

MAGJA—Region V— Oct. 2023

Presidents Report—John Karmecy

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful summer break and some time to relax before starting to gear up for another judging season. We are in our last year of this current quadrennium and luckily there haven't been too many new changes. But I encourage and recommend everyone to start studying and preparing for their upcoming state courses. A lot of work from the MAGJA Board and NGJA Regional Leadership has already been accomplished to make sure this season begins without any issues. While there are some goals and tasks, I would like to see accomplished this season, many of the initiatives we proposed last season have already been completed/implemented. This would include:

- Hosting a yearly MAGJA meeting to be held at the Regional Championships.
- Establishing consistent communication with the State Directors to discuss their individual needs and to also help provide a solution to any issues that may arise.
- Make myself available as a direct line of communication from the coaches in the region to address any potential issues or concerns with the MAGJA or their judges.
- Create and distribute a MGJA Newsletter
- Create a yearly practical to be held at each individual State's course.
- Create a regional judges database
- Increased the fees being paid to the judges.

These tasks were completed by some of the members of our MAGJA Board and our Regional Leadership who volunteer their time for the greater good of this association. I look forward to working with you all this season and wish you all the best of luck at your upcoming courses.

John

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DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR—ANDY BROWN

It is hard to believe that we are gearing up for another competition season. As we head into our local courses, I would like to remind everyone of the following:

- All judges must have a current paid membership to take the certification tests. Renew your membership as soon as possible.

- All judges must pay any local association dues to the association where they reside (even if you take a course outside of your association).

- After your membership is paid, register for a course in your area or within the Region.

- o Pay NGJA fee of \$25

- o Pay local association dues and course fees at the course site (fees can vary so check with your course director)

- This year tests will be online and available to take between the dates of October 20 thru November 5th. Please be aware of the testing window. Given some courses are not until 10/28, it will only allow you ~1 week to complete the exams if you wait until after the course.

- Be sure you are current with all USAG requirements before your first competition.

- o Updated Background Check

- o Safety & Risk Management Certification

- o Safe Sport Trained

- o Understanding Safety and Response Policy

- Please be aware that most courses will be a live “Hybrid” format.

- Study and come to the course prepared to participate and pass the certification level.

- o Obtain and study the FIG Code of Points – this information can be found on the NGJA website.

- o Obtain and study the USAG Jr. Olympic program materials – this can be purchased on-line at USA-Gymnastics.org.

- o Obtain all document updates from the NGJA website for FIG, NGJA and Jr. Olympic

- o Review all videos posted on the NGJA website.

- o Find a current NGJA member and arrange to study/prepare with them.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your local and Regional leadership with any questions. We are looking forward to a great season.

Thanks,

Andy

REGIONAL DIRECTOR—GEORGE KRENK

Well, it's hard to believe, we're onto the last season of quadrennium. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer as now it's time to get back to the grind. As we gear up for another season, I hope everyone's getting ready for their courses or if you already had them, I hope it was enjoyable and educational. I'm also asking that everyone prepare for each competition you are slated to judge this upcoming season, remember that no competition is too small.

Many of you have heard of the mentoring program and some of you have been through it. It was tasked of me as Regional Director to create a regional mentoring plan. Part of that regional plan is identifying our future JDP NAL's and I'm working with all the State directors to identify those individuals. Working with those judges, we will utilize the inner regional exchanges and hopefully get them out of the regional to be seen nationally.

Also, while working with the state directors, we identified the next tier of judges that could make their way into the JDP NAL discussion in the next couple of years. The thought with these judges is to start getting them out within the region through exchanges to get them a wider range of experience and in front of some of our top regional coaches.

Lastly, I wanted to encourage everyone to sign up for the Championship exam which will take place on Nov. 11, 2023, at 11 am CDT and 12 pm EDT. Dave did a great job covering this in his write up, so please consider it. The results are all anonymous and this years exam is just to establish a baseline to see how the system works, what doesn't and what does. Your result on this exam will have no affect on any assignments this season. It's also a great way to into judging shape with the NCAA challenge to follow closely behind.

I am grateful for each of you and all you provide to Region V judging and all our athletes.

George

"Opportunities don't happen, you create them." Chris Grosser

"Changes aren't permanent, but change is." Rush, Tom Sawyer



OPS & ED DIRECTOR—DAVE JOHNSON

As another gymnastics season approaches, I would like to share some new information with you regarding upcoming judges courses as well as our certification process.

