

# New Judge Handbook for Washington State

## **To our new judges or interested individuals:**

Hello, we want to extend a warm welcome to each of you who are considering becoming a Washington State Gymnastic Judge - whether you are a new judge, new to our state or even just thinking about becoming a judge. Our gymnastic community is here to aid and support you. Do not hesitate to contact the Co-State Judging Directors, Lee Bjella and Denise Green. [nawgjwa@gmail.com](mailto:nawgjwa@gmail.com)

---

**Our NAWGJ WA board** recommends that you have a mentor; we will assist you with that selection. Mentors are very valuable; they facilitate in your testing preparation, answer questions involving judging issues, and support you throughout your "growing years" as an official.

Patty Ames is our New Judge Liaison for the West side of WA and Pam Harper is the East Liaison. (Their contact information is on our website [www.nawgjwa.com](http://www.nawgjwa.com) on the Board Members page.) They will help you get involved with practice judging and tips on how best prepare for taking the judging test.

**Becoming a gymnastics judge can be a bit overwhelming.**

---

Let's take it one step at a time to understand how to go about this process.

# First Steps

## Understanding NAWGJ and USA Gymnastics

As with any organization, we have numerous terms that can be confusing to new judges. The following definitions will help clarify our professional language and assist in your understanding of the different organizations that are involved in gymnastics.

### TERM DEFINITIONS:

**NAWGJ** - National Association Women's Gymnastics Judges. There is no official head office, but board members may be contacted at this website:

[http://www.nawgj.org/presidents\\_corner.php](http://www.nawgj.org/presidents_corner.php)

Our state chapter is **NAWGJ WA**

**SJD** - State Judging Director. In our case, at this time, we have Co-SJD's, Lee Bjella and Denise Green. [nawgjwa@gmail.com](mailto:nawgjwa@gmail.com)

## More terms:

---

**RJD** - Regional Judging Director: Ann Heppner, Oregon. The RJD is the Regional NAWGJ representative. The State Judging Director answer to the Regional Judging Director, who answers to the NAWGJ National Board. <http://www.nawgjwa.com/region2.html>

**TA** - Test Administrator: In our state, Denise Green and Lee Bjella are the TA's at this point in time. Every state has TA's and you can take a test anywhere in the U.S. but you need to report your test results to your state SJD.

**USA Gymnastics** – is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of gymnastics in the United States - located in Indianapolis, IN. (Formally called USGF and then USAG)  
[www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org)

**USA Gymnastics Washington** - our state chapter of USA Gymnastics [www.usagwa.com](http://www.usagwa.com)

**R2 (Region 2)** - Washington is in Region 2 which also includes the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. <http://usagregion2.com/>

# NAWJG

## (National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges)

This organization was started in 1974 to train and test judges for women's gymnastics. It's mission is the training of gymnastics judges to promote judging excellence.

In 2004, USAG took over the testing of judges.

There are currently approx. 2,000 rated judges in the U.S.

The NAWGJ link for information on becoming a judge is:

[http://www.nawgj.org/becoming\\_a\\_judge.php](http://www.nawgj.org/becoming_a_judge.php)

# USA Gymnastics

**USA Gymnastics** - the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of gymnastics in the United States - located in Indianapolis, IN. (Formally called USGF and then USAG) [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org)

USA Gymnastics webpage for those interested in becoming judges:

<https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging.html>

“USA Gymnastics Webinar on becoming a judge”

[http://www.nawgj.org/becoming\\_a\\_judge.php](http://www.nawgj.org/becoming_a_judge.php)

# Study Materials and Information

1. On our website's Resources page – many materials
2. Connect with Lee, Denise, Patty or Pam
3. Learn how to study for the test
4. Practice tests
5. Practice judging – live and video



# Resources

Practice tests and quizzes are located on this webpage.

<http://www.nawgjwa.com/resources.html>

On this page are compulsory and optional study helps; quizzes, cheat sheets, etc. Just click on the link to bring you to different pages.

