



President's Update – January, 2021

To All NGJA Members,

Happy New Year Everyone! Hopefully 2021 will be a better gymnastics year than the last. So far, the season has started slowly with Jr. Development competitions that kicked late last year and NCAA competitions right around the corner.

As I stated last month, this message will address several aspects of the upcoming gymnastics season amid the surging growth of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the virus on various men's gymnastics programs is changing daily. Each program will make changes they deem necessary and I will do my best to communicate them out to you.

1. **NCAA program** – the NCAA program will conduct live and virtual competitions starting January 15-16.
 - a. **Competition Schedules** - The NCAA coaches are submitting their competition schedules as soon as possible so we can begin assigning officials (live and virtual).
 - b. **Judges Assignments** - The NGJA will assign judges to competitions as follows:
 - i. **Live competition** – assignment will follow normal process through your local assigning director
 - ii. **Virtual competition** - assignments will follow a modified process through the NGJA. The NGJA RTD's and assigning directors will work together to assign judges across the country following a protocol below.
 - iii. **Assignment protocol** - order of precedence in assigning judges as requested by the NCAA coaches:
 1. No alumni judges or judges from the home state will be assigned to judge virtual local competitions.
 2. Judges judging the NCAA championships will be assigned first to prepare them for the championships.
 3. Judges who will judge one of the conference championships will be assigned second to prepare them for these competitions.
 4. Judges who normally judge competitions in their area will be assigned third
 5. Other unaffiliated judges will be assigned following the above
 6. The meet will run 1 event at a time in Olympic order
 7. 2 D-panel judges + 2 E-panel judges –
 8. One D-panel judge will determine the start value for one team while the other D-panel judge will determine the start value for the other team.
 9. The 2 E-panel judges will judge both teams.
 10. Judges will rotate positions after each event so each person can plan on judging 3 events in the D position and 3 events in the E position.
 11. Scores will be submitted using the Virtius program approved by the NCAA.
 12. One person locally from each team will be assigned to act as the Technical Director. This person will be at the competition site so they can make sure the camera is set according to NCAA guidelines, time FX, watch for neutral deductions (i.e. out of bounds), handle inquiries from the coach, and work with the D-panel judges for any adjustments to scores.
 - iv. **Virtius** - The NCAA selected this system as its platform for all NCAA virtual competitions. All judges interested in judging a “virtual” competition will need to do the following:



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1. All judges will be required to complete training and a system check before they can judge a virtual competition
2. Virtius has already trained 35-40 judges on the Virtius system during their testing. We plan to have close to 100 judges trained on Virtius in the next 2-4 weeks.
3. The NGJA is trying to have officials judge upcoming intra-squad competitions to practice and will communicate these opportunities as we learn about them.

Comment: Virtius has been provided with a list of NCAA officials with email addresses. You should receive information on Virtius training times and dates later this week. If you do not wish to judge a virtual competition, you will not be assigned to these competitions.

2. **USAG Men's program** – There is an MPC meeting on Jan 13 and I will provide a more detailed update following that meeting. For now, Jr. Development competitions have started in some places. Stay tuned for an update next week.
3. **Congratulations** – Congratulations to the NCAA Challenge winners!!!
 - a. **1st place – Prestige Region Wide** – Paul Evatt, Josh Wilson, Dave Forister, Brent Simmons
 - b. **2nd place – Fystrom of Fury** – Steve Jaciuk, Ellis Mannon, Alex Wittenberg
 - c. **3rd Tie – Backflip** – Gregg Didech, Malcom Brown, AJ Van Dyck, Anthony Mason
 - d. **3rd Tie – Big Dog Judging** – Don Osborn, Darion Knight, Eric Van Sickle, Kevin Anderson
 - e. **5th Tie – Rusty Belts** – John Karmecy, Justin Kreit, Ethan Champion, Tim Saxton
 - f. **5th Tie – Leg Kutz** – Craig, Nesbitt, Num Kutz, Linda Tickenoff, Kalind Carpenter
4. **Correction from December Newsletter** – in last month's newsletter, I shared the unfortunate news of the passing of Peter Bacon. Please be aware Peter did not pass away from COVID-19 as I initially indicated. Peter's passing was due to Interstitial Pneumonia, a type of lung disease, which is not a virus and unrelated to COVID-19. My sincerest apologies to Peter's family and friends. Peter's obituary is posted at NGJA.org.
5. **NASO Insurance** – NASO, the National Association of Sports Officials provides liability insurance for sports officials. Here is a link to their site: <https://www.naso.org/member-benefits/> Should you be interested in their services, you can contact them directly to determine if this is for you.

As we begin 2021, many of the programs we serve are starting to finalize their plans for the coming gymnastics season. I will provide more information as I receive you to try and keep everyone informed.

I wish each of you and your families a healthy and prosperous new year!

Mike Juszczuk

NGJA President