

MEN'S PROGRAM VIRTUAL SANCTION PLAYBOOK



USA GYMNASTICS.

VIRTUAL SANCTIONING

All USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events, both live and virtual, are governed by USA Gymnastics *Rules and Policies*, USA Gymnastics safety guidelines, Safe Sport Policy, and judging criteria. Virtual sanctions are to be obtained by following the same procedures outlined in the Men's Program *Rules and Policies*.

All participating clubs must follow all local health and safety guidelines. It is the responsibility of each participating club and Meet Director to ensure their own compliance. Depending on local guidelines, it may be possible for multiple clubs to be in the same location for the "Hybrid" virtually assisted option.

Virtual sanctions may be approved for the following types of events:

- Local competitions
- Invitationals
- Evaluations for Teams/Assignments
- Qualification events
- Championship events

PRIMARY GOALS

1. To provide athletes with the opportunity to perform in a competitive environment when physical competitions may not be allowed.
2. To provide clubs an opportunity to participate in or host a competition.
3. To provide spectators the opportunity to support their athletes.
4. To provide a competitive goal for athletes to work towards.
5. To provide member clubs with an outlet to raise funds through virtual events.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

USA Gymnastics would like to stress the importance of flexibility when allowing for virtual sanctioned competitions during the 2020-2021 season. While certain aspects of hosting/attending a gymnastics competition must be followed to ensure the safety of the athlete, other items will be allowed to deviate from the Men's Program *Rules and Policies* to allow clubs to still participate in these competitions. These include:

1. Medical procedures: For all virtual and local competitions hosted in-gym, medical coverage is recommended, but not required, if all participants are affiliated with the host club. (Host club = obtained the sanction for the event and the competition is hosted at the gymnastics club's physical location, as listed on the USA Gymnastics Member Club profile.)
 - If participants are affiliated with a club that is not the host club (i.e. dual meet), medical coverage, as listed in the Men's *R&P*, is required.
 - For meets outside of a gym, Sanctioned Event Minimum Medical requirements must be followed.
2. Equipment specification: USA Gymnastics realizes that clubs have an assortment of different equipment and equipment arrangements and would like to be flexible for allowing virtual competitions to take place in any club. Meet directors have the ability to set the equipment specifications for their competition. Any deviation from the Development Program (DP) Manual should be noted in the competition information packet.
3. Competition start time: Warm-ups may take place before 8 a.m., but no earlier than 7 a.m., to allow for the possibility of an increased amount of sessions throughout the day. Competition must be concluded no later than 10 p.m.
4. No judging inquiries will be allowed during virtual competitions.
5. To allow for more efficient warm-ups and a total reduced warm-up time, clubs are encouraged to use all equipment available in their space. A designated warm-up timer must be present to ensure *Rules & Policies* warm-up rules compliance.
6. Any other deviation from the Men's Program *Rules & Policies* must be approved by the VP Men's Program.

In general, when in doubt, be flexible. These events will likely not be at the same standard as traditional competitions.





VIRTUAL COMPETITION PLATFORM

USA Gymnastics has partnered with Flyp10 as a virtual competition platform for sanctioned meets. For local level competitions and invitationals Flyp10 or another platform may be utilized, and it is at the discretion of the Meet Director to set the competition format and select the technology platform. *Please note, unsecured live stream platforms, those without control over participants or passcode protection (i.e., YouTube Live, Facebook Live, Instagram Live, Vimeo), are not approved for sanctioned virtual competitions.*

For all sanctioned virtual competitions, only the following platforms are approved for use:

- Flyp10
- Google Meet
- Skype
- stsLIVEgym*
- Virtual Stars
- YouTube**
- Zoom
- Zoom Nast-X

*** stsLIVEgym:** At this time, video retention is not to exceed 30 days. In addition, parents need to be aware of any opt-out procedures with a disclaimer on the landing page of the website.

****YouTube:** YouTube may be utilized as a virtual platform as long as the following conditions are met:

- Event must be conducted as an 'unlisted event.'
- Meet Director will need to have established procedures as to how the unlisted link will be distributed and to whom. In addition, the meet director should include in the distribution communication a statement that stress that the link is for intend the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and should not be shared.
- Meet Director must also have an established timeline for removal of the recording. Preferably within, 72 hours at the conclusion of the event.

Note: Additional platforms may be added and will be listed here.

SANCTION REQUIREMENTS

- All participants must be a USA Gymnastics Member in good standing.
- All athlete, coach and judge entries must be entered via the USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation System.
- Meet Directors must follow the rules set forth in this Virtual Playbook and in the Rules & Policies.
- As with a live event, a USA Gymnastics virtual sanctioned event CANNOT be run concurrently in the same session with non-USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition.

For the 2020-2021 season, USA Gymnastics has partnered with Flyp 10 to offer a free platform to assist with virtual sanctioned events; however, it is not a requirement to use Flyp 10. Meet Directors may use any of the approved platforms that best suits their needs.

All videos and recordings of live streams must follow the Safe Sport Policy. Meet directors must provide information to all participants, including parents and guardians on where the recorded content will be stored, who has access, and for how long.

When pairing Flyp10 with a streaming platform, coaches will upload the videos of each routine with their mobile device. A separate video recording device will be used to stream the entire gym (all active equipment in view), to ensure routines submitted were performed on the first try. We recommend each participating club has the stream on display in the gym so that the athletes may watch their friends competing in other locations.

