2019 – 2027 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WOMEN’S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS OFFICIAL’S HANDBOOK
Note to coaches: This document focuses primarily on judging. However, coaches should study it carefully in order to understand how officials will evaluate compulsory and optional routines.

Special Olympics Artistic Gymnastics essentially follows the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG) Code of Points with some modifications for our athletes. The English version of the code can be found at this link:


This document, along with the Special Olympics Women's Artistic Gymnastics Scoresheets, is intended to ensure a reasonable level of accuracy by all officials who have a basic understanding of the sport, regardless of their experience.

Roles and Responsibilities of Officials:

Professionalism:
- Due to the importance of the divisioning process and in fairness to all, judges are not allowed to talk with coaches, parents or athletes concerning a specific routine. This rule applies on and off the field of play. If such communications occur, removal of the judge will be recommended to the Games Committee.
- Judges are expected follow competition wardrobe guidelines as specified by the Games Committee and choose footwear that will not cause damage to the mats or other equipment on the field of play.

Panel Judges:

Depending on the meet format, judges responsibilities may include these activities:
- Fairly and correctly evaluating each routine according to the rules in effect at the time of the meet.
- Calculating each athlete's score in less than 1 minute following the conclusion of each routine
- Submitting correctly calculated scores to the designated scoring system.
- Learning the designated scoring system to efficiently allow for score entry
- Keeping appropriate records of all judgements by athlete and/or BIB number until awards have concluded.
- Accurately describe their judgement in the event of a score inquiry/protest
- Willingly correct errors identified during an inquiry/protest discussion

Event Head Judge:

In additional to the roles of a panel judge, the head just may also be responsible for:
- Calculating final scores accurately
- Entering scores into the designated scoring system
- Instructing panel judges on the event's expectations
- Conducting a conference when scores are out of range
- Managing timed warm-ups when the meet format is not traditional
- Offering and managing an additional warm up following an unexpected event that impacts the flow of the meet, such as the lights going off, or a fire alarm, or an injury, etc.
- Offering a repeat of a floor routine in the event of a music failure
- Communicate with the Technical Delegate or Head/Meet Referee as appropriate
- Time warm ups, 30 second touch, as appropriate

**Head/Meet Referee:**

The Head Referee is selected by the Technical Delegate, per the Special Olympics Technical Delegate Manual

The Head Referee may be designated to oversee the officials with no specific judging assignment (walk-around), or may be assigned to actively judge on a panel.

**Responsibilities may include:**

- Liaison between the competition manager, technical delegate, coaches and judges.
- Serves on the Protest Jury, as designated by Special Olympics Article 1.
- May assign judges to specific panels, if delegated to by the Technical Delegate.
- Coordinating with the Technical Delegate to determine meet schedule, uniform requirements, transportation, housing, meal schedule, event assignments and other meet specific information. Note: In some competitions, there may not be a Technical Delegate. There may be a local host Meet Director who is responsible for all of the field of play requirements. In that case, the Head Referee will make judging panel assignments themselves.
- Reviewing rules with the panel judges in a pre-meet preparatory meeting
- Clarifying any questions regarding routine evaluation, the scoring system, the meet format
- Instructing or arranging instruction for judges on how to use the designated scoring system.
- Reviewing professionalism guidelines regarding directing coaches to the head referee for rules clarifications, inquiries/protests, and other meet related items
- Procedures for reporting unsportsmanlike behavior, maximum effort concerns, or other issues

**Meet Formats:**

There are three basic meet formats

- Traditional format – Athletes warm up all four apparatus before any competition begins. This may occur in gyms with one set of equipment, or in gyms with a separate warm up gym. In the case of a separate warm up gym, athletes will be given a 30 seconds touch warmup on the equipment in the competition gym prior to beginning their routines.

- Modified Traditional format – One set of equipment is provided. Timed warm ups immediately precede competition on each event. No 30 second touch is required.

- Non-Traditional format – Two sets of equipment is provided on the field of play. Athletes warm up and compete on the same equipment. Warmup and competition are staggered on each set of equipment. Judges move from one set to the other for competition. No 30 second touch is required.
- Special Olympic Athletes would normally not perform on equipment set up on a podium for safety reasons

Judging Panels:

The correct evaluation of each routine consists of two components: Difficulty (D) and Execution (E).

The D (Difficulty) panel determines whether the routine was performed according to the text (compulsory) or fulfills event requirements (optional).

The D panel determines start value of the routine based on difficulty plus bonus and applies all applicable neutral deductions.

