

FL NAWGJ News



2026 • February ~ March • 2026

Celebrating FL NAWGJ Judges

Hi Judges!

We are definitely deep into the busy judging season! Thank you to everyone for accepting contracts and working many of these long exhausting days. We appreciate your hard work, diligence and commitment. States are in a few more months and hopefully everyone has gotten some judging time on their State events. Let your Assignor know ASAP if you need more.

Some things to keep in mind as we progress through the rest of the season:

- CPE is **DUE** to Kevn McNamara (kevn.kmm@gmail.com) by May 31 but can be turned in now if it's complete.
- Level 9/10 Regionals is in Bradenton over the weekend of April 10-12 and volunteers are needed. Jill Bosack will be sending out a sign-up form soon. Please help. We need you. You earn volunteer hours for CPE too!
- I have it on good authority (Evelyn) that updates and rule changes for the new cycle will be out sometime in April. May the studying begin!
- This edition's Spotlight is on Nelen Beck – read it on page 6

Here's our summer clinic schedule. Try to attend 1 or all. They're free for FL NAWGJ members.

- ❖ 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! Feel free to let me know if there's something you would like to share next time.

Happy reading !



Celebrating February & March Birthdays

Heather WilsonFebruary 5
Sharyn StricklandFebruary 7
Dawn CobbFebruary 8
Beverly Kamp.....February 8

Pamela Paredes Taylor ..February 13
Savannah PetersFebruary 16
Jenn YnestrozaFebruary 18
Cindy GwinnFebruary 25



Tabatha Richardson..... March 1
Martina Castro Lazo March 4
Phyllis Niemi March 7
Tiffany Jennings March 10
Cheyenne Harman..... March 13
Katerina Konvalinka..... March 14
Aimee Sparkman March 15
Sara Harp..... March 16
Lidia Rosca March 16
Kamryn Harrington March 18
Jill Andrews March 22



February 6, 2026

We want to wish a very special
Happy Birthday to Cookie
Batshe's lovely mom,

Ellen Nizzi

She turns 105
and is simply beautiful!

What is a Volunteer Coordinator?

Volunteer Coordinator



Jill Bosack



Special Olympics Regional Games October 2025

The volunteer coordinator assists in providing and communicating relevant volunteer opportunities to the Florida NAWGJ community to aid in completing annual CPE requirements. Judging-related volunteer hours earn required CPE credits and can be acquired in many ways including:

- Volunteering at a gymnastics competition
- Volunteering at USAG Congress
- Volunteering at a clinic or camp

A maximum of 4 hours of volunteering can be credited toward your annual CPE requirements. Please be sure to receive the following each time you volunteer:

- CPE Form (usagym.org)
- Verification signature from event coordinator, Meet Referee or Meet Director

Upcoming Opportunities (More info emailed very soon!)

Region 8: Level 9/10 Championships
Auxiliary Judges Needed
April 10-12, 2026
Bradenton Convention Center

Florida NAWGJ
XCEL Training Camp
July 25-26, 2026
Tampa Gymnastics & Dance



813-545-7195

Questions?



JMBOSACK@gmail.com

New Beginnings



AYA GRACE made her grand entrance on
December 19, 2025!
Congrats to Cat & Soufiane!



BABY HUDSON came into the world on **January 8, 2026!**
Congratulations to Nana Carrie and PopPop Jason.



Taylor & Chad's beautiful wedding.
January 10, 2026
Congratulations to the lovely couple
and parents Susan & Tom Lomas.



New & Exciting



**To these 2 ladies for passing
their judging exam and moving
up to the next level!!**



NICOLE MILLS
New L9 Rating



MARIA IANKOVA
New L10 Rating



**Questions that were recently
asked and answered.....**

Q: Level 2 Vault – do both hands need to be entirely over the line for it to be a -0.50 deduction?

A: Yes. This is unlike the Floor “out of bounds” deduction. BOTH hands must be over the line totally to take the 0.50.

Verified by Evelyn Chandler, Region 8 RTCC 1.13.26

Q: Xcel Bars – must the board be pulled after the glide and before the pullover?

A: Yes, just like compulsories. Otherwise it is a -0.30 CJ deduction.

Verified by Pam Kitchen, Region 8 RXCC 1.24.26



50 Golden Seconds of NAWGJ Judges (click)

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of NAWGJ, judges contributed a 50 second video describing a special time or a good memory about judging. Many are humorous and some are emotional, but they all tell a story about the importance of judging gymnastics for these NAWGJ members.

