



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS VIRTUAL SANCTION PLAYBOOK



USA GYMNASTICS.

VIRTUAL SANCTIONING

All USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events, both live and virtual, are governed by USA Gymnastics *Rules and Policies*, USA Gymnastics safety guidelines, Safe Sport Policy, and judging criteria. Virtual sanctions are to be obtained by following the same procedures outlined in the Rhythmic Program *Rules and Policies*.

All participating clubs must follow all local health and safety guidelines. It is the responsibility of each participating club and Meet Director to ensure their own compliance. Depending on local guidelines, it may be possible for multiple clubs to be in the same location for the “Hybrid” virtually assisted option.

Virtual sanctions may be approved for the following types of events:

- Invitationals
- Evaluation for Teams/Assignments
- Regional Championship
- Other Championship/Qualification Events – TBD

Note: Virtual sanctions cannot accommodate foreign participants at this time.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND EXCEPTIONS

USA Gymnastics would like to stress the importance of flexibility when allowing for virtual sanctioned competitions during the 2020-2021 season. While certain aspects of hosting/attending a Rhythmic competition must be followed to ensure the safety of the athlete, other items will be allowed to deviate from the Rhythmic

Program Rules and Policies, Development Program Handbook, and/or Code of Points. These include:

1. Medical procedures: For all virtual and local competitions hosted in-gym, medical coverage is recommended, but not required, if all participants are affiliated with the host club. (Host club = obtained the sanction for the event and the competition is hosted at the gymnastics club's physical location, as listed on the USA Gymnastics Member Club profile.)
 - If participants are affiliated with a club that is not the host club (i.e. dual meet), medical coverage, as listed in the Rhythmic *R&P*, is required.
 - For meets outside of a gym, Sanctioned Event Minimum Medical requirements must be followed.
2. Difficulty forms requirements for virtual events follow the *R&P* with these exceptions:
 - A. FIG Groups must use D forms for D1/D2 and D3/D4 for virtual events.
 - B. There are two options for use of Level 9/10 D forms based on the number of judges contracted and meet referee opinion.
 - i. If D1/D3 are evaluated together – the coaches must submit one L9/10 Difficulty form to the meet director.
 - ii. If D1/D3 are evaluated separately, the meet referee will determine whether or not to use forms for the virtual event.
 - iii. Note: The Rhythmic Program Committee recommends use of difficulty forms for all events. Competitions must either fully utilize or not utilize D forms for each component of D in level 9/10. For example, the meet director may choose to have no D forms for D1/D2 and use D forms for D3/D4. But in this case, if there are multiple D3/D4 judges they must all utilize the D forms. In all cases when D forms are used, a form with both D1 and D3 components are submitted.
3. Level 3 and 4 competitors must compete one at a time.
4. Entry fee for virtual invitational events is recommended at \$20/routine and may not exceed \$25/routine. Entry fees for 2021 State/Regional Virtual meets will be \$20/routine for Level 3-6 and \$25/routine for Level 7-10.
5. Judging Panels should follow the requirements in the Rhythmic *Rules & Policies*.
6. When calculating timing for a single panel session, 5 minutes should be calculated per routine.
7. Virtual sessions must not exceed 2 hours. For each 2-hour session a minimum 10-minute judges break must be given.

PRIMARY GOALS

1. To provide athletes with the opportunity to perform in a competitive environment.
2. To provide athletes with a sense of motivation and something to work towards.
3. To provide member clubs with an outlet to raise funds through virtual events.





8. Time zones of participating clubs should be considered when scheduling the event in order to follow R&P.
9. Floor and ceiling height requirements may be relaxed if the home gym does not have sufficient space/ceiling height.
10. In the case of a technical delay beyond 30 minutes, the affected session(s) should be rescheduled.
11. Scoring Requirements
 - For State Championships and Regional Championships, a breakdown of D/E must be shown
 - For State and Regional Championships, it is required to use a platform that provides functionality for the meet referee to fulfill all of her duties listed in the R&P, including making sure judges scores are within the proper range. For example, KSIS, allows for the possibility of this with the option for scores to be reviewed before they are finalized.

