

USA GYMNASTICS CODE OF POINTS

General, Pages 3-5, **MEET REFEREE** (may also serve as a Chief Judge)

1. A Meet Referee (MR), or acting MR, MUST be designated at all Dev Program sanctioned competitions.
2. If MR also serves as Chief Judge (CJ), she/he will receive an additional fee of \$10 per day at any sanctioned meet. **There is no additional fee for Assistant MR.**
3. Meet Referee Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. If requested, assists in conducting the draw prior to or at coaches' meeting (depending on the organization of meet) at regional or national competitions, in conjunction with:
 - 1) Appropriate USA Gymnastics Officer, and/or
 - 2) Meet Director
 - b. Serves as liaison between coaches and judges. Must attend coaches meeting (or designate a proxy) at state, regional and national competitions.
 - c. Conducts the judges' meeting prior to competition using the MR checklist.
 - 1) Presents the USA Gymnastics base score video for analysis at state and above meets.
 - The base score video file can be obtained electronically from the USA Gymnastics RTCC, the SACC/RACC or the State/Regional NAWGJ Director.
 - 2) Reviews the following procedures with judges:
 - a) Logistics of meet/scoring system, meet mechanics, etc.
 - b) Rule changes
 - c) Equipment issues
 - d) Information from Meet Director
 - e) Professional protocol reminder
 - d. Assigns Chief and panel judges to their respective events, as requested by SAC or RAC for State and Regional Championships. It is strongly recommended that SAC/RAC assign the duty of event assignments to the designated MR.
 - 1) Criteria for assignment MUST be followed.
 - 2) If MR is also Chief Judge, the assigning official may make the event assignments.
 - 3) At local, pre-sectional and sectional meets, assigning official may make event assignments.
 - e. May observe and/or give opinion during conferences.
 - f. Is available for counsel, upon request of Chief Judge.
 - g. May counsel Chief Judge when, in her/his opinion, the average score and/or score of CJ seems out of line with scoring in the competition.
 - h. May recommend, but never force, a change of any score.
 - i. Corrects and signs official score sheets after any change of score.
 - j. Gives any technical or judging information pertinent to competition to MD or organizing committee for distribution.
 - k. Acts as final authority in all technical matters involving judges, timers, line judges, flashers and event tabulators.

- l. Notates a warning given by CJ concerning incorrect attire or signaling with a verbal cue. She/he will then notify CJ on the other events that a warning has been given so that appropriate deductions may be applied.
- m. Upon notification from CJ, issues a warning to coach for unsportsmanlike conduct. Follow USAG Safe Sport policy and coaches' behavior policy in Rules & Policies. This would also be applied for excessive cheers and/or behavior of teammates, or the coach who is disruptive to the competition.
- n. Serves as authority during the Inquiry and Video Review process.
- o. Serves as president of Jury of Appeals.
- p. Will be available for a minimum of five minutes following last competitor's exercises to deal with questions or concerns with technical decisions and/or judges' scores.
- q. May be an affiliated judge.
- r. Indicates any violations of Rule & Policies on the sanction report form or notifies USAG Member Services directly in writing by email.
- s. Is responsible for compiling and checking information regarding judges' fees and expenses for MD.
- t. Checks with scoring personnel to verify that scores for all gymnasts are entered and all inquiries have been resolved.
- u. Issues a warning to coach and notifies MD if she/he observes more than one gymnast on UB at the same time during any warn-up (timed or 30-second touch).
- v. Monitors judging panels to ensure appropriate use of electronic tablets for judging and reference purposes.
- w. Determine with MD the designated time for judging panels to leave and to return to field of play between sessions.
 - Judges are required to remain on the competition floor until MR releases them to begin break time. Break time is compensated; therefore the judge MUST remain on site.
- x. In conjunction with MD, assess the situation to make an appropriate call regarding additional warm-up time due to a delay of competition on the field of play (i.e. equipment failure, athlete injury, unforeseen circumstances, etc.) sessions.

