

Section 3: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

I. COACHES

All Coaches are obligated to:

- A. Maintain a USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Gymnastics Professional Membership.
 1. All coaches must show and wear, as a credential, their USA Gymnastics professional membership card at any USA Gymnastics sanctioned meet.
- B. Be safety certified as required by the USA Gymnastics.
- C. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics.
- D. Function ONLY as a coach during a competition. They may not serve in a dual capacity (i.e. Coach/Judge) during the same session.
- E. Be professional.
 1. Display good sportsmanship.
 2. Dress comfortably in attire that reflects the best image of gymnastics.
 - a. A coach must wear tennis shoes/sneakers and appropriate athletic coaching attire to State, Regional and J.O. Championship meets or professionally dressed with soft soled shoes when specified by the host organization.
 3. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order to provide the safest environment for the gymnast.
 4. Under no circumstances has any coach the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or to jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way.
- F. Attend all coaches' meetings and be familiar with the meet set-up and organization.
- G. Be present at all warm-up and competition sessions.
- H. Be respectful of and responsible for his/her athletes at all times during the travel to and from the competition, at the training prior to competition, during the off hours, and during the competition itself.
- I. Follow all guidelines for the competition and the USA Gymnastics Rules and policies, including entry regulations.
- J. Continually update coaching knowledge and experience on a planned regular basis, by means of study, review of films, attending workshops, and participating in clinics, etc.
- K. Treat all competitions the same, regardless of the skill level.
- L. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct. Constant criticism of officials gives the gymnast a negative perspective of the sport.
- M. Show respect for all gymnasts, coaches, judges and meet personnel.
 1. Verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse of the gymnast will not be tolerated.
 2. Inappropriate remarks or comments, harassment, and/or gestures directed toward any official or meet personnel will not be tolerated.
- N. Coach only their own gymnasts unless another coach asks for assistance or a gymnast has no coach available. It is inappropriate to conduct a coaching clinic during the competition.
- O. Direct inquiries (only those specified in the Rules and Policies) through the meet referee or the director of the competition.
 1. Refrain from approaching a judge directly.
 2. Instruct their gymnasts and parents to discuss with the coach any concerns they may have.
- P. Inform gymnasts and parents of all competitive requirements, as well as their rights and obligations.
- Q. File an Accident Report Form in the case of any injury to a gymnast for whom they are responsible. Accident Report forms will be included in the Sanction packet sent to the Meet Director, who will duplicate and provide copies for the medical personnel. The coach or parent of the injured athlete must be sure to secure this form, completed by the medical personnel, prior to leaving the competition.
- R. Show respect to the flag and the National Anthem. Remember that we teach young people by example.

II. COACHES BEHAVIOR POLICY AT USA GYMNASTICS SANCTIONED EVENTS

Unacceptable coach behavior can be defined as:

- A. Inappropriate remarks or comments, harassment, and/or gestures directed toward any official or meet personnel during the competition.
- B. Contact with other persons outside of the competitive floor area during the actual warm-up and course of competition. (Exceptions: USA Gymnastics or club doctor, trainer, other credentialed club coaches, or USA Gymnastics credentialed personnel.)
- C. Derogatory remarks to the press in regard to USA Gymnastics, its designated representatives, meet officials or personnel.
- D. Such above described behavior will be penalized as follows:
 1. First Offense: Verbal warning will be issued by the Meet referee and/or designated representative of the USA Gymnastics President.
 2. Second Offense: Withdrawal of floor credential, necessitating ejection from the competitive floor area (or possibly the entire competitive arena).

III. COACHES RIGHTS

All Coaches have the right to:

1. Enter group routine and individual and duet competitors if they have met the proper qualifications.
2. Assist the gymnasts during warm-ups.
3. Give advice to the gymnasts during the meet, while they are not performing.
4. Serve as liaison between the gymnast and the meet officials.
5. Test the music volume on the sound system provided, prior to the meet.
6. Make a written complaint about the meet, to be mailed to the Meet Director, Regional Director, Meet Referee and the USA Gymnastics Program Director no later than 3 days after the end of competition.
7. Submit written inquiry to Meet Director on the official form, when necessary (see inquiry regulations).

IV. JUDGES/OFFICIALS

Meet Officials include: Meet Referee, Head Judge, Acting Judges, line judges and timers.

