



Women's Artistic Gymnastics Xcel Code of Points Extended to 2028

The 2022-26 Xcel Code of Points will now be extended through July 2028. This change supports a broader plan to stagger production cycles across Women's Program (Xcel, Dev, Compulsory). After that, the Xcel Code of Points will continue to be published every four years (2028-32, 2032-36, etc.).

Why was this change made? Within USA Gymnastics' committee structure, the Technical Committee supports both the Xcel and Development Programs in areas such as judging, technical resources, and deductions. Under the current timeline, overlapping responsibilities create a substantial workload, including:

- Creating two Codes of Points (Xcel and Optional)
- Developing judges' tests and related materials
- Establishing base scores for State, Regional, and National meets
- Updating online educational resources

Staggering the release cycles will help the committee focus on one program at a time and manage these responsibilities more effectively.

This will also allow coaches to learn one new set of rules at a time when preparing their athletes.

Can we expect changes in Xcel rules leading up to 2028? All committees impacting Xcel rules—including the Xcel, Technical, and Administrative Committees—will continue to meet each May with updates published in the Code each year.

How will this impact my gym, coaches, and athletes? No additional impact is expected on day-to-day Xcel program operations. This staggered approach helps coaches involved in both Xcel and Development programs align their professional development with Code releases, reducing conflicts when both programs release new Codes simultaneously. The change staggers the costs of purchasing new materials for two programs in a single year.

How will this affect Judges? Judges will no longer need to prepare for changes to both programs and test in the same year. This would also potentially allow them to focus their congress sessions for each program when new Code materials are released and decrease costs in any single year for purchasing materials. Any judges with an Xcel Rating that currently expires in 2026 will have that rating extended to 2028.

What should I know leading up to the next Xcel Code published in 2028? All committees will continue to evaluate the Xcel program. Discussions of items for the 2028 Code have already begun. We anticipate distributing a member survey and also encourage members to share their feedback with their Regional Xcel and Technical Committee Chairs.