USA GYMNASTICS RULES & POLICIES

Pages 63-65, Chapter 6 – GENERAL MEET INFORMATION (DEV & XCEL)

G. SCORING

7. Once the final average score is submitted to the scoring system, it may not be changed unless an inquiry is submitted and results in a score change.
 - a. A Chief Judge may change a score after submission to the scoring system IF a neutral deduction (such as out of bounds or overtime) was inadvertently not applied. This change must occur prior to the end of the rotation. The coach must be notified of the score change and if possible, the new score should be displayed to the public.
 - b. If a judge realizes that a gymnast was mistakenly judged using the incorrect rules for her level, the routine may be re-evaluated using the appropriate rules to determine the correct Start Value and specific compositional deductions, based on the judges' shorthand. This re-evaluation must occur within 5 minutes of the end of the competition for that session. The judging panel must notify the Meet Referee and the scoring personnel that the re-evaluation is to occur. The coach must be notified immediately of any score change.
 - c. If there is a clerical error when entering scores electronically, the score may be officially changed by the end of the session.
 - d. At State Championships and above: In extenuating situations, the **Meet Referee** has the authority to allow a judging panel to review a routine to verify that Special Requirements were fulfilled and restricted elements were NOT performed. The coach must be notified that a review will occur. No additional deductions are allowed to be taken by a judge after the review if the Special Requirement(s) in question is (are) awarded.

H. INQUIRY REGULATIONS

1. Coaches are entitled to see all scores of their individual gymnasts. Inquiries may be based ONLY on the following criteria
 - a. DEV Compulsories - Incorrect elements, evaluation of major elements, falls, neutral deductions or unusual occurrences.
 - b. DEV Optionals - Awarding of Start Value, specific "flat" compositional deductions, falls, neutral deductions or unusual occurrences.
 - c. Xcel – Awarding of Start Value, specific "falls", neutral deductions, or unusual occurrences.
 - d. A flash from a camera is not a valid reason to allow a gymnast to repeat a routine.
2. The Meet Director must provide inquiry forms at a place designated at the coaches meeting. The form is available on the USA Gymnastics website [HERE](#) or from any SACC.
3. A **Meet Referee** may watch a video (if available) prior to the submission of an inquiry to determine if that inquiry should move forward.
4. Inquiries MUST be submitted to the Meet Director or **Meet Referee** within 5 minutes of the completion of the squad's competition on that event.
 - a. No fee may be charged to submit an inquiry.
 - b. Coaches need to be aware that an inquiry allows for a 2nd evaluation, which may result in: 1) no change in score, 2) the score being raised, 3) the score being lowered.

c. Exception to the 5-minute to submit inquiry rule:

- 1) If, after the completion of the last event, an athlete's AA score is a maximum of 0.10 less than the qualifying score to the State (or Regional) Championships, the coach may submit an inquiry for the gymnast's lowest scoring event in order that the athlete be considered for qualification purposes. Any change of score is official and is included in the final results.

- Applies only to AA athletes, not applicable to IES athletes.
- Process CANNOT be used to qualify to Level 9 Eastern/Western or Level 10 National Championships.

- 2) If an athlete begins her fourth event, is injured during the routine and unable to complete her fourth event, she may petition to Regionals if her score from her first three (3) events is equal to or greater than 75% of the required petition score.

Example: Regional Qualifying Score = 34.00. Required petition score = 35.00. The athlete must achieve a three-event score totaling 26.25.

Example: Regional Qualifying Score = 35.00. Required petition score = 36.00. The athlete must achieve a three-event score totaling 27.00.

- 3) These processes listed in sections 1) and 2) above DO NOT APPLY:

- a) for mobility purposes, OR
- b) if qualification to the state or regional meet is by percentage (%) or designated number per age group.

5. After the Chief Judge has completed the response to the inquiry, the **Meet Referee** or Meet Director will return the form to the coach. The coach may NOT approach the judge regarding the inquiry during the competition.