Judges Courses

Local judges courses are approaching in Illinois (October 14-15), Indiana (November 18), Michigan (October 28) and Ohio (October 28). Illinois, Michigan and Ohio will all be participating in the newly created hybrid courses that have been organized by Mark Sherman, NGJA Education Director. The large majority of local associations have chosen to participate. There are two primary benefits of the hybrid course:

1. Access to hear from some of NGJA's most knowledgeable judges
2. Alignment of judging across the NGJA as most judges will finally all be receiving a very consistent message

Online Test

Unlike previous years, the online test that judges must pass to be certified will be available from October 20th to November 5th. This 17 day window includes 3 weekends which should allow for plenty of time for you to get this done. Per usual, there is an optional test/certification and a compulsory test/certification with 7 mini-modules (general rules + 6 events) for each.

Championship Certification

With the updated NGJA bylaws that were ratified over a year ago came an additional tier within our certification process. This is called the Championship certification. This will be the highest level of certification within the NGJA. This will be offered as a pilot program this year before it likely becomes official next year. Although, this is subject to change, the Championship Certification will be required to judge meets such as USA Championships, NCAA Championships, D1 at JDP Nationals, etc. To obtain this certification you the required testing consists of an online practical using the STS system which was the same platform used for FIG certification. Due to it being a pilot year, all are encouraged to participate. Regardless of any wishes to judge higher level competition. Your participation and the date obtained will aid in the development of scoring criteria for next year.

Practical Test offered on Saturday, November 11th @ 11:00am Central, 12:00pm Eastern
No cost to participate!

Can help to identify strengths and weaknesses

6 routines on each event, except Vault (2D, 2E, 2 D/E)

4 Vaults (E only)

Lowest score of the 34 total routines judged will be thrown out

Code names/numbers will be provided to view your results against the field

Sign up to participate here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSell4jnMSwkWKtGpkXYBuUU7WI2R7b9qR2iIssDZTHfRccjpQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Study Groups

Once we have an awareness of who is participating, I can assist in arranging some region wide study groups to help us all prepare.

Good luck at your courses and have a great season!
Dave Johnson

REGION V JUDGES SPOTLIGHT

Thomas Britton—Indiana



Where you from: ***New Albany, IN***

Year started judging: ***2019***

Gymnastics past: ***Gymnast at SIGS 2004-2019***

Job/Career: ***Getting Masters in sports marketing and management at IU***

Biggest competition you judges: ***2023 Region V Championships***

Favorite event to judge: ***Parallel Bars***

Least favorite event to judge: ***Pommel Horse (very quick routine!)***

Why do you like judging: ***I've always wanted to stay involved in gymnastics after graduating and Zac introduced me to judging and I have loved it ever since. It is a great way to make and maintain connections in the gymnastics world while also continuing to gain a deeper understanding of rules and techniques.***

What else to share: ***I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities I have made in my short time behind the table. I want to continue increasing the number of active judges in Indiana and the Region, while also maintaining the highest quality of work from myself on the competition floor.***

REGION V JUDGES SPOTLIGHT

Curtis Wilson—Michigan



Where you from: ***Born and raised in South Detroit***

Year started judging: ***2003***

Gymnastics past: ***I wish***

Job/Career: ***Full-time gymnastics coach***

Biggest competition you judges: ***UM D1 on PH and line judge for NCAA***

Favorite event to judge: ***Pommel Horse and High Bar***

Least favorite event to judge: ***If I had to pick one it'd be Vault***

Why do you like judging: ***Judging gives me the opportunity to educate young coaches coming up. Also, I get to watch the future of men's gymnastics from the best seat in the house***

Something about yourself: ***I am an Army veteran and served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm with the 101st Airborne Infantry. Outside of gymnastics I like playing softball and scuba diving.***

Anything else to share: ***Judging was difficult and stressful in the beginning and still is stressful at times, but I wouldn't trade the opportunities it has given me for anything.***

REGION V JUDGES SPOTLIGHT

Sam Bode—Illinois



Where you from: ***Elmhurst, IL***

Year started judging: ***Senior year in HS, 2014***

Gymnastics past: ***JO athlete at Premier Gymnastics, the shifted to HS gymnastics at York High School (won the IH-SA Senior Gymnast of the Year)***

Job/Career: ***Account Executive and Operations Leader at Aon Commercial Risk Solutions. Was head boys coach at Zero Gravity Gymnastics 2015-2019***

Biggest competition you judges: ***USAG Collegiate Nationals at Springfield College***

Favorite event to judge: ***Floor and Rings***

Least favorite event to judge: ***Pommel Horse***

Why do you like judging: ***I love being a part of the close knit men's gymnastics community. Being able to give to a sport that gave me so much in my life is extremely rewarding. Finally, I love men's gymnastics and want to be involved with it for the rest of my life.***

Something about yourself: ***I've seen Dave Matthews Band 36 times and Phish 22 times. I studied Finance and Mathematics at Baylor University and I hold two professional insurance designations, Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and Associates in Risk Management (ARM).***

Anything else to share: ***I live in Chicago with my wife, JJ and our two cats and dog.***

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