



AGG USA JUDGES MANUAL

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Subject to Minor Changes

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1. LEVELS OF AGG USA JUDGES

AGG USA maintains the following judging structure:

| <i>Level</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Explanation</i> |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1 | IFAGG Level 1 Judge | Expert Present on the AGG USA Technical Committee |
| 2 | AGG USA Technical Committee Member or IFAGG Level 2 Judge | Members of the AGG USA Technical Committee |
| 3-I | IFAGG Certified International Judges (Level 3) | May judge IFAGG A, B & C Category Competitions, and all AGG USA National Competitions |
| 4-I | IFAGG Level 4 Judge |  May judge all AGG USA sanctioned competitions and only Children's Long Program / Short Program at IFAGG sanctioned events. A Level 4-I may judge at an international tournament at the discretion of the LOC, only if they take an international judge course for J/W long program and pass. |
| 3-N | National AGG USA Certified Judges | May judge all categories and programs at AGG USA sanctioned competitions |
| 4-N | Provisional National AGG USA Certified Judge | May judge all age categories of short programs, plus all Children's long programs at AGG USA events (may only judge junior or senior long program if required by competition) |
| 5 | AGG USA Beginner Judges' License | May judge all age categories of short program at AGG USA events |

2. BECOMING AN AGG USA JUDGE

AGG USA wishes to acknowledge that knowledge of current rules and changes in this sport is integral to becoming a qualified judge of this sport. The following rules are not just a policy of AGG USA but are also included in other National Federations.

2.1. *Becoming an AGG USA Level 4 or 5 judge*

1. Only individuals who have been a member of AGG USA for 3 consecutive years are eligible to take the AGG USA judge's exam. Any break in membership will reset the three-year requirement, and there can be no gap between the three years and taking the judges' exam.
2. If an individual ONLY passes the short program portion of the judges' exam, they qualify as a Level 5 judge.
3. If an individual passes both the short program and children's long program portions of the judges' exam, they qualify as a Level 4-N judge.
4. If the individual passes ALL short and long program portions of the judges' exam, they can qualify as a Level 3N judge.

Level 3-N or 4-N AGG USA judges that are citizens of the United States **may** be eligible to judge tournaments that are not affiliated with the IFAGG World Cups or World Championships. This applies exclusively to tournaments in Mexico and Canada. Level 5 judges may only judge in the United States.

2.2. *Becoming a level 3N Judge*

A Level 4-N judge who successfully judges at least 6 national competitions within 2 years without any penalized misconduct, may become a Level 3-N judge after passing a judge's exam.

Once an individual becomes a Level 3-N judge, they are eligible to take an IFAGG judges' exam after two years without any penalized misconduct.

2.3. *Becoming an IFAGG Level 4I Judge*

Only AGG USA Judges that have a valid American citizenship and have completed their two years as an AGG USA Level 3-N Judge may become an IFAGG Judge. The AGG USA Office will make all eligible judges aware of IFAGG Judge's Courses for the next season at the end of the year, depending on the release of the IFAGG calendar.

It is the Judge's choice to enroll in a judge's course by informing AGG USA, so that the AGG USA office may register the judge appropriately. Under no circumstance may a judge register themselves for any IFAGG event or course. All expenses, such as airfare, accommodation, etc., regarding participation in an IFAGG judge course is to be self-funded by the participant, including for judges' courses that are held abroad.

Once in attendance at an IFAGG judges' course, the judge must do their best to pass all portions of the exam (the written, practical, and oral portions). Only once a judge successfully passes all categories of the exam will they be considered an official IFAGG judge.

2.3.1. *Fast Track to Becoming a Level 4I Judge*

Former AGG USA National Team members, including athletes and their coaches, can take an IFAGG Judges Course and Exam as their first step toward certification. To further specify, they do not need to become a Level 3-N judge and may start their process as an AGG USA judge with the steps to become an IFAGG Level 4 Judge. American citizenship is still required in order to become an IFAGG-licensed judge through the fast track.

