




Put your hands together and congratulate **Suzann Azzaro** as our new NAWGJ Regional Judging Director. Suzann comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in the gymnastics arena!

Thank you to **Marilyn Blilie** for your years of dedication to region 3 NAWGJ.

Continue the congratulations for **Marilyn Blilie** who will continue to support us as our Technical Committee Chairman. Marilyn has a laundry list of improvements for our athletes, coaches and judges.

### Things to know:



Technical Clarifications: Avoid speculation when providing technical clarifications. It is best to refer all technical questions to Marilyn Blilie, the Region 3 Technical Committee Chairman (RTCC). For example, when coaches ask about the new floor music rule, it is important not to speculate but instead direct them to the appropriate authority to ensure accuracy and consistency.

If you believe that heat sheets are unnecessary, please review this point; otherwise, you may proceed to the next item.

Completion of Required Forms: Per R&P, you are required to fill out the necessary tabulation sheets. This is mandatory, not optional.

Rules & Policies, p. 61

#### H. SCORING

1. Base score will be established at the judges' meeting at Sectional and above competitions with the use of the Technical Committee Base Score videos and script of deductions.
2. It is recommended that each judge must either independently input their score electronically or submit the score in writing on a separate score slip.
  - a. If only one (1) keypad is available per event, both judges must write their own score, and both (or all four) scores should be entered electronically to ensure an accurate average score.
  - b. To ensure accurate results, both Vault scores should be entered into an electronic scoring system, especially at qualifying and championship competitions.
3. At all sanctioned meets, there must be a written back-up (in the form of a verification heat sheet) to record the individual judges' scores, neutral deductions, and the final average score.

NOTE: There is a new Xcel Code of Points update from 2025-01-25. Please update your code.

Large book: [https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/xcel/cop\\_rev\\_012125.pdf](https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/xcel/cop_rev_012125.pdf)

Mini book: [https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/xcel/cop\\_rev\\_012125\\_mini.pdf](https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/xcel/cop_rev_012125_mini.pdf)

By now, you should have received your gift certificates for Judges' Cup – they were sent on the evening of March 8 from [txnawgj@yahoo.com](mailto:txnawgj@yahoo.com). Please look for yours in your e-mail (including your Spam folder), and save it in a safe place where you will remember it; per IRS rules, we cannot resend it to you, and they cannot be replaced.

- ★ Complete the [reimbursement form](#) and send your receipts all at one time to [txnawgj@yahoo.com](mailto:txnawgj@yahoo.com).
- ★ Submit your request soon; the gift certificates expire on September 10, 2025.

Ginger Arons – farewell to a wonderful friend and strong supporter of Texas gymnastics since the early years.

[Ginger Arons obituary](#)

Texas's first SJD 1972-1978

In lieu of flowers, you can donate to Susan G. Komen in Ginger's name:

<http://www.info-komen.org/goto/gingerarons>

**Updating Availability in GymJAS:** Keep your availability current in GymJAS for regular season meet assignments. Recently, an assigner had to go through five judges listed as available in the system, only to have them decline because they were not truly available. Given the shortage of judges, this situation creates unnecessary challenges. Please be considerate of your assigner's time and effort when filling positions:

- ★ GymJAS availability determines regular season meet assignments.
- ★ The state meet availability form is used for post-season assignments, not GymJAS. The selection committee cannot see your availability in the system.
  - \* Note: if you are no longer available, you must inform Bonnie Crawford to remove you from the bid. Simply marking yourself unavailable in GymJAS does not affect the selection committee's assignments.



**Timely Contract Acceptance:** Accept your contracts within two weeks of assignment.

**Hotel Booking Coordination:** If you need a hotel, you must inform the meet director as soon as possible. Delays can significantly increase costs for the gym as the meet date approaches. Additionally, never book your own accommodations without first coordinating with the meet director, as special pricing arrangements may have been made.

**Mileage Reimbursement Policy:** According to R&P, if a hotel is offered, you may only claim mileage for one round trip, regardless of how many times you travel home and back—unless you coordinate with the meet director/host and they agree to cover mileage for multiple trips.

**Assignment Preparation:** Be fully prepared for your assignments. There have been reports of judges arriving unprepared or unfamiliar with the rules, which is unacceptable.



Texas: Donna Robacker

**Congratulate these NAWGJ Green Flag award winners** - this award recognizes our unsung heroes who have made outstanding contributions to our organization, promote professionalism, and demonstrate exemplary leadership:

Region 3: Stacey DeWitt (KS)



### CPE is Due 2025-05-31

Submit your completed annual CPE form to Bonnie Crawford no later than May 31, 2025 The earlier, the better.....



**update to the Brevet and National exam testing procedures for next year.**  
[https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Judges/2630\\_examinfo.pdf](https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Judges/2630_examinfo.pdf)

- Effective January 1, 2025, the IRS business standard mileage rate is 70 cents per mile (a 3.0 cent increase from the 67 cents rate in 2024).
- Effective October 1, 2024, the standard CONUS lodging rate is \$110 per night (a \$3 increase from the \$107 rate in 2024).



**NEW DATE:** August 23 through August 24, 2025 (not Labor Day weekend as in years past)

Renaissance Hotel, Austin

Plan to attend this year's Gymnastics Association of Texas (GAT) convention where you can learn from esteemed presenters, network with your Texas gymnastics colleagues, and, most importantly, support gymnastics in Texas.

This event is both enjoyable and highly educational. You won't want to miss it!  
Click the GAT logo and stay tuned for more details



National Congress: August 8, through August 10, 2025

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana

TX NAWGJ has subsidized the tiered pricing in the group registration plan, enabling all members of the Region 3 NAWGJ club (Member Number: 932022, State: TX) to purchase their individual registration at a discounted rate. To take advantage of this savings, be sure to follow the group registration process.

