

MEET MODIFICATIONS & PROTOCOL FOR COVID 19

Gymnastics meets in the context of Covid-19 will be conducted with modifications to provide the safest environment for athletes, coaches, judges and spectators. The following safety practices were established after extensive conversations between the Minnesota USAG State Board, MN state judging directors, meet directors, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Sports Commissioner.

These recommendations are based on state mandates set forth by the MDH as of July 30, 2020:

- Large gatherings are restricted to 250 people
- Cloth face coverings are required in public
- Social distancing is required

When mandates from the MDH become more or less restrictive, safety procedures will be altered to match the updated mandates.

While the MN USAG state board recognizes that every gym is an independent business, the safety recommendations should be adhered to keep our gymnastics community safe and healthy.

Every judge will need to make a personal choice in regards to their comfort level with judging in a world with Covid-19. As always, in Minnesota, we will hold each other to a high professional standard and support each other through this season.

Here are the modifications that will be applied to this season:

MEET SAFETY INFO SHEET. A meet safety information sheet will be completed by all meet directors to inform judges of specific safety information that applies to each competition. Meet safety information will be provided to judges a minimum of 5 weeks before a meet. This safety sheet will include information on judge tables, judges room, scoring system, paper trail, & meals. **See appendix A.**

CONTRACTS. If a judge does not feel confident in the meet safety plan that is provided by a meet director, the judge can withdraw their contract for that meet. Contract withdrawal must occur a minimum of 4 weeks before a meet.

JUDGES ROOM: A meet director must indicate on the safety info sheet if the judges room is large enough to socially distance.

COVID ATTENDANT. Each meet director will designate a Covid Attendant. This person will monitor Covid safety practices including the wearing of face coverings & social distancing.

MEET REFEREE (MR). A walking meet referee will be assigned to every meet. In addition to typical MR duties outlined in the code and R&P, the meet referee will have additional responsibilities. The MR will ensure that every judge signs a health form before judging (see below). The MR will sit to judge if a panel judge becomes ill the day of a meet. The MR may supplement the work of the covid attendant.

HEALTH FORM. At every meet, judges will sign a health form signing off that they have been symptom free in the past 14 days, have had no known contact with a person with confirmed/suspected Covid-19 in the past 14 days, and that they will adhere to CDC recommendations, local government mandates, and meet safety measures including but not limited to physical/social distancing & wearing a cloth face covering. **See appendix B.**

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS. As long as they are mandated by the state or local government, cloth face coverings must be worn by judges, coaches, and meet staff. Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose. Gymnasts will wear face coverings when off the equipment, during down time.

MEET SIZE. If large gatherings continue to be limited to 250, the number of gymnasts in one session will remain restricted as well. Most sessions will be able to accommodate no more than 80 athletes, one spectator per athlete, judges, coaches, and meet staff.

OPEN STRETCH. Stretch will be completed at the gymnasts' starting event. A roll of carpet bonded foam will be available for the B side floor competitors. Gymnasts will be permitted to rotate during open stretch to the floor to perform 5 minutes of lines. Open stretch will be 30 minutes.

WARM UP TIMING. Coaches will self time warm ups in order to reduce the number of parent helpers in the venue.

EVENT TIMING. Parent helpers will be greatly reduced. Beam will have one helper to time the routine and falls. This person will sit at a socially distanced location. On floor, the music person will time the floor routine. On bars, the head judge will time falls.

JUDGE TABLES. Two options: 1) A separate table will be provided for each judge AND electronic score pads will be available for each judge; 2) Judges will sit at the same table but separated by a plexiglass divider and electronic score pads will be available for the head judge.

AREA AROUND JUDGE TABLES. Meet directors are asked to mark off the area 6 feet around tables in high traffic areas. The MR may need to monitor this.

PAPER TRAIL. Athlete score cards will NOT be utilized for the 2020-2021 season. Two options for the paper trail: 1) Rotation sheets with a computerized draw as done at state meets; 2) Rotation sheets where the coach will number the athletes in order and give to judges.

APPROACHING TABLE. No person should approach a judges table without asking first, this includes MR, meet director, scoring staff, coaches.

