

Why Can't We Agree?

Presented by Evelyn Chandler at Region 8 Congress, - June 2015

"Why do judges and coaches sometimes see routines differently?" OR "Understanding the other species."

The reasons can be Obvious or Underlying:

The Obvious -

1. He/She sees the routine from a different angle or view.
2. There is a difference in writing the routine down and watching or ball-parking a score just thinking of execution only and not considering composition, etc.
3. Coaches sometimes look away during the routine.
4. Coaches don't see every routine in all sessions.

The Underlying -

1. Either the coach or the judge may not have had a good night's sleep or they may not be feeling well.
2. Either may not be prepared for the meet.
3. They could have a different level of experience.
4. They may not both really understand the rules for the level of competition.
5. They have different expectations of the event.
6. They may be comparing the current performance with that of the last meet or the warm up.
7. The coach sees the gymnast's work ethic and personality and hopes it is rewarded.
8. The coach thinks the judge is biased toward or against a team or individual.
9. The judge may allow affiliation to enter into their scoring.
10. The judge may want to be considered the nice judge or the tough judge and may fail to apply the rules consistently.
11. The judge or the coach may be allowing themselves to be intimidated.
12. The judge could be easily distracted and look down a lot.
13. The judge may have a problem with consistency and concentration due to long meets. The smile for the first gymnasts should be the same as for the last gymnast.
14. The judge may not be attending clinics and/or spending time in the gym.

How do we fix it?

We probably can't but we must be aware, do our job better, and respect each other.

Still disagree?

The coach can use the Inquiry Process.

The coach paid for an evaluation for their gymnast and they have a right to understand it.

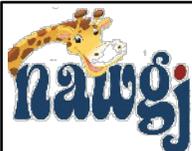
The judge should provide an unemotional, correct, & professional answer.

You can agree to disagree, but should do it nicely.

What are the best qualities of a Judge - gymnastics or otherwise?

A judge should have No Favorites, No Leanings, and No Preconceived Notions.

A judge should be Open, Tolerant, and Fair-minded.



Channel the Giraffe in you:

Stand tall, Keep your event moving, Be unique, Encourage all to reach for higher goals, Don't look Down, Sleep when you can, Be a little devilish, Travel together, Stay beautiful and dignified no matter what even if you are a little puzzled and eat too much from time to time!