

MINNESOTA GYMNASTICS JUDGES ASSOCIATION
BYLAWS
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Article I. Purpose

This document describes the relationship between the members and the officers within the Minnesota Gymnastics Judges Association (MGJA). The bylaws describe how the basic rules are to be put into operation.

Article II. History

Since the late 70's, when the MGJA added officiating for women's gymnastics to its offering, the leadership has sought to continue to serve its constituency with only the highest quality of trained officials. Starting from 1964 when the International Code of Points first emerged on the scene, this organization has provided well-trained judges for junior high, high school, clubs, as well as colleges and universities. The members brought this excellence with them to officiate at women's events.

Article III. Mission

We strive for a judging group of officials with gymnastics experience primarily as participants and/or coaches. Officials that:

- Prove themselves competent in knowledge and practical application
- Attend training sessions and pass required tests
- Become competent to judge all of the four events and demonstrate objectively in scoring each performance as presented at one time and place.
- Demonstrate the ability to monitor and adjust, making necessary corrections when possible, to improve the process and precision of officiating.
- Recognize their primary goal is to serve the gymnasts and demonstrate professionalism at all times especially during moments of stress and controversy.

Article IV. Membership

- All members must be 18 years or older and in good standing with the association and Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).
- Members are expected to attend the annual association meeting/clinic where they will pay appropriate dues, elect association officers, when applicable, and receive updates on the activities of the association and information on the gymnastics current rules.
- Members function as individual contractors with the hosting high school, section, or club for each gymnastics meet they are assigned to judge. Members are responsible for their own transportation to and from meets.

Article V. Code of Conduct

Members shall:

- Maintain their competency for officiating at all levels of gymnastics.
- Follow the MSHSL Code of Ethics.
- Stay abreast of National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) scoring interpretations and current rule book.
- Promote sportsmanship among gymnasts, coaches, and spectators.
- Communicate with coaches, when invited to do so, about scoring procedures.
- Present ourselves at meets with proper dress and conduct ourselves professionally.
- Provide mentorship for our members as needed.

- Work in partnership with coaches to assure a positive gymnastic experience for participants.
- Avoid conflicts of interest (judges & teams). Members must communicate all possible conflict of interest to the assigner(s). Failure to do so can reduce future assignments.
- Offer the best evaluation of a gymnast's performance, no matter the skill level or team.
- Demonstrate a consistent commitment when accepting assignments. If a substitute is needed, the judge will contact the appropriate assigner in a timely manner.

Article VI. Assignment Determinations

The number and type of assignments is under the sole determination of the scheduling executive(s). The scheduling executive(s) will make the decisions on what they determine is in the best interest of the association and the clients (teams/clubs/gymnasts). They will take into consideration a variety of factors including, but not limited to, communication from officers, years of service, historic dependability, feedback from coaches and judges, and the level rating determined from the MSHSL (high school section tournaments only). Given the criteria, members of this association should not expect all assignments to be distributed equally in quantity, value, rank, or ability to all of our judges. Members with concerns should consult with one of the Officers. Membership with another association may be a consideration.

Article VII. Dues

Dues shall be set by the officers. Members must pay dues by December 1 for the upcoming season. Failure to pay dues on time can affect assignment determinations. The amount and where to send payment will be communicated at the annual fall meeting and other sources of communication (e-mail, phone, etc.).

Dues may be waived by the assigner(s) if a specific judge is awarded five (5) or less judging assignments.

Article VIII. Duties of Officers

The officers meet as needed throughout the year to discuss the state of the association and make decisions that impact future growth. Members have a right to provide feedback to officers for consideration and discussion during these meetings. Here are the roles and core responsibilities of the officers:

- President: Presides over meetings of the organization. Acts as official representation when necessary. The President can sign checks if treasurer is unavailable.
- High School Scheduling Executive: Makes final assignment determinations and judges fees for all high school assignments. Communicates assignments with our clients (schools, coaches, etc.). Must follow athletic director and MSHSL assigning requirements.
- MAGA Scheduling Executive: Makes final assignment determinations and judges fees for all club assignments. Communicates assignments with our clients (clubs, coaches, etc.).
- On-Boarding Specialist: Organizes and oversees the mentoring/training of our new officials.
- Treasurer: Collects and deposits incoming funds and dues. Prepare and account summary for the annual fall meeting for all members. Selects the bank account funds to be withdrawn for officer duties. Provides account specifics as needed for state and federal requirements. Can sign checks.
- Secretary: Acts as the custodian of association official documents and communications. This includes, but is not limited to, taking minutes at all meetings, keeping track of the bylaws and other legal documents, making information available to the membership, maintaining a directory of members, and notification of meetings and information to the membership.
- MSHSL Charter Clinician: Acts as the primary MGJA contact with the MSHSL league office. Responsible for organizing the charter activities including attendance at the MSHSL charter association meeting, a lead role with the association meeting regarding rule changes and training, submit the MSHSL reporting to maintain our Legacy status, submit MGJA State Meet recommendations to the MSHSL, and other duties as described in the Charter/Legacy Association Guidelines.

- An individual can represent more than one role/title. For example one person could be both a scheduling executive and the rules representative.
- Officer meetings can be called at any time by any officer.

Article IX. Removal of an Officer

The officers work at the pleasure of the association.

A change in officers can be initiated through two different pathways. 1.) Officer wishes to resign or 2) A majority vote of core judges at the next annual fall association meeting for those positions with an expiring term. Terms by position are:

- President – 5 Years
- High School Scheduling Executive – 5 Years
- MAGA Scheduling Executive – 5 Years
- Treasurer – 2 Years
- Secretary – 2 Years
- MSHSL Charter Clinician – 2 Years

If a change is initiated either by resignation or a term expiration, nominations and voting for the position will be taken at the next annual fall association meeting. Time can be permitted for discussions. Only the MGJA core judges can vote. The official determination is by simple majority of the votes actually cast at the meeting.

Core judges are defined as those MGJA officials in good standing with 4 or more years of MGJA service at any point in time.

Officers affected by this procedure are limited to President, Treasurer, Secretary, High School Assigner, MAGA Assigner, and MSHSL Charter Clinician.

The on-boarding specialist is assigned by a majority vote of the officers.

The President can call for an emergency association meeting if an Officer change is initiated and the position needs to be filled immediately.