Click to register:



Now through July 25, 2025: \$270

In order to receive the discount, you must be part of the Region 3 NAWGJ club in your USAG profile (Member Services-->My Profile-->My Clubs-->Add a Club-->Club Member Number=932022, State=TX-->Search-->Add)

## Texas L7 State Challenge: A Three-Peat Victory!

Team Texas has done it again! For the third consecutive year, our incredible athletes claimed victory in the Patty J. Shipman Level 7 State Challenge. This year's competition, held in Fort Lauderdale, FL, marked another milestone in our streak of excellence, following wins in Denton, TX (2023) and Tinley Park (Chicago), IL (2024).

Another big thank you goes to Snowflake Designs for generously donating the stunning athletes' leotards.

A big thank you goes to Debbie Williams, TX state chair, and her TX USAG committee for providing the coaches' T-shirts and additional athlete leotards.

A huge round of applause goes to Tracy Brewer, whose exceptional coordination and vision brought the team together in style. The athletes dazzled not only with their performances but also in their signature pink light-up hats.

### 2025 Team Texas Members:

Morgan Taylor (AIM)  
Payton Beck (AIM)  
Faith Warren (Kurt Thomas)  
Kinley Pedrami (AIM)  
MollyBeth Wells (360 Elite)  
Sarah Fedorak (AIM)  
Paris Graham (AIM)



The camaraderie, teamwork, and dedication of these young athletes were truly inspiring. Their synergy and commitment carried them to yet another well-deserved win. Congratulations to Team Texas for continuing to set the bar high and making our state proud!

Here's to keeping the streak alive in 2026!





### Welcome these new judges:

#### District 3

Haley Graves Anna 4/5

#### District 6

Brenna Laderer Houston 4/5

#### District 5

Britney McGarity Magnolia 4/5

#### District 7

Mari Schroeder Cedar Park 10

Congratulate these judges on their new ratings in 2025:

Tatiana Bunch 7/8

Theresa Downs 7/8

Elaine Hackworth 7/8

Megan Haught 7/8

Kaye Nguyen Fields 7/8

Rebekah Smith 7/8

Vincent Thomas 7/8

**Moving up!**



Tami Jaso 9

Kayla Virag 9

Anjela Kolarova 10

Conner Payne 10

Josie Robertson 10



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Testing:** If you would like to test up this year and need to take an optional practical test, contact Bonnie Crawford to request a test in Texas. Note: there will be a test offered at GAT.

## Join the TX NAWGJ Leadership Team!

Are you passionate about professional development and the growth of women's gymnastics? Your skills and dedication can make a difference! TX NAWGJ thrives because of dedicated volunteers like you—find your perfect role and get involved.

All 2025-2027 committee positions are open for election:

D1 Assigner (West Texas)

D2/3 Assigner (DFW)

D2/3 High School Assigner (DFW)

D5/6 Assigner (Houston)

D7 Assigner (Austin / San Antonio / Corpus Christi)

Secretary / Newsletter Editor

Treasurer

Event Coordinator

Education Coordinator

Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

Professionalism Coordinator

What to Expect:

- ✓ Attend GAT in person (all expenses paid)
- ✓ Participate in quarterly committee meetings
  - Three virtual meetings
  - One in-person meeting at GAT

- ✓ Be a leader in the gymnastics community—listen, collaborate, and serve

Your involvement strengthens our organization and ensures continued success. Ready to step up? Apply today.



Click [here](#) for the job descriptions and more information

## Does Tone of voice matter?

How much positive or negative affect can the tone of a person matter when answering a question or addressing a situation with another person?

It matters a lot —sometimes even more than the actual words being said.

Tone of voice carries emotional weight and gives context to the message. It can completely change how the words are interpreted. For example:

- A simple “what are you doing?” can sound like genuine curiosity, playful teasing, or even suspicion or irritation, depending on the tone.
- When someone is addressing a situation —especially a sensitive one —a calm, empathetic tone can de-escalate tension, while a sharp or dismissive tone can escalate it, even if the words themselves are neutral.

Psychologically, people tend to feel tone before they consciously process content. Tone signals things like:

- Respect or disrespect
- Warmth or coldness
- Confidence or uncertainty
- Genuine care or indifference

There's research in communication that suggests in face-to-face interactions, the majority of the emotional meaning is conveyed by tone and body language, not just words. (Some models say ~38% tone of voice, ~55% body language, and only ~7% words —though these numbers are debated, the principle holds.)

So, in short: tone doesn't just matter —it shapes the whole experience of the interaction. It can build bridges or burn them.

**More on this topic at GAT!**



#### KS Fall Clinics:

September 6-7th Windee Weiss will be joining us in KC for our Annual Judge & Coach Fall Clinic! This clinic is free for all KS Judges. A nominal fee will be charged for out of state judges and all coaches. We love having everyone and it is a great opportunity to clarify all updates for the 2025-2026 competition season.

September 12-14 Megan Bankole will be coming to Wichita for all things XCEL! This event will be co-sponsored by KS and OK NAWGJ. We are waiting for Megan to finalize her dates to accommodate her Regional Camp schedule. Again, KS and OK judges will be able to participate at no cost, and nominal fees will be charged for out of state judges and coaches.

These are great educational opportunities for all judges and coaches. We will finalize locations and expenses asap! We hope to see everyone there!

In the meantime, you can email Suzann at [azzaro.ksnawgj@gmail.com](mailto:azzaro.ksnawgj@gmail.com)