

CHAPTER 3 – SANCTIONS

In order to host a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition, all Meet Directors MUST be a current USA Gymnastics Meet Director member with all Meet Director requirements met. [Click here](#) to view all Meet Director membership requirements.

Meet Director Exam is available online at <https://usagym.org/pages/education/courses/W202/>.

An unaffiliated athlete will not be permitted to participate in a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.

I. Sanctioning a Domestic USA Gymnastics Event

- A. USA Gymnastics, as the national governing body for the sport, is responsible for the granting of sanctions.
- B. Sanctions are required for all USA Gymnastics competitions. See Chapters 6 & 7 for Xcel and 8 & 9 for DP competition guidelines.
- C. Sanctions may also be obtained for clinics, workshops, educational events, tours and exhibitions.
- D. Only a current USA Gymnastics Member Club may register athletes into a sanctioned event.
- E. All participants MUST be entered via the USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation system.
- F. USA Gymnastics sessions CANNOT be run concurrently in the same session with a non-USA Gymnastics sanctioned event. Any non-USA Gymnastics session(s) must be conducted either prior to or following all USA Gymnastics sanctioned sessions on each competitive day. If a Meet Director chooses to conduct a multi-gymnastics association event, they must adhere to the following policies. Violations of any of the below policies may result in sanction revocation.
 1. Permissible Gym Set Up:
 - a. **Events with one gym set-up:**
 1. USA Gymnastics competitors and non-USA Gymnastics competitors are NOT permitted to compete at the same time in the same competitive space, nor can they alternate sessions throughout the day.
 - b. **Events with Multiple gym set-ups:**
 1. Dedicated field-of-play (*can be more than 1*) reserved to conduct only USA Gymnastics sessions.
 2. Additional dedicated field-of-play (*can be more than 1*) reserved to conduct any non-USA Gymnastics sessions.
 3. Each separate field-of-play should be clearly defined by signage, or separated by a specific, noticeable barrier (i.e., airwall, curtain, stanchion, etc.)
 - Example: a Meet Director is hosting an event in a large space that can be partitioned into 3 competitive field-of-play areas; Field A, Field B and Field C.
 - Fields A and B are reserved for USA Gymnastics sessions
 - Field C conducts the non-USA Gymnastics sessions.
 - The Meet Director may use all the Fields A, B or C to conduct non-USA Gymnastics sessions provided that the non-USA Gymnastics sessions are conducted either prior to or following USA Gymnastics sessions on each competitive day.
 2. Meet Director must have an event plan that illustrates:
 - a. A clear definition of the start and end times of each organization's competition sessions for the duration of the event.
 - b. All event procedures that prohibit non-USA Gymnastics session participants (*athletes, coaches, judges*) from accessing the dedicated USA Gymnastics gyms/competition area during USA Gymnastics sessions.
 3. Meet Director must obtain a separate certificate of insurance from each gymnastics association whose sessions will be conducted in the same venue as the USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.

II. Procedures for Requesting a Domestic Sanction

- A. Request for sanctions must be obtained online. To apply for a sanction online, [click here](#).
- B. When requesting a sanction, equipment/venue set-up/ take down and training days must be included, as well as competition days.
- C. Only one discipline per sanction.
- D. Events conducted in more than one location must have a separate sanction for each location.
- E. Once a sanction has been granted, the *USA Gymnastics Women's Program Rules and Policies* must be followed. Please see Chapter 4 for specific Meet Director responsibilities.
- F. Domestic Sanction Fee
 1. The fee is \$140.00 for domestic sanctioned competitions. Sanction fees (and any late fees) are not refundable, regardless of the reason for canceling a meet.

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G. Foreign Sanctions

1. A foreign sanction is required for events in which foreign athletes, coaches and judges participate. Requests for foreign sanctions must be obtained online. To apply for a foreign sanction online, [click here](#).
2. The fee is \$140.00 for foreign sanctioned events.
3. For more details, see Chapter 2 - Foreign Participants. Sanction fees (and any late fees) are not refundable, regardless of the reason for canceling a meet.

III. Sanction Violations and Penalties

SANCTION VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN A FINE, VOIDING OF A COMPETITION AND ITS RESULTS, AND/OR LOSS OF SANCTIONING PRIVILEGES.

A. Sanction Violations

- When a USA Gymnastics member(s) participating in the event fails to follow the *USA Gymnastics Women's Program Rules and Policies*, actions can be taken against the Meet Director, hosting institution and/or the individual offenders by the USA Gymnastics National Office.