The E (Execution) panel will evaluate the execution of each skill performed against that skill’s ultimate expectation and apply all rules applicable to execution and amplitude.

Judging panels may consist of one to four judges per event.

- Four Judge Panel - consists of two D panel and two E panel officials – D1, D2, E1, E2.
  - Special Olympics World Games and Large National or International Competitions
- Three Judge Panel – consists of one D panel and two E panel officials– D1, E1, E2.
  - Medium to large sized competitions
- Two Judge Panel – consists of one D panel and one E panel official – D1, E1.
  - Small to medium sized competitions
- One Judge Panel – responsible for both D and E panel evaluations – D1 & E1.
  - Very small competitions

D1 Responsibilities:

- Head Judge for the event.
- Determines if each routine was performed according to the text (compulsory) or fulfills event requirements (optional).
- Determines start value of the routine based on difficulty, bonus, and all applicable neutral deductions.
- Ensures accurate evaluation of each exercise in accordance with Special Olympics Article 1, the Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Rules, the Special Olympics Judges Handbook and FIG Guidelines.
- Oversees consistency of judgements by the event panel.
- Acknowledges/Salutes each athlete to begin their exercise.
- Conducts panel specific conferences when D panel scores are not identical or E panel scores are out of range.
- May serve on the Protest Jury
- Identifies maximum effort guidelines infractions.
- Reviews with the panel level specific requirements prior to the start of competition.
- Oversees podium training preparation of the panel.
D2 Responsibilities:

- Determines if each routine was performed according to the text (compulsory) or fulfills event requirements (optional).
- Determines start value of the routine based on difficulty, bonus, and all applicable neutral deductions.
- Ensures accurate evaluation of each exercise in accordance with Special Olympics Article 1, the Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Rules, the Special Olympics Judges Handbook and FIG Guidelines.
- Presents their evaluation professionally during a panel conference,
- Notifies the D1 official of any neutral deductions observed such as out of bounds, spotting an element, etc.
- Notifies the D1 official of any inappropriate behavior or maximum effort concerns.

E1 Responsibilities:

- Evaluates the execution of each skill in each routine against optimum performance.
- Evaluates adherence to the entire compulsory routine, including body positions, transitions between skills, excessive stylization, etc.
- Evaluates optional routines for artistry, dynamics, musicality, rhythm, presentation quality
- Ensures accurate evaluation of each exercise in accordance with Special Olympics Article 1, the Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Rules, the Special Olympics Judges Handbook and FIG Guidelines.
- Ensures that E panel scores are in range and averaged properly prior to submitting the average to the scoring system.
- Presents their evaluation professionally during a panel conference,
- Notifies the D1 official of any neutral deductions observed such as out of bounds, spotting an element, etc.

E2 Responsibilities:

- Evaluates the execution of each skill in each routine against optimum performance.
- Evaluates adherence to the entire compulsory routine, including body positions, transitions between skills, excessive stylization, etc.
- Evaluates optional routines for artistry, dynamics, musicality, rhythm, presentation quality
- Ensures accurate evaluation of each exercise in accordance with Special Olympics Article 1, the Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Rules, the Special Olympics Judges Handbook and FIG Guidelines.
- Presents their evaluation professionally during a panel conference,
- Notifies the D1 official of any neutral deductions observed such as out of bounds, spotting an element, etc.
Application of Judgements:

D Panel Officials Evaluate:

- **Skills performed in compulsory routines (Levels A thru 2)**
  - Awards assigned value to each skill performed/attempted
  - Awards Bonus, where applicable
  - Applies Neutral Deductions, where applicable
  - Calculates Final Difficulty Score
  - Confers with other D panel judges to reach agreement

- **Skills performed in modified optional routines (Level 3)**
  - Recognizes and records the skills performed
  - Awards appropriate value to the skills performed, see Element Values Tab or FIG Code of Points
  - Determines whether event special requirements have been met and awards accordingly
  - Applies Neutral Deductions, where applicable
  - Calculates Final Difficulty Score
  - Confers with other D panel judges to reach agreement

- **Skills performed in optional routines (Level 4)**
  - Recognizes and records the skills performed
  - Awards appropriate value to the 8 highest valued skills performed, see Element Values Tab or FIG Code of Points.
  - Awards Bonus, as defined on the scoresheets
  - Determines whether event special requirements have been met and awards accordingly
  - Applies Neutral Deductions, where applicable
  - Calculates Final Difficulty Score
  - Confers with other D panel judges to reach agreement

Special Note: In an Optional Routine, a gymnast may use any element presently in any Compulsory Routine. However, if a gymnast uses any three consecutive elements, from any Compulsory Routine, there will be a deduction of one full point (1.0) from the Start Value. The reason for this deduction is to discourage a gymnast from taking a series of elements directly from a Compulsory routine when creating and Optional routine.