# TESTS

**A new judge may take the entry level judging tests** of the Compulsory Level 4/5 test and/or the Optional level of 7/8. If you have been a college gymnast or National Team member - you may apply to take the Level 9 test as an entry level. Please contact your SJD.

**Registration for a test: No walk-ins are allowed.** (You will be given a temporary USA Gymnastics member number.) You may register for a test by mail or fax but you must register two weeks prior to the exam. This is the link to the form.

<https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Judges/registration-form.pdf>

**More info from USA Gymnastics:**

[https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging\\_accreditation.html](https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging_accreditation.html)

**Official USA Gymnastics study materials for the exams and rule books for judging - available at**

**<http://usagym.sportgraphics.biz/>**

**Information that you need to take the tests:**

**<https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging.html>**

---

**If you test at the starting point of compulsories, you will need the Women's JO Compulsory Book.** You will take a test using level 4 and 5 rules.

**If you want to start at the Optional level, you can start at the 7/8 level and you will need the Women's JO Code of Points.**

The certification year is August 1 to the following July 30.

You may take each part of the exam up to four times in a certification year.

You must hold a rating for 12 months before taking a higher-level test.

Practice judging is not required to test at a higher level. (But is a good idea.)

All written tests have 50 questions.

The practical test (video) has one demo routine and 5 routines to be judged per event.

# Test Dates

---

You can find local test dates by asking the SJD's or the New Judge Liaisons, or by checking our website on the Tests page. Test dates are also noted on our home page of [www.nawgjwa.com](http://www.nawgjwa.com).

For locations of tests outside of Washington State, go to this webpage - [https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging\\_accreditation.html](https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging_accreditation.html)

and click on the link at the top of the page that says "Click here to view currently scheduled exam sessions/locations."

# After passing the test

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Memberships:** There are two organizations that you must become a member of before you can be assigned to judge a meet. It is also your responsibility to renew your membership to each annually.

1. **NAWGJ** (National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges)
2. **USA Gymnastics** (Actually, it would be better if you joined USA Gymnastics and did the safety certification and background check as soon as you decide you want to test as these can take up to a month to clear with USA Gymnastics.)

# NAWGJ Membership

The webpage for the National NAWGJ Membership information is

[http://www.nawgj.org/membership\\_page.htm](http://www.nawgj.org/membership_page.htm)

Cost: \$60 per year

# USA Gymnastics Membership

USA Gymnastics Membership webpage:

[https://usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/membership\\_overview.html](https://usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/membership_overview.html) USA Gymnastics membership dues are: Online Registration - \$84 Or [Mail / Fax Registration](#) - \$89.

Online Registration is **NOT** available to first time members of USA Gymnastics. You are required to mail/fax in the registration for membership form.

# Background Check

---

You must also get a background check - go to this link for information –  
Frequently asked questions:

[https://usagym.org/PDFs/Member%20Services/backgroundcheck\\_qa.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Member%20Services/backgroundcheck_qa.pdf)

Background check webpage on USA Gymnastics:

[https://usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/background\\_overview.html](https://usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/background_overview.html)

The average cost of the background check is around \$22.



# Safety Certification

## U101 Safety/Risk Management Course

---

**U101 Safety/Risk Management is required for all Professional Members and Junior Professional Members of USA Gymnastics.**

The primary goal of this course is to increase safety and risk management awareness.

The U101 Safety/Risk Management course is offered as an online course and as a live course. Individuals can choose which course they prefer to take. This course must be taken every four years.

The online course takes approximately four to five hours to complete. The live course is scheduled for five hours.

Cost: \$70 for USA Gymnastics Members (SAVE \$5 by registering online)

<https://usagym.org/pages/education/courses/U101/>

# NAWGJ WA Judges Log-In page

Once you pass the judges test and join NAWGJ and USA Gymnastics, take the Safety Certification and Background Check – you will need to get into the private part of our state website: you must contact the WA SJD('s) for your log in username and password.

The WA Judges Log-In page has meet schedules and the judges directory.

# Judging Uniform

A judge may wear dark blue or black slacks and a white blouse/shirt with a dark blue suit jacket.

We sometimes have used uniforms available.