VIRTUAL JUDGING MODIFICATIONS:

The following penalties will not be evaluated for virtual events. Note: modified forms for virtual events only are posted with these changes reflected.

- Level 3 apparatus: 4-6 all events: Variety and use of the entire floor area
- Level 7-10: Directions and trajectories penalties
- Levels 3-10: Facial/body expression (waves are still evaluated)
- Group: No body/facial expression
- All Levels: Neutral Penalties will not be applied

SANCTION REQUIREMENTS

- All participants must be a USA Gymnastics Member in good standing.
- All athlete, coach and judge entries must be entered via the USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation System.
- Meet Directors must follow the rules set forth in this Virtual Playbook and in the Rules & Policies.
- As with a live event, a USA Gymnastics virtual sanctioned event CANNOT be run concurrently in the same session with non-USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.
- Domestic events only.

VIRTUAL COMPETITION PLATFORM

USA Gymnastics has partnered with Flyp10 as a virtual competition platform for sanctioned meets. We encourage pairing Flyp10 with the use of a streaming platform.

For local level competitions and invitationals Flyp10 or another platform may be utilized, and it is at the discretion of the Meet Director to set the competition format and select the technology platform. *Please note, unsecured live stream platforms, those without control over participants or passcode protection (i.e., YouTube Live, Facebook Live, Instagram Live, Vimeo), are not approved for sanctioned virtual competitions.*

For invitationals, only the following platforms are approved for use.

- Flyp10
- KSIS (*Rhythmic only*)
- Virtual Stars
- Zoom
- Google Meet
- Skype
- YouTube*

* YouTube may be utilized as a virtual platform as long as the following conditions are met:

- Event must be conducted as an 'unlisted event.'
- Meet Director will need to have established procedures as to how the unlisted link will be distributed and to whom. In addition, the meet director should include in the distribution communication a statement that stress that the link is for intend the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and should not be shared.
- Meet Director must also have an established timeline for removal of the recording. Preferably within, 72 hours at the conclusion of the event.

Note: Additional platforms may be added and will be listed here.

For the 2020-2021 season, USA Gymnastics has partnered with Flyp 10 to offer a free platform to assist with virtual sanctioned events; however, it is not a requirement to use Flyp 10. Meet Directors may use any of the approved platforms that best suits their needs.

All videos and recordings of live streams must follow the Safe Sport Policy. Meet directors must provide information on where the recorded content will be stored, who has access, and for how long, to all participants prior to the competition.

When pairing Flyp 10 with a streaming platform, coaches will upload the videos of each routine with their mobile device. A separate video recording device will be used to stream competition floor, to ensure routines submitted were performed on the first try. We recommend each participating club has the stream on display in the gym so that the athletes may watch their friends competing in other locations.

VIRTUAL COMPETITION FORMATS

There are three format types for virtual sanctions that may be utilized.

1. **Video Submission Format** – Meet Director/Host sets a deadline or range of time where participating clubs must submit their athletes' videos for judging. Judging will be delayed, and final results will be delayed. This format is only allowed for invitationals and cannot be used for qualification events.
2. **100% Virtual Live Stream Format** – Meet Director/Host creates a link to view the competition live. Judges will have access to the link to be able to judge in real time, however final results may still be delayed. All routines should still be recorded and saved in the event that there are technical issues with the live feed and judges need the videos to be able to judge each athlete. A short delay will be allowed if using a platform that requires video uploads, such as Flyp 10, paired with the live stream. Final results must be submitted to participant clubs within 24 hours of the conclusion of the event when not using a live scoring system for invitational virtual events. Live scoring is required for State/Regional virtual events.
3. **Hybrid "Virtually-Assisted" Format** – This format will allow for multiple teams to hold a live competition in one location, but with the opportunity of including additional teams in separate locations. The clubs participating remotely will follow the requirements of the Virtual Live Stream Format. Meet directors/ host clubs have the option for a virtual session to be included as part of in-person local and invitational competitions following the virtual guidelines above. In-person State Meets must include the option for gymnasts to compete in a virtual session as part of the event. For all virtual/hybrid events, in person competitors will be awarded separately from live virtual competitors and uploaded routines. Live stream routines will be awarded

INFORMATION PACKETS / DIRECTIVES

Virtual competition hosts must include the following information and notify all eligible teams electronically by e-mail. Information should also be posted on the host club's website.

