

# The SCORE

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- Performance - the execution or accomplishment of work (Dictionary.com)
- Evaluation - an act or instance of evaluating or appraising. (Dictionary.com)
- Score - the performance of an individual expressed by a number. (Dictionary.com)

These three definitions encompass our job as judges. We evaluate a performance, apply the rules found in the Code of Points and calculate a score. Each judge has their own “library” of skills. Based on this library, routines are evaluated. Judges may not always agree on start value, but should agree on the other components of a routine – execution, composition, neutral deductions.

There are many levels of gymnastics, not only within the USAG system (Levels 4-10), but also in other organizations which use the USAG rules (YMCAs, Park Districts, GJO). There is a basic understanding that not all deductions are applied the same way from a USAG sanctioned meet to competitions sponsored by other organizations.

Furthermore, because of the rules, it is possible to judge with someone you have never judged with before and be within 0.1 of their score consistently. Sometimes, as officials, we have difficulty accomplishing this. The rules are not being applied consistently. It does not matter if you are judging a major invitational or an in-house meet, scores should be consistent (within 0.3 from meet to meet). When a gymnast competes one weekend and receives a 7.5 and the next weekend an 8.5, it is no wonder why the coaches, gymnasts and parents are upset. This is given the same level of performance.

It is our responsibility to judge each gymnast the same way. It is also our responsibility to understand the basic differences between the organizations and apply the rules consistently within those organizations. The type of meet, the major invite, or the hope of being asked back is not a consideration. Without consistent judging, we lose all creditability.

## **It's Not About Being Fair**

In the past 5 years, judges have faced increasing demands and expenses. It is hard to keep up with changing rules, incredible hours and requirements; professional memberships, safety, background checks, CPE, etc. And it just doesn't seem fair. It is not about being fair. All professional members have to be held to the same industry standards. It is not possible to require some pro-members to take the safety course and some not, and to have only coaches with background checks and not the officials. There are professional standards in all of the Olympic Sports.

The coaches, in gymnastics and all sports, come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds. The best coach may have never finished high school and the worst coach may have a Doctorate of Sports. It is not about being fair between the coaches and officials.

## **It is About Being Fair**

All Gymnastics Professionals are members of USA-Gymnastics. Officials must do certification (testing) and are members of NAWGJ. Judges have two “Codes of Professional Responsibility”. It is about the gymnast and putting the best officials on the competitive floor. It is all about being fair to the gymnast and the sport.

## RJD REMINDERS

As we approach the end of 4 years with the same rules, sometimes we need a review of those rules we think we remember. As state, regional, and national meets approach, please read the following, along with reviewing the Code of Points and the J.O. Compulsory Book. Thanks!  
Hilary Carlson, RJD, Region 5

### COUNTING VALUE PARTS (OPTIONAL)

Remember that a Value Part may be counted two (2) times in an exercise provided the element occurs in different connections (Code of Points, p. 11, C). This affects difficulty, special requirements, and bonus.

#### Elements are different if:

- They have different numbers in the Code.

**Example:** UB: a short kip on the low bar and a long hang kip are different elements. Therefore, a LB kip cast handstand and a long kip, cast handstand are 2 different connections.

- They have the same number but

- Are saltos with different body positions
- Elements with different degree of turn ( $1/2$ ,  $1/1$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , etc.) Quarter turns do not change the element unless listed separately in the Code.

**Ex: on Floor:** A switch leg leap with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn (switch side) is the same as a switch  $\frac{1}{2}$ . They have the same number and the  $\frac{1}{4}$  doesn't change the element.

**Ex: on Beam:** A straddle and a straddle  $\frac{1}{4}$  are the same element and a straddle  $\frac{1}{2}$  and a straddle  $\frac{3}{4}$  is the same element. (**Note:** the straddle and straddle  $\frac{1}{4}$  are important also because both are allowed in L. 7.)

- Level 7 and 8 Bars have casts that have different values:

$0^\circ - 44^\circ =$  no credit,  $45^\circ - 21^\circ =$  A credit,  $20^\circ - \text{vertical} =$  B credit. Therefore, for Levels 7 and 8 (and levels 9 and 10), a kip, cast to "A" handstand and a kip, cast to "B" handstand are 2 different connections.

### RECOGNITION OF ELEMENTS, PART II (COMPULSORY)

When evaluating an element in compulsories, there are deductions for changing, substituting, and omitting major elements. (Refer to p. 161, JO Compulsory Book.)

- Changing an element is performing a variation of the prescribed element (up to the value of the element).

**Example, FX L. 5:** Performing a back roll instead of a back extension roll is a change, deduction of .6 (p. 111)

- Substituting an element is performing a totally different element (double the value of the element).

**Example, BB L. 6:** Performing a straight jump instead of a tuck jump in the series.

- Omitting an element is leaving it out completely (double the value of the element). Remember that an omitted element that is done later on in the routine is still considered omitted. When applying this deduction, look for any resemblance to the skill.

**Example, UB:** Any cast no matter how poor is a cast. There are amplitude deductions to cover the lack.

- Some changes are covered by specific execution deductions. None of the following examples would be changing or substituting the element.

**Example, L. 6 FX:** If the handspring step- out lands on 2 feet, there is a .2 deduction.

**Example, L. 5 FX:** Bending the arms on a back extension roll is an up to .3 general deduction.

**Example, BB L. 5 & 6:** Doing a heel snap turn instead of a turn requiring a weight transfer is  $-.3$  (p. 162). Performing a weight transfer instead of a heel snap turn is  $-.2$  (clarification in Technique and in general faults and penalties).