Note: Athletes and coaches of AGG USA National Teams must have medaled at least once in an international competition **before** applying for an IFAGG and/or AGG USA Judging License.

2.3.2. *Maintaining an IFAGG License*

It is a judge's responsibility to keep track of their license, including the requirements and timing of courses necessary, in order to maintain its validity. If a judge is interested in promotion to a higher level of judge classification, then again it is their responsibility to attend to the proper requirements.

AGG USA always recommends that a judge try and achieve the highest grade of license possible, in order to further promote the sport of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics.

2.3.3. *IFAGG Levels and Promotion System*

[IFAGG License System](#) (updated 2025)

[Promotion System for IFAGG Licenses](#) (updated 2025)

2.4. *Registering for Judge's Courses and Exams*

Any AGG USA member may register for AGG USA courses through KSIS, however, only those who meet the eligibility requirements may take the judge's examination.

Only the AGG USA Federation Office may register individuals for IFAGG courses. Candidates must meet the course requirements and notify AGG USA in advance before registration.

2.5. *Payment for Judge's Courses and Exams*

Unless otherwise specified by the AGG USA office, the participant of any IFAGG course must send their payment to AGG USA. The AGG USA office will then submit a wire transfer to the proper organizer.

All educational courses organized by AGG USA must be paid in full by the deadline listed on KSIS.

3. DOMESTIC JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS

3.1. *Obligation to Attend Domestic Competitions*

AGG USA judges are expected to attend all AGG USA events that require judges present (AGG USA state meets, AGG USA invitationals, AGG USA Partner Events, AGG USA organized international events, etc.). Judges should attend AGG USA qualifying events without exception. If a judge is unavailable to attend an AGG USA event, they must make it clear in their availability for that season. If an emergency arises, the judge must make it clear to the AGG USA technical committee prior to six weeks of the start date of the event.

Once a judge is officially assigned a national or international competition, they are to accept it without question or complaint, as it is based upon their availability.

If a judge is unable to attend as a last-minute notice, the AGG USA Technical Committee will be notified. If the reason behind the lack of attendance is not deemed as an emergency via the committee, it may be deemed as an infraction on the judge's record.

3.2. *How to submit availability*

Judges will be notified by a member of the AGG USA Technical Committee (either by email or WhatsApp), when they are requested to submit their availability for the upcoming competition season. It is the responsibility of the judge to submit their availability within five business days, as doing so in more than five business days will result in disciplinary action.

Note: The events calendar is not finalized until USA Teams submit their international intent forms. Depending on the wavering of the tentative events schedule, judges may be requested to submit their availability several times for each season, as it is updated in reflection with the intent of travel by USA teams.

3.3. *Affiliated Judges*

Judges are deemed to be affiliated if they have been a member of an AGG USA team or club (either as an athlete, coach, assistant coach, or owner) within the last three years. If that club or team is still competing in AGG USA or IFAGG events, then the affiliated judge may not be a panel judge for any AGG USA qualifying event. They may be a panel judge at invitationals or state meets.

If an Affiliated Judge wishes to participate in a qualifying event, they will fill in the following open responsibilities as available:

1. Line Judge
2. Time Judge
3. Judge for Athletes
4. Practice Judge

3.3.1. Exception to 3.3.

Affiliated judges may judge on a panel in qualifying events only if there is at least one panel of four judges. If not all the judging panels of the qualifying event are at a capacity of four judges, then the affiliated judges are limited to the panels that have four.

If there is a competition in which affiliated judges are allowed to participate on a panel, then no more than one judge per affiliation may be placed on each panel (i.e. multiple judges affiliated with the same club may not judge on the same panel at any time).

3.4. Expenses and Reimbursement Procedure for AGG USA Competitions

Judges who need reimbursement for travel cost, unforeseen expenses, or other eligible costs must complete the official AGG USA Reimbursement [form](#). Judges will not be reimbursed unless the form is fully completed, **and** all receipts are submitted with an expense report.

