

FL NAWGJ News



2025 • December ~ January • 2026

Celebrating FL NAWGJ Judges

Hi Judges!

Wow, the season is just speeding by....Compulsory, Bronze & Silver States are just a few short weeks away! Good luck to everyone.

Some things to remember as we progress through the rest of the season:

- Before you leave the meet site, remember to look at your paycheck and make sure it's been signed. This has been a problem twice so far this season.
- Please keep your availability updated on GymJas. Alternates are needed frequently and the Assignors are spending too much time sending and then cancelling contracts to judges who forgot to mark themselves as unavailable.
- Contact your Assignor if you need more (or less) time on your upcoming State Meet event.

We've got LOTS of exciting clinic opportunities next summer and hope you can attend 1, 2 or all! These are all FREE to FL NAWGJ members. Mark your calendar and watch for more information within the upcoming months.

- ❖ 5/31/26: Florida NAWGJ National/Brevet Course Test Prep Clinic, Orlando
- ❖ 6/14/26: Florida USAG State Clinic, Largo
- ❖ 7/11-12/26: Florida USAG State Clinic, Melbourne
- ❖ 7/25-26/26: Florida NAWGJ 10, 9, 8 Test Prep Clinic, Tampa

There are some great articles in this issue. Thank you to all of our contributors!

Happy reading & Happy Holidays!



Celebrating December & January Birthdays

Linda ThorbergDecember 2
Mikayla Rush.....December 4
Sabrina West.....December 4
Joan Dalpe.....December 9
Donna EwingDecember 10

Shardae LylesDecember 12
Julia Thomas.....December 15
Susan MonahanDecember 19
Meghan GregoryDecember 30
Veronica PerryDecember 31



Maria Iankova..... January 1
Carrie Rawlings January 5
Kathy Stuenkel January 6
Katie Kollmeyer January 10
Brianna Coakley January 16
Joan Lothrop..... January 17
Kayden McNaughton January 17
Carlos Sanchez..... January 25
Darinka Koro January 26
Bill Bevil January 31



**Cat is gonna
be a MaMa!**

**Aya Grace is due to
make her grand
entrance on
December 18, 2025!**





Jenn Ynestroza
FL NAWGJ
Media Specialist

The role of the Media Specialist

by

Jenn Ynestroza

The job of the Media Specialist is to communicate the most up to date gymnastics and judging related news in a timely manner either through the NAWGJ FL website or by Facebook.

NAWGJ Florida's platforms for communication

The Florida NAWGJ website can be found here at nawgjflorida.org. The website is updated monthly with the most current information regarding the people, news, and upcoming events in our great state. To be clear, we won't repost anything from the National website; rather, if you are looking for the latest rule changes, templates, study materials, etc., please visit nawgj.org. To subscribe to the Florida website, simply scroll to the bottom of the lead page, enter your email address, and click 'Subscribe'.

As for the Florida NAWGJ Facebook page, it is used to send out frequent reminders about deadlines and upcoming events. We are also linked to the USAG, NAWGJ, Region 8, and other gymnastics related feeds, so you are bound to see epic videos and advertisements for upcoming regional, national, and international events. To follow our Facebook page and receive the latest and greatest content, search for our official Facebook page, 'NAWGJ Florida', go to the Page, and then click "Follow" or "Options," followed by "Follow".

2025 Media Policies

The media is everywhere! If you are ever in a situation where you are approached by the media for comment or you like to use social media to communicate what's on your mind, please adhere to the new media policies adopted for the 2025 season. They can be found in their entirety on the national NAWGJ website. What follows is a summary of some of the new policies:

- Only the NAWGJ President or any other individual designated by the NAWGJ President or Executive Committee is authorized to speak with the media. The NAWGJ President and the Executive Committee shall collaborate on message development and coordinate who will handle which press inquiries. However, if there is important news you believe our membership could benefit from and has not yet already been released, please submit this information via the Google media request form that can be found [here](#).
- When using social media, we always need to remember that we are ambassadors of NAWGJ and the sport of gymnastics. The judging community is therefore held to a high standard of professionalism, integrity, and impartiality. Always adhere to this standard while using Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, BlueSky, TikTok, and LinkedIn. Remember, before you post, ask yourself if your message is professional, non-biased, and respectful to all who may read it.

Thank you for reading and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to catching up with you in January!