You may order the official judges uniform at:

[http://www.nawgj.org/ordering\\_a\\_uniform.php](http://www.nawgj.org/ordering_a_uniform.php)

# Where to get judging "stuff":

**Start Value flashers/dvd's/etc.** - order from the National NAWGJ website -

<http://www.nawgj.org/library.php>

and at USA Gymnastics **Educational Materials**

<http://usagym.sportgraphics.biz/c-17-rules-jo-materials.aspx>

All kinds of **Judging Score Sheets** - go to our **Resources** link on our state website.

You can also go to the **National NAWGJ website**.

You should download the current **Rules and Policies** and/or request a hard copy from USA Gymnastics. (The quick link for the R&P is on our website's Links page.)

(If you get a little lost, most of these links are on our website's Links page.)

# CPE

Annually judges must maintain what is termed **Continuing Professional Education (CPE)**. We are a professional organization that requires continual education to ensure the highest possible standards; therefore, each judge is required to maintain what is known as CPE.

You need to keep track of your CPE hours and turn it in to the designated CPE official in our state.

**Print the form at this link:**

**<https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Judges/AnnualCPERecord.pdf>**

# Protocol Issues

# Judging Assignments

---

Our assigner will assign you to a meet – however, before that happens we will work with you to make sure you feel confident in your judging. It is crucial for you to attend practice judging sessions and training sessions – and every clinic you can!

# Traveling to Meets

---

When you are assigned to a meet, and when you drive to the site - you need to mapquest your destination and bring it with you for reimbursement.

You need to carpool when possible - there is a Judges Directory on our judges log in page, to help you see where people live.

You must subtract your first 30 miles of a round trip unless you are meeting a carpool. Please read in the Rules and Policies on the judges chapter. Everyone should have a Rules and Policies - you can download it and you may also request a hard copy from USAG.



# How do you get paid to judge?

---

You will need a voucher for most meets. These can be found on our Resources page under Vouchers. Often times, for larger meets, the Meet Referee has a multiple session voucher. The voucher is the means by which a judge is paid.

Judges need to be at a meet **30 minutes before the march in time**. You are NOT paid for this time, except for at State Meets and above.

# Professionalism

**As officials, we need to pay attention to the following:**

**A. Preparation.** Review your rules and event assignments before each meet. Carefully pack your bag or briefcase to include all the sheets, books, and supplies you need. If you do not feel comfortable judging an event please ask to switch events. The gymnasts score is of upmost importance and it is your responsibility to be prepared to judge the event(s) you are assigned.

**B. Appearance.** The NAWGJ uniform consists of a navy jacket, navy skirt or pants and white blouse/shirt.

**C. Behavior at Meets.** Do not speak excessively to coaches during the competition. Keep conferences brief, and speak well of all gymnasts, coaches and other judges. Stay at your event until the session is completed. Eat or drink discreetly. **NO PHONE USE.** Keep your eyes on the gymnast you are judging – at all times! Practice with videos to not look at your paper.

**D. Responsibilities.** You are responsible for your own judging career - you must keep your required memberships and ratings current and take care of any required financial reporting. (Taxes, etc.) Be a responsible judge: Return contracts promptly, carpool when you can, be prepared for your assignments, and be on time - 30 minutes prior to march-in!

# NAWGJ Important Documents

## **NAWGJ Constitution**

<http://www.nawgj.org/FINAL-CONSTITUTION.pdf>

## **NAWGJ Code of Professional Responsibility**

[http://www.nawgj.org/code\\_of\\_professional\\_responsibility.htm](http://www.nawgj.org/code_of_professional_responsibility.htm)

## **NAWGJ Operating Code**

<http://www.nawgj.org/FINAL-OPERATING-CODE2.pdf>

# NAWGJ WA Judges Handbook

---

Now that you have made it through this handbook, there is one more state handbook you should look through – our NAWGJ WA Judges State Handbook.

<http://www.nawgjwa.com/pdf's/NAWGJ%20WA%20Handbook%202012.pdf>

**“Good Luck” and thanks for your  
interest in judging gymnastics!**

---