

Step-by-Step Preparation for New Judges

Becoming a T&T judge offers a rewarding opportunity to participate in gymnastics competitions. The minimum age for participating in a T&T judge's course is 15; however, they must wait until they turn 16 before they can judge a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition.

Many current and former athletes take the step into judging. Advantages for the current athlete and coach is to understand the criteria that judges use to evaluate routines. Parents of athletes can better understand the sport and the process of scoring. Judging will enhance your enjoyment of the sport and provide opportunities to be a productive member of our T&T community.

There are many steps and expenses involved in the preparation to be able to judge a competition.

1. Create an Account at usagym.org:

- <https://members.usagym.org/fw/register.html>
- This will generate a member number for you to use in registering for a course.
- If you have a child competing as an athlete, you will need to create this account anyway to manage and approve activities including registering an athlete (age 15-17) for a judging course.
- If you have been a past athlete member, you will use the same number.
- Record and remember this number. You will need it to sign into courses and competitions.

2. Search and Register for Judging Courses Offered Nearby:

- <https://members.usagym.org/pages/education/courses/TTJA/schedule.pdf>
- You need to have an account before you can register for a course for yourself or your child if registering online. Participants may choose to show up onsite and pay a late fee.
- You do not need to be a current USA Gymnastics member to take a judging course, but you will need to fulfill all the requirements for membership before you can judge a meet.
- Separate courses are offered for each category in each discipline of Trampoline, Tumbling and Double Mini Trampoline. The beginning courses are Category 3.
- The beginning courses are very intensive and last approximately 4 hours each. Courses consist of lecture, practice judging, an open-book written exam and a practical exam. All exams are timed. The passing score is 80% accuracy on both the written and the practical exams.
- It is suggested to have a good working knowledge of the sport and the elements performed if you are considering taking all 3 courses within a single day. A full day of course work might be strenuous for participants who have no prior experience.
- Each course costs \$45 if registering online. An advantage is that the course administrator will send you supplemental information and helpful documents ahead of the course.
- A \$5 late fee is charged if registering onsite. The disadvantage is that this is subject to available room in the course and the administrator may not have the supplemental materials for you.

3. Preparing for the Beginning Category 3 Judges' Course:

- Spend time in the gym watching the athletes' practice and listening to the coach's instructions.
- Volunteer at competitions as a data entry person or another staff position.
- Download and read the Development Program Code of Points and the Guide to Judging.
 - [Trampoline](#)
 - [Tumbling](#)
 - [Double Mini](#)
 - [Guide to Judging](#)
- It is suggested to purchase [T302: Understanding Scoring](#) and start working with it.

- Register online for the course and wait for a confirmation email from the course administrator who will also send supplemental study documents. Read these documents before the course.

4. Attending the Judges Course:

- Arrive 5-10 minutes ahead of time prepared with paper and writing utensils for practice judging and testing.
- Bring digital or hard copies of all materials sent by the course administrator, the Development Program Code of Points, and the Guide to Judging.
- Know your member number. You will need it to sign in for the courses.
- Be prepared for a lecture and practice judging sessions as well as written and practical exams. Expect to spend 4 hours at each course.
- If taking more than one course in a day, be prepared to bring your own lunch, snacks, and beverages.

5. Becoming a Judges Member:

- All judges must have a current judges membership to participate and be on the floor of a sanctioned competition.
- Judges are expected to wear professional attire: Black or navy pants or skirt, black or navy jacket or sweater jacket, dark colored shoes, white shirt, and a tie for men.
- Some states have assistance programs to help new judges. Your club or the State Technical Representative may be able to help with this information.
- Adult membership “How-to Guide” can be downloaded here:
https://members.usagym.org/PDFs/Member%20Services/howto_adult.pdf
- A parent “How-to Guide” can be downloaded here:
https://members.usagym.org/PDFs/Member%20Services/howto_parent.pdf
- A judges membership is a yearly purchase that is not considered current until all certifications listed below are completed. Members with a “pending” status are NOT allowed on the floor. Fee listed on website. <https://usagym.org/membership/join/>
- U101 Safety & Risk Management course due every 4 years. Expect to spend 3-4 hours online on this self-paced course. Fee listed on website. [USA Gymnastics Safety Certification](#)
- A Background Check is needed for judges 18 and older every 2 years. Expect this to take up to 2 weeks. Fee listed on website. [Background check](#)
- U110 SafeSport is needed yearly for judges 18 and older. Expect to spend 1.5 hours on this free online course. [U110: U.S. Center for Safe Sport Course](#)
- U113 SafeSport Policy is a new requirement that explains the policies within SafeSport. This free online course will take about 30 minutes. [U113: Safe Sport Policy Course](#)
- All returning judges are expected to participate in the T210 Annual Update. Not required for new first year judges. Small fee listed on website. [T210 Trampoline & Tumbling Annual Update](#)

6. Being Assigned to a Competition After Passing the Exam:

- Once you pass the exam and obtain your active judges membership you are ready to judge.
- Your State Technical Representative assigns judges to local meets and State Championships. Please reach out to your State Technical Representative to be added to distribution lists.
- The Regional Technical Chair assigns judges to the Regional Championships.
- The National Technical Chair assigns judges to National events.
- Many assignments can be requested through a “Request to Judge” google form linked on the event website. Fill in your information and submit.