Staying On Top Of It

2025 New Policies

Three Updated Policies, One New Policy & Two New Forms

1. Rules of Professional Conduct (updated): [NAWGJ-Rules-of-Professional-Conduct-Sept-6-2025.pdf](#)
2. Disciplinary Procedures (updated): [NAWGJ-Disciplinary-Procedures-Sept-1-2025.pdf](#)
3. Complaint Form (new): [Complaint Form](#)
4. Media Policy (updated): [NAWGJ-Media-Policy-Sept-6-2025.pdf](#)
5. Media Request Form (new): [Media Request Form](#)
6. Social Media Policy (new): [NAWGJ-Social-Media-Policy-Sept-6-2025.pdf](#)

Good friends celebrating Denise Weaver's retirement from judging with a trip to NYC – full of shopping, dining, a show and lots of laughter and love.



(L-R) Diane Thompson, Marci Kaplan, Karen Pleasants, Denise Weaver, Cynthia Davis, Sharyn Strickland



New & Exciting

Please give a nice warm welcome to these new judges who have joined our ranks. Say hello when you see them out on the floor or in the judging room. WELCOME ladies!



ROSEMARY LEE
Hollywood
Rated 4/5



CC SANTOS
Oviedo
Rated 4/5



LIANA ROMAN
Haines City
Rated 9



To everyone for
passing your judging
exam and moving up to
the next level!!



LIDIA ROSCA
New L8 Rating



MELEEKE JONES
New L8 Rating



SHARDAE LYLES
New L9 Rating



MICHELLE EIMMERMAN
New L9 Rating



VERONICA PERRY
New L10 Rating

FL NAWGJ Interview



In the Spotlight

by
Susan Lomas

Featuring
CARLOS SANCHEZ



We are all familiar with judges in our area. It's nice to learn about other judges living in our state. For this edition, the SPOTLIGHT is on Carlos Sanchez.

Carlos is a FIG Brevet - National DP judge, originally from Venezuela, and now lives in Miami. Carlos began judging in 2013 and has judged World Championships and the.... Olympics!

He says his favorite judging memory is when he judged his first World Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany in 2019. He says that trip will forever remain one of his best experiences and memories. Carlos was also a judge at the 2024 Paris Olympics. He said from the moment he received the invitation letter he was in shock for hours. When he finally judged the first routine of the qualification round on bars, his heart was about to stop - filled with excitement & joy.

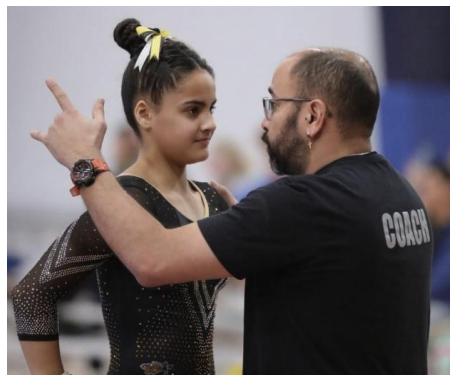
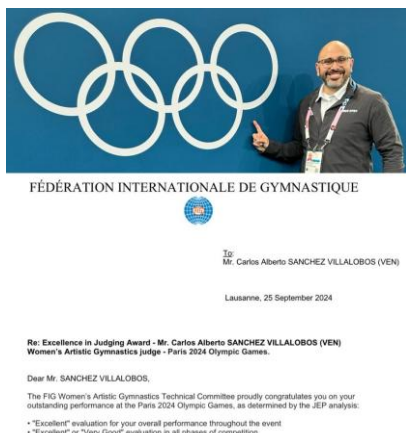
When Carlos is not judging he is the Competitive Director at Tumblebees Gymnastics and a member of the Pan American Gymnastics Union Women's Artistic Gymnastics Technical Committee.

Carlos takes judging as a huge responsibility. "As judges, we evaluate the work of athletes and coaches who have trained for years to earn the right score and placement, and that truly amazes me. I also feel honored to have the opportunity to be in a leadership position that allows me to help guide and support the gymnastics community across the continent."

His advice to new judges is always prepare yourself, study, and practice as much as you can. Trust your knowledge and the score you write on your paper. Learn to understand gymnastics as a culture, not just through the Code of Points.

When asked about his "hidden talents", Carlos says he can proudly say that he bakes. He has a small baking business with his husband. (Carlos, you will now be expected to share some of your baked goods with your fellow judges!)

Carlos enjoys spending time with his family at home and going to the beach. I asked him what a fun fact about himself that his fellow judges might not know and he said "LOL! I'm not sure - maybe that I can be a little bit crazy sometimes." Great answer Carlos!!!



What You Need To Know

NAWGJ -VS- USAG: Here is a side-by-side comparison how each type of insurance coverage works for you.

Insurance

Expand your legal protection: NAWGJ offers professional liability and D&O coverage, which USA Gymnastics does not.

