



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:

Level	Title	Explanation
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 the 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 have taken an international judge course for the J/W long program and passed.
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 acknowledges that knowledge of current rules and changes in this sport is integral to becoming a qualified judge. The following rules are not just AGG USA's policy 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 who 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 the IFAGG judges' exam after two years without any misconduct penalties.

2.3. *Becoming an IFAGG Level 4I Judge*

Only AGG USA Judges who 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 circumstances may a judge register themselves for any IFAGG event or course. All expenses, such as airfare, accommodation, etc., related to participation in an IFAGG judge course are to be self-funded by the participant, including for judges' courses 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 exam categories 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 clarify, they do not need to become a Level 3-N judge; they may begin their process as an AGG USA judge by following 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 their validity. If a judge is interested in promotion to a higher level of judicial classification, it is again their responsibility to meet the proper requirements.

AGG USA always recommends that a judge strive to achieve the highest possible license grade 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

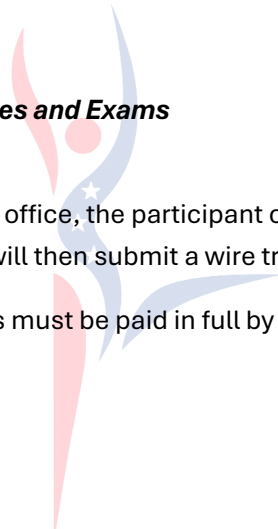
Any AGG USA member may register for AGG USA courses through KSIS; however, only those who meet the eligibility requirements may take the judge's examination.

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 AGG USA-organized educational courses 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 to be 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 notify the AGG USA technical committee at least 6 weeks before the event's start date.

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 on short notice, the AGG USA Technical Committee will be notified. If the reason behind the lack of attendance is not deemed an emergency by the committee, it may be deemed 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 (via email or WhatsApp) when they are asked to submit their availability for the upcoming competition season. It is the responsibility of the judge to submit their availability within five business days; doing so after that period will result in disciplinary action.

Note: The events calendar is not finalized until USA Teams submit their international intent forms. Depending on the tentative event schedule, judges may be asked to submit their availability several times per season as it is updated in response to the travel plans of 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, the affiliated judge may not serve as 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 judging panels at the qualifying event have four judges, then the affiliated judges are limited to those that do.

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 costs, 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 with the expectation of reimbursement, it is suggested that a judge check whether the AGG USA Office deems the purchases acceptable for reimbursement. The AGG USA Office reserves the right to decline reimbursement if another purchase option is deemed more acceptable, appropriate, or cost-effective. It is imperative that judges submit a value and reason for the 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 incurs expenses to attend a competition does not mean the judge will receive full reimbursement if the expenses are 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 recommended that a check be made in advance if the expense exceeds \$500.

3.5. *Travel for Domestic Competitions*

Once a judge is assigned to attend a National Competition, the AGG USA Office will specify which mode of transportation the judge should use to attend the event (e.g., plane, car, or 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 that 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 be reimbursed by the AGG USA Office) or be chauffeured by a member of the local organizing committee (if 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 at or depart from a competition in a manner other than the recommended option, they must communicate this well in advance to the local organizing committee and AGG USA (at least 6 weeks). If all parties agree to the plan and the estimated reimbursement amount, the judge may proceed.

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 at Level 3-I and higher will be assigned on a rotating basis at each partner event, ensuring they gain 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, EXE4 (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 evenly numbered as possible (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 the 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 also applies to Invitationals.

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

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

In the event that there are not enough judges in or near the state where the meet is held, all other judges in the United States will be notified of their 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 completing a Reimbursement 1099 form, which will be provided by either the local organizing committee or AGG USA. Judges must accurately document the hours they worked in person at the event (including time for judges' meetings, judging, 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.

3.10. *Post-Competition Obligations*

After some competitions, AGG USA judges may be asked to remain for a meeting following the awards ceremony. The purpose of this meeting can vary depending on the circumstances, but may include an event meeting, a selection between the long and short programs for a team, or a technical intervention meeting for a team. Judges will be notified of the meeting after the completion of the competition's preliminary round (at the latest). All judges are required to attend these post-competition meetings unless they have already notified the AGG USA Office and LOC of a quick exit from the competition. Time spent during post-competition meetings is to be included in a judge's compensation.



4. INTERNATIONAL JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS

4.1. *Note regarding International Judging Assignments*

Only judges who 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 contingent on their ability to pass an IFAGG course and exam earlier in that season.

Note: AGG USA judges without an IFAGG Level 4 license or higher may still be eligible to participate in competitions in Mexico and Canada, depending on the local organizing committee's preferences.

4.2. *Submitting Availability for International Competitions*

The process begins in the Fall of the previous season, when AGG USA is notified by IFAGG of the locations 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 indicates they are available for an event, AGG USA will assume the judge will attend. Date changes will be made aware if applicable. By January of the competition season, the events calendar will be finalized based on the AGG USA teams' interest in international competitions.