FL NAWGJ Interview



In the Spotlight

by

Susan Lomas

Featuring
NELENA BECK



Nelena is a National Judge that has been judging since 1985. She lives in Chiefland, FL with her hubby Phillip and her 13-year-old granddaughter who is her favorite and is really like her 3rd child from another mother.

Nelena loves judging gymnastics because it lets her stay in the sport and see her judging friends. When Nelena is not judging she is teaching Science at Dixie County Middle High School in Cross City, FL. She teaches Physical Science to 9th graders and Environmental Science to 11th and 12th graders. She's been involved with teaching at all ages whether it be in gymnastics, in Girl Scouts, in a school setting or in church. Nelena's superpower is developing relationships and showing others that they are loved and valued.

Her favorite memory of the Olympics is the 1972 Olympics with Olga Korbut. She was only 9 years old and had just started gymnastics at her local YMCA. Olga did her famous bar routine with the famous back flip from a stand on the high bar followed by a low bar wrap and eagle reverse grab on the high bar to end finally with her back flip over the low bar. Look it up on YouTube. It is an amazing routine. Her hips still hurt from trying to be like Olga.

Nelena had a hard time giving us her "favorite" judging memory but did share a story of one of her judging weekends. - She was extremely sick with double pneumonia for the Presidential Classics several years ago. Instead of pulling off of 4 day meet she decided she was super woman and could do the job. Day two, she was deathly ill. she could hardly breathe without excruciating pain. Session 2 on Saturday, she went to the judging table and crawled under the table drape and lay in pain with the ice on her ribs to try to get relief. Her BFF, Nikki, brought the first squad of athletes to her table and lifted the cover to expose her. Nikki announced to the athletes, "this is my friend, she is going to judge you on beam in a few minutes. All she could do was lay there in a pitiful mess. She endured all 4 days but was miserable. She spent the next week in bed trying to recover.

Her advice to new judges is that Judging gymnastics is not for the weak of heart. It is so important for the athletes to get a fair evaluation of their performance. Our job is critical to building young athletes and supporting the sport of gymnastics. Always prepare yourself before the meet, do your best for each athlete, and forgive yourself quickly when you screw up. It happens to all of us.

Nelena doesn't really do anything to unwind. She is the "ever ready bunny" ~ she never stops. She would like to travel to Alaska for a helicopter ride to the glacier, and Hawaii to see the volcanoes and beautiful beaches. Sounds nice!



National Judge's Cup 2026



SUE TONNIETTO

Attending the National Judges Cup was a truly meaningful experience for me and a great reminder of how strong and connected our judging/gymnastics community is. It's always reassuring to see that what I know and value about judging is shared by judges across the country, no matter where we come from. Serving as head judge in a national setting felt incredibly empowering and affirmed the trust and responsibility that come with the role. I also loved meeting new judges from around the country while reconnecting with familiar faces from Florida who have since moved on, including Diana Barbosa and Brittany Shaw—it really highlighted how our paths continue to cross no matter where judging takes us. The shared standards, conversations, and sense of community made the experience especially rewarding and reminded me why I'm proud to be part of this group. It was also nice to have a free day to experience more than the judging venue with an LA city tour. I am very grateful to Florida NAWGJ for giving me the opportunity to attend the NJC.



It was a fantastic adventure from start to finish. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to meet new judges and watch high-level gymnastics. It was an honor to represent the state of Florida, and I am so grateful for the entire experience.

Although the weather was not perfect Suzanne and I managed to get out for a movie and In & Out burgers.

The meet was very well attended and ran very smoothly.



DONNA EWING



Check It Out

[What-Not-To-Say-for-Judges-1](#)

[2025-Green-Flag-Awards.pdf](#)

[Compensation-Package-72.5-cents-Updated-
January-2026.pdf](#)

[Rapid Review Videos – National Association of
Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

[Lev-6-10-Lefty-UP-BB-FX-Scoresheets-DH-
12.25.pdf](#)

[Lev-6-10-Righty-UP-BB-FX-Scoresheets-DH-
12.25.pdf](#)

[Election Guide 2025 Final](#)

USA Gymnastics News



Important Exam Notice: 2026-2030 Women's Artistic Judges Accreditation: Levels 6-10

As of January 1, 2026, a moratorium began on all Level 7–10 exams. This pause is necessary to support the transition to a new testing platform and to prepare for the upcoming 2026–2030 Development Code of Points.

Starting August 1, 2026, both the Written AND Practical exams for Levels 6–10 will be moving to an online-only format. When testing resumes, earning a Level 8 rating will require completion of three components:

1. A prerequisite Level 6/7 Written exam
2. A Level 8 Written exam
3. A Level 8 Practical exam

Levels 9 & 10 will continue to require both a Written & Practical exam to earn a rating. Throughout the pause in testing for Levels 7-10, the Compulsory Level 4/5 exam will continue to be available.

