



IFAGG General Competition Rules

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IFAGG General Competition Rules

Preamble

The International Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics, IFAGG, was established on October 12th, 2003 and is the recognized world governing body of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (AGG). IFAGG is a non-profit international federation, and it has been properly and legally registered as such. Its mission and purpose are strictly to advance the sport of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics. The IFAGG is the supreme authority on all matters relating to International Aesthetic Group Gymnastics.

Abbreviations

IFAGG	International Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics
AGG	Sport of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics, defined in the Competition Rules
Statutes	IFAGG Statutes
GA	IFAGG General Assembly, held annually and as stated in the Statutes
Council	IFAGG Council
President	IFAGG President
DC	IFAGG Disciplinary Committee
TC	IFAGG Technical Committee
IM	IFAGG Member, as defined in the Statutes. Can be a national federation or a club.
Gymnastics	The sport and/or activities of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics
Gymnast/athlete	Any person participating in the activities described in Gymnastics above
LOC	Local Organizing Committee. The organizing committee or other body or person appointed to organize any IFAGG sanctioned event
GCR	IFAGG General Competition Rules, this set of rules and regulations is approved by the IFAGG Council
Competition rules	These rules are prepared by the Technical Committee and approved by the Council to describe AGG competition exercises and evaluation.
COE	IFAGG Code of Ethics
COD	IFAGG Disciplinary Rules (Code of Discipline)
COM Competitions	Competition Organizer's Manual or Regulations for Organizing



1. Purpose and validity of the General Competition Rules

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the General Competition Rules is to provide a resource for the organization, control and operation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics competitions and the development of these competitions.

1.2. Validity

The Council is in charge of approving the General Competition Rules and any changes to the GCR. The Technical Committee can propose changes to the GCR. The approval of the GCR or changes to the GCR will be announced on the IFAGG website (www.ifagg.com). Major changes to the GCR will come into force in the next competition season after the announcement and minor changes to the GCR will come into force one week after the announcement.

1.3. Scope of Application

The International Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (IFAGG) – Kansainvälinen Joukkuevoimisteluliitto, its members and the committees of the members, and every person who competes or acts in the IFAGG's events are obligated to follow these IFAGG General Competition Rules.

The IFAGG Council has the right of decision for all decisions mentioned in these rules, unless Council has delegated the right of decision to another governing body or person, and except of matters that are in General Assembly's discretion as stated in the IFAGG Statutes.

1.4. Rules, Guidelines and Codes

IFAGG is responsible for establishing AGG competition rules for all categories.

The AGG competition rules, and other rules and official additions concerning competition activities, are the responsibility of the Technical Committee. These rules, their appendix and major changes to the rules must be approved by the IFAGG Council. The rules and major changes to the rules are published on the IFAGG website, and they will come into force from the date of validation and a minimum of one week after the announcement. Minor changes or clarifications to the AGG competition rules are published on the IFAGG website and these are valid 3 days after publication.



2. IFAGG competitions and other events

2.1. Competition calendar

IFAGG members must adhere to the calendar below to avoid date clashes for important competitions and to respect IFAGG organized competitions.

x = month, when a competition can be arranged

Event	Level of competition	Months												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
World Championships	A-cat.												x	
IFAGG Junior World Championships	A-cat.												x	
IFAGG Trophy	B-cat.												x	
World Cup, Challenge Cup	A-cat.		x*	x*	x*	x*	x*				x*	x*		
Continental Championships (every other year)	A-cat.		x*	x*	x*	x*	x*				x*	x*		
Student Competitions (e.g., EUSA)	A-cat.		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	
Other official approved international tournaments	A-cat.		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	
Other international tournaments **	B-cat.	Organizers can decide, respecting IFAGG Conflicting Dates Policy												
Open national competitions **	C-cat.													

* Continental Championships and World Cup must be a minimum of 3 weeks from each other or held during the same event. Different continents' championships can be in different months.

** Organized by IFAGG members (federations, clubs), not official IFAGG competitions

The IFAGG competition calendar, with the dates and locations for World Championships, Junior World Championships, Continentals and World Cups/Continental Cups for the next year, is published annually by June 30th on the IFAGG website and/or in other official IFAGG announcements. Updates and additions about other international competitions can be made during the year. IFAGG members are obligated to send their national competition calendars and event calendars to the IFAGG Office yearly by December 31st and any updates or additions during the year.