Peace of mind during assignments: NAWGJ includes legal defense fees, subpoena response, lost wages, and per diem tailored to judges; USAG has no such coverage.

Robust event protection: NAWGJ provides broader protection, including general liability and insurance certificates for hosted events, covering more than USAG sanctioned events.

Maintains essential backbone: USAG's participant and catastrophic injury coverages still apply during USAG sanctioned events for USAG members.

Clear separation of roles: NAWGJ insures you when judging or performing judging related duties under its assignments; USAG covers participation at its events, not your actual judging duties.

Why Join NAWGJ?

Becoming a member of NAWGJ gives you critical and often exclusive protections, such as professional liability for judging, D&O coverage, and general liability for NAWGJ-hosted events. These complement (not replace) USA Gymnastics insurance, providing both personal and organizational coverage for your judging and volunteer roles.

Join NAWGJ now to protect yourself and your roles—whether judging, volunteering, or organizing events—with layered and comprehensive coverage.

+ Insurance Coverage Comparison: NAWGJ vs. USA Gymnastics

Coverage Area	NAWGJ ¹	USAG ²
Professional Liability (judging/critique errors)	✓ \$1 M per occurrence / \$1 M aggregate; covers negligence, errors, omissions while judging or critiquing under NAWGJ direction or assignment	✗ Not provided under USAG insurance; they do not insure professional service errors
General Liability (premises)	✓ \$1 M per occurrence / \$2 M aggregate (\$100K property limit); covers bodily injury/property damage during NAWGJ-run events in rented spaces	✓ USAG provides entity-level general liability for sanctioned events: \$1 M per occurrence, \$2 M aggregate, plus additional coverages
Event Coverage (Non-USAG Sanctioned)	✓ Covered if event is NAWGJ-sponsored or approved	✗ No coverage outside USAG-sanctioned events
Directors & Officers (D&O)	✓ \$1 M aggregate + \$250K excess for individuals; covers board members and volunteers against wrongful acts in NAWGJ roles	✗ No equivalent individual-level policy provided.
Subpoena Response & Legal Fees	✓ legal defense fees /subpoena response up to \$10K; includes lost wages and travel per diem (\$250/day, up to \$10K)	✗ Not provided under USAG insurance
Cyber Liability / Data Breach	✓ Covers unauthorized access to personal data (with exclusions)	✗ Not provided under USAG insurance
Participant Accident (athletes/coaches/judges)	✗ NAWGJ's coverage for bodily injury is limited; relies on primary event insurance (e.g., USAG or AAU), unless NAWGJ event.	✓ Secondary accident medical coverage up to \$50K (with \$500 deductible) for injuries at sanctioned events
Catastrophic Injury	✗ Not provided under NAWGJ insurance	✓ Coverage up to \$5M lifetime (after \$50K deductible) for severe injuries at USAG sanctioned events
Health / Major Medical / Dental / Vision	✗ Not provided under USAG insurance	✓ Optional group plans through Available through USAG Benefits Portal available to professional/coach/judge members and families
Event Sanction Insurance Certificates	✓ NAWGJ can issue a Certificate of Insurance when sponsoring events	✓ USA Gymnastics provides insurance as part of the sanctioning toolkit ; coverages apply when sanction is in place



Mystery of the Mats 2025 - 2026 Update

by

Cookie Batsche

featuring Linda Thorberg & Brad Harris



[Mystery of the Mats 2025-26 update - YouTube](#)

So Much Halloween FUN!!



Melissa, Kayla, Martha, Sara H (back)
Jessica (front), Phyllis, Jill, Susan M

SPOOKY GOLDEN TICKET Tumbleweeds Gymnastics Melbourne



FRIGHT NIGHT Twisters Gymnastics Coral Springs



Sharyn, Elena, Stephanie, Nikki,
Vicki, Jenn Y, Marci, Glenn



Dan & Christian (with Sharyn)
Starz Gymnastics



Caitlin & Sara – Orlando Gymnastics

Hello & Goodbye

CONGRATULATIONS
to Donna Ewing and
Sue Tonietto! They
have been selected to
attend the National
Judges' Cup meet in
California next January.
We know they will
represent FL NAWGJ
well and do us proud!



DONNA EWING
Level 10 Rating
Navarre



SUE TONIETTO
National Rating
Pompano Beach

The last Gene Stowe Invitational was held on November 8-9, 2025.
This marks the end of a beautiful era.



Along with all the judges listed above, this picture includes Patti Gross, her wonderful staff and the remarkable Val Hammond – a long-time friend and fellow judge to many of us.