B. Meet Director violations include:

1. Allowing any participant on the field-of-play without current, valid memberships and/or educational/background check certifications.
2. Violations of any regulation within the *USA Gymnastics Women's Program Rules and Policies*.
3. Improper timing of the competition:
 - a. Athletes in the gym too long (over 5 hours).
 - b. Starting the warm-ups before 8:00 A.M.
 - c. Finishing after 10:00 P.M. due to poor scheduling.
4. Failure to return required sanction forms and athlete fees by the designated deadline.
5. Altering USA Gymnastics language on sanction report form.
6. Failure to obtain signatures/initials of officials/coaches on the sanction report form sign-in sheet(s).
7. Exceeding the maximum allowable number of gymnasts in a session.
8. Changing or altering any procedures listed in the Judges' Compensation package.

C. Meet Director penalties for violations:

1. A Meet Director may receive the following penalties for violating any of the above stated violations.
 - a. A first-time violation results in a fine of \$100.00 for one violation plus \$100.00 for each additional violation associated with the same sanction.
 - b. A second time violation results in a fine of \$500.00 for one violation. For each additional violation associated with the same sanction, the fine is \$500.00 each. In addition, a second-time violation may result in possible suspension of sanctioning privileges for the next competitive season, to be determined by the National Administrative Committee.
2. Fines apply only to the individual and/or the Meet Director.
3. Hosting institutions may also be denied sanctioning privileges if violations are repeated with multiple Meet Directors.
4. The State Administrative Committee Chairman and/or Regional Administrative Committee Chairman will be notified of any violations by e-mail.
5. If a fine is assessed to a Meet Director, but not paid by the deadline indicated, the ability to sanction an event will be denied until all balances are paid.
6. If the violation is due to the lack of mandatory forms being returned, the ability to sanction an event will be denied until all mandatory forms are returned.
7. If a fine is assessed but not satisfied by the deadline indicated, the Meet Director's membership may be placed in a pending status.
8. Escalating penalties accrue during the current competitive season (August 1-July 31).
9. If a Meet Director incurs three sanction violations in one competitive season, he/she will be placed in pending status. He/she must re-take and pass the Meet Director Exam before being placed in active status.

D. Member violations include:

1. Individuals who do not have the appropriate membership and/or educational or background check certifications or falsifies one of the above-mentioned memberships and attempts to participate on the field at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition.

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2. Participating in any unacceptable behavior, as outlined in Chapter 1 – Membership.

E. **Participant** (coach/judge) penalties for violations:

1. A member may receive the following penalties for violating any of the above state violations:
 - a. A first-time violation results in a fine of \$100.00.
 - b. A second time violation results in a fine of \$500.00.
 - c. A third time violation results in a fine of \$1,000.00 and possible suspension of membership.
2. Fines apply only to the individual and/or the Meet Director.
3. The State Administrative Committee Chairman and/or Regional Administrative Committee Chairman will be notified of any violations by email.
4. If a fine is assessed to a member but not paid by the deadline indicated, their membership will go into a pending status until all balances are paid.
5. Escalating penalties accrue during the current competitive season (August 1st – July 31st).

F. **Meet Referee** penalties for violations:

- A Meet Referee may receive a \$100.00 fine for failure to report a sanction violation on the sanction report form.

G. **Competitor** penalties for violations:

- If an individual gymnast is in violation of the regulations, she will be disqualified, and all awards returned. (Example: wrong level, wrong age division.)

IV. Sanction Report Forms

- A. An official USA Gymnastics Sanction Report Form is available online. To access the report forms, visit <https://usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/index.html>, Sanctions, My Sanctions.
- B. **Keep a copy of the report form**, then e-mail, fax or mail pages 1-6 of the Sanction Report form plus all of the officials and coaches' sign-in sheet(s) to the USA Gymnastics Member Services department **within 72 hours**.
 - E-mail: sanctions@usagym.org
 - Fax: 317-732-1791
 - Mail to: USA Gymnastics Member Services Department, 130 E. Washington St., Suite 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
- C. If applicable to your state, make copies of the Sanction Report Form and send them to the State Administrative Committee Chairman with the State competition fee within 72 hours.
- D. Applicable competition fees must be sent to the State/Regional Administrative Committee Chairman of the host state (based on physical location of the meet).
- E. **If an event is canceled, written notification must be submitted to USA Gymnastics Member Services prior to the start date of the event.** E-mail: sanctions@usagym.org