**Minnesota Gymnastics Judges Association (MGJA)**

**New Official Mentor Guidelines**

Things to do before meeting with your mentee.

* Provide your judging schedule to your mentee and ask them to schedule 3 times to join you.  I usually share through Dec.
* Suggest coming earlier than usual if possible to go over a few things like:
* 1.  how to find/fill out paperwork and show your mshsl id
* 2.  Greet both coaches and ask if they have a need for a pre-meet meeting-introduce your mentee
* 3.  check out the gym layout and equipment - It's best to find issues before the meet begins and fix them ahead of time
* 4. watch gymnasts warming up to make sure you know the skills and have symbols ready for them
* Give them helpful hints on where to park and where the gym is located.

At the meet:

* Go over pre-meet stuff mentioned above
* Be sure to talk about professionalism - attire, timeliness, making sure all those who see you at the meet can tell that you are going to be fair in your judgement (coaches, host school management, gymnasts and spectators)(if one of the coaches is your friend - don't spend the whole night having side conversations after rotations, etc)
* Ask about comfort level, experience & find out the events that they feel are their strengths.
* Talk to other judges and plan your judging so that you can judge both JV and V for your mentees two best events if possible.  If you need to judge 3 events, be sure to judge your mentees top picks at this meet.
* Keep your mentee with you for the first meet so you can get a handle on how they are doing.
* Have them start simple and then add in more tasks as they can.  I usually go in the order below:

Difficulty

Difficulty with E/A

Difficulty, E/A, ER

Difficulty, E/A, ER B

Difficulty, E/A, ER B C

* Have them judge every other routine with you.  That way they can look over at your score sheet and compare while you are judging the next routine.
* I share my sheets with them and talk about how different people right down the routines.   I share that my way is not necessarily the best or only way.
* After each rotation, I will explain my sheets to them and answer any questions they have
* I usually tell them that they can ask me questions while I am judging and to not feel bad if I don't answer right away because I am in the middle of my thoughts.
* I tell them to right ?s down if needed as they come up so I can answer when not judging.

2nd meet:

* meet early again
* answer questions
* meet with the other officials and set it up so that you can judge a new event with your mentee
* pick one of the other judges to have them sit with during the meet.  It would be good for them to do this on a repeat event from the first night so that they can get another perspective.
* If the other judges are both new, it's okay to keep them with you all night.
* suggest judging every other routine again.
* take a few minutes at the end of the meet to process the experience of sitting with the other official:  What did they do that was different, helpful, usable?

3rd meet:

* meet early if needed
* Have the mentee pick the event that they need the most work on and have them judge that for JV and V.
* Pick one or two senior judges to have them sit with as well as yourself.
* Have the try to judge every routine
* Ask if they feel like they could judge alone on any events. which ones?
* Could they judge all events if they were with someone?

4th or more meets if needed

* Keep going if they feel they need it.
* Connect them with other senior judges if your schedule does not work for them.