

CONSTITUTION FOR THE
GREAT PLAINS GYMNASTICS JUDGES ASSOCIATION
(October 27, 2007)

PREAMBLE

The Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association, also known as the GPGJA, was conceived and formed from a recognized need for the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, & Missouri to improve the quality of gymnastic judges, increase the quantity of gymnastic judges available, and to maintain high ethical standards in the judging of gymnastics. To serve these ends the Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association is dedicated to provide the gymnastics community/region with rule interpretations from the National Gymnastic Judges Association (NGJA), the NCAA and USAG (aligned with the FIG), certification clinics and recommendations of judges for competitions.

In all judging matters at all competitive levels, the Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association stands ready to serve when called upon. The Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association is to be unified and highly centralized organization of association members. The Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association will be an Association member of the National Gymnastics Judges Association (NGJA) and will adhere to the rules and policies of the NGJA, USAG and the FIG. The strength and support of the Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association is vitally tied to its members whom it serves by providing guidelines to promote high standards in gymnastics through the development of excellence in judging.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization is the Great Plains Gymnastics Judges Association. (GPGJA).

ARTICLE II

Home Office

The home Office of the organization is to be that of the current Association President and will change as each new President is elected every 4 years with their term beginning following each Summer Olympic Games.

ARTICLE III

General Organization

Section 1: Purpose and Structure

The GPGJA is a non-profit organization dedicated to serve and educate the gymnastics community by providing rule interpretations, certification procedures, certification tests, conduct clinics, training films, compulsory exercise translations and interpretations, and any other service of a technical nature that is requested by specific groups or generally recognized as needed by, but not limited to, the following: J.O. Region / Region III & IV and NGJA Region / Mid-West. Furthermore, the GPGJA stands as an independent, non-biased agency for assigning and/or appointing officials for gymnastic activities within the J.O. Region / Region III & IV and NGJA Region / Mid-West.

The GPGJA Executive Board is composed of a President, State Judging Director(s), and a Secretary-Treasurer. The organization of these executives is illustrated in Chart I. The member states of the GPGJA are, but not limited to: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. Members of the Executive Board of the GPGJA are to serve four-year terms from their date of election. An Elected Officer must meet the criteria for Directors and Officers, which is stated in a later section. The election of officers (President, 1 or 2 State Judging Directors, and Secretary-Treasurer) will occur by mail nominations and ballot. Other states may apply for membership to the GPGJA at any time.

Section 2: Requirements for Election to Office in the GPGJA

All elected officials must meet in the following requirements:

1. They must be at least 19 years of age.
2. They must be a National Card holder in a currently active judging status.
3. They must be actively judging within the GPGJA area.
4. They must be member in good standing of the GPGJA.
5. They must be a current Professional Member of USA Gymnastics.
6. Must be a USAG, NGJA and GPGJA certified judge.

Section 3: Emergency Voting

When applicable, emergency voting will be conducted to fill un-expired term vacancies.

ARTICLE IV

Objectives

1. Provide judges for all levels of gymnastics competition throughout the J.O. Region / Region III & IV and NGJA Region / Mid-West and when asked to judge in any other J.O. Region or NGJA Region as well as NCAA competitions.
2. Sponsor and conduct local, state and regional clinics to gymnastic clubs and organizations.
3. Sponsor and conduct an annual National Certification and a Junior Olympic certification Course each year to instruct judges in new trends and rules in gymnastics.
4. Sponsor and/or conduct a Safety Certification Course at least once every four years or as needed.
5. Encourage practice judging at live competitions, local club or college workout sessions, or by recorded competitions handed out at the annual judge's certification course.
6. Develop and perpetuate criteria for rating of judges' certification. Examples: Requirements, age, number of meets judged, test scores, refresher courses, apprenticeship, years of judging and levels of competition judged.
7. Follow a code of ethics for judges to insure a high standard of fair and wholesome competition as set forth by the USAG, NGJA, and the FIG.

ARTICLE V

Meetings and Installation Dates

Section 1: Meeting Dates

The GPGJA Executive Board will meet a minimum of one (1) time per year or more often as required. The meetings will be called at the direction of the President.