1. Name of meet, level(s) of competition and date.
2. Host Club and Meet Director/Coordinator contact information.
3. Entry fee (individual and/or team), to whom it is payable, deadlines, refund policy and method of submission.
4. Must utilize USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation System to enter participants.
5. Levels offered and age categories.
6. Livestream information, including:
 - a. Payment information for spectators.
 - b. Where recorded videos will be stored, for how long and who has access.
7. Awards information
8. Competition schedule
9. Any deviation(s) to the *Rules & Policies* or the *Code of Points*.

separately from uploaded routines. Each level and age division must be judged by the same panel of judges in order to be awarded together. The possibility for virtual participation options for other qualifying events is TBD.

ENTRY REGULATIONS AND FEES

All of the athletes, coaches and judges participating/ competing in a USA Gymnastics Sanctioned Event must be pre-registered as an Athlete, Professional, or Junior Professional member of USA Gymnastics. Any athlete, coach or judge who is unable to be verified as a current USA Gymnastics member will be ineligible to participate in any USA Gymnastics sanctioned event. In addition, any and all athletes who wish to compete at USA Gymnastics sanctioned events must be affiliated

with a current USA Gymnastics Member Club. An athlete must be coached by a Professional member of the same affiliated club, with the exception of an emergency situation.

Virtual Sanction Fees will be \$100 for the 2020-2021 season and will cover all participating clubs/locations. The use of the Flyp10 platform will be provided to USA Gymnastics sanctioned events at NO cost for the 2020-2021 season.

Entry fee for virtual invitational events is recommended at \$20/routine and may not exceed \$25/routine. Entry fees for 2021 State/Regional Virtual meets will be \$20/routine for Level 3-6 and \$25/routine for Level 7-10. To allow for proper competition planning, a deadline for accepting athletes in meet reservation must be established, and communicated, to all participating clubs. It is recommended that a competition schedule published at least 4-6 weeks prior to the first day of competition.

VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

1. The camera should follow the gymnast's movement around the floor during the routine and be filmed from as close to a normal judges' position as possible.
2. *Note: it is recommended that gymnasts use apparatus of which the color has some contrast to the carpet and surroundings when possible.*
3. Internet speed should be sufficient to stream/upload high definition video. (Recommended at least 15Mbps upload speed with wired internet connection).
4. Include one of each routine with no cuts.
5. If the video does not meet the requirements, the judge will mark it as not possible to judge in Flyp10 or notify the meet director when using another platform.



JUDGES

1. Judges will be compensated according to the R&P
2. Judges will be assigned according to the R&P.
3. Judges must ensure they judge from a location with sufficient hi-speed internet connection



AWARDS

Awards will be provided by the host club. Athletes will be awarded participation certificates on the day they compete, which will be presented in their club. Certificates will be mailed or hand delivered by the meet director to the club prior to the day of competition. If the meet director chooses to give an additional participation gift, this is possible (not mandatory) and should be delivered with the certificates. Placement awards will not be presented on the day of competition. The placement awards must be sent via mail or hand delivered to each club within 4 weeks following the awards requirements in the Rhythmic Rules & Policies. All participants must be made aware of the awards protocol prior to registering for the competition.

In person competitors will be awarded separately from live virtual competitors and uploaded routines. Live stream routines will be awarded separately from uploaded routines. Each level and age division must be judged by the same panel of judges in order to be awarded together.