Prior to purchasing anything expecting reimbursement, it is suggested that a judge must check if the purchases are deemed acceptable to be reimbursed by the AGG USA Office. The AGG USA Office holds the right to decline reimbursement if there is another purchase option that is deemed more acceptable, appropriate, or cost-efficient. It is imperative that judges submit a value and reason for expense to either AGG USA or the local organizing committee (where applicable), so that the individual providing the reimbursement may review other options and deem the purchase as acceptable or not. Just because a Judge makes an expense in order to attend a competition, that does not guarantee that the judge will be provided a full reimbursement if the purchase is deemed unnecessary or too extravagant. The judge may still make their preferred purchase, but at most they will be reimbursed the value of the most appropriate cost. It is especially suggested that a check is made in advance if the expense is above \$500.

3.5. *Travel for Domestic Competitions*

Once a judge is assigned to attend a National Competition, the AGG USA Office will make it clear which mode of transportation the judge should take, in order to make the event (i.e. plane, car, train). Once the mode of transit is clear, a port will also be specified, and the judge must arrive at said port.

In the event in which a judge is flying to a competition, AGG USA will reimburse the cost of gas and/or taxi service to get to and from the airport in the judge's city of residence. Once at the competition location, the judge may either use a taxi service (which may also be reimbursed by the AGG USA Office), or they will be chauffeured by a member of the local organizing committee (if it is organized, always check with the LOC). In no event will AGG USA reimburse a rental car service or provide a vehicle for the judge to drive.

Note: If a judge wishes to arrive or depart from a competition in another fashion that is not the recommended option, they must communicate this well in advance with the local organizing committee and AGG USA (six weeks). If all parties are in agreement with the plan and estimated reimbursement, then the judge may follow through with their plan.

3.6. *Assigning Panel Judges at AGG USA Partner Events*

At AGG USA Partner Events, Level 3-N, 4-N, and 5 Judges are assigned their panel positions by the AGG USA Technical Committee and the Judge Responsible. Judges of Level 3-I and higher will be assigned in a rotating fashion at each partner event, ensuring that they get adequate experience judging in every category.

If there are more than three IFAGG Licensed judges on the panel, a judge's draw will be conducted.

Materials required for the Judge's Draw include:

- A minimum of 20 identical items (postcards, figurines, or just papers) on reverse marked TV1, TV2, TV3, TV4, AV-A1, AV-A2, AV-A3, AV-A4, AV-B1, AV-B2, AV-B3, AV-B4, EXE1, EXE2, EXE3, EXE 4 (or adjusted according to the number of judges present)*.
- A non-transparent box or tray for the draw.
- The head judge must be drawn first, followed by the judges.

***Depending on the number of Judges and panels, the judge responsible for the competition will prepare with LOC the exact order of how the DRAW will be conducted.**

Judges' panels must be as even as possible in number (i.e. under no circumstances should there be a panel of two judges and a panel of four judges at the same event in the same age category). If there is an uneven number of judges (for example seven), the greatest number of judges must go to EXE, then AV, and then TV. For junior / senior long program, AV-A is filled prior to AV-B.

3.7. *Assigning Panel Judges at AGG USA Invitationals*

At AGG USA Invitationals, all Level 4 and 5 AGG USA Licensed Judges (provided that they are not affiliated) are eligible to be panel judges. No judges' draw takes place at the Invitationals. Instead, the AGG USA Technical Committee and the Judge Superior assign judges to their positions.

The same note regarding even panel numbers from AGG USA Partner Events is maintained for Invitationals.

3.8. *Assigning Judges at AGG USA State Competitions (Test Year 2026)*

Judges will be invited to attend state meets based on their locations of residence, with those living in or near the state of the competition being prioritized. There must be at least four judges at state meets, one per each panel necessary for junior and senior long program. For children's routines and short program, the extra panel judge will judge EXE.

In the event that there are not enough judges in or near the state holding the meet, all other judges in the United States will be notified of the availability.

Note: Associated Judges are prioritized for State Meets in order to ensure opportunities for all judges.

