

## Step-by-Step Preparation for the Category 2 Judges Course

After obtaining the beginning Category 3 judges rating, the next step is working toward earning the intermediate Category 2 rating. To be eligible to take the next course in the series, Category 3 judges must have experience in judging a minimum of 2 meets.

In the Category 2 courses, judges review execution guidelines and are trained to operate as the Chair of the Judges Panel (CJP) and as a Difficulty judge for all levels of competition within the Development Program. This requires a thorough knowledge of the Development Program Code of Points, the Development Program Guide to Judging, the FIG shorthand for elements, how to calculate difficulty value, as well as extensive practice in recognizing and recording elements performed in real time. This step-by-step guide will help in the preparation for this course.

1. Thorough knowledge of the Development Program Code of Points:
  - [Trampoline](#)      • [Tumbling](#)      • [Double Mini](#)      • [Guide to Judging](#)
  - Read the Code of Points MANY times over.
  - What are the routine requirements and difficulty limits for levels 8-Open?
  - What happens when a voluntary routine requirement is not met?
  - What happens when a deviation occurs in a compulsory routine?
  - What causes an interruption and what are the consequences?
  - What defines a repeated element and what are the consequences?
  - How are deductions and penalties different?
  - What calls does a CJP make?
  - What calls does a Difficulty Judge make?
2. Thorough knowledge of Development Program [Guide to Judging](#)
  - The Guide to Judging contains clarifications for many calls that judges make.
  - Read the Guide many times for an advanced knowledge of how to make calls as a CJP.
3. Know how to find rules contained in the Rules & Policies online.
  - <https://usagym.org/tt/rules/>
  - Know which sections contain rules you might need.
4. Practice recognizing, recording, and calculating Difficulty for Levels 8-Open
  - Learning how to judge difficulty takes time, practice, and patience.
  - Best resource is Understanding Scoring to practice DD.
  - Download the difficulty sheet to learn the symbols and value of each element.
  - Practice calculating total DD for routines.
  - Go to a gym and practice recognizing, recording, and calculating DD in real time.
  - Practice DD at a meet with a mentor judge