All international competitions must be reported to the IFAGG Office, which is responsible for maintaining and updating the competition calendar. Countries can publish an invitation to an international competition only after confirmation from the IFAGG Office, which will check that the competition fits into the competition calendar and that the invitation complies with IFAGG rules. Other international IFAGG competitions can't be organized at the same time as the World Championships, IFAGG Junior World Championships, World Cup and World Challenge Cup competitions, or during the two weeks before and after the World Championships.



IFAGG General Competition Rules

2.1.1. IFAGG Conflicting Dates Policy

This policy sets out the priority order of IFAGG events and prohibited periods that shall be considered when planning dates for IFAGG events. When applying events, the event with higher rank shall determine the priority order.

The principles defined in this policy may be varied by Council in exceptional circumstances where those circumstances are seen to benefit the global development goals of the IFAGG.

Priority Order of IFAGG events

1. World Championships (women)
2. World Cup competitions (women)
3. Junior World Championships
4. Challenge Cup (junior)
5. IFAGG Trophy (senior and junior)
6. Continental Championships, even years (women and junior)
7. Other A-category approved competitions (e.g. student level EUSA)
8. Other B-category approved international competitions, which are not related with A-cat. event
9. C -category competitions

Priority Order of competition divisions and age categories: "Event dates" is defined as program from welcome meeting (draw) to closing ceremonies.

World Championships event: Quarantine time: two (2) weekends prior and during same dates of IFAGG World Championships event it is forbidden to organize any international AGG competitions.

World Cup & Challenge Cup event: Quarantine time: two (2) weekends prior and during same dates of IFAGG World cup and Challenge Cup event it is forbidden to organize any international AGG competitions.

Continental Championships: Quarantine time: two (2) weekends prior IFAGG Continental championships event it is forbidden to organize any international AGG competitions in same continent.

A-category competition (not related with any other competition event mentioned above): Quarantine time: one (1) weekend prior of the A-cat. competitions

B-category competition (not related with any other competition event mentioned above): Quarantine time: none

C-category competition (not related with any other competition event mentioned above): Quarantine time: none

Note: according to IFAGG General Competition Rules (GCR) all international competitions must be reported to the IFAGG Office which maintains and updates the competition calendar. Countries can publish an invitation to an international competition only after confirmation from IFAGG Office, which checks that the competition fits to competition calendar and that invitation complies with IFAGG rules.



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2.2. Official competitions

2.2.1. World Championships, Junior World Championships

Time /Period: Every year

Participants: Senior women, junior women

Disciplines: Long program

Program for 2-day competitions:

Official trainings – day before the 1st competition day

First day – Preliminaries – maximum 3 groups* per country (hosting country max 4 groups)

Second day – Finals – top 12 results from the preliminaries – maximum 2 groups per country. Additional places: 1 group from each continent and 1 group from the hosting country, if they were not selected from the preliminaries.

* Wild card exception: The previous senior women World Champion group has a wild card and the right to participate in the next World Championships, if the majority of the nominated group that won the last World Championships is the same (e.g., 7 gymnasts of 12 nominated gymnasts must be the same or 6 gymnasts of 10 nominated gymnasts must be the same).

Country ranking:

In World Championships and Junior World Championships there is also a country ranking competition. The country ranking is determined by the highest total score per team (from preliminaries or finals), with a maximum of 3 teams per country.

2.2.2. IFAGG Trophy

Time /period: Every year

Categories: Senior mixed groups long program, Junior mixed groups long program

Program: Official trainings - day before the 1st competition day, separate from World Championships program (connected with the B-category competition or the same days than WCh, but not same time or as a part of WCh, see COM for more details)

First day – Preliminaries – maximum 3 groups per country (hosting country max 4 groups)

Second day – Finals – top 12 results from preliminaries – maximum 2 groups per country. Additional places: 1 group from each continent and 1 group from the hosting country, if they were not selected from the preliminaries.



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2.2.3. World Cup series / Challenge cup series

Time /period: 4 competitions per year. The competition period for the series follows the calendar year (1.1.-31.12.).