VIRTUAL COMPETITION FORMATS

There are three format types for virtual sanctions that may be utilized.

1. **Video Submission Format** – Meet Director/Host sets a deadline, or range of time, where participating clubs must submit their athletes' videos for judging. Judging will be delayed, and final results will be delayed.
2. **Virtual Live Stream Format** – Meet Director/Host creates a link to view the competition live. Judges will have access to the link to be able to judge in real time, however judging and final results may still be delayed. All routines should still be recorded and saved in the event that there are technical issues with the live feed and judges need the videos to be able to judge each athlete. A short delay will be allowed if using a platform that requires video uploads, such as Flyp10, paired with the live stream.
3. **Hybrid "Virtually-Assisted" Format** – This format will allow for multiple teams to hold a live competition in one location, but with the opportunity of including additional teams in separate locations. The clubs participating remotely will follow the requirements of the Virtual Live Stream Format.
 - It is encouraged for both the live athletes and the virtual athletes to be judged by the same panels,

but if not possible, then it may be recommended to consider live and virtual athletes as different groups for results and awards.

The Meet Directors/Hosts may ultimately set the format for their competition. For State and Regional Championship events, Meet Directors/Hosts are encouraged to use a Live Stream option, if possible.

ENTRY REGULATIONS AND FEES

All of the athletes, coaches and judges participating/competing in a USA Gymnastics Sanctioned Event must be pre-registered as an Athlete, Professional, or Junior Professional member of USA Gymnastics. Any athlete, coach or judge 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 Professional member of the same affiliated club, with the exception of an emergency situation.

Virtual Sanction fees will be \$100 for the 2020-2021 season and will cover all participating clubs/locations. The use of the Flyp10 platform will be provided to USA Gymnastics sanctioned events at NO cost for the 2020-2021 season.

Entry fees will be at the discretion of the meet director/coordinator, except for State and Regional Championship events. It is strongly encouraged that meet hosts price their competitions accordingly to allow for the possibility of a virtual platform service fee, in addition to additional

INFORMATION PACKETS / DIRECTIVES

Virtual competition hosts must include the following information and notify all eligible teams electronically by e-mail. Information should also be posted on the host club's website.

1. Name of meet, level(s) of competition and date.
2. Host Club and Meet Director/Coordinator contact information.
3. Entry fee (individual and/or team), to whom it is payable, deadlines, refund policy and method of submission.
4. Must utilize USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation System to enter participants.
5. Levels offered and age categories.
6. Livestream information, including:
 - Payment information for spectators.
 - Where recorded videos will be stored, for how long and who has access.
7. Awards are at the discretion of the meet host. If awards will be provided, the meet host must provide the type of awards and number to be awarded.
8. Competition schedule.
9. Any deviation(s) to the *Rules & Policies, the DP Manual, or the FIG Code of Points*.

livestream service fees. To allow for proper competition planning, a deadline for accepting athletes in meet reservation must be established, and communicated, to all participating clubs. It is recommended that a competition schedule be published at least 4-6 weeks prior to the first day of competition.



JUDGES

Judges will be secured, and compensation will be determined through the Meet Director and appropriate judging association.



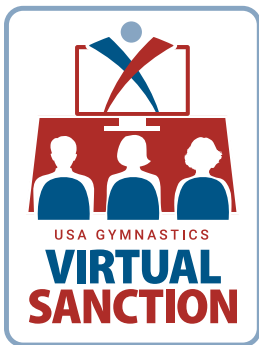
SCORING

The host club must decide on a scoring system that works for each individual situation, except for Championship events, which should use Flyp10 for their scoring. In order for scores to be sent to myusagym.com to assist in athlete tracking, host clubs should utilize Flyp10 or ProScore.



AWARDS

Number and type of awards may be at the discretion of the Meet Director/Host, except for Championship events, which should follow the Men's Program Rules and Policies. All participants must be made aware of the awards protocol prior to registering for the competition.



VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

1. All camera placements must be static – utilize tripod, tabletop, solid surface.
2. Internet speed should be sufficient to stream/upload high definition video.
3. Filmed from as close to a normal judges' position as possible
4. The gymnast's entire body must be visible at all times. If, for example, the legs or arms are cut off on the video or the video malfunctions, this may be treated as an equipment failure and the athlete would be allowed to repeat their routine.
5. Camera view must capture the following:



Floor Exercise

Camera should be positioned from one side of the floor and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout their routine without obstruction. Boundary lines should be well marked on the floor.



Pommel Horse

Camera should be positioned at 45-degree angle to the side of the horse and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout their routine without obstruction.



Parallel Bars

Camera should be positioned facing the side of the bars (not facing the front or back) and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout their routine without obstruction.



High Bar

Camera should be positioned from the side of the bar (not facing the front or back) and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout their routine without obstruction.



Still Rings

Camera should be positioned at a 45-degree angle with the front of the athlete's body facing the camera and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout their routine without obstruction.



Vault

Camera should be positioned from the side/back of the vault and should allow for the athlete's entire body to be seen throughout the entire vault (pre-flight, post-flight, and landing) without obstruction. Landing lines should be well marked on the landing mat.