



Dan Bachman, NGJA
(515) 554-1393

July 2, 2022

RE: NGJA Hall of Fame

Dear NGJA Board Members & HOF Voting Members:

I would like to formally nominate Bob Cass for the NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Judging Hall of Fame. I strongly believe that Bob is deserving of this highest judging award by the NGJA based on his profound impact he has had on the NGJA & it's membership.

As you know, some NGJA Hall of Fame members have been World Championship and Olympic judges, while others have had a sustained and profound impact on the organization we know as the NGJA. Bob Cass, although a notable gymnastics judge receiving his first FIG Brevet in 1989, fits nicely in the second category along with the founders of the NGJA in regard to his impact on the structure and business of the NGJA.

Bob has been, and is, an asset to the gymnastics community since he began judging in 1974 after a high school gymnastics career. Since this early beginning Bob has been a judge at the high school, junior, senior, and international levels, along with being a high school and club coach, and a gym club manager.

As you can see from Bob's resume, his judging career stretches over many decades and includes as highlights USA Championships, international assignments, NCAA Championships, Olympic Trials, JO Nationals, among hundreds upon hundreds of other competitions. Bob has taught dozens of NGJA certification courses, and of great importance to him he has served the NGJA and judges in the United States as a Region Director (MW) for four terms, a member and chairman of the NGJA By-Laws Committee, the Chairman of the NGJA Legal Committee, and as the NGJA Legal Director – all in all, for a period of over 26 years and counting. Locally, Bob has been in USAG leadership positions in Nebraska and the President of the Oklahoma Gymnastics Judges Association.

Regarding Bob's Hall of Fame impact on the NGJA, most recently Bob headed with Andy Zembower an extremely comprehensive review of the nuts and bolts of the NGJA called the "Futures Project" which examined everything the NGJA does (and does not do) through many separate teams involving over 50 NGJA members. Initiatives to come out of the Futures Project so far include, among other things, a structured mentoring program, clarifications regarding competition assignments, inclusion of a diversity and inclusion position in the NGJA By-Laws, addition of a national Education Director and a national Operations Director, restructuring of certain other NGJA national positions, restructure of the NGJA region structure from four regions to nine regions (based upon USAG Junior regions – the NGJA's largest "client"), and restructure of region leadership positions. These are monumental, forward thinking, changes that simply would not have been possible without Bob's NGJA leadership. Some of these changes have been advocated and pushed to the forefront by Bob for over a decade, and his diligence and consensus building has seen his proposals become realities for a better, more inclusive, NGJA well positioned for the future. Truly, Bob exemplifies the excellence and commitment to the NGJA that qualifies him for a position in the NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Judging Hall of Fame.

With that being said, I hope you will join me in voting for Bob Cass to be inducted into the NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Judging Hall of Fame.

Cordially,

Dan Bachman

Dan Bachman

Jim McKinney
TGJA President

Dear NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Hall of Fame Voters:

I am pleased and honored to nominate Bob Cass for membership in the NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Hall of Fame. I have known Bob Cass since 1990 when he moved to Oklahoma from Nebraska and began judging University of Oklahoma meets. Soon our paths crossed constantly judging junior meets in Oklahoma and Texas. From the beginning of our friendship it was clear that Bob was an outstanding judge and person and he quickly gained the respect of the Texas Gymnastics Judges Association leadership (HOF members the late Mark Williams, Mark Sherman, and myself among many others). As the Midwest Region Technical Director for most of these years I was pleased to nominate Bob for numerous international and national assignments. Along with these assignments Bob has judged literally hundreds of collegiate competitions as well as hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Junior competitions and served multiple terms as a National Technical Assistant for the NGJA and USAG. While Bob's judging may alone be enough to secure him a spot in the HOF, the largest, and most important, reason for me nominating Bob is the impressive and extensive work Bob has selflessly performed over the past several decades to advance the interests first of the NGJA Midwest Region, and then the entirety of the NGJA.

Bob has taught dozens of NGJA certification courses, has been the President of the Oklahoma Gymnastics Judges Association, served four terms as the NGJA Midwest Director, was a member and then chairman of the NGJA By-Laws Committee, was the Chairman of the NGJA Legal Committee for twelve years, and is currently the NGJA Legal Director (a new position created by the recent NGJA Bylaw revisions) and was recently elected as a Junior Development Director for NGJA Region 3 in the newly reconfigured NGJA Region structure. Dedication to judging excellence and the interests of the NGJA are a demonstratable part of Bob's fabric.

Greatly impacting Bob's HOF credentials is the ongoing so-called "Futures Project" that has been headed by Bob and Andy Zembower for over the past two years. The Futures Project is an extremely comprehensive review of the nuts and bolts of the NGJAs (through Bob and Andy and their numerous wide-ranging teams) which examined everything the NGJA does (and does not do), involving over 50 NGJA members and extensive presentations to, and approvals by, the NGJA Governing Board. Demonstratable results of the Futures Project so far, and Bob's considerable efforts, include a structured mentoring program, clarifications regarding competition assignments with judge feedback, inclusion of a diversity and inclusion position in the NGJA By-Laws, addition of a national Education Director and a national Operations Director, restructuring of certain other NGJA national positions, restructure of the NGJA region structure from four regions to nine (based upon USAG Junior regions, which has replaced college programs as the NGJA's biggest "client"), and restructure of region leadership positions. These are monumental, forward thinking, changes that simply would not have been possible without Bob's NGJA leadership. Some of these changes have been advocated and pushed to the forefront by Bob for over a decade, and his diligence and consensus building has seen his proposals become realities for a better, more inclusive, NGJA which is now well positioned for the future. Bob's excellence and commitment to the NGJA puts him on par with the NGJA founders and most, if not all, previous HOF inductees, and easily qualifies him as a 2022 recipient of a place in the NGJA Frank J. Cumiskey Judging Hall of Fame. Please vote yes to welcome Bob into this esteemed community.

- Jim McKinney
TGJA President
HOF member, inducted 2002

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GYMNASTICS JUDGING RESUME

Judging Certifications: FIG, National, and Junior Development

Years Active Judging: 48

Significant Judging Assignments:

- Numerous USA Championships
- USA Olympic Trials
- American Cup (FIG)
- Puerto Rico Cup (FIG)
- 2 RD761 Junior International Team Cup (FIG)
- Numerous USAG Winter Cups
- USA World Championship Trials
- 13 NCAA Championships
- Numerous USAG Collegiate National Championships
- Numerous NCAA Conference Championships (Big 8 and Mountain Pacific)
- Numerous NCAA Regular Season Competitions
- Numerous USAG Junior National Championships
- Numerous USAG Junior Regional Championships (Region 3 and Region 4)
- Numerous USAG Junior State Championships (Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma)
- Numerous USAG Junior National Invitationals
- Numerous State High School Championships (Nebraska and Texas)

Judging and Gymnastics Leadership Positions:

- NGJA Legal Committee Chairman/Legal Director (2010 to Present)
- Co-Chair of the NGJA Futures Project (2021 to Present)
- NGJA By-Laws Committee Chairman (2008 to 2010)
- NGJA By-Laws Committee Member (1998-2000)
- NGJA Mid-West Region Director (1996-2008)
- Oklahoma Gymnastics Judges Association President (1992-2005)
- USAG National Technical Assistant – Floor Exercise
- USAG USA Championships Technical Assistant – Parallel Bars
- Nebraska USAG Junior Boys State Chairman
- Nebraska USAG Junior Girls State Committee Member