Participants: Women / Juniors

Disciplines: Long program

Program: Official trainings - day before the 1st competition day

First day – Preliminaries – maximum 4 groups per country

Second day – Finals – top 12 results from preliminaries – maximum 2 groups per country. Additional places: 1 group from each continent and 1 group from the hosting country, if they were not selected from the preliminaries.

Cup ranking: 3 best results from 4 competitions

2.2.4. Continental Championships

Time /period: Every 2 years

Participants: Women and Juniors

Disciplines: Long program

Program: Official trainings - day before the 1st competition day or on the day of the preliminaries

First day – Preliminaries – maximum 4 groups per country

Second day – Finals – top 12 results from preliminaries – maximum 2 groups per country.

2.2.5. International competitions - B category

Time /period: As a separate competition or in combination with World Cups/Continental Cups but a minimum of 1 day earlier (e.g., preliminaries are on the day of official trainings for WC/CC, finals are on the day of WC/CC preliminaries). B-category competition of AGG can be organized in connection with a competition of another sport.

Participants: All categories

Disciplines: Short program, long program

Program: First day – Preliminaries – recommended 5 groups per country, organizer can decide

Second day – Finals – recommended top 10 results from preliminaries – maximum 2 groups per country, organizer can decide.



2.3. Main calendar for other events

Event	Months											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IFAGG Main Judge courses	x	x							x	x		
IFAGG Coach Courses *			x	x						x		
IFAGG Webinars **	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x
IFAGG Training Camp***						x	x	x				

* Testing these events 2024

** Can be organized during the whole year if needed

*** During the summer holidays

2.3.1. Right to host IFAGG event

Members of the IFAGG, who have fulfilled their obligations to the IFAGG (according to the IFAGG statutes), have the right to organize official IFAGG events. Applications to host international events must be completed according to IFAGG rules and regulations. Applications must be received by 15th of April, a year before.

All events are approved and published on IFAGG events calendar by 30th of June a year before.

2.3.2. Invitation of IFAGG event

The hosting organization must prepare the invitation for the IFAGG event 3 months before the date of event and send it to IFAGG office. The invitation must be published min. 2 months before the starting date of the event.

2.3.3. Minimum number of participants in IFAGG event

The required minimum number of participants in IFAGG events

- Judge/Coach courses in Europe: a minimum of 20 participants from at least 5 countries
- Judge/Coach course courses in other continents: a minimum 15 participants from at least 3 countries

2.3.4. Right to participate in IFAGG educational events

IFAGG holds:

- different IFAGG coach courses,
- different IFAGG judge courses,
- national judge courses with 1st license international instructors,
- different webinars,
- different seminars,
- conferences.



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IFAGG educational events are open to everyone interested in learning about AGG. However, only individuals sanctioned and registered by IFAGG member organizations can take the judges courses, write the exam and receive participation certificate with exam results.

3. Organizing of competitions

3.1. Right to host competitions

Members of the IFAGG, who have fulfilled their obligations to the IFAGG (according to the IFAGG statutes), have the right to organize official IFAGG sanctioned competitions. Applications to host international competitions must be completed according to IFAGG rules and regulations.

3.2. Applying and choice of hosts for official IFAGG Competitions and other events

World Championships, Junior World Championships

Permission to host the World Championships will be granted by the General Assembly (GA). The GA elects the venue and organizer for the upcoming World Championships at least two years prior to the event. Applications must be made using the competition application form (available from the IFAGG office or on the IFAGG website) and must include the required attachments. The deadline for such applications is a minimum of 2 months before the GA and a minimum of two years before the event. Junior World Championships are organized in combination with the World Championships and are granted by the GA.

Application can be made by an IFAGG member with experience of competition organizing and hosting at minimum one IFAGG A or B international competition.

Other official IFAGG A-category competitions

Permission to host other official A-category competitions will be granted by Council. Applications to organize these competitions must be made to Council using the competition application form (available from the IFAGG office or on the IFAGG website) and must include the required information and attachments. Evaluations from previous competition hosting are considered when granting the right to host competitions.

World Cup and Challenge Cup competitions: the due date for applications is April 15th and then the Council decides and publishes the organizer for each event by June 30th.

