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# Welcome!

Reading this document is your first step to becoming a rhythmic gymnastics judge. Judges are essential participants in the sport of gymnastics. As a judge, you are responsible for applying the rules of the sport in a fair and equitable way, while ensuring a level playing field and a safe environment for our athletes. Judging can be a rewarding experience, but it also entails a lot of dedication, practice, and professionalism.

Here is what you need to know to get started.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A JUDGE?

Former gymnasts, coaches, parents, and rhythmic gymnastics enthusiasts are all welcome to start the process of becoming a rhythmic gymnastics judge. The only prerequisite is that you are at least 16 years old.

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The first step is to contact your USA Gymnastics Regional Chair or the National Judges' Representative and let them know of your interest. They will be able to tell you when the next judges' course/test will be held and how you can register. The contact information for these representatives can be found in the Rhythmic Program Directory at [usagym.org](http://usagym.org).

The next step is for you to review and familiarize yourself with the [Development Program Code of Points](#) and the Rhythmic Program Rules & Policies (especially Chapter 4, Officials). See the web address below.

New for 2021, a NextGen Judges Study Group has been created for aspiring brand new judges up to 30 years old. This group will walk members step by step through the process of becoming a judge, provide study opportunities and guidance, and create community within young judges. Contact [jvincent@usagym.org](mailto:jvincent@usagym.org) if you are interested in participating.

This is not required for taking the official course and exams.

Finally, you will need to register for the appropriate Development Program Judge's Course and Test. Courses are held multiple times in an Olympic cycle and typically take place in the fall months. The National course will be held twice within an Olympic cycle.

## WHAT ARE THE JUDGE RATING POLICIES?

There are four levels of judge ratings in the US Rhythmic Program:

- Levels 3–5
- Levels 6–8
- National (Level 9–10)
- Brevet (International Rating)

Most prospective judges begin at Level 3–6; however, there are a few exceptions. See the chart below for rating eligibility.

JUDGE RATING	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Level 3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be 16 years of age</li></ul>
Level 6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be 16 years of age, and</li><li>• Be an active Level 3–5 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational Meet and 1 State Meet, or</li><li>• Be a coach of a gymnast who competed at the Development Program National Championships (Individual) during the previous or current cycle, or</li><li>• Have a current Level 6–8 rating</li><li>• Anyone who meets the criteria to take the National Exam will also be eligible to take the level 6–8 exam.</li></ul>
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be 18 years of age, and</li><li>• Be and active Level 6–8 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational, 1 State Meet and 1 Regional Meet, or</li><li>• Be a coach of an athlete who has qualified for level 10, or competed at the Elite National Championships or Challenge within the past 5 years, or</li><li>• Have been a member of the US National Team during the current or previous cycle, or</li><li>• Have a current National rating</li></ul>
Brevet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) administers the test, which is by invitation only.</li></ul>







## WHAT'S ON THE TEST?

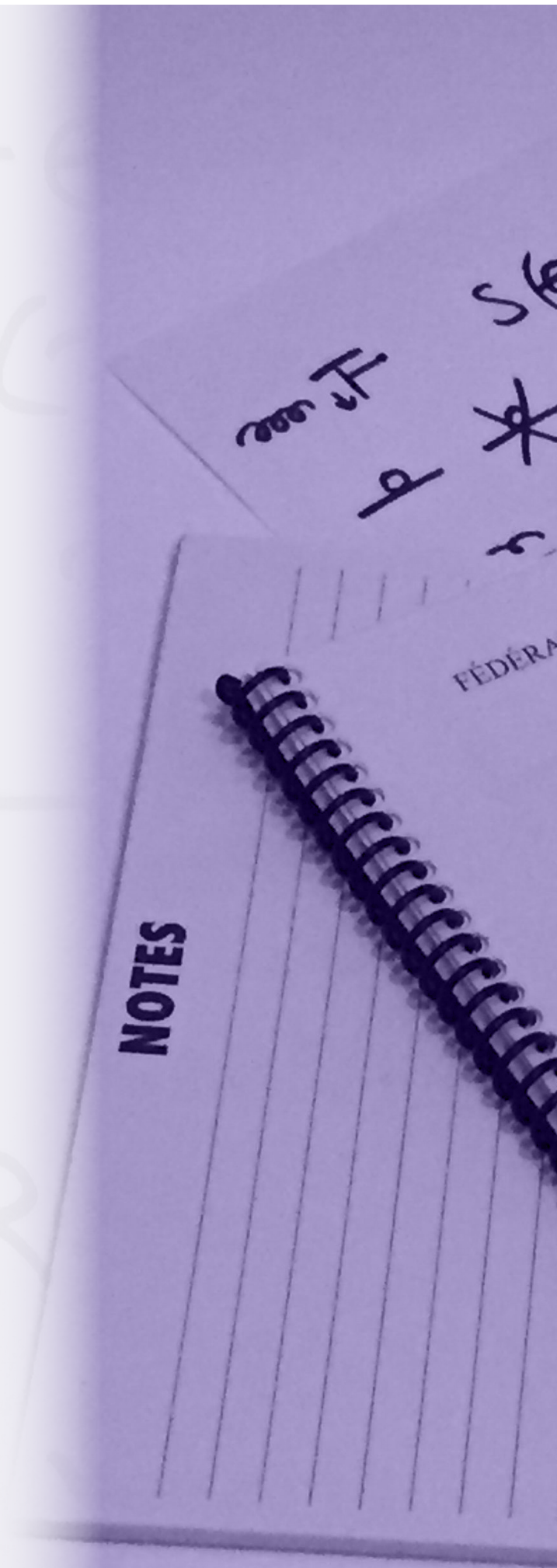
The judge's test traditionally has both a written and a practical component. For the testing in early 2022 for the start of the next Olympic Cycle, some levels of judges certification may not have a written exam. The written component is typically multiple choice and/ or short answer questions. For the practical component, you will judge a number of routines on video. The key to success is to study prior to taking the course! You will receive your results as soon as possible following the exam.

