

**USA GYMNASTICS**  
**2026 JUDGE INTERNATIONAL**  
**ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES**  
*(Published December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025)*

## **I. Statement of Principles and Goals**

USA Gymnastics prioritizes transparency, fairness, and strategic planning in assigning World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Judges to international competitions where a USA delegation is present. To ensure a structured and consistent assignment process, an Annual Judge Assignment Meeting will be held at the start of each competition season. During this meeting, all international judging assignments for the upcoming season will be determined based on a clear and transparent ranking process (see Section III).

This approach ensures that the highest-ranked judges are prioritized for premier events, while maintaining fairness and equitable opportunities for all eligible judges. By assigning all positions at once, the process eliminates random timing as a determining factor, ensuring that each event is staffed with the most appropriately qualified available judges.

## **II. Minimum Qualification Requirements for International Assignment**

To be considered for an international judging assignment, all USA T&T World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Judges must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- U.S. Citizenship
- Valid U.S. Passport, with at least six (6) months of validity remaining beyond the assignment date
- Current USA Gymnastics Membership in Good Standing, including compliance with all required certifications and SafeSport regulations
- National Event Participation, with judges required to have served as an athlete, coach, or judge at one or more USA Gymnastics key domestic events within the previous 12 months. Eligible events include the Regional Championships, Winter Classic, Elite Challenge, USA Gymnastics Championships, and Stars & Stripes Championships.
- EOI Submission, with judges required to declare their interest and availability for all international assignments for the entire calendar year by submitting an EOI form to the TC Chair prior to the Annual Judge Assignment Meeting.

### III. Assignment Process Overview:

#### A. Scheduling & Expressions of Interest

At the start of each calendar year, an **Annual Judge Assignment Meeting** will be held by the Selection Committee (SC) to determine all international judging assignments for the year. The SC Chair, in coordination with the Program Director, will set the meeting date and notify the Technical Committee (TC) who will then notify all eligible USA domestic World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) judges. Judges must submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) forms at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Judges who are nearing an upgrade may indicate their preference on their EOI form to be considered only for specific disciplines that support their advancement.

#### B. Presentation of Judge Records & Initial Review

The SC Chair will call the meeting to order and invite the TC Chair as an expert guest to present updated records on all U.S. World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Judges, including Brevet Ratings, international competition experience, and declared availability. The SC may ask narrow, fact-based questions regarding records to clarify any necessary details. Once the SC has a full understanding of the data presented, the TC Chair along with all conflicted SC members will be dismissed for the remainder of the meeting in compliance with USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest (COI) policies.

#### C. Establishing Event Priority Order

The SC will establish an event priority order for the calendar of events, beginning with Group 1 World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) events and progressing through Groups 2, 3, and 4 in order of event importance to the goals of Team USA, as determined by the SC. See Appendix 1.

#### D. Ranking Judges (Ranking Order)

Based on the data provided by the TC, Judges will be ranked by the SC based on the following criteria, applied in sequential order:

1. Judges will be ranked by their World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) category, with priority given to those holding the highest World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) ratings. If a judge meets the criteria for multiple categories, they will be ranked in the highest applicable category. The ranking order is as follows:
  - i) World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Cat 1 Rating on Any Discipline
  - ii) World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Cat 2 Rating on Any Discipline
  - iii) World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Cat 3 Rating on 2 Disciplines or more
  - iv) World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Brevet Cat 3 Rating on 1 Discipline

*Judges holding a World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Category 4 rating will not be considered for international assignments in that discipline at this time in order to prioritize experience opportunities for higher-rated judges who are eligible for upgrade. Category 4 judges may fast-track to Category 3 through high testing scores or by gaining experience at a later time via other pathways.*

*Judges with a World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Category 3 rating may be assigned when no Category 1 or 2 judges are available.*

2. **Tie-Breaking Criteria** (*Applied within each World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) category to determine assignment order*) Where multiple judges hold the same World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) category, the following criteria will be applied in order to break ties:
- a) Current Senior Judges Council Member
  - b) Current National Committee Member
  - c) Current Junior Judges Council Member
  - d) Length of World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) rating with active status
  - e) Current Regional / State Committee Chair or Technical Representative
  - f) Number of USA Gymnastics key domestic events judged in the last two years (*Regional Championships, Winter Classic, Elite Challenge, USA Gym Champs, & Stars & Stripes*)
  - g) Current Leader Level Judge

If a tie still cannot be broken using the above criteria, the SC will determine assignment order by random draw.

#### E. Assigning Judges

Judges will be assigned to events in event priority order, as defined in Appendix 1, starting with the highest-ranked judge who meets the minimum criteria and EOI availability. The highest-ranked judge will be assigned to the most premier event. The second highest-ranked judge will be assigned to the next event in priority order, followed by the next highest-ranked judge, and so on, until all events have been assigned. This ensures that top-ranked judges are prioritized for the most significant competitions while maintaining fairness and equitable distribution of opportunities among all eligible judges.

Once a judge is assigned to an event, they will be moved to the bottom of the ranking list and will not be eligible for another assignment until all other eligible judges have received an assignment—unless an exception applies, as outlined in Section V.

#### F. Assigning Alternates

The SC will determine which events require alternates and assign them using the same ranking and tie-breaking process in Section III.D. Alternates will be selected to ensure coverage for events where an additional judge may be necessary due to potential withdrawals or unforeseen conflicts.

