

Gentlemen,

I am grateful for the opportunity to place Brian Cooper's name in nomination for inclusion in our National Hall of Fame. I have known and worked with Brian for forty years. During those years I have found him to be a positive ambassador for our sport and judging community.

Brian's competitive career included Lawrence High School and the University of Kansas. Following college graduation, he served as Assistant Coach at the University of Kansas for six years and later as Lawrence High's Coach for seventeen years. He also coached at numerous Kansas City area clubs off and on throughout these years.

His judging career began in November of 1968 as a high school senior working junior varsity meets. He continued to judge Kansas high school meets throughout his competitive years at Kansas. He earned his first National Card in November of 1973. His first college meet was the 1973 Big 8 preseason Meet. His college experience included numerous meets for the University Nebraska, Iowa State, University of Iowa, Fort Hays State University and Southern Illinois University. Over those years Brian judged numerous Big 8 Championships and the NAIA National Championships. He has served as an auxiliary judge numerous times and judged two NCAA Championship Meets. In addition, he has volunteered as an auxiliary at several World Team Trials, Olympic Trials and Senior National Championship event.

Brian judged his first age group meet in Bartlesville, Oklahoma in May of 1974 (this meet was a qualifier for the junior nationals – he was the only judge -26 gymnasts and all six events over two days). Since that time, he has judged extensively across Regions 3 and 4. Brian has been selected to almost every Regional 3 Championship Meet as well as several Region 4 Meets over the years. He has judged four Junior National Championship Meets and several AAU, German Turner's and Sokol National Championship events.

Brian has served as a JORTD for Region 3 the Kansas High School Rules Interrupter. He has assigned Kansas judges since the 1970s and run numerous judging courses and clinics. He has been recognized as the Mark Williams Judging Award (Region 3) two times, the Robert Cowan (Outstanding Contribution for Region 3), and NGJA National Judge of the Year. He is currently involved in the Kansas City judges mentoring program.

Brian has been as dedicated to making our sport better as any one I have known over the years. He has spent countless hours and driven untold miles to make sure meets can happen. As an example, last March (2022) Brian judged in Kansas City on Friday night then drove 400 miles to Paragold, Arkansas for a Saturday meet and was on the floor in Omaha, Nebraska on Sunday morning (1200 miles and three states in 50 hours).

Please consider Brian's qualifications for inclusion in our Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Jim McKinney

Brian Cooper

DOB: July 5, 1951

Active Judging Career: 1968 – Present

**Competitive Experience: 1966 – 1969 Lawrence High School (Lawrence, Kansas)
1969 – 1973 University Of Kansas**

Coaching Experience: **1973 - 1979 Assistant Coach University Of Kansas
1980 - 1990 Assistant Coach Lawrence High School
1990 - 1996 Head Coach Lawrence High School
1976 - 1978 Coach Topeka, Kansas YMCA
1980 - 1982 Coach McCracken’s Gymnastics - Olathe, Kansas
1996 - 1999 Coach Emerald City Gymnastics – Overland Park, Kansas**

Judging Experience: **First meet – High School Competition – November, 1968
First National Card – November, 1973**

High School: **Seven Kansas High School State Championships
Seven Texas High School State Championships
Two National High School Championships**

College: **Six NCAA Championships as an Auxiliary Judge
Thirteen Big 8 Pre-Season Invitationals
Two Rocky Mountain Opens
Ten Big 8 Championships
Two Mountain Pacific Championships
Two Big 10 Championships
One NAIA National Championship (1981)
Four Collegiate National Championships
Two NCAA National Championships (2017 & 2018)
Two NAIGC (College Club) Championships
Countless Dual Meets – At Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Iowa State,
Southern Illinois, Fort Hays State, Central Missouri State and Oklahoma**

USAG: **Numerous local and regional invitations (in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa,
Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri, South Dakota, and Texas)
Thirty plus Regional III Championships
Two Region IV Championships**

**Five USAG Junior Olympic Championships
One Olympic Sports Festival
Two Championships of the USA as an Auxiliary Judge
Two Olympic Trails as an Auxiliary Judge
One World Team Trail as an Auxiliary Judge**

Other Championship Events:

**Two YMCA National Championships
Two German Turners National Championships
One Sokol National Championship
Six AAU Junior National Championships
One Professional Meet Sponsored by Madison Square Garden**

Judging Education:

Kansas State High School Activities Association Rules Interrupter (1980 – 1996):

I ran required rules meetings for all judges and coaches in the state. A North and South meeting were held each season. Short courses included a judging overview and rule updates and applications from the National Federation and the State of Kansas.

Local Junior Judges Course in Kansas City and St. Louis (1998 – present):

Courses designed to introduce first time judges to the judging side of the sport. Courses also designed to help Coaches understand rule updates and putting together optional routines. All courses have included live practical judging.

National Courses:

I have assisted in National course junior presentations for the Great Plains Association. I also have been in charge of set up and running videos for the last seven years for the Great Plains Association courses. I did one National Course in St. Louis as the primary presenter.

GAT:

I presented at the GAT convention in Texas on Common Sense Judging. The presentation addressed judging bias and rule application and accountability.

Kansas City Shadow Judging Program:

In conjunction with local coaches and judges, I have worked the last twelve years developing and implementing a shadow judging program for our local Kansas City League Meets. The program is designed to give rookie judges hands on experience on the floor with an experienced judge, Shadow judges must go through our Local Junior Course pass take a locally developed written test prior to being assigned as a shadow judge for a local event. Shadow judges are asked to judge according to ability and experience. Sometimes only looking at execution. As they advance, they begin to figure final scores. When they become more competent, they will become the “Head Judge” and the experienced judge becomes judge two. This program has proved to be both popular and effective in preparing Level 9 and 10 gymnasts to enter the judging world.

Gymnastics Administration:

President Kansas Gymnastics Association

(1978 – 1982) Kansas City League Judging

Director (2010 – Present)

Kansas Judging Director (Assigning Duties for Kansas & Missouri)

(1990- Present) Region III JORTD (1998 – 2002)