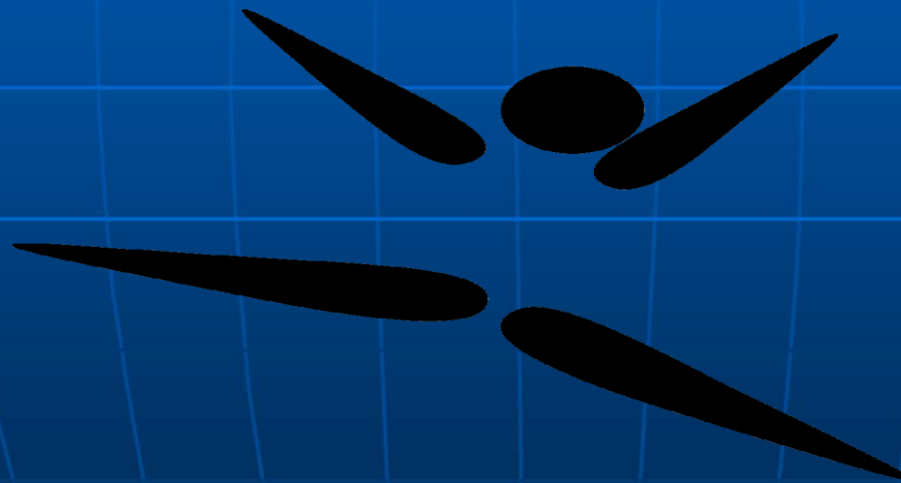


New Judge Handbook for Washington State



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 State Judging Director, Patty Ames at pames7@aol.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.

Jaimie Hostetter is our New Judge Liaison. We will both be happy to 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 rewarding experience.

Let's take it one step at a time:

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>

Our state chapter is **NAWGJ WA, SJD** - State Judging Director, Patty Ames

More terms:

RJD - Regional Judging Director: Denise Green, Washington. The RJD is the Regional NAWGJ representative. The State Judging Director answers to the Regional Judging Director, who answers to the NAWGJ National Board.
<http://www.nawgjwa.com/region2.html>

TA - Test Administrator: In our state, Patty Ames SJD, Denise Green, RJD are TA's. 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. www.usagym.org

USA Gymnastics Washington - our state chapter of USA Gymnastics
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>

NAWGJ

(National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges)

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

The NAWGJ link for information on becoming a judge is: www.nawgj.org
On that website will be links and resources to assist you.

USA Gymnastics

USA Gymnastics – the National Governing Body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States - located in Indianapolis, IN.

www.usagym.org

“USA Gymnastics Webinar on becoming a judge”

http://www.nawgj.org/becoming_a_judge.php

Study Materials and Information

1. On our website's Resources page – many materials
2. Connect with Patty Ames, SJD
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 the 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>

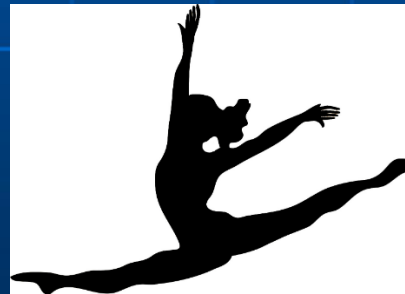
If you test at the starting point of compulsories, you will need the Women's JO Compulsory Book. You will take a test using level 4 and 5 rules.

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, the New Judge Liaison, or by checking our website on the Tests page.

Test dates are also noted on our home page of www.nawgjwa.com.



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)

NAWGJ membership – www.nawgj.org Cost: \$60 per year

USAG membership – www.usagym.org Refer to member services for current fee's.

Background Check - You must also pass a background check - go to this link for information.

Safety Certification U101 Safety/Risk Management Course

U101 Safety/Risk Management is required for all Professional Members. 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. This course must be taken every four years.

The online course takes approximately four to five hours to complete.

Cost: Can be found on the USAG member services page

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

Once you pass the judges test and join NAWGJ and USA Gymnastics, take the Safety Certification and Background Check – you will be directed on how to log in to the Judges log in page.

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

CPE

As a new judge you will not need to keep track of your CPE for the first year. After that first year 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 will need to keep track of your own CPE hours and turn it in to the designated CPE official Patty Ames by May 31st of each year. pames7@aol.com

Print the form at this link:

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

Judging Assignments - Our assigner Patty Ames 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 print out a MapQuest to your destination and bring it with you for reimbursement.

Rules and policies – download from the USAG website

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, for larger meets, the Meet Referee has a multiple session voucher. The voucher is how a judge is paid.

Judges **MUST** be at a meet **30 minutes prior to the march in time.** You are paid from report time so be on time.

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 utmost 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 – always! 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!

“Good Luck” and thank you for your interest in
judging gymnastics!

