

# Minnesota Gymnastics Judges Association

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## COVID Expectations & Judges Protocols

### **PURPOSE:**

As a key stakeholder in the sport of gymnastics in the state of Minnesota for both the High School League and the Midwest Amateur Gymnastics Association, the Minnesota Gymnastics Judges Association (MGJA) has put together recommendations for a safe and successful 2020-2021 gymnastics season from the judge's perspective.

### **GUIDELINES:**

The below guidelines are **in addition** to any information provided by the [Centers for Disease Control](#), [MSHSL](#), [MAGA](#), [MN Department of Health](#), and [MN Department of Education](#). The below guidelines do not intend to override or change guidelines put forth by other organizations. They are in addition to, and attempt to provide safety for our judges.

These guidelines are not listed in any particular order. As a judge's association we expect our members to adhere to these guidelines as well as hope our partner schools and clubs will do the same.

### **MEET MANAGEMENT**

- Judges will time their own events (routines and falls) and will not have added "timers" or other personnel at their judging stations
- If score flashers can sit a minimum distance of six feet they will be allowed, otherwise judges will flash their own score
- Judges will not sit next to each other when judging an event that requires two judges; they will maintain a minimum distance of six feet

### **JUDGES PROTOCOL**

- Judges will be required to wear a mask upon entry of the facility and not remove their mask until they leave the facility.
- As judges we will not carpool to meets
- Judges will be encouraged to bring their own timers and cleaning wipes in the event they feel something needs to be cleaned prior to their use
- When having a conference to discuss a score, judges will make the discussion as expedient and efficient as possible
- Judges will avoid unnecessary contact with all equipment
- Judges will not expect food preparation or other sharing of food items at meets (MAGA only)
- Judges will keep communication to coaches and meet management only, and only when necessary. This means judges will not communicate with athletes, parents, spectators, or others in attendance.
- Judges will not conduct additional "clinic" or "feedback" sessions before or after meets with athletes.
- Meet results approval/sign off process – Judges will remain at their last judging station when the meet ends. The scoring table will bring final results to the judge to sign at their judging station. No congregating at the scoring table is allowed.

## COACHES & ATHLETE PROTOCOL

- As judges we will expect that all programs will follow all guidelines as set forth by their governing league, the CDC, MN department of education, and MN health department.
- Judges will expect to see teams complying with distance requirements while not in competition
- As judges we expect all coaches and athletes to wear masks at all times during the competition (with the expectation of athletes while they are actively performing gymnastics in warmups or competition)

## JUDGE & COACH COMMUNICATION

- Coaches and Judges meetings should be kept to a minimum and only conducted when all members of the meeting are wearing a mask and can safely be at least six feet apart from one another
- Coaches will be encouraged to keep their discussions with judges to a minimum as to avoid close contact with one another
- Coaches are encouraged to leverage email with judges if they have general questions about routines, rules, etc.
- If a coach needs to inquire on a specific score during the meet, they can still approach the judges to notify of the need. The process will take place with care to be accurate, speedy, and limit face to face discussion.
  - Paper will not be shared between coaches and judges, rather just a verbal discussion will take place.
- Expectation that all programs will follow state contact tracing procedures in the event of a positive test result to coaches, athletes, judges, and other meet personnel.
- When judges feel that COVID protocols are not being followed the following procedures will take place:
  - High School Meets – the Judge will advise the site manager (Athletic Director or similar). If the site manager does not correct the concern the judge will contact the HS League office the following day. The HS League will then manage further actions.
  - MAGA Meets – the Judge will first attempt to resolve the issue with the host team coach, if resolution is not satisfactory the judge will contact Rockie Ramacher after the meet and Rockie will manage further discussion with the program and MAGA Board.