Judges Certification for the 2016-2017 Season

At the start of each Olympic cycle, all judges from Junior Olympic level 3-6 through Brevet are required to renew their judging certification. Below are details outlining the recertification process for the 2016-2017 competitive season. For additional judges information and regulations, please see the Rhythmic Rules and Policies (R&P), Chapter 4.

Junior Olympic Levels 3-6 and 7/8

Important Dates
- Weekend of October 29-30, 2016 – JO Online Course Part 1
- Weekend of November 5-6, 2016 – JO Online Course Part 2
- November 7, 2016 – JO Exam Registration Deadline
- Sunday November 13th – JO Live Exams
- March 11 or 12, 2016 – JO Retesting Opportunity (Indianapolis, IN)

Course
There will be a four-part Junior Olympic Judges/Coaches Course held online via webinar. The online courses are mandatory for all prospective judges. Please note: the webinar software has the ability to track participation. Only judges who have engaged in the full duration of the course(s) for their level, will be eligible to take the exams. Pre-registration and a $25 participation fee will be required to join the online courses. Online registration is available here <LINK TO REGISTRATION PAGE>.

Junior Olympic Course Parts 1&2 – Level 3-6 & 7/8
October 29th and October 30th, 2016
- Online via webinar
- Plan for a full two days of courses
- These webinars are mandatory for everyone planning to take the Level 3-6 and/or Level 7/8 exams

Junior Olympic Course Parts 2&3 – Level 7/8
November 5th and November 6th, 2016
- Online via webinar
- Plan for a full two days of courses
- These webinars are mandatory for everyone planning to take the Level 7/8 exam

Exam Details
Live judging exams for Junior Olympic Levels 3-6 and 7/8 will be held on Sunday, November 13th in six locations. All prospective judges must take part in a written and practical exam at one of these locations.
Exam Registration
There will be two parts to the exam registration:
1) online registration/payment
2) submission of a completed judges log.
Please carefully read the additional registration information below.

1. Online Registration and Payment – **Deadline Monday, November 7th, 2016 at 11:59pm EST**
   a. Registration will be conducted through the USA Gymnastics website
   b. There will be separate registrations for each testing location. **Be sure to register for the correct exam(s)!**
      i. Note that your eligibility for participation in the Level 7/8 exam is also dependent on submission of a completed judges log by the deadline.
   c. Online registration will open in October.

2. Submission of Judges Log
   a. **The 2016 deadline for submission of judging logs has been changed to Monday, November 7th for all participants taking the Level 7/8 exam.** This will allow USA Gymnastics to ensure that registrants meet eligibility requirements.
      i. Rhythmic Program Coordinator (Jayme Vincent) – jvincent@usagym.org
      ii. National Judges Representative (Stefanie Korepin) – skorepin@heca.com
      iii. Your appropriate Regional Judging Coordinator
          - Region 1 – Catherine Yakhimovich (katehbka@hotmail.com)
          - Region 2 – OPEN (send to Joyce Chaplin - joycechaplin@hotmail.com)
          - Region 3 – Melissa Akash (melbecker777@gmail.com)
          - Region 4 – Elena Savenkova (esavenko@twcny.rr.com)
          - Region 5 – Ellen Nyemcsik (Rgincorp@aol.com)
          - Region 6 – Rebecca Lavender (rebeccawallenstein@yahoo.com)
   c. **Judges Log:**

Grading
Grading of exams will be done anonymously in the USA Gymnastics office. Participants will be given a number at the start of the exam. Only this number (no names) will be written on the exam and answer sheets.
Following the exam, the list of names and numbers will be sent directly to the USA Gymnastics Judges’ Representative. All exams and answer sheets will be sent to the USA Gymnastics office for grading. At the completion of grading, scores for each participant number will be sent to the USA Gymnastics Judges’ representative for distribution of results.

Exam Details
The written exam will be a closed-book test. Be sure to study and know the material ahead of time.

For any prospective judges who do not pass their initial judging exams, a re-testing opportunity for Level 3-6 and 7/8 will be available in Indianapolis the weekend of March 11-12, 2017. Additional information will be released prior to the re-testing date.

Tips for Success

- **Study, study, study!** The online judging courses are a great learning tool, however, they do not take the place of proper studying. Be sure to read and understand the JO Handbook prior to the online courses.
- **Practice judging.** In preparation for the practical portion of the exam, be sure to practice judging on videos. There will be opportunities to practice during the online course, but you should work on this independently also to be fully prepared.

Extenuating Circumstances

It is understood that some individuals may have truly extenuating circumstances limiting them from watching on all of the mandatory course dates or testing on the official exam date. Examples of such circumstances would be a death in the family, hospitalization, etc. Regular work schedules, social events, etc., are not considered extenuating circumstances.

Individuals with an extenuating circumstance may send a petition the Rhythmic Program Coordinator [Caroline Hunt, chunt@usagym.org] and the National Judges Representative [Stefanie Korepin, skorepin@heca.com]. The petition must include:

1. A short description of the circumstance
2. Proof of the extenuating circumstance (doctor’s note, plane ticket, obituary, etc.)

Any individual whose petition is approved will have the option to watch a recording of the course and take the exam in Indianapolis, IN on December 11, 2016.

**National**

The National Judges Course will be held in Indianapolis March 5-9, 2017. Judges must meet the eligibility requirements listed in the table below. Additional details will be published as they are available.

**Brevet**

Participation in the Brevet courses is by invitation only.

Intercontinental Course (Baku, AZE): January 16-22, 2017
International Brevet Course (Indianapolis, IN): March 6-10, 2017

**Eligibility**

See the eligibility information below (from the Rhythmic R&P) to determine which exams you are eligible to take.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judge Rating</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3-6</td>
<td>• Must be 16 years of age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 7-8</td>
<td>• Must be 16 years of age, <strong>and</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Be an active Level 3-6 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational Meet and 1 State Meet, <strong>or</strong></td>
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- Be a coach of a gymnast who competed at the JO Championships (Individual) during the previous or current cycle, **or**
- Have a current Level 7-8 rating

| National | • Must be 18 years of age, and
|          | • Be and active Level 7-8 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational, 1 State Meet and 1 Regional Meet, **or**
|          | • Be a coach of an athlete who competed at the Elite National Championships or Challenge within the past 5 years, **or**
|          | • Have been a member of the US National Team during the current or previous cycle, **or**
|          | • Have a current National rating

| Brevet   | • The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) administers the test, which is by invitation only.

**Note:** It is not required to be a USA Gymnastics Professional Member before taking the course/exams. After passing the exam[s], a judge must become USA Gymnastics Professional Member before they are added to the official judges list and assigned to competitions.

Judges must fully recertify at every level they wish to judge. This is achieved by participating in the full judging course and passing the applicable practical and written exams at each level. For example, if a judge takes the National course and exam, but not Level 3-6 or 7/8, they will not be eligible to judge any Junior Olympic Level 3-8 events.

Judges testing into Level 3-6, 7/8, or National for the first time will have a Provisional rating. They must complete a practical judging experience within their first year of certification. Additional details regarding provisional ratings and practical judging experiences can be found in Chapter 4, Section 1 of the Rhythmic R&P.

**Resources**

**Junior Olympic Handbook (Level 3-8 and Group):**
[https://usagym.org/PDFs/Rhythmic/Junior%20Olympics/1617handbook.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Rhythmic/Junior%20Olympics/1617handbook.pdf)

**FIG Code of Points (Level 9-10):**
[http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/site/rules/disciplines/rq](http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/site/rules/disciplines/rq)

**USA Gymnastics Rules & Policies:**
[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html)