for meet assignments in your respective state by **contacting your SJD.**

Once a rating is attained, the judge must show a commitment to continuing their education by submitting an

- **Women's Artistic Gymnastics Judging Tricks of the Trade** (Article can be found on the Education page under the USA Gymnastics University Library in the Judges Articles section)

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A JUDGE?

Judging for Women's gymnastics is a great experience! You will continue to learn more about the sport and have the opportunity to give back to the next generation while having fun! Don't miss the opportunity to become a USA Gymnastics Judge! Our athletes need you! As participation in competitive gymnastics continues to grow, there is a need in every state to increase the number of judges to service our competitive programs. JOIN TODAY!

View the **How to Judge for the Women's Program** Webinar under **Archived Webinars** on our USA Gymnastics Webinars Page under Member Services.

JUDGES COMPENSATION— Compulsory/Optional Judges Valid through July 31, 2017

Rating	Hourly Rate	
Brevet	\$32.30	
National	\$30.08	
Level 10	\$27.85	
Level 9	\$24.50	
Level 4/5/6/7/8	\$20.05	
Level 6/7/8	\$17.82	
Level 4/5	\$15.59	

JUDGES COMPENSATION—Xcel Judges

When sessions/meets have only Xcel gymnasts and the entry fee is \$35 or less, see the chart below. Otherwise the above chart should be used for Judges compensation.

Division	Judges' Rating	Rate per hour
Bronze & Silver	Professional Member "Coach"	\$15.00
	Level 4/5 and/or 6/7/8	\$15.00
	Level 9	\$18.00
	Level 10	\$22.00
	National & Brevet	\$25.00
Gold, Platinum & Diamond	Level 4/5 and/or 6/7/8	\$15.00
	Level 9	\$18.00
	Level 10	\$22.00
	National and Brevet	\$25.00

INTERESTED IN JUDGING FOR OTHER PROGRAMS?

See the links below for more information on the Technical Committee for each Program

Men's Artistic Contacts — Please visit the **National Gymnastics Judges Association** website

T&T Contacts — Technical Committee Chair:
Patti Conner pdconner2@gmail.com

Acro Contacts — National Technical Committee Chair:
Kari Duncan acrogyjudge@cs.com

Rhythmic Contacts — National Judges Representative:
Stefanie Korepin skorepin@scsenergyllc.com

Gymnastics for All Contacts — Technical Director:
Lori Laznovsky lorilaz4@yahoo.com

OTHER JUDGING RESOURCES

- **J311 Course — Beginning Optional Skill Evaluation: Uneven Bars**
- **J312 Course — Beginning Optional Skill Evaluation: Acro for Balance Beam**
- **J313 Course — Beginning Optional Skill Evaluation: Dance for Balance Beam**
- **J412 Course — Optional Beam Connections: To Give or Not to Give**
- **J416 Course — Level 9 Composition**

TECHNICAL MATERIALS

- **2014–17 Practice Judging DVD for Jr. Olympic Levels 3–5**
- **2014–17 Practice Judging DVD for Jr. Olympic Optional Levels 6–10**



CONTACT



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USA GYMNASTICS.