With a four judge panel, the D panel scores must match.

D Panel judges will award a minimum score of 1.00 if the gymnast performs any part of a routine.
Refer to the 2019 – 2027 Judges Scoresheets for the Maximum Allowable D Panel Score for each Level routine.

- Awarding Bonus can only be used to reach the Maximum Allowable D Panel Score.
- Start Values, which vary by level, are clearly documented on the scoresheets.
- A skill may receive value credit twice in a routine, and the combination may be awarded Bonus.
- Scoresheets are arranged by event with an additional tab containing most common skills and their value.
- An entire routine may be reversed without deductions, and a single element may be reversed without deductions as long as it does not change the floor pattern.
- A performed skill may only fulfill one special requirement.
- It is not necessary to expect special requirements to be fulfilled by higher valued skills. They may be fulfilled with recognizable skills only.

**NEUTRAL DEDUCTIONS – MAXIMUM 4.00 MAY BE DEDUCTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improper Attire</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Equipment or User of Aids*</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undisciplined or Unsportsmanlike Behavior, each</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Salute to Judges Before and After Routine, each</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Remove Springboard or Mounting Device</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Assistance by Coach, Spot a Component, each</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Assistance by Coach or Teammates, each</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signals to Gymnast by Coach</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Begin Routine within 30 Seconds following Judge’s Salute, each time</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Display BIB Number when provided, each</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach Not in Spotting Position, each</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding Warm Up Time (Gymnast may complete skill in progress when time is called)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding the Floor Exercise Boundary/ Out of Bounds, each time</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overtime Routine</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Exercise</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Fails to Finish with the Music</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor rhythm throughout the exercise</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In case of special disability, a coach may submit a petition to the TD prior to competition. Improper Equipment includes L3 or 4 athletes performing on Low Beam or L1 athletes performing on High Beam.
E Panel Officials Evaluate:

- Execution deductions are applied to each individual element
- More than one deduction may be applied to a single element

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Errors</td>
<td>Slightly bent arms, knees, leg separation, loss of balance, etc.</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Errors</td>
<td>Moderately bent arms, knees, leg separation, loss of balance, etc.</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Errors</td>
<td>Excessively bent arms, knees, leg separation, loss of balance, etc.</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls*</td>
<td>Includes falls on or off the apparatus</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Avoidance</td>
<td>Grabbing the apparatus to avoid a fall</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amplitude</td>
<td>Range of motion as compared to the ultimate, lack of extension</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>Pauses, intermittent stops</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamics</td>
<td>Lack of overall showmanship</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Lack of engagement with surroundings, eyes constantly on floor</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Falls will be deducted by D Panel Officials for Levels A, B & C

- E Panel Scores are averaged when two judges are assigned.
- Scores of both judges must be in an allowable range with each other.
- The average of the two scores determines the allowable range.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Score Between</th>
<th>Allowable Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.50 – 10.00</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 – 9.45</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00 – 8.95</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 8.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring:

Each athletes’ scores will be determined by using specific formulas.

Individual event score:

- D panel score + E panel averaged score = Event score

All Around scores are calculated using one of these two formulas:

When only Finals Competition is offered, the All around score is the sum of all 4 event scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB</td>
<td>12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>10.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX</td>
<td>14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>52.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When both Preliminary Divisioning and Finals competitions are offered, the formula for the All Around Score is:

- 25% of the athlete’s preliminary competition all around score + 75% of the athlete’s finals competition all around score = the athlete’s all around awards placement score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary AA</td>
<td>52.30 X .25 = 13.075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals: AA</td>
<td>54.70 X .75 = 41.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Around Award Score</td>
<td>54.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards:

Awards Divisions are determined following the guidelines found in Special Olympics Article 1 Guidelines

- Each athlete will receive awards per Special Olympics Article 1 guidelines within their level, age group and division for each event in which they participate.
- Awarded events include Vaulting, Uneven Parallel Bars, Balance Beam, Floor Exercise and All Around.
- Note: athletes are not eligible for an All Around award if they do not compete all four events.

Protests

Protest guidelines can be found in Special Olympics Article 1. The Games Organizers should provide these forms.