CLEANING PRODUCTS. Judges should maintain their own supply of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in their judging bag. Gymnasts and coaches will be required to bring their own hand sanitizer and use between each event.

CONFERENCES. Judges should maintain social distancing throughout a meet. During conferences, talk through/around the plexiglass if present. If you must meet for a conference, keep some distance, keep the meeting short. Talk with your judging partner at the start of the meet about their comfort level of closeness when wearing a cloth face covering and stick to this when conferencing.

AWARDS. Team awards (not individual) will be completed on the competition floor at the end of the session. Individual awards presentations will only be completed if social distancing can be maintained for gymnasts and parents.

MEALS. If provided, meals must be individually packaged or boxed. However, meets may opt to pay judges a per diem rather than supply meals. Per diem is \$15 for lunch and \$15 for dinner. Per diem is only allowed for breakfast if a judge must stay overnight. It is recommended that for a meet of 6-8 hours, one meal should be provided or compensated for in per diem. It is recommended for a meet of over 8 hours, two meals should be provided or compensated for in per diem. Meet directors will indicate how meals will be managed on the meet safety info sheet. If meals will not be provided, a fridge and microwave must be available.

BREAK TIME. Expect breaks to be longer. Mats will be cleaned between sessions. All athletes & spectators from one session need to be cleared before athletes & spectators for the next session can enter the venue. Warm up time will be slightly longer as well to accommodate for all athletes to rotate to the floor to do lines.

ILLNESS DURING A MEET. If, during a meet, a judge develops symptoms associated with Covid-19, they will report symptoms to the MR and will remove themselves from the meet for the remainder of the day. The symptomatic judge should contact their healthcare provider by phone as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

ILLNESS/EXPOSURE PRIOR TO A MEET. A judge should contact the assigner to initiate the sub process if any of the following circumstances extend into the 14 days prior to a meet assignment:

- Diagnosis of COVID-19
- Symptoms associated with COVID-19
- Contact with a person with confirmed/suspected COVID-19
- Instruction by a healthcare professional to self-isolate

Assigners will maintain confidentiality in regards to the need for a sub.

APPENDIX A: MEET SAFETY INFO SHEET

This form is intended as a means for meet directors to communicate their Covid-19 meet safety plans to judges. Please submit your completed form to Linsey Hamilton (linseyhamiltonpt@gmail.com) a minimum of 5 weeks before your meet.

MEET _____ DATES _____

JUDGES' TABLES & ELECTRONIC SCORE PADS (Select one)

- A separate table will be provided for each judge AND electronic score pads will be available for each judge
- Judges will sit at the same table but separated by a plexiglass divider and electronic score pads will be available for head judge

AREA AROUND JUDGE TABLES

- In high traffic areas, the area 6 feet around tables will be marked off to aid in distancing

PAPER TRAIL (Select one)

-Athlete score cards will NOT be utilized for the 2020-2021 season.

- Rotation sheets: Computerized draw as done at state meets.
- Rotation sheets: Coach will number the athletes in order and give to judge

JUDGES' MEETING ROOM (Select one)

- Large enough to allow for social/physical distancing
- Judges may come into close proximity

MEALS (Select as appropriate)

-Meet of 6-8 hours, one meal should be provided or compensated for in per diem.

-Meet of over 8 hours, two meals should be provided or compensated for in per diem.

-As per the Rules & Policies, breakfast is never required unless a judge must stay overnight.

- Individually packaged/boxed meals will be provided for the following meals
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
- Judges should plan their own food for the following meals and will be compensated in per diem
 - Refrigerator & microwave must be available if judges are asked to manage their own meals
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch (\$15)
 - Dinner (\$15)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

- If a hotel stay is required, the judge will be compensated for an individual room

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPENDIX B: Minnesota NAWGJ: Health Attestation

Upon arrival at a meet site, each judge must sign below to attest the following:

1. I have **NOT** had any of the following symptoms during the past 14 days:
 - Cough
 - Fever / chills
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste/smell
 - Body aches and fatigue
2. I have **NOT** knowingly been in contact with a person with confirmed/suspected COVID-19 during the past 14 days
3. I will adhere to CDC recommendations, local government mandates, and meet safety measures including but not limited to:
 - Maintaining physical/social distancing
 - Wearing a cloth face covering