G. Documentation & Publication

Upon completion of the assignment process, the SC will publish official committee minutes and any relevant documentation, pending final approval by the USA Gymnastics Chief Programs Officer. These records will serve as the official record of judge assignments for the season and will be referenced in the event of assignment changes or vacancies.

#### IV. Additional Considerations

1. Judge Availability and Assignment Changes
  - a. Judges who submit an EOI at the start of the year are expected to fulfill their assignments. If a judge becomes unavailable after assignments have been made, the SC will either promote a pre-named alternate or assign a replacement using the established ranking and tie-breaking process.
  - b. The SC may choose not to assign judges to a specific event at the Annual Judge Assignment meeting due to unknown event details (tentative dates, travel logistics, credentials allowed, etc.) and will reconvene once those details are known to assign judges according to the established Ranking Order.
2. Late Eligibility and Vacancies
  - a. Judges who become eligible for international assignments after the Annual Judge Assignment Meeting will not be automatically assigned but may be considered if a vacancy arises. If a judge gains a higher World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) category mid-year, they may be eligible for reassignment with the new rating only if an unfilled assignment remains.
3. Self-Funded Assignments
  - a. If Team USA is not attending an international event, a USA judge may request to participate in a self-funded capacity. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Program Director, who has full discretion to approve or deny participation in non-delegation events.
4. Event Logistics and Back-to-Back Assignments
  - a. For back-to-back events that require a single travel group, the SC may assign the same set of judges for both events or allow additional judges to attend as self-funded participants.
5. World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) and National Federation Requests
  - a. When the World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) or Continental Federation (CF) awards a nominative judging position (e.g., Olympic Games), the assignment will be honored provided the judge meets the minimum qualifications outlined in Section II.
  - b. If a National Federation requests a judge by name, the request **may** be honored as long as the judge meets the minimum qualifications outlined in Section II.
6. These procedures will be evaluated and adjusted annually by the SC.

## V. Removal of a Judge

A judge assigned to an international event may be removed from their assignment under the following circumstances:

- 1) Voluntary withdrawal: Judges who accept assignments and then withdraw *after the nominative deadline* (except in extenuating circumstances as approved by the SC) may be subject to removal from future assignments for a period of up to twelve (12) months.
- 2) Noncompliance with section II: Minimum Qualification Requirements for International Assignment
- 3) Failure to Fulfill Responsibilities: Judges who miss accepted assignments without prior notice or valid justification approved by the SC may be subject to removal from future assignments for a period of up to twelve (12) months.
- 4) A judge will be automatically removed if they become ineligible for leadership pursuant to the USA Gymnastics Leadership Eligibility and Service Policy

## VI. Development of Assignment Procedures

The following committees / groups were responsible for creating these assignment procedures:

<b>Trampoline &amp; Tumbling Selection Committee</b>	
Selection Committees Chair	Nicholas Minney
Elite Committee Trampoline Representative	Nuno Merino <i>*Recused</i>
Elite Committee Tumbling Representative	Ky Shaw <i>*Recused</i>
Elite Committee Double Mini Representative	Dezrea Wagner
T&T Athlete Representative	Savannah Vinsant
Program Committee Chair (replacement voting)	Patti Conner
T&T Interim Program Director (non-voting)	Sydney Carlson

**Appendix 1 – International Event Priority Order**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location, Date</b>	<b>World Gymnastics (formerly known as FIG) Event Category</b>	<b>Judge Requirement</b>
World Championships (TRA)	Nanjing, CHN Oct 31st - Nov 9th	Group 2	Cat 1-2 TRA
World Championships (TUM)			Cat 1-2 TUM
World Championships (DMT)			Cat 1-2 DMT
Sr Pan Am Championships (TRA)	TBD	Group 2	Cat 1-2 TRA
Baku World Cup (TRA)	Baku, AZE Feb 16th - 23rd	Group 2	Cat 1-3 TRA
Baku World Cup (TUM)			Cat 1-3 TUM
Alkmaar World Cup (TRA)	Alkmaar, NED Mar 9th - 14th	Group 2	Cat 1-3 TRA
Alkmaar World Cup (DMT)			Cat 1-3 DMT
Coimbra World Cup (TRA)	Coimbra, POR Jun 29th - Jul 6th	Group 2	Cat 1-3 TRA
Coimbra World Cup (TUM)			Cat 1-3 TUM
Coimbra World Cup (DMT)			Cat 1-3 DMT
Riccione World Cup (TRA)	Riccione, ITA Sep 28th - Oct 5th	Group 2	Cat 1-3 TRA
Junior World Championships/World Age Group Competition (TRA)	Nanjing, CHN Nov 8th - 16th	Group 2	Cat 1-3 TRA
Junior World Championships/World Age Group Competition (TUM)			Cat 1-3 TUM
Junior World Championships/World Age Group Competition (DMT)			Cat 1-3 DMT
World Age Group Competition (TRA)	Nanjing, CHN Nov 8th - 16th	Group 4	Cat 2-3 TRA
World Age Group Competition (TUM)			Cat 2-3 TUM
World Age Group Competition (DMT)			Cat 2-3 DMT
Coimbra GymFest (TRA)	Coimbra, POR Jun 29th - Jul 6th	Group 4	Cat 2-3 TRA
Coimbra GymFest (TUM)			Cat 2-3 TUM
Coimbra GymFest (DMT)			Cat 2-3 DMT