IFAGG Trophies, Continental Championships, other official approved international tournaments: as much as possible, Council decides on the organizer for the event a minimum of 12 months prior to the event.

Other international B- or C-category competitions and tournaments

Any member of the IFAGG may organize international AGG competitions. International B- or C-category competitions and tournaments must be organized in accordance with these General Competition Rules. Applications to organize these competitions must be made to Council using the competition application form (available from the IFAGG office or on the IFAGG website) and must include the required information and attachments.

The B- and C-category competitions can be applied during the whole year with the following



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deadlines:

- For competitions organized in Jan-April, the deadline for the applications is 31.8. previous year
- For competitions organized in May-Aug, the deadline for the applications is 31.12. previous year
- For competitions organized in Sep-Dec, the deadline for the applications is 30.4. same year

Before the organizer can publish the invitation to the competition, the invitation and especially the dates and categories must be confirmed by the IFAGG Office. The local organizer is responsible for following the IFAGG rules and regulations, especially the GCR and Competition organizing manual (COM). To ensure proper competition organization, the event conditions must be stipulated in writing.

3.3. Entry procedures

3.3.1. Preliminary and definitive entries

Entry registrations must be officially submitted by IFAGG members according to the instructions in the competition invitation and before the informed deadlines.

For World Championships, Junior World Championships, and IFAGG Trophy competitions, preliminary entries must be made at least 3 months before the competition and definitive entries at least 6 weeks before the competition. If the preliminary entry is missed or is late, a sanction fee for late entry must be paid before the definite entry can be made. A late Definitive entry must be made at least 4 weeks before the competition starting date.

For Continental Championships, World Cup and World Challenge Cup competitions, preliminary entries must be made at least 2 months before the competition and definitive entries must be made at least 4 weeks before the competition. If the preliminary entry is missed or is late, a sanction fee for late entry must be paid before the definite entry can be made. A late definitive entry must be made at least 3 weeks before the competition starting date.

For other competitions, preliminary and definitive entries must be made by the deadline and as communicated in the competition invitation letter, but sanction fees for late entries are not required.

A Preliminary entry must contain the following:

- Group name
- Number of gymnasts and coaches

It is possible to make changes in the definitive entry if any of the information submitted in the preliminary entry changes (e.g., change the group or number of gymnasts).

A Definitive entry must contain the following:

- Per Group, all nominated gymnasts and coaches
 - o family name, first names, date of birth (day – month – year)
- Each official:
 - o family name, first names, title (e.g., choreographer, team leader, medical staff, paramedical staff, head of delegation)



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- Each judge:
 - o family name, first names, judging license level, possible categories that the judge is not allowed to evaluate

If an IFAGG Member submitted the preliminary entry, but missed the definitive entry deadline, a late definitive entry will still be accepted if the definitive entry is duly sent a minimum of 4 weeks (World Championships, IFAGG Junior World Championships, IFAGG Trophy) / 3 weeks (Continental Championships, World Cups, Challenge Cups) before the competition's start and if the IFAGG Member pays the sanction fee for a late entry.

IFAGG Members must send the definitive entry for the judges together with the definitive entry for the gymnasts. For judges the late entries are not accepted.

3.3.2. Participation fees

The required participation fee must be paid by the date of the definitive entry. In case of non-participation or partial participation, the participation fee will not be reimbursed.

Sanction fees will be applied if the different deadlines for the entry registrations are not respected. Also, if at the definitive registration an IFAGG Member registers a Group and the Group does not participate in the competition, the IFAGG Member must pay a sanction fee.

The fees and sanctions are fixed by the Council and are to be paid to the Competition organizer. The sanctions apply for World Championships, Junior World Championships, IFAGG Trophy, Continentals and World Cup & Challenge Cup competitions, in Senior and Junior categories. For a schedule of participation and sanction fees, see Appendix A.

Concerning other competition costs, every country and participating group is responsible for their own costs. The LOC must provide information about possible accommodation and meals at various price ranges, but participants can book accommodation and meals themselves according to their needs without any extra organizing fee.