VIDEO REVIEW

6. No video review is allowed at any DEV or Xcel competition during the processing of an inquiry UNLESS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- a. At all sanctioned competitions, a coach can request video review by the **Meet Referee** and the highest rated **judge unaffiliated with that event** (if video is available) if the inquiry involves possibility that the judges missed an element that would affect the Start Value. The video review process may NOT be used to appeal a judgment of degree assessment, i.e., degree of casts, handstands, incomplete turns, direct connection of elements, or leg separation in leaps as well as other like skills.

- 1) If the **Meet Referee** or highest rated judge is affiliated with the athlete in question, the video review will be conducted by the two highest rated **judges unaffiliated with the athlete**, or the highest rated unaffiliated judge and a USA Gymnastics officer.
- 2) The **Meet Referee** must inform the judging panel that a video review will be initiated as well as the final decision. Examples:
 - a) All judges did not record a full turn on BB.
 - b) One or more judges recorded a 2/1 twist instead of 3/1 twist on FX.
 - c) To verify if the gymnast grasps or touches the bar with one or two hands before falling on a release element.

- d) To verify if the gymnast lands on the bottom of the feet first on Vault, Uneven Bar/Balance Beam dismounts, Beam Acro elements that finish on top of the Beam (foot/feet), and Floor Exercise saltos.
 - For DEV Levels 8-10 and Xcel divisions ONLY: Immediate video review is allowed (if available and decisive) when the first vault is awarded a zero (0) for failure to land on any part of the bottom of the feet first. The review MUST be completed prior to attempting the 2nd vault.
 - e) To consider spotting deductions.
 - f) To consider floor line violations.
 - g) To consider floor exercise overtime deductions. ▪ To submit an inquiry for an overtime deduction, a coach MUST provide a video of the routine in question.
7. At Xcel State Meet and above, a coach can request a video review by the **Meet Referee** and the highest rated unaffiliated judge (if video is available) if the inquiry involved an instance that would affect the Start Value.
8. If administrative procedures (see below) were not properly followed on a submitted inquiry, the coach may petition the Jury of Appeals for a review WITHIN 5 MINUTES of the end of the rotation/competition or the return of the inquiry form whichever occurs later. At State Championships and above, a video review (if available) may be considered by the Jury of Appeals. ~~All videos must be reviewed in regular time. Slow motion WILL NOT be considered.~~ **A video may be viewed in regular, slow motion, or freeze frame to evaluate items that are allowed under video review. This would also apply to the inquiry process where a Meet Referee may watch a video to determine if the inquiry should move forward (5/12/26).** Jury decision should occur within 15 minutes after the conclusion of meet and before the awards are presented. Procedures for Inquiries:
- a. Properly written inquiry form by the coach.
 - b. Inquiry submitted in a timely manner to the Meet Referee or Meet Director.
 - c. Inquiry reviewed/answered by the judging panel of the event in question.
 - d. Inquiry returned to **Meet Referee** or Meet Director.
 - e. **Meet Referee** or Meet Director returns inquiry to coach by hand or by a pre-defined inquiry return procedure.

- I. JURY OF APPEALS** 1. The Jury of Appeals is needed to resolve problems in certain situations. The Jury of Appeals for local meets and State Championships is comprised of the following individuals:
- a. Meet Director (non-voting if question relates to his/her gymnast)
 - b. **Meet Referee** (President of the Jury)
 - c. Chief Judge of the Event in question
 - d. If available, one USA Gymnastics representative (Elected State or higher Committee member or any Regional or National Officer)
2. Methods of settling a case by the Jury:
- a. Discussion
 - b. Voting on a decision
 - c. Majority vote dictates the final decision.

3. Jury of Appeals for Regional and above competitions shall include the Meet Director (unless affiliated with the inquiry), the **Meet Referee**, and the USA elected Administrative Officers.

J. Justification for changing a score because of a conference, inquiry, or Jury of Appeals:

1. If an error (mathematical, recording, or flashing) exists.
2. If the average score was computed from scores that were out of range.
3. If time and/or line violations were administered improperly.
4. If the Jury of Appeals decides to penalize the gymnast for improper attire or behavior, or the coach for improper behavior.
5. If the video review panel determines that an incorrect evaluation has been made.

USA GYMNASTICS MINUTES

Approved Decisions Affecting MR Responsibilities

2022

VAULT (Levels 8 – 10 ONLY) – Recommendation to allow immediate **Video Review** (if available and decisive) when the first vault is awarded a zero (0) for failure to land on any part of the bottom of the feet first. Review must be completed prior to attempting 2nd vault.

Motion: Kittia Carpenter (R5 Dev) Second: Gigi Iavarone (R1 Tech) PASSED

FLOOR - Recommendation to require **Video Review**, if video is available, when submitting an inquiry for Floor Exercise overtime deductions.

Motion: Gigi Iavarone (R1 Tech) Second: Evelyn Chandler (R8 Tech) PASSED

ALL EVENTS – Recommendation to allow **Video Review** at Xcel State Meets and above if a missing Special Requirement is reflected in a lower Start Value, after a written inquiry has been submitted.

Motion: Jill Preston (R1-XC) Second: Jane Caruso (R7-TC) FOR – 7 / AGAINST – 7 / ABSTAIN – 2:

The vote resulted in a Tie

The motion then went to NTCC & NXCC for Tie Breaker – FOR-1 / AGAINST-1 The motion will advance to the Women's Program Committee for a vote.

2023

Rules & Policies (R&P) - **VIDEO REVIEW**: Recommendation to add in the Rules & Policies Page 68 after #5 ; In addition, at Xcel State Meet and above, a coach can request a video review by the **Meet Ref** and the highest rated unaffiliated judge (if video is available) in the event that the inquiry involved an instance that would affect the start value.

Motion: Jill Preston (R1-Xcel) Second: Sue Kane (R5 - Tech) PASSED

R&P: Recommendation to add regarding scoring: At a State meet and above, a **Meet Referee** has the authority to allow a judging panel to review a routine to verify that Special Requirements were fulfilled and restricted elements were not performed.

Motion: Sue Kane (R5 - Tech) Second: Gail Caspare (R6 - Xcel) PASSED

R&P: Recommendation to add: A **Meet Referee** may watch a video (if available) prior to the submission of an inquiry to determine if that inquiry should move forward.

Motion: Jane Caruso (R7 - Tech) Second: Pam Kitchen (R8 - Xcel) PASSED

2024

Recommendation to update the Women's Program Rules & Policies (R&P) and add to the DEV Code of Points (DEV COP): Any situation regarding additional warm-up time due to a delay of competition on the field of play (i.e. equipment failure, athlete injury, unforeseen circumstances, etc.); the Meet Director, in conjunction with the **Meet Referee**, will assess the situation to make an appropriate call regarding additional warm-up time.

Motion: Laurie Reid (R2 - Tech) Second: Paige Roth (R4 - Dev) PASSED

GENERAL / VIDEO REVIEW - Recommendation to update the DEV & XCEL COP and R&P: Allow the judging panel to review the submitted video once the video review process has been finalized.

Motion: Windee Weiss (R4 - Tech) Second: Kittia Carpenter (R5 - Dev) PASSED

GENERAL / VIDEO REVIEW: Recommendation to update the R&P and add to the **Xcel COP**: If a video review results in the awarding of a Special Requirement or Value Part: The judging panel may apply deductions related only to the reason for the video review. Additional deductions for execution are not applied.

Motion: Pat Panichas (R6 - Tech) Second: Jill Preston (R1 - Xcel) PASSED

2026

Recommendation to allow the video review process to review a video in regular, slow motion, or freeze frame to evaluate items that are allowed under video review. This would also apply to the inquiry process where a **Meet Referee** may watch a video to determine if the inquiry should move forward.

Motion: Megan Bankole (R4 - Xcel) Second: Jane Caruso (R7 - Tech) PASSED