

## Step-by-Step Preparation for the Category 1 Judges Course

After obtaining the intermediate Category 2 judges rating, the next step is working toward earning the advanced Category 1 rating. To be eligible to take the next course in the series, Category 2 judges must have experience in judging a minimum of 2 meets and it is recommended to have been assigned as a Chair of Judges Panel (CJP) and as a Difficulty judge without problems.

In the Category 1 courses, judges learn the guidelines for evaluating elite routines and the differences between the Development Program judging roles compared to the Elite judging roles. This requires a thorough knowledge of the FIG Code of Points, the Code of Points U.S. Elite T&T Special Requirements, online Rules and Policies, as well as writing and calculating elite difficulty value in real time. Additionally, new Development Program rules and their applications will be presented to educate the judges in making appropriate decisions for levels 1-Open competition.

This step-by-step guide will help in the preparation for this course.

1. Thorough knowledge of the FIG Code of Points
  - <https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/rules/#7>
  - Read the Code of Points MANY times over.
  - What calls does an Execution Judge make?
  - What calls does the Chair of Judges' Panel make?
  - What calls does the Difficulty Judge make?
2. Thorough knowledge of the Code of Points U.S. Elite T&T Special Requirements
  - [U.S. Elite T&T Special Requirements: Trampoline, Tumbling and Double Mini](#)
  - Read this document MANY times over.
  - Know the routine requirements and special rules for all elite levels.
3. Development Program Code of Points and Guide to Judging
  - [Trampoline](#)      • [Tumbling](#)      • [Double Mini](#)      • [Guide to Judging](#)
  - Read thoroughly to understand how the rules apply to the Development Program in contrast to the Elite Program.
4. Know how to find rules contained in the Rules & Policies online.
  - <https://usagym.org/tt/rules/>
  - Know which sections contain rules you might need.
5. Practice recognizing, recording, and calculating elite difficulty in real time.
  - Resources to practice DD
    - ✓ Understanding Difficulty [T303: Understanding Difficulty](#)
    - ✓ Understanding Scoring
    - ✓ FIG STS Gymnastics Interactive (monthly fee) <https://www.web-sts.com/index.php>
  - Practice calculating total DD for routines.