3.9. *Compensation Procedure for AGG USA Competitions*

At the end of each competition, judges are responsible for filling out a Reimbursement 1099 form that will be provided by either the local organizing committee or AGG USA. Judges must accurately document the hours in which they worked, in-person, at the event (this includes time for judge's meetings, working as a judge, and the opening / awards ceremonies if present). If a judge fails to submit their hours prior to the completion of a competition, it is possible that they may not be fully compensated.

The local organizing committee must compensate each judge for their work prior to the end of the competition.

4. INTERNATIONAL JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS

4.1. Note regarding International Judging Assignments

Only judges that hold a valid Level 4 IFAGG license or higher may submit availability including IFAGG A or B Category competitions. If a judge is seeking to obtain an IFAGG Level 4 License in the upcoming season, they may inquire about participating in an A or B category competition, however their participation in any international competition is reliant on their ability to pass an IFAGG course and exam earlier in that season.

Note: AGG USA judges that do not have an IFAGG level 4 license or higher may still be able to participate in competitions in Mexico and Canada, depending on the preferences of the local organizing committee.

4.2. Submitting Availability for International Competitions

The process roughly begins during the Fall of the previous season, where AGG USA is notified by IFAGG regarding the location and dates for general A and B Category events.

Judges may be requested to make their availability aware to AGG USA as early as the summer of the prior season based upon a tentative schedule. Once a judge mentions that they are available for an event, AGG USA will assume that the judge will attend the event. Date changes will be made aware if applicable. By January of the competition season, the events calendar will be finalized based upon the AGG USA teams' interest in international competitions.

After each judge makes their availability known, the AGG USA Technical Committee will meet in order to evaluate each judges past performance, considering how frequently their scores align with the middle score. The Committee will also review feedback that was submitted by judges after their previous assignments.

Note: Assignments include competitions, classes, and routine reviews. The President of AGG USA will always meet with the Judge Responsible after international assignments to review the performance of AGG USA judges.

4.3. *Qualifying to Judge International Competitions*

Judges interested in going to any IFAGG World Cup or World Championship must commit to being on a panel in at least five full AGG USA Partner Events (West Coast Cup, San Diego Cup, East Coast Cup and its invitational, National Championships, Open Cup, Challenge Championships, and Autumn Cup) in the same season as those international competitions. If a judge is unable to fully commit to participating in the entirety of five AGG USA Partner Events (i.e. all rotations of all age categories and the awards ceremony), then they may be removed from an upcoming AGG USA delegation. If the judge has not fulfilled this requirement but still wishes to attend an IFAGG World Cup or World Championships, then they may request to attend a state meet, in which they would have to cover their airfare.

4.4. *Reimbursement process for International Competitions*

Depending on how early expenses need to be paid for the competitions, a judge may be requested to initially pay for their flight to international competitions and be reimbursed at a later date. This is being done to ease the payment deadlines for athletes attending major international competitions. In this event, a judge must double-check with the AGG USA Office exactly which dates they are expected to be at the international location prior to purchasing tickets. Also, prior to purchasing tickets, the judge must send the AGG USA Office the expected price for tickets of their choice. Only once the AGG USA Office has approved of the price and dates of the tickets should the judge go through with purchasing them. If the judge purchases the ticket prior to it being approved, they may only receive partial reimbursement.

4.5. *Compensation process for International Competitions*

The costs for travel, transportation, per diem, and accommodation for judges on international assignments are covered by the teams participating in the international event. Judges will receive compensation ranging from \$200 to \$500 for competitions outside the American continents, which is also covered by the traveling teams.

4.6. *Attending Trainings on International Assignments*

Judges will be requested to attend certain practices or trainings in order to support the Team USA teams that are travelling to international competitions. Once requested to attend a training, judges are required to attend. Failure to attend an assigned training will result in an infraction on the judge's record.

4.7. *Logging International Assignments*

It is the responsibility of the judge to submit a report (review of the performances of the teams) of their assignments upon completion. The report must be sent to the Technical Committee email within five business days.

