

Judges Certification for the 2016-2017 Season

At the start of each Olympic cycle, all judges from Junior Olympic level 3-6 through Brevet are required to renew their judging certification. Below are details outlining the recertification process for the 2016-2017 competitive season. For additional judges information and regulations, please see the Rhythmic Rules and Policies (R&P), Chapter 4: https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html.

Junior Olympic Levels 3-6 and 7/8

Important Dates

- Weekend of October 29-30, 2016 – JO Online Course Part 1
- Weekend of November 5-6, 2016 – JO Online Course Part 2
- November 7, 2016 – JO Exam Registration Deadline
- Sunday November 13th – JO Live Exams
- March 11 or 12, 2016 – JO Retesting Opportunity (Indianapolis, IN)

Course

There will be a two-part Junior Olympic Judges/Coaches Course held online via the GoToWebinar application. The online courses are **mandatory** for all prospective judges. Please note: GoToWebinar has the ability to track participation. **Only judges who have engaged in the full duration of the course(s) for their level, will be eligible to take the exams.** Pre-registration and a \$25 participation fee will be required to join the online courses. The link for online course registration will be sent out in October.

Junior Olympic Course Part 1 – Level 3-6 & 7/8

October 29th and October 30th, 2016

- Online via GoToWebinar
- Plan for a full two-day course
- **These webinars are mandatory for everyone planning to take the Level 3-6 and/or Level 7/8 exams**

Junior Olympic Course Part 2 – Level 7/8

November 5th and November 6th, 2016

- Online via GoToWebinar
- Plan for a full two-day course
- **These webinars are mandatory for everyone planning to take the Level 7/8 exam**

Exam Details

Live judging exams for Junior Olympic Levels 3-6 and 7/8 will be held on Sunday, November 13th in six locations. All prospective judges must take part in a written and practical exam at one of these locations.

Date: Sunday, November 13th

Testing Locations: Seattle, WA; Bay Area, CA; San Diego, CA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Miami, FL

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm PST (WA and CA), 11:00am-5:00pm CT (IL), 12:00pm-6:00pm EST (NY and FL)

Test fee: \$50 Level 3-6, \$50 Level 7/8

Exam Registration

There will be two parts to the exam registration:

- 1) online registration/payment
- 2) submission of a completed judges log.

Please carefully read the additional registration information below.

1. Online Registration and Payment – **Deadline Monday, November 7th, 2016**
 - a. Registration will be conducted through the USA Gymnastics website
 - b. There will be separate registrations for each testing location. **Be sure to register for the correct exam(s)!**
 - i. Note that your eligibility for participation in the Level 7/8 exam is also dependent on submission of a completed judges log by the deadline.
 - c. Online registration will open in October.
2. Submission of Judges Log
 - a. **The 2016 deadline for submission of judging logs has been changed to Monday, November 7th for all participants taking the Level 7/8 exam.** This will allow USA Gymnastics to ensure that registrants meet eligibility requirements.
 - b. A completed judges log with information from the current cycle must be submitted to the individuals listed below by 11/7/2016:
 - i. Rhythmic Program Coordinator (Jayme Vincent) – jvincent@usagym.org
 - ii. National Judges Representative (Stefanie Korepin) – skorepin@heca.com
 - iii. Your appropriate Regional Judging Coordinator
 - Region 1 – Catherine Yakhimovich (katehbka@hotmail.com)
 - Region 2 – OPEN (send to Joyce Chaplin - joycechaplin@hotmail.com)
 - Region 3 – Melissa Akash (melbecker777@gmail.com)
 - Region 4 – Elena Savenkova (esavenko@twcny.rr.com)
 - Region 5 – Ellen Nyemcsik (Rgincorp@aol.com)
 - Region 6 – Rebecca Lavender (rebeccawallenstein@yahoo.com)
 - c. **Judges Log:**
<https://usagym.org/PDFs/Rhythmic/Judges%20Coaches/Judging/Training%20Course/rj-judgelog.pdf>

Exam Details

The written exam will be a **closed-book** test. Be sure to study and know the material ahead of time.

For any prospective judges who do not pass their initial judging exams, a re-testing opportunity for Level 3-6 and 7/8 will be available in Indianapolis the weekend of March 11-12, 2017. Additional information will be released prior to the re-testing date.

Tips for Success

- **Study, study, study!** The online judging courses are a great learning tool, however, they do not take the place of proper studying. Be sure to read and understand the JO Handbook prior to the online courses.
- **Practice judging.** In preparation for the practical portion of the exam, be sure to practice judging on videos. There will be opportunities to practice during the online course, but you should work on this independently also to be fully prepared.

Extenuating Circumstances

It is understood that some individuals may have truly extenuating circumstances limiting them from watching on all of the mandatory course dates or testing on the official exam date. Examples of such circumstances would be a death in the family, hospitalization, etc. **Regular work schedules, social events, etc., are not considered extenuating circumstances.**

Individuals with an extenuating circumstance may send a petition the Rhythmic Program Coordinator (Caroline Hunt, chunt@usagym.org) and the National Judges Representative (Stefanie Korepin, skorepin@heca.com). The petition must include:

1. A short description of the circumstance
2. Proof of the extenuating circumstance (doctor's note, plane ticket, obituary, etc.)

Any individual whose petition is approved will have the option to watch the course one time through a tracked, online system at a later date and take the exam in Indianapolis, IN on December 11, 2016.

National

The National Judges Course will be held in Indianapolis March 5-9, 2017. Judges must meet the eligibility requirements listed in the table below. Additional details will be published as they are available.

Brevet

Participation in the Brevet courses is by invitation only.

Intercontinental Course (Baku, AZE): January 16-22, 2017

International Brevet Course (Indianapolis, IN): March 6-10, 2017

Eligibility

See the eligibility information below (from the Rhythmic R&P) to determine which exams you are eligible to take.

Judge Rating	Eligibility Requirements
Level 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 16 years of age
Level 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 16 years of age, and• Be an active Level 3-6 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational Meet and 1 State Meet, or• Be a coach of a gymnast who competed at the JO Championships (Individual) during the previous or current cycle, or• Have a current Level 7-8 rating
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 18 years of age, and• Be an active Level 7-8 Judge who has judged a minimum of 1 Invitational, 1 State Meet and 1 Regional Meet, or• Be a coach of an athlete who competed at the Elite National Championships or Challenge within the past 5 years, or• Have been a member of the US National Team during the current or previous cycle, or• Have a current National rating
Brevet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) administers the test, which is by invitation only.

Note: It is not required to be a USA Gymnastics Professional Member before taking the course/exams. After passing the exam(s), a judge must become USA Gymnastics Professional Member before they are added to the official judges list and assigned to competitions.

Judges must fully recertify at every level they wish to judge. This is achieved by participating in the full judging course and passing the applicable practical and written exams at each level. For example, if a judge takes the National course and exam, but not Level 3-6 or 7/8, they will not be eligible to judge any Junior Olympic Level 3-8 events.

Judges testing into Level 3-6, 7/8, or National for the first time will have a Provisional rating. They must complete a practical judging experience within their first year of certification. Additional details regarding provisional ratings and practical judging experiences can be found in Chapter 4, Section 1 of the Rhythmic R&P.

Resources

Junior Olympic Handbook (Level 3-8 and Group):

<https://usagym.org/PDFs/Rhythmic/Junior%20Olympics/1617handbook.pdf>

FIG Code of Points (Level 9-10):

<http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/site/rules/disciplines/rg>

USA Gymnastics Rules & Policies:

https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html