3.3.3. Insufficient participation

For the official status of the nominated competition, there is a minimum number of participating countries and Groups:

- World Championships: A minimum of 12 countries and altogether at least 20 Groups must participate in the World Championships so that it can be nominated as World Championships and a minimum of 10 countries and altogether at least 16 Groups in the Junior World Championships so that it can be nominated as Junior World Championships
- World Cup and Challenge Cup: A minimum of 5 countries and altogether at least 10 Groups per each category must participate in the World Cup and the Challenge Cup competitions so that they can be nominated as the World Cup or the Challenge Cup competition.
- Continental Championships: A minimum of 4 participating countries per category, and for Europe minimum of 6 countries per category
- Student Competitions: according to student association/union rules
- Official approved international competitions (A-category): A minimum of 3 countries/category and 3 Groups/category must participate in the competition so that it can be nominated as an official approved international competition (A-category).



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- Other international competitions: A minimum of 2 countries/category and 3 Groups/category must participate in the competition so that it can be nominated as an international competition.

The organizers are obliged to inform the IFAGG Office of the competition statistics.

If less than the recommended number of countries or groups participate, IFAGG Council will review the competition calendar and the requirements for the official status of the competition for the following competition seasons.

If there are no registered teams for the competition by the end of preliminary entry period, the competition is cancelled.

3.3.4. Changes to the participating Groups and gymnasts

From the definitive entry until final schedules are made (World Championships, Junior World Championships, Trophy: from 6 weeks to 4 weeks before the competition starts, for Continental Championships, World Cups, Challenge Cups: from 4 weeks to 3 weeks before the competition starts)

After final schedules are made, no Groups can be added to the number of participating Groups and no gymnasts can be added to the number of gymnasts per Group as declared in the Definitive entry.

From Definitive registration until Accreditation

Until accreditation, a gymnast can be replaced with another gymnast in the same Group. No additional Groups or gymnasts can appear in accreditation. Gymnast passports are checked during accreditation.

From accreditation until 3 hours prior to competition start

No changes to gymnasts or groups can be made after accreditation. The competing team must be formed from accredited gymnasts in the group. The accreditation must be completed according to the competition schedule. In case of force majeure (e.g., severe flight delays, sickness or injuries), if the group or gymnasts are not present and accredited 3 hours before the competition starts, the IFAGG Member can apply for a revision of the starting order. The Judge Responsible will make the decision.

From 3 hours prior to competition start until the end of competition

No changes to gymnasts or Groups can be made. In exceptional cases, the Judge Responsible may accept a relevant change.

3.3.5. Delegation members

Participation fees for official IFAGG competitions cover the participation of nominated gymnasts and coaches as follows:

Small group: 6 gymnasts, maximum 2 coaches

Basic group: 7-15 gymnasts, maximum 3 coaches



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If a country or group needs to have additional members in the delegation (e.g., choreographers, physicians, physiotherapists), additional accreditations can be acquired for an additional fee, as decided by the LOC.

3.3.6. Organizer

An IFAGG member designated by the IFAGG is responsible for the organization of A-category competitions.

The organizer undertakes to ensure the proper running of the competition in an adequate hall/site; to prepare the event according to the regulations and instructions in the GCR and COM; to provide a sufficient number of competent organization officers; and to assume responsibility for all the costs of organization.

The organizer of an A-category competition is obligated to have negotiations with IFAGG about the competition arrangements that have been determined by these General Competition Rules and the IFAGG Competition organizer Manual. The contract for the competition circumstances will be signed, and a possible sight inspection will be made by the official authorities of the IFAGG. The IFAGG will be the contracting party. The cost of the sight inspection will be covered by the organizer.

From 2025 onwards (concerning the competitions approved 2024):

The contract between the competition organization and IFAGG must be signed a minimum of 12 months before the World Championships & World Junior Championships. The official approval document with the contract of the facility must be sent to IFAGG Office a minimum of 12 months before the event. Otherwise, the competition will be awarded/ assigned to a different competition organizer.

For other A-category competitions, the contract must be signed a minimum of 6 months before the competition event. The official approval document with the contract of the facility must be sent to IFAGG Office a minimum of 6 months before the event. Otherwise, the competition will be awarded/assigned to a different competition organizer.

Competition program

The competition program is prepared by the Organizer and approved by IFAGG Responsible Person.