Judges must also log their hours in their own Judge's log within 3 days of completing the assignment. A link to the Judge's Log will be sent to each judge at the start of every season. This log applies to all judges' activities, including competitions, routine reviews, courses, etc. Unlogged assignments will not be counted towards a judge's official record.

4.8. *Expectations of a Judge on International Assignments*

It is important to remember that it is a privilege to represent Team USA as a Judge. Judges are expected to be the epitome of professionalism while on assignment, and their judging practices will be extensively evaluated by AGG USA's Technical Committee. If a judge fails to meet these expectations, it may be the case that they will not be recommended for international assignments in the future. Failure to meet expectations may include, but is not limited to:

- Failing to attend all required judge's meetings
- Failing to attend required athlete trainings
- Consistently having scores that are omitted from the panel (i.e. scores that are either too high or too low)
- Overall poor ethical conduct
- Judge Responsible or Head Judge having a poor report to present to the AGG USA President on behalf of an AGG USA Judge

5. CONDUCT OF JUDGES

5.1. AGG USA Code of Conduct for Judges

All judges are expected to follow the AGG USA Code of Conduct which is available [here](#).

5.2. IFAGG Judges Code of Ethics

All AGG USA judges are required to follow the IFAGG Code of Ethics, which is available [here](#).

Judges must comply with all AGG USA and IFAGG requirements when officiating at sanctioned events.

[Duties and Responsibilities of a Judge Panel](#)

5.3. Responsibilities of Judges

5.3.1. Responsibilities of a Line Judge

Line judges are essential to ensure the safety, boundaries, and overall compliance to the 13 x 13 meter space of the competition carpet. While acting as a line judge, it is essential that the individual:

- Maintains vigilance to ensure that a penalty is applied if an athlete makes contact with the floor outside of the competition boundaries
- Ensure that any stains that are left on the carpet are attributed to the team that left them there
- Verifying that any large items left on the carpet (head accessories, large stones, etc.) are shown to the head judge of AV (or AV-A for Juniors and Seniors)
- Occasionally, scan the competition floor and discard of any small items that do not result in a penalty (bobby pins, rhinestones, etc.)

All line judges are supplied with a piece of paper which lists all line judge penalties. It is the responsibility of the line judge to fill out the form and provide it to the appropriate head judge if the line judge believes that a penalty is to be applied.

5.3.2. Responsibilities of a Time Judge

Time judges are essential in order to ensure that all teams follow the requirements regarding the time specifications of programs. It is essential that time judges use either a stopwatch or a phone to ensure that each program follows the limit:

- Short program: 1 minute 25 seconds – 1 minute 45 seconds
- Children's Long program: 2 minutes – 2 minutes 30 seconds
- Junior / Senior Long Program: 2 minutes 15 seconds – 2 minutes 45 seconds

Teams must be penalized by -0.1 for each full second the program is outside of the limits.

Note: Depending on the availability of Judges, a line judge may also be required to fulfill the role of time judge.

5.3.3. Responsibilities of a Judge for Athletes

A Judge for Athletes has an important role in ensuring that all individuals are always behaving ethically throughout the entire period of an AGG USA event. A Judge for Athletes will be provided with a slip of paper that lists all ethical penalties. It is the responsibility of the Judge for Athletes to properly send each slip to the Judge Superior or Head Judge of Artistic Value as soon as possible to ensure that the proper penalties are applied when necessary. The penalties are as follows:

| PENALTY | POINT VALUE | DESCRIPTION |
|--|--------------------|---|
| EXCESSIVE NOISE IN WARM-UP AREA | -0.5 | Teams are not permitted to make excessive noise in the warm-up area, including playing music, cheering excessively, yelling at one another, counting to loudly, etc., especially if another team has begun their program. |
| WARM-UP TIMING | -0.5 | If a team shows up to the warm-up area when it is not their specified time, the penalty will be applied to their next performance. |
| WALK ON THE CARPET | -0.5 | If a team stops at the edge of the carpet when walking on, makes excessive movement, adds any special chants or dances on their way to their opening pose, this penalty will be applied. Teams must walk from the warm-up area, through the arch, to their opening pose in a swift and continuous manner. |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| PODIUM TRAINING ATTIRE | -0.5 | Teams may wear any color fitted top and legging combination for podium training. International teams should wear a black unitard for podium training. Teams wearing sports bras and shorts will receive this penalty. |
| MOVING DURING A NATIONAL ANTHEM | -0.5 | During the opening ceremony of a competition, it is standard practice to play the American national anthem, and on occasion the national anthem(s) of other participating countries. All participants must respect the playing of all national anthems by staying still and facing the appropriate flag (if it is available). This is especially the case for the main carpet, the warmup area, and the audience area. Any disrespectful behavior, such as continuing training, running around, excessive talking, or other music being played will result in a penalty. |
| AN ASSOCIATED PERSON TAKING PICTURES OF A TEAM THAT IS NOT THEIR OWN | -0.5 from their associated team | Asides from the designated photographer for each team, there must not be any other associated person taking a picture of their own team during the performance of a program. Under no circumstance is an associated person that is affiliated with one team permitted to photograph or video another team's performance. Either violation would lead to a -0.5 penalty to be taken from the team most closely affiliated with the associated person. |
| MAKING INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS ABOUT ANOTHER TEAM | -1.0 | Under no circumstances is an individual allowed to negatively comment about another club, another team, another gymnast, or another program. If a member or associated person should make such a comment at an event, it would result in a one point penalty applied to the team most affiliated with the violator of the AGG USA ethical policy. |

5.3.4. Responsibilities of a Panel Judge

Judges must comply with all AGG USA and IFAGG requirements when officiating at sanctioned events. In addition to the duties laid out by IFAGG (found here: [Duties and Responsibilities of a Judge Panel](#)) judges are expected to:

- Refrain from excessive facial expressions or excessive emotions while sitting at the judge's panel
- Maintain impartiality in their actions, judging, and commentary
- Never use cellular devices at the judge's tables
- Only engage with the audience if necessary
- Turn in all judging sheets at the end of the competition to the AGG USA Technical Committee for review post-competition

5.3.5. Responsibilities of a Head Judge

Head Judges are those that are assigned or selected to be the first judge on their panel (i.e. TV-1). In addition to the aforementioned responsibilities of a panel judge, they must accomplish the following:

The head judge of a panel is responsible for ensuring that the members of their panel are filling out their score cards correctly and providing accurate scores. The head judge must also ensure that the scores provided on their panel fall within the limits set by IFAGG, which are as follows:

For a Panel of 4 judges:

- The highest and the lowest scores will be eliminated and the average of the two middle scores is the partial score
- The difference between the middle scores taken into account must not be greater than 0.4 in AV-A & AV-B
- The difference between the middle scores taken into account must not be greater than 0.5 in TV & EXE

For a Panel of 3 judges:

- The average of all scores will be calculated, and the result is the partial score
- The difference of all scores must not be greater than 0.4 in AV-A & AV-B
- The difference of all scores must not be greater than 0.5 in TV & EXE

It is also the responsibility of the head judge to ensure that score sheets are properly filled out and that each judge properly signs their score whenever necessary. Upon a change to a score that occurs during a judge's meeting, the judge(s) with a score change must re-sign their score paper.

Head judges are responsible for ensuring that the members of their panel are properly following all ethical and technical protocols. All violations must immediately be reported to the Judge Superior.

Alongside providing their own scores, a judge must fill out an arbiter paper for each rotation. After the conclusion of each rotation, the head judge must sign their arbiter paper and check in with the KSIS operator, in order to verify all scores.

5.3.6. Responsibilities of a Judge Superior

A Judge Superior's role is to ensure that all panels are behaving ethically and providing appropriate scores for each team. A Judge Superior is also suggested to score a panel, either technical value or execution, to ensure accuracy. Scores provided by the Judge Superior are **not** included in the score of the program.

The Judge Superior must be present when each head judge verifies their arbiter papers with the KSIS operator after each rotation.

