

## Andy Zembower

Andy Zembower's 46-year history in judging began in 1976 after his collegiate career at Ohio State and while coaching at the Youngstown Gymnastics Center in Youngstown, OH. He helped produce college standouts such as Tom Varner, Matt White and Jimmy Knopp. During that time, he has made significant contributions at all levels of judging and the sport of men's gymnastics in the United States.

Over the course of his judging career, he has judged hundreds of JO, college and national competitions including JO Nationals, ten NCAA Championships, multiple USA Championships, Winter Cups, Big Ten, and East Coast Athletic Conference championships.

He quickly became one of the NGJA leaders in Ohio judging at the JO, NCAA Division I and collegiate club levels. He assigned judges in Ohio for JO and college meets for over ten years. During that time, he served the Mid-America Gymnastics Judges Association Treasurer. In the mid-80s he put his engineering skills to use to developing methods to evaluate judging performance. He was recognized as the Mid-East Judge of the Year in 1988 and 1989. He served as a volunteer at the 1987 Pan Am Games.

In the 90s Andy was a 2 cycle FIG card holder during which he represented the United States at the Pacific Alliance Championships in Auckland, NZ in 1994. He also judged 2 Olympic Trials (1996 & 2000). He served as the Mid-East Technical Director and was a key participant in proposals to create a Judges Classification System. In the 90s he initiated the Master's Judges Course which focused on the high-level nuances required to judge at our nation's highest competitions. Judges were selected for this 2-day intensive film study course that was held annually and produced some of the best judges in the US. In the early 90s Andy was instrumental in creating the format and content for the National Course multiple choice written exam. Andy served as one of the early National Apparatus Leaders on Vault and later on Rings where he contributed to the evaluation of proper strength positions.

Working with Bob Witmer he helped to energize and popularize the JO judges program in the US. He served on the Junior Olympic committee to develop the judging standards for the 1988-1992 USGF JO Compulsories. He followed that effort by driving the effort to create and publish the Junior Olympic Judges Handbook that has evolved into various tip sheets, and guides in use today and served as the foundation of the current Men's Development program. He served as the Mid-East Region JO Director working with George Beckstead and Hal Frey during their terms as JOVP to establish rules and guidelines for the JO program at that time.

In 2012 he moved to East Region and joined the Metro Association where he continued to judge at the collegiate level throughout the region. He continues to provide recommendations for improvements in judging, rules and overall organizational improvement.

In 2020, he made a proposal to Mike Juszcyk on some ideas for improving the NGJA. Mike referred Andy to connect with Bob Cass who had offered some similar ideas on how to improve the NGJA. This resulting in "The Future of the NGJA Project" aka the Futures Project. This transformational project involved seven teams, 35 participants, hundreds of pages of documentation, dozens of hours of Governing Board deliberation, and 33 recommendations (nearly all of which were adopted). The project resulted in a new regional organizational structure, revised By-Laws, and new leadership positions

established creating the foundation of an organization that is aligned to the current and future needs of the NGJA and the gymnastics community writ large.