Section 2: State Meetings

State Judging Directors are encourage to hold at least one meeting each year in their respective state/regions for the purpose of conducting GPGJA business. Other meetings may be held as deemed necessary.

Section 3: Installation of Officers

Nominations for officers will be solicited and ballots sent to each member before September 30 in an election year. Officers will be elected based on a simple majority of votes received via the ballot. Ballots will be accepted up to 2 weeks following the ballot. Officers of the GPGJA will be installed immediately following the ballot. Each State will elect their own State Judging Director.

ARTICLE VI

Amending the Constitution

The Constitution may be amended by submitting a written proposal to the President at least 30 days prior or after the annual certification meeting. The President will submit all proposals to the Membership at

least fifteen (15) days prior or (15) days after the said annual certification meeting. Constitutional revision will be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Voting Membership present at any scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Membership

A person may become a member of the GPGJA upon completion of the following criteria:

- A. Must hold a current International, National, or Junior Olympic Certification.
- B. Payment of annual fee, which includes GPGJA membership in the National Gymnastics Judges Association and individual dues to the GPGJA and be a current Professional member of the USAG.

ARTICLE VIII

Certification

All certifications are to be earned as listed in the Official Certification Procedures of the NGJA. This rating will be presented by the GPGJA upon completion of a judging course directed and sponsored by the GPGJA.

NGJA Certification is to be maintained on an actively valid status by annual Refresher Courses that are directed by the NGJA Regional Technical Director or his appointed representative. Every four (4) years, or after a major rules change (whichever comes first), a total re-certification is required. Each Card Holder is to pay a re-certification fee as needed annually. An International Card will be considered equivalent to a National Card, but an International card holder must attend annual refresher courses to maintain an actively valid status.

ARTICLE IX

Specific Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1: Officers

The President is the chief administrative executive of the GPGJA. He shall preside at all Executive Board meetings; supervise and control the affairs of the GPGJA; execute all contracts. He shall present an annual report of the previous year's efforts. This report is to be made available to all Members of the Association.

The President is the chief technical coordinator and is responsible for the coordination and delegation of all technical matters related to rule interpretations, certifications, and the nomination of judges for J.O. Region III & IV, NGJA Region / Mid-West or NCAA competitions or other competitions outside of our region. He is assisted as well as advised by the State Judging Directors and the NGJA Regional Technical Director or his appointed representative.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of all the members for purpose of voting. He shall send minutes, serve notices, maintain records and in general perform all secretarial duties as needed. He shall receive and disburse funds, maintain accounts and present financial reports periodically. He is responsible for all other pertinent Treasurer's duties such as the signing of checks. In the absence of the President, he is to preside over and carry out the duties of the Chief Executive.

In the absence of any given officer(s) the remaining officer(s) will assume all duties of all absent officer(s).

Section 2: State Judging Directors

The State Judging Directors (SJD) shall attend all listed meetings; present, discuss and vote on pertinent issues, and administer all GPGJA business in their respective regions/states when so directed by the President. State Judging Directors will be responsible for assigning judges to all J.O. USAG Sanctioned events in their State, and any other requested events. The SJD is the only point of contact to assign

judges in their respective states. Judges, whom are GPGJA members, are not allowed to accept assignments on their own. If a GPGJA judge is contacted for an assignment they must notify the SJD, in their state, and obtain permission to accept the assignment.

ARTICLE X

Ethics, Hearings, Resignations

Any unethical conduct of an Officer, of the GPGJA, or any member of the GPGJA must be presented to the Executive Board for a hearing. A brief outline of such a Hearing shall be published in the Minutes. Any Officer or Member of the GPGJA may resign or withdraw, with notice given to the President or Acting President of the GPGJA. No Officer or Member of the GPGJA may be withdrawn without an Executive Board Hearing.

ARTICLE XI

Committees

Committees shall be formed as needed. A chairman is to be designated by the President. A chairman may choose his own committee members without the approval of the President, although he is responsible to report the work in progress to the Executive Board.

CHART I

Organization of Executive Board

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY-TREASURER

NEBRASKA STATE
JUDGING DIRECTOR

IOWA STATE
JUDGING DIRECTOR

KANSAS STATE
JUDGING DIRECTOR

MISSOURI STATE
JUDGING DIRECTOR