Any and all violations of ethical or technical code on behalf of any judge must be made aware to the Judge Superior. The Judge Superior must then immediately notify the AGG USA Ethical Committee to ensure swift disciplinary action.

5.3.7. Responsibilities of a Judge at an AGG USA State Meet (trial run in Season 2026)

At state meets, each panel only has one judge. Alongside each judge providing their scores to the KSIS immediately after a program, they should each have an arbiter paper in order to properly document their scores. After each rotation, every judge must verify their scores with the KSIS operator.

In the case where there is more than one judge per panel at a state meet, one must then be labeled the head judge and follow the expectations of a head judge.

5.4. Additional Expected Judge Etiquette during an event

All AGG USA judges are expected to hold the highest caliber of ethics, professionalism, and knowledge of AGG. During competitions, judges must appear to be put together, with hair styled neatly, light makeup, and overall an appropriate and professional appearance. Judges must wear a dark colored, preferably black, suit with a white shirt. Judges are also recommended to have a high quality black purse in which to store any documents they receive from judge meetings.

Once a competition begins (either with the first judges meeting, podium training, or an opening ceremony), judges must limit their communication with athletes, coaches, and spectators. Any unauthorized communication between the judges and participants regarding programs during an event may result in disciplinary action.

When at the judge's panel, it is imperative that each judge maintains a professional appearance and behaves responsibly. Any cell phone use while sitting at the panel is prohibited, and it will be confiscated by a member of the AGG USA Ethical Committee until the conclusion of that day's competition. If a cell phone is confiscated by an Ethical Committee member, that judge will receive a disciplinary penalty.

5.5. Participation in Award Ceremonies

Judges are expected to participate in the Awards Ceremonies of all competitions in order to support and promote the sport of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics. Participation in awards ceremonies may include speaking to the audience, handing out medals, handing out trophies, or holding trays of awards. Judges are to include their time spent at the Awards ceremonies in their hourly rate for an event and are to be thusly compensated for their time.

If a judge needs to leave prior to the Awards Ceremony of any event, they must notify the competition organizer and AGG USA at least three weeks prior to its start.

5.6. Social Media Expectations

Judges that have a social media account are expected to maintain a proper public image on their pages. AGG USA would appreciate reposting information regarding events whenever the AGG USA Instagram account "tags" a judge. When referring to AGG USA or Aesthetic Group Gymnastics on one's own page, it is important to remember that the ethical code applies to social media posts. Any defamatory, negative, or insulting messaging made by a judge on their page regarding any part of AGG USA or IFAGG (including other members, events, situations that may arise, etc.) will be sent to the AGG USA Ethical Committee and may result in disciplinary action.

5.7. *Judges' Logs*

Each judge is responsible for keeping their judging log up to date with the AGG USA Office. This log records the total hours a judge has spent officiating, educating, coaching, judging, or training, and which teams they have worked with. Any AGG USA member may request a judge's log to verify their qualifications and experience.

A judge must update their judge log in the three days after each event. Events updated after three days may not be included in a judge's record.



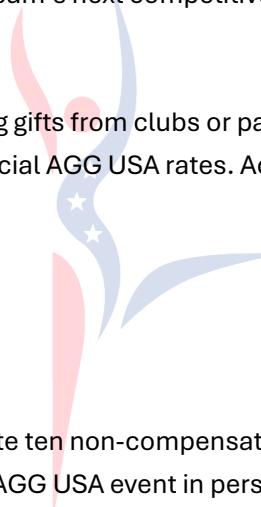
6. OTHER JUDGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

6.1. *Routine Reviews*

Teams that have a **choreographed** routine may request a routine review by an AGG USA judge through the AGG USA Office. Routine Reviews must be scheduled through AGG USA and reported back to the AGG USA Office once completed. Clubs may choose to have their review in-person or via Zoom.

Routine review rates are already set by the AGG USA Federation and are available to view [here](#). If a judge performs a routine review in-person, they should be compensated by check or Zelle immediately after concluding their work in-person.