## I PASSED THE TEST. NOW WHAT?

The first thing you must do is become a USA Gymnastics Professional Member or Jr. Professional Member, which requires you to complete your safety certification, Safe Sport course, and a criminal background check (not necessary for Jr. Pro Members) and other requirements. Check the Member Services section of the USA Gymnastics Website for full details. You will not be allowed on the competition floor until you have secured your USA Gymnastics membership.

After passing the judges test, all new judges will hold a Provisional Rating for a period of one year. During that time, provisional judges must complete and pass a Practical Experience, at their own expense, before becoming fully certified. The Practical Experience involves judging a meet under the direction of an experienced judge. For Level 3–5 and Level 6–8 provisional judges, you must contact your Regional Judging Coordinator to schedule the practical experience. The National Judges' Representative will assign new National provisional judges to a practical experience. Provisional judges may be assigned to competitions prior to their Practical Experience and will receive a reduced rate of pay.

Once you have completed/passed the Practical Experience and judged for one year, you will become a fully certified judge! Your rating will be valid until the end of the current Olympic cycle. To maintain your rating, you must judge one meet per year.





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ATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE



## 2017 - 2020 CODE OF POINTS



### Rhythmic Gymnastics

Approved by the FIG Executive Committee  
The English version is the official text

## HOW WILL I BE ASSIGNED TO JUDGE?

All active judges' names are added to the USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Master Judge's List. Meet Directors of invitational meets may contract any judge from the Master List (provided the judge is not affiliated) to judge the levels for which he or she is certified. For State and Regional Championships, the Regional Judging Coordinators will assign judges for their respective Regions. The National Judges Selection Committee assigns judges for USA Gymnastics events, such as Rhythmic Challenge, National Qualifier, and USA Gymnastics Championships.

## WHAT WILL BE MY COMPENSATION AND WHAT EXPENSES WILL I INCUR?

For Invitational, State, and Regional events, judges are paid on an hourly rate based on their rating. See below. Travel, food, and lodging are provided by the meet directors.

JUDGE RATING	RATE PER HOUR
Brevet 1 & 2	\$40
Brevet 3 & 4	\$35
National 2	\$30
National 1	\$25
Level 6-8	\$20
Level 3-5	\$15
*Provisional	\$3 less than the official rate

Other expenses that judges may incur include:

- Course and test fee — historically around \$125; TBD for 2021-2022
- Travel to testing site — depends on location
- Annual USA Gym Professional Membership — \$89/year
  - Safety Certification — \$65
  - Background check — starting at \$21.25
- Practical Experience travel (one-time expense) — depends on location
- Judging uniform (black or navy suit and white shirt) — varies

## ARE THERE ANY UPCOMING COURSES?

Please check the USA Gymnastics website or contact the Rhythmic Judges Representative for information on upcoming courses. Judging Courses are always held at the start of new Olympic Cycles, for example late 2021-early 2022 then late 2024-early 2025.

## WHERE CAN I ACCESS JUDGING RESOURCES?

*Development Program Code of Points (Level 3-8 and Group):*

[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/devprogram\\_handbook.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/devprogram_handbook.html)

*FIG Code of Points (Level 9-10):*

<http://www.gymnastics.sport/site/rules/rules.php#5>

*USA Gymnastics Rules & Policies:*

[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules\\_policies.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html)





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**USA GYMNASTICS.**