Judges/Officials are obligated to:

- A. Maintain their USA Gymnastics Professional Membership and have their membership cards in their possession at all competitions.
- B. Be safety certified and properly rated for the appropriate level of competition.
- C. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics.
- D. For all qualifying competitions, act only in the capacity of an official during warm-ups and competition and not serve in a dual capacity (i.e., coach/judge, parent/judge, meet director/judge, etc. during the same session).
- E. Be professional.
 1. Dress appropriately, regardless of the level of competition.
 2. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order that the evaluations be as accurate as possible for all gymnasts.
 3. Be quick, cooperative and efficient in resolving differences during a conference.
 4. Refrain from talking to other judges during competition, unless necessary. No use of a cell phone is allowed during the competition.
 5. Remain at the judges' table until the entire competition is completed.
 6. No judge has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or to jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies.
- F. Be familiar with the meet set-up and organization.
- G. Fulfill all assignments according to the contractual agreement. Only dire circumstances should prohibit a judge from fulfilling an assignment. If a judge must cancel an assignment, she/he must notify the appropriate officials at the earliest possible moment.
- H. Refrain from conversation with coaches, athletes and parents before, during and after the competition. In addition, the judges are not responsible for the conduct of the gymnast(s) during warm-up or training.
- I. Show respect for all gymnasts, coaches, judges and meet personnel.
 1. Verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse of the gymnast will not be tolerated.
 2. Inappropriate remarks or comments, harassment, and/or gestures directed toward any official or meet personnel will not be tolerated.
- J. Be confidential about meet matters, scores, their own or other judges' scores or opinions.
- K. Update judging knowledge and experience on a planned, regular basis, which includes studying, practice judging with videos or live athletes, attending courses, and judging as much as possible.
- L. Treat all competitions the same, regardless of skill level.
- M. Avoid judging a meet in which their own positive or negative bias towards any competing team would affect their ability to judge objectively.
- N. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct. Constant criticism of other professionals and the meet organization gives the gymnast a negative perspective of the sport.
- O. Show respect to the flag and the National Anthem. Remember that we teach young people by example.

V. JUDGES RIGHTS

All Judges/Officials have the right to:

- A. Be provided with hotel rooms in nearby quality hotels or motels, ideally two persons assigned to one room. Meet Officials should never be assigned to private homes where they would be obligated to socialize instead of rest, or to travel hours each day to get to the meet from their housing - unless this is what they request.
- B. Be provided transportation to and from the hotel. Pickup time and place (if car is not given for judge's use) and name of driver should be included in judging packets. If a judge is not picked up at arranged time, they shall be reimbursed by the meet director for their transportation expense.
- C. Be provided transportation to and from the airport or have arrangements made.

- D. Have a runner assigned to her/him who should stay with the judge for the length of a session to provide the most efficient work.
- E. Receive the utmost courtesy and respect from the coaches, gymnasts and any participating person.
- F. Work Load and Recovery Sessions.
Sessions: Judges shall not judge any longer than a maximum of three hours at each session. Between the end of the evening session and the beginning of the next morning session, at least 12 hours must be given for a rest period.

VI. EXPECTED CONDUCT OF THE AUDIENCE

- A. The audience may use only the area designated for the public.
- B. The spectators shall not disturb the order of the meet, its competitors and its officials. Individuals causing violations shall be asked to leave the competition site.
- C. The audience shall not carry food or drinks into the spectator's area.
- D. The use of flash attachment while taking pictures is prohibited.
- E. The coach is responsible for the behavior of the parents of her/his gymnasts during the competition. It is the responsibility of each coach to make known to these respective parents that conduct such as verbal abuse to the judges and/or gymnasts, disrupting the flow of the competition, etc., will NOT be permitted. Inappropriate remarks or comments, harassment, and/or gestures directed toward any official or meet personnel during the competition are considered unacceptable behavior will be penalized as follows:
 - 1. First Offense: Verbal warning will be issued by the Meet referee and/or designated representative of the USA Gymnastics President.
 - 2. Second Offense: Ejection from the competition arena.
- F. It is suggested that the meet director have as part of the volunteer competition staff a floor manager. One of the main responsibilities of the floor manager will be to insure that the audience does not interfere with the competition in any way whatsoever.
- G. The meet director should instruct the announcer to announce throughout the competition, as often as necessary, what the expectations of the audience are.