The routine review must be requested through the AGG USA Office with at least four weeks' notice and must occur at least two weeks prior to the team's next competitive event.



Judges are strictly prohibited from accepting gifts from clubs or parents. Judges may only receive compensation for routine reviews at the official AGG USA rates. Accepting gifts may result in penalties, including disqualification.

6.2. *Practical Hours*

New judges (in their first year) must complete ten non-compensated practical hours. If a judge resides out of state and is unavailable to attend an AGG USA event in person, they must be compensated according to AGG USA's [per diem rates](#).

Following an IFAGG rule change (which occurs periodically every two years) all AGG USA judges must fulfill a requirement of ten practical hours for that season.

If a judge fails to complete their practical hours in their first season, their case will be reviewed by the Ethical Committee, which may impose disciplinary action, including a one-season disqualification from AGG USA events.

7. FEES AND RATES

7.1. AGG USA Judge Membership Rates

| AGG USA JUDGE LEVEL | MEMBERSHIP DUE |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| LEVELS 1, 2, AND 3I | \$175, valid for two years* |
| LEVELS 3N, 4, AND 5 | \$175 per year |

*International judges are certified and licensed by IFAGG for two years, have their AGG USA Membership valid for the same period.

Note: National judges must renew their membership annually. If a National-level judge is an Affiliated judge, then their annual membership fee is \$50, as the number of competitions they may participate in are limited.

7.2. Routine Review Rates

| AGG USA JUDGE LEVEL | ROUTINE REVIEW RATE IN PERSON (PER HOUR) | ROUTINE REVIEW RATE OVER ZOOM (PER HOUR) |
|---------------------|--|--|
| LEVEL 1 | \$85 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$125 – junior/senior long program | \$65 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$105 – junior/senior long program |
| LEVEL 2 | \$75 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$115 – junior/senior long program | \$55 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$95 – junior/senior long program |
| LEVEL 3-I | \$50 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$90 – junior/senior long program | \$40 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$70 – junior/senior long program |
| LEVEL 4-I | \$40 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$80 – junior/senior long program | \$35 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$60 – junior/senior long program |
| LEVEL 3-N | \$35 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$70 – junior/senior long program | \$30 – all children categories and junior/senior short program \$50 – junior/senior long program |

7.3. *Domestic Competition Hourly Rates*

AGG USA judges are paid \$30 per hour for competition judging. If a competition is less than three hours per day, the minimum daily rate is \$90.

Note: Judges must be paid before the end of the second competition day.

7.4. *Choreography Rates*

AGG USA Choreographer Rates

- \$ 750 short program for all ages
- \$1500 long program juniors/seniors
- \$1400 long program 12 – 14 years-old
- \$1300 long program 10 – 12 years-old
- \$1200 long program 8-10 years-old
- \$1000 free program 6-8 years-old
- \$900 free program 4-6 years-old

Clubs may hire international choreographers, but the rate will be higher for in-person sessions due to additional costs.

Clubs must cover the choreographer's hotel, flight, and per diem in addition to their choreography fee.

Clubs may request a short program via Zoom, but long programs cannot be choreographed via Zoom.

Approval Requirement:

If a club or coach wishes to work with an international choreographer (live or via Zoom), they must obtain prior approval from the AGG USA office.

8. DISQUALIFICATION FROM JUDGING

Judges are expected to uphold the highest standards of fairness, integrity, and professionalism in their roles. Any failures to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including disqualification from judging.

8.1. *Failing to report a routine review*

Judges must report all routine reviews to the Federation. Failure to report a routine review, for any reason, will result in the following penalty:

Disqualification from judging for one year due to non-compliance.

If a disqualified judge wishes to reinstate their status, they must:

- Attend all AGG USA National Events as part of their reinstatement process
- Service at these events will be considered practical hours but will be uncompensated.

8.2. *Other disqualification protocols*

Any instance of unsportsmanlike behavior by a judge will be reviewed by the AGG USA Ethical Committee. The committee will determine the appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension or permanent disqualification from judging.