Women's Artistic Member Updates

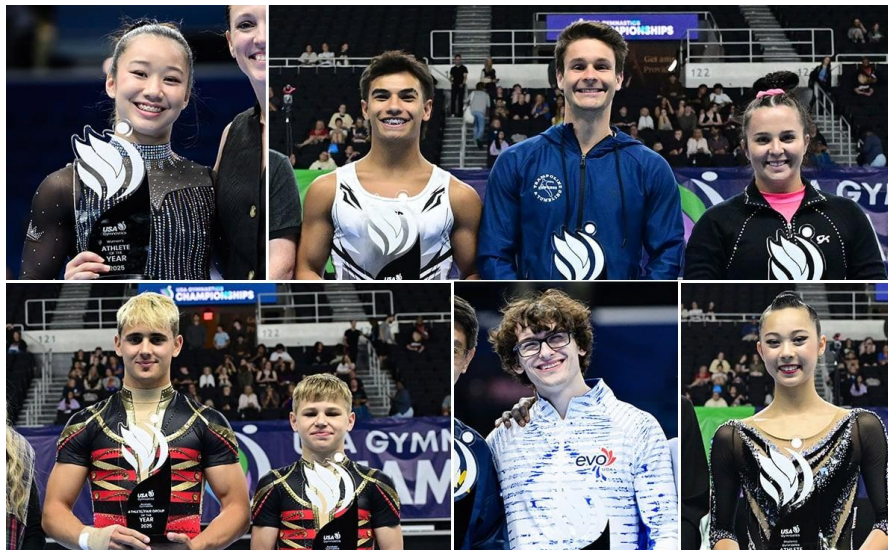
Posted: December 3, 2025

Get ahead of the game and read about recommendations that apply to the judges' course forms for National Categories 1–4 for the next cycle and unless otherwise noted, updates & recommendation for change are effective November 1, 2025.

[Technical Committee minutes from Nov. 7-9, 2025 \(PDF\)](#)

**[USA Gymnastics
honors its 2025
annual award
recipients](#)**

Click above to read more.



Calendar & Upcoming Events

February 6-8.....2026 Leyva Cup, Leyva Gymnastics, Miami Springs
February 6-8.....2026 Princess Classic, Horizon Gymnastics, Punta Gorda
February 6-8.....Miami Grit Classic, Tumblebees, Miami
February 7-8.....Arabian Nights Invite, Genie's, Wellington
February 13-15.....2026 Magical Classic, Brown's, Orlando Marriott
February 13-15.....2026 Destin Beach Invite, Panhandle Perfection, Ft Walton
February 13-16.....Presidential Classic, USA Competition, Disney
February 13-16.....Edgewater Beach Resort Invite, Edgewater Gymnastics
February 14.....Valentine's Day
February 20-22.....Charity Challenge Cup, LCG, Ocala
February 20-22.....Coral Reef Invite, Coral Reef Gymnastics, Sunrise
February 26-March 1....City of Lights, Orlando Metro, Universal Double Tree
February 27-March 1....Tim Rand Invite, USA Competition, Ft Lauderdale
February 27-March 1....The Cup Of Grace, RAD, Kissimmee Silver Spur
March 6-8.....Gasparilla Classic, LCG, Tampa Convention Center
March 6-8.....That Sea Turtle Meet, Meet Destinations, Panama City
March 13-15.....FL Crown Championships, USA Comp, Coral Springs
March 13-15.....Rock Superstar 2026, FL Lauderdale Stars, Ft Lauderdale
March 13-15.....Starlight Starbright, Starlight, Jacksonville
March 13-15.....All Handstands On Deck, Bayside, St Petersburg
March 14-15.....2026 Leprechaun Classic, Meet Expectations, Longwood
March 17.....St. Patrick's Day
March 20-22.....Level 7/9/10 State Meet, USA Comp, Coral Springs
March 20-22.....March Madness Invite, LCG, Winter Haven
March 27-29.....Level 8/6/XP/XD/XSAP State Meet, LCG, Alachua
March 28-29.....Spring Forward Invite, Maximum Velocity, TBD



~ Mark Your Calendar ~ Upcoming Events in 2026

- ❖ April 20, 2026: Easter
- ❖ May 31, 2026: CPE due to Kevn McNamara (kevn.kmm@gmail.com)
- ❖ May 31, 2026: National/Brevet Testing Clinic in Orlando