The competition program contains the technical aspects of the organization. It must include, among others, the definite timetable for the competitions and for categories and disciplines, welcome meeting, timetable of judges' meetings, possible other meetings for the participants, places for these meetings, layout of the competition area and type of podium.

The competition program for A-category competitions must be sent to participating teams at least 4 weeks before the competition.



3.4. Medal qualifications and tie-breaking rules

3.4.1. Medal qualifications

These rules apply to World Championships, Junior World Championships, World Cup, Challenge Cup, IFAGG Trophy, Continental Championships and open championships.

The main principle is that the gold medal cannot be shared by two groups, but silver and bronze medals can be shared.

If two or more groups have an equal total score (preliminaries + finals) or have an equal score for the World Cup or Challenge Cup series ranking, the order of the criteria by which the winner is determined is:

1. The higher score in the Finals (second competition day)
2. The higher execution score in the Finals
3. The higher execution score in the Preliminaries
4. The same system will be used through (first finals, then preliminaries), first technical score, then artistic total score (AV A + AV B), then AV B score, then AV A score.
6. If there still is tie, the winner will be drawn.

3.4.2. Cup points

Ranking points in World Cup and Challenge Cup competitions

There are four (4) partial World Cup and Challenge Cup competitions, where teams can earn ranking points for World Cup or Challenge Cup final ranking.

In each World/Challenge Cup partial competition, the top-12 teams (highest total score from preliminaries and finals) get cup ranking points. In partial competitions I-III the top 12 teams get ranking points from 12 to 1. In Cup finals (partial competition IV) the top-12 teams get 1.5 multiplied ranking points, that is from 18 to 1.5.

Ranking points in World Cup (WC) and Challenge Cup (CC) I – III partial competitions:

- Rank first (1.) of competition gets 12 WC / CC points
- Rank second (2.) of competition gets 11 WC / CC points
- Rank third (3.) of competition gets 10 WC / CC points
- Rank fourth (4.) of competition gets 9 WC / CC points
- Rank fifth (5.) of competition gets 8 WC / CC points
- Rank sixth (6.) of competition gets 7 WC / CC points
- Rank seventh (7.) of competition gets 6 WC / CC points
- Rank eighth (8.) of competition gets 5 WC / CC points
- Rank ninth (9.) of competition gets 4 WC / CC points
- Rank tenth (10.) of competition gets 3 WC / CC points
- Rank eleventh (11.) of competition gets 2 WC / CC points
- Rank twelfth (12.) of competition gets 1 WC / CC point

Ranking points in World Cup Final and Challenge Cup Final competitions:

- Rank first (1.) of competition gets 18 WCF / CCF points
- Rank second (2.) of competition gets 16,5 WCF / CCF points
- Rank third (3.) of competition gets 15 WCF / CCF points
- Rank fourth (4.) of competition gets 13,5 WCF / CCF points



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- Rank fifth (5.) of competition gets 12 WCF / CCF points
- Rank sixth (6.) of competition gets 10,5 WCF / CCF points
- Rank seventh (7.) of competition gets 9 WCF / CCF points
- Rank eighth (8.) of competition gets 7,5 WCF / CCF points
- Rank ninth (9.) of competition gets 6 WCF / CCF points
- Rank tenth (10.) of competition gets 4,5 WCF / CCF points
- Rank eleventh (11.) of competition gets 3 WCF / CCF points
- Rank twelfth (12.) of competition gets 1,5 WCF / CCF point

Final ranking for a team is counted as a sum of three (3) best cup ranking points from four (4) competitions during one season. The winner of the World/Challenge Cup is the team with the highest final ranking (most cup ranking points).

If two or more groups have the same total cup points after the World Cup Finals or after the Challenge Cup Finals (after all partial competitions), the ranking in the total cup is determined by:

1. The highest ranking in one of those Cup competitions
2. If the groups with the same ranking place have participated in more than 3 partials cup competitions, those cup points will be counted also towards the final cup ranking score.
3. The higher score in the Finals (second competition day)
4. The higher execution score in the Finals
5. The higher execution score in the Preliminaries
6. The same system will be used through (first finals, then preliminaries), first technical score, then artistic score, then artistic total score (AV A + AV B), then AV B score, then AV A score.
7. If there still is tie, the winner will be drawn.

