

Antonio Juan



Antonio Juan was born July 16, 1944. He immigrated to the USA in 1994 and currently resides in Miami Gardens, FL. Antonio speaks several languages and was a competitive gymnast from 1958 to 1961. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from the University of Havana, Cuba and a Master's Degree (with honors) in Biomechanics from DHFK University (German University for Physical Culture).

In his professional career, he was a Cuban Junior and National team coach for 16 years. Now retired, he continues to coach (part time) with the JCC in Aventura, Florida.

Antonio became a FIG Judge in 1961 and was president of the Cuban Judging Association for 18 years. Upon immigration in 1994, he joined the USA judging community and has been actively judging ever since. One special note of interest is that Antonio is one of the longest holding FIG Card holders in the World with 11 cycles! Here are some highlights of his judging career:

- Judged first international competition in 1962
- FIG level judge from 1968 – 2012 (11 cycles!)
- Judged 1980 Olympic Games
- Judged 1981 and 1983 World Championships
- Judged 1971, 1975, 1979, and 1983 Pan American Games
- Judged 1974 and 1982 Central American Games
- Judged 2 Junior Pan American Games (after 2000)
- Judged one American Cup
- Judged more than 25 other International meets in Asia, Europe, North and South America
- Judged Winter Cup and Black Jack Invitational several times
- Judged numerous Florida State Championships
- Judged numerous Region 8 JO Championships from 1994 – present
- Judged JO National Championships

Antonio feels that his greatest contribution to gymnastics was being invited in 1973 by the then president of the FIG, Arthur Gander, to participate as one of four speakers at the first international symposium in Madrid, Spain. There he made a presentation to more than 150 judges from around the world proposing among other important topics, the division of judging responsibilities into two jury panels D and E, a proposal that was adopted by the FIG years later and is still in use today.

Antonio has been a great supporter and mentor to the Men's Gymnastics community in the South for decades. He has dedicated a majority of his lifetime to the betterment of our sport through his coaching in the age group programs and the mentoring of judges. He was as inducted into the inaugural Florida Hall of Fame in March of 2014. Additional accomplishments and elected positions are:

- USA National apparatus leader (vault in 2004-2005),
- Southeastern Gymnastics Judges Association (SGJA) Technical Committee
- Florida Vault Apparatus Leader
- Region 8 Vault and Floor Exercise Apparatus Leader (10 years)
- Inducted into the SGJA Hall of Fame in 2020

I whole heartedly recommend Antonio Juan for consideration to the NGJA Hall of Fame. It is due recognition for someone who has been an advocate for and positive influence on Men's Gymnastics for so great a part of his life. I have been judging with Antonio for many years and have personally benefited from his knowledge and friendship. He is still active in Region 8 as a National Card Holder and is greatly respected and appreciated by all of those who have crossed his path during his long career.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Cummings
SGJA Chairman

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