



## **USAG/NGJA Judges Selection Process for Senior Domestic Competitions**

### **Overview:**

Below is a summary of the USAG/NGJA Judges Selection process for Winter Cup, the National Qualifier, USA Championships, and Olympic Trials. This process begins in September and is typically completed by the first week in December.

Note: There are between 60-70 candidates for 24 positions.

### **Definitions:**

- ISC – Independent Selection Committee. This committee consists of four (4) individuals: The USAG Men’s Program VP, USAG MPC Chairman, NGJA National Technical VP (NTVP), and the current FIG MTC Member (or the MTC designated representative).
- MPC – Men’s Program Committee
- NTVP – NGJA National Technical Vice President
- RTD – NGJA Regional Technical Director
- MTC Member - The FIG Men’s Technical Committee Member from the USA, or MPC designee if no USA MTC Member exists

### **The Process:**

1. General credentials and characteristics of a judge considered by the NGJA (“General Criteria”):
  - a. Current FIG Brevet cardholder
  - b. Judging experience (e.g., multiple upper level JO and/or NCAA national competitions)
  - c. Respected by USAG Men’s Program, coaches, and peers
2. RTD Nomination Process
  - a. Generally, NTVP requests nominations from RTDs in September
  - b. RTDs will then contact judges in the RTDs region who possess the General Criteria regarding the judge’s availability and whether the judge wishes to be nominated
  - c. RTDs will then nominate no more than 15 judges from their respective regions that are available for the competitions, who possess the General Criteria, and who wish to be nominated

- d. RTDs should try to include among their nominations at least one or two judges that have not previously judged the USA Championships or have not done so in the past eight (8) years
  - e. RTDs will provide a list of their nominations to the NTVP by the deadline set by the NTVP
  - f. Each RTD will have an opportunity to present their nominees to the Proposal Committee (as described below) in a manner stated by the NTVP
3. The NTVP communicates with the USAG Men's Program VP to discuss the direction of the Men's Program and any possible issues regarding judging performance and use any pertinent comments as appropriate in the selection process.
4. The NTVP communicates with the NGJA President and other NGJA VPs (the "Proposal Committee") to review and select nominated judges for each identified competition. The selection decisions made by the Proposal Committee, including any alternates, will be documented in writing in advance of providing the names of the judges to the ISC. **NOTE:** If any NGJA region does not have representation on the call discussing nominations (i.e., is not represented in one of the positions of NGJA President or NGJA VP), an NGJA member from that region will be assigned by the NGJA President to be part of the Proposal Committee.
5. The not-assigned nominees will be listed below the assignment list for review during final discussions of the Proposal Committee.
6. The NTVP schedules an ISC meeting to discuss the proposed assignments and distributes the list of proposed assignments to the ISC.
7. The ISC communicates (conference call or in-person meeting) and discusses, reviews, edits the proposed assignment list, and then finalizes the assignments.
8. The NTVP edits the assignment document (if necessary) during the ISC discussion and creates the final assignment list. This final list is routed to the ISC for final approval.
9. The NGJA announces the final selection of judges upon ISC approval (under guidance from USAG).

**Special Comments:**

Regional Representation: The NGJA tries to assign an equal number of judges from each NGJA region (ideally six per NGJA Region). The USAG Men's Program does not always subscribe to this concept.

New Judges: The USAG Men's Program is normally open to using new officials in the first two years of each quadrennium. The last two years leading into the Olympics the ISC generally restricts assignment of new officials.

Discussions are Confidential: All discussions of the NGJA Proposal Committee and ISC are confidential.

Opportunity: There are always drastically fewer spots than qualified candidates to consider. As a result of the lack of available spots, some judges that otherwise meet the General Criteria may find it difficult to receive an assignment.

D1 are National Apparatus Leaders: A judge assigned by the ISC to a D1 position will be the National Apparatus Leader for their assigned event and will assume the duties of that position.

Bottom Line: The USAG Men's Program HAS FINAL SAY ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS. The NGJA partners with the ISC and USAG to perform a consultative and influential role during this process.