Worth Watching



2025 NAWGJ National Meeting from USAG National Congress in New Orleans, LA. Presented by NAWGJ President, Teresa Barnard

[General Meeting 2025](#)



LEVEL 6/7 VAULT by Jan Eyman for the NAWGJ National Education Committee

[LEVEL 6-7 VAULT 2025 - The "Dynamic" Trio.mp4 - Google Drive](#)



Floor Exercise Dance Series by NAWGJ National Education Team: Winnie Witten, Jan Eyman, Marilyn Blilie & Myra Elfenbein

[FX Dance Series Executions \[Autosaved\].mp4 - Google Drive](#)

GREEN FLAG AWARD

The Green Flag Award is presented to a NAWGJ 'unsung hero' who has made outstanding contributions to our organization, promotes professionalism, and demonstrates leadership. Awards are given at the state, regional, and national levels.

This years' FL NAWGJ State Green Flag Award goes to Toni Rand for all her amazing contributions to our organization. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!



USA Gymnastics News



USA Gymnastics on Tuesday announced Kyle Albrecht as its next President and CEO. A national and international sports executive, he will begin his tenure January 1, 2026.

Read full article here: [Kyle Albrecht named USA Gymnastics President and CEO • USA Gymnastics](#)



REGION 8 CONGRESS

JUNE 26-28

Westin Atlanta Gwinnett
6450 Sugarloaf Pkwy
Duluth, Georgia 30096

Region 8 Congress Registration Information

Region 8 Congress will be held June 26-28, 2026 at the Westin Atlanta Gwinnett in Duluth, Georgia. Individual and Member Club Group pricing is available. Early Bird pricing is available through February 24, 2026. Online Registration Only.

Get the best discount available and register with the FL NAWGJ Group Rate at the link here – just click!

[2026 Region 8 Congress \(Duluth, GA\) Florida NAWGJ Group Registration Sign-up](#)

Judges On The Go



ALICIA SANCHEZ went to Istanbul, Turkey



Being in New England in October makes me feel like my soul is singing ❤️

SHARYN STRICKLAND went to New England



JUDGING IN EL SALVADOR

Katie Kollmeyer, Jenn Ynestroza, Jeanette Ciesla, Vicki Kramer

Calendar & Upcoming Events

December 5-7Level 1-2-5 State Meet, LaFleurs Largo, Winter Haven
December 5-7Level XB & XS State Meet, LaFleurs Largo, Winter Haven
December 5-7Radiant Classic, RAD Gymnastics, Silver Spurs OHP
December 12-14Level 3-4 State Meet, TBT, Bradenton Convention Cntr
December 13-14Light It Up Invite, Seaside @ Fit Club
December 19-21Holiday Classic, Orlando Metro @ Hyatt Grand Cypress
December 19-21Golden Sands Invite, Sarasota Gymnastics, Sarasota
December 20-21Under The Sea Invite, Coral Reef, Miami Beach
December 25Merry Christmas!!
December 31Last day to test – moratorium begins January 1, 2026
January 1, 2026.....HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
January 9-11FL Strong Invite, LCG, Winter Haven
January 9-11Vero Beach Coastal Classic, Max Velocity, Ft Pierce
January 10-11Bring The Heat Classic, Meet Expectations, Palm Coast
January 10-11Think Pink Invite, Gym Like This, Riveria Beach
January 10-112026 Cruise Classic, Park Avenue, Davie
January 16-18TBT Invite, TBT, Bradenton Convention Center
January 16-182026 Gym Force Classic, Gym Force, Tallahassee
January 23-25Sand Dollar Invite, Orlando Metro, Disney WWSC
January 23-25Acro For Autism 2026, DGA, Wesley Chapel
January 23-25Conquistador Classic, Emerald Coast, St Augustine WGV
January 23-252026 Chasing Gold Invite, EVO, Sarasota
January 30 – February 1...Sun & Surf Spectacular, USA Comp, Coral Springs
January 30 – February 1...Central FL Spirit Class, Spirit Gym, Winter Haven
January 30 – February 1...Daytona Beach Open, ACE, Daytona Ocean Center
January 31 – February 1...Heart Of Gold Invite, Legacy, Silver Spurs, OHC



~ Mark Your Calendar ~ Upcoming Events in 2026

- ❖ February 25, 2026: Deadline to enter 7-9-10 State Meets
- ❖ February 26, 2026: Deadline to enter 6-8-XP-XD-XSa State Meets
- ❖ March 18, 2026: Deadline to enter Xcel Bronze, Silver, Gold State Meets