3.4.3. Choice of finalists

These rules apply to World Championships, World Cup Finals, IFAGG Junior Championships, Challenge Cup Finals, IFAGG Trophy, Continental Championships and open championships.

The order of criteria by which finalists are determined, when two or more groups have the same total points after the Preliminary competition:

1. The higher execution score in the Preliminaries
2. The higher technical score in the Preliminaries
3. The higher artistic total score in the Preliminaries
4. The higher AV B
5. The higher AV A
6. If there still is tie, both/all teams with the same score go to the finals.

Also, for World Championships and Junior World Championships:

The main principle is that the maximum number of groups that can go to the Finals is 12 groups based on their ranking in the preliminaries.

Exceptions

1. Only the 2 best groups per country may enter the Finals after the preliminaries.



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2. There is a continental place for every continent in the Finals. If no group from a continent is among the 12 best groups, they will have an extra place in the Finals.
3. There is a place in the Finals for the best group from the organizing country. If the best group from the organizing country is not among the 12 best groups in the preliminaries, they will have an extra place in the Finals.

If some countries don't have a place in the Finals, the IFAGG Council can nominate 1-3 groups to perform at the beginning of the Finals without competing in the Finals.

3.4.4. Medal qualifications in country ranking

These rules apply to World Championships and IFAGG Junior Championships.

The country ranking is determined by the highest total score per team (from preliminaries or finals), with a maximum of 3 teams per country.

The places in the country ranking cannot be shared.

The order of criteria by which the country ranking is determined:

1. The higher Execution score
2. The higher Technical score
3. The higher Artistic total score
4. The higher AV B score
5. The higher AV A score
6. If there still is tie, the winner will be drawn.

3.4.5. Amount of medals

Medals are given for the medalist groups, a total maximum of 18 medals per group:

- nominated gymnasts (max 15)
- coach (max 2)
- choreograph (max 1)

In the country ranking, only nominated gymnasts are awarded with medals, to a maximum of 15 medals per group.

In the World Championships and Junior World Championships the IFAGG is responsible for medals. In other competitions, the organizer is responsible for medals. In the competitions where medals can be shared, the party who is responsible for medals must be prepared to have medals for shared places, up to a maximum of 18 per group.

3.5. Cancellation of a competition or an event

The IFAGG Council can cancel the competition or event without any compensation to the competition organizer or to the participants in case of any force majeure situations: for example, strike, war, political situation, lockout, industrial action, revolt, and natural catastrophes, or if the participant's security is somehow compromised or if there is another overwhelming obstacle that can be proved to influence that the competition cannot be organized according to the General Rules.



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In case the minimum number of countries, groups or judges is not fulfilled, the IFAGG Council can cancel the competition or event without any compensation to the competition's organizer or to the participants at least five (5) months before the competition or event.

The organizer of the A-level competition (World Cup and Challenge Cups, continental championships) can cancel the competition without any compensation to the IFAGG or participants three (3) months before the agreed competition date (preliminaries). If the competition is cancelled less than three (3) months before the event, the competition organizer needs to pay the cancellation fee of 500 euros to IFAGG.

The organizer of the World Championships can cancel the competition without any compensation to IFAGG or participants six (6) months before the agreed competition date (preliminaries). If the World Championships event is cancelled less than 6 (six) months before the event, the competition organizer needs to pay the cancellation fee of 1000 euros to IFAGG.

The IFAGG strongly recommends that all participating delegations consider purchasing cancellation insurance, since if the competition or event is cancelled, the IFAGG is not responsible for any costs associated with the travel arrangements of individual groups. If a group/person cancels their participation in the competition or event, IFAGG is not responsible for compensating any possible costs of cancellation.

The organizer of the competition or event must prepare and deliver all necessary documentation for participating Groups/people for getting their visas in reasonable time. Participating Groups/people are responsible for applying for the visa early enough.

3.6. Liability insurance

The competition or event organizer must have liability insurance but doesn't have to insure participants. Each participant/group is responsible for their own insurance for a competition or event. Participating groups must sign the indemnity document prior to accreditation at the competition or event.

The organizer must show their receipt for the liability insurance when requested by the IFAGG Office or an IFAGG Official.

3.7. Competition report

The competition organizer must share the definitive entries and participants lists with the IