

Dear Prospective Judge,

Thank you for expressing interest in becoming a Women's Artistic Gymnastics Judge! My name is Rebecca Callaway, and I'd like to welcome you to the Southern California Judging community on behalf of the National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges Southern California (NAWGJ-SC). As the Education Committee Chairman, I will be your go-to contact person as you navigate the new judge certification process. Please search for and like our Facebook page to get started: "Southern California Women's Gymnastics Judges".

The first and most important step in becoming a new judge is passing a judging certification exam to obtain a "rating". We recommend beginning with the Compulsory exam, which covers levels 4 and 5, but also certifies you to judge level 3. There is no test date scheduled locally for 2016 yet— but we will keep you posted when one is scheduled. At that time, you can register for the exam here: https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging_accreditation.html

The compulsory exam consists of fifty multiple choice questions covering general deductions, the order of elements in the compulsory routines, skill values, and specific deductions within the routines (10 questions on General Info, 10 on Vault, and 5 questions on UB, BB & FX for each of the two levels). It is a "closed-book" exam--you will need to memorize deductions, skill values, etc in order to obtain a passing grade. Again, the exam is strictly memorization, and a gymnastics background is a plus for understanding the deductions and the language used to describe them! The exam is straightforward--if you the commit all deductions, skill values, and routines to memory you will be adequately prepared. A score of 70 percent is required to successfully obtain a judging rating (Level 1-5) and proceed with the new judge process. You may take an exam for the same level only 4 times in the same Accreditation year (Aug. 1 to July 31). After August 1 of each year, all examinees start with the A1 version.

- Version A1 - 1st time taking exam - you do not need a results letter.
- Version B1 - 2nd time taking exam - results letter from version A1 needed.
- Version A2 - 3rd time taking exam - results letter from version B1 needed.
- Version B2 - 4th time taking exam - results letter from version A2 needed.

Obtaining a copy of the current compulsory code of points is critical. The book is available for purchase on the USAG site or for download on a tablet. (See USAG web site for details). In addition to reviewing the Compulsory Code of Points, there are several online study tools that we recommend using as you prepare for the test:

1. Practice written exams can be found here: <http://www.nawgjwa.com/tests2.html>
 - a. Note that these are the same types of questions that you can expect to see on the actual exam. We believe that familiarizing yourself with the question format is very helpful!
2. Online flashcards are available on Quizlet here: <http://quizlet.com/>. Type in "Learning the 2013-2021 USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Compulsory Program" in the search bar. Follow directions to join the class
3. Old Fashioned flash cards can be purchased from the NAWGJ library.
<http://www.nawgj.org/Library%20Price%20List%202015%20V2%20LINKS.pdf>

The price is \$30 + \$6 shipping for the 390 cards listing all general and specific deductions for Levels 4 & 5 along with elements in order, element values, and points of emphasis for each. Send checks payable to Judging Things. Mail to: Brenda Eberhardt, NAWGJ Library Judging Things, 4008 Ellen Drive, Marrero, LA, 70072-6222

4. Lots of free things on the NAWGJ web site!
http://www.nawgj.org/education_corner_study_aids.php

Please note that these study tools may contain errors as the USAG Compulsory Book contains several updates. The USAG Compulsory Errata contains the most up-to-date changes, and can be found here: <https://usagym.org/pages/women/events/iocompulsories/>

Additionally, the NAWGJ-SC Education Committee hosts test prep workshops prior to testing to get you ready. We will notify you when the next one of these will be. These study sessions are a great opportunity to review deductions with other potential judges and ask any questions you may have.

Registration for the judging exam can be completed online on the USAG website or by mail. Please note that registration must be completed two weeks prior to the exam date. Detailed registration information can be found here:
https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/judging_accreditation.html

Following certification is the minimum requirement for Southern California that you practice judge two meets – more about that later. The getting started process does involve some upfront costs of approximately \$150, including prep materials and one test fee. However, we have a reimbursement program for new judges to help you with these costs.

Please feel free to contact the education committee at socalnewjudge@gmail.com if you have any questions! We're excited to have you join our organization and share your passion for the sport of gymnastics!

More information about this process will soon be available and shared with you thru Google docs. Please stay tuned for more information. Hopefully this information contained here is enough to get you started

Sincerely,

Rebecca Callaway
Kristin Alexy
Lauren Seligman

NAWGJ So Cal Education Committee