After each judge makes their availability known, the AGG USA Technical Committee will meet to evaluate each judge's past performance, considering how often 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 for competitions need to be paid, a judge may be asked to pay for their flight to international competitions upfront and be reimbursed later. This is being done to ease payment deadlines for athletes competing in 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, before purchasing tickets, the judge must send the AGG USA Office the expected price of the tickets they choose. Only once the AGG USA Office has approved the ticket price and dates should the judge proceed with purchasing them. If the judge purchases the ticket before it is approved, they may receive only 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 Training on International Assignments*

Judges will be asked to attend specific practices or training sessions to support Team USA teams traveling to international competitions. Once requested to attend training, judges must do so. Failure to attend an assigned training will result in an infraction on the judge's record.

4.7. *Logging International Assignments*

It is the judge's responsibility to submit a report (a review of the teams' performances) upon completion of their assignments. 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 serving as a Judge for Team USA is a privilege. 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, they may not be recommended for future international assignments. Failure to meet expectations may include, but is not limited to:

- Failing to attend all required judges' 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

4.9. *Travel Insurance*

IFAGG events require proof of health insurance for all participants, a practice that is illegal in the United States. For this reason, AGG USA requires that all international traveling AGG USA gymnasts, coaches, and officials purchase travel insurance that includes basic health coverage abroad. This policy extends to official assistants and photographers, but not to parents traveling abroad. Proof of travel insurance must be emailed to the AGG USA Federation Office 8 weeks prior to the delegation's travel departure date.

Note: Judges may opt out of the travel insurance requirement by providing their health insurance information.

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 any small items that do not result in a penalty (bobby pins, rhinestones, etc.)

All line judges are supplied with a piece of paper listing 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 to ensure that all teams follow 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
- Pan-Am programs: 1 minute 45 seconds – 2 minutes

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 serve as the time judge.

5.3.3. Responsibilities of a Judge for Athletes

A Judge for Athletes plays an important role in ensuring that all individuals behave ethically throughout an AGG USA event. A Judge for Athletes will be given a slip of paper listing 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 too loudly, etc., especially if another team has begun their program.
WARM-UP TIMING	-0.5	If a team shows up at the warm-up area outside 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, or 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, continuous manner.
PODIUM TRAINING ATTIRE	-0.5	Teams may wear any color fitted top and leggings 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 national anthems by remaining still and facing the appropriate flag (if available). This is especially true for the main carpet, the warm-up area, and the audience area. Any disrespectful behavior, such as continuing training, running around, excessive talking, or playing other music, will result in a penalty.
AN ASSOCIATED PERSON TAKING PICTURES OF A TEAM THAT IS NOT THEIR OWN	-0.5 from their associated team	Aside from the designated photographer for each team, no other person associated with the team may take a picture of their own team during the performance of a program. Under no circumstances is an associated person who is affiliated with one team permitted to photograph or video another team's performance. Either violation would result in a -0.5 penalty assessed against 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 makes such a comment at an event, it would result in a one-point penalty applied to the team most closely affiliated with the violator of the AGG USA ethical policy.
ENTERING A RESTRICTED AREA	\$500 penalty, paid to the AGG USA Federation	Any individual who enters a prohibited or restricted area at an AGG USA event (including but not limited to the Kiss and Cry Area, Judge's Room, Judge's Tables, Warm-Up Area) will incur this penalty. If a minor enters a restricted area, their parent, guardian, or supervising adult will incur the penalty.

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 who 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 complete their scorecards correctly and provide 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 head judge's responsibility to ensure that score sheets are properly filled out and that each judge signs their score when 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.

In addition to providing their own scores, a judge must complete an arbiter paper for each rotation. After each rotation concludes, the head judge must sign their arbiter paper and check in with the KSIS operator 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 program's score.

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 codes by any judge must be reported 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 cases where there is more than one judge per panel at a state meet, one must be designated 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 put together, with neatly styled hair, light makeup, and an overall appropriate and professional appearance. Judges must wear a dark-colored suit, preferably black, with a white shirt. Judges are also recommended to have a high-quality black purse for storing any documents they receive from judicial meetings.

Once a competition begins (whether at the first judges' meeting, during podium training, or at the 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 serving on the judge's panel, it is imperative that each judge maintain a professional appearance and behave 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 or 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 be compensated accordingly.

If a judge needs to leave before the Awards Ceremony of any event, they must notify the competition organizer and AGG USA at least 3 weeks before the start of the event.

5.6. Social Media Expectations

Judges who have a social media account are expected to maintain a proper public image on their pages. AGG USA would appreciate reposting event information 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 messages posted by a judge on their page regarding any part of AGG USA or IFAGG (including other members, events, or 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, as well as the 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 within 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 with a choreographed routine may request a review by an AGG USA judge through the AGG USA Office. Routine Reviews must be scheduled through AGG USA and reported to the AGG USA Office upon completion. 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 excessive gifts from clubs or parents. Small tokens of appreciation may be presented but are not allowed to surpass a monetary value of \$25. Judges may only receive compensation for routine reviews at the official AGG USA rates. Accepting excess gifts may result in penalties for the judge, the club, and affiliated coaches, including potential suspension.

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 in accordance with 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, and 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 is 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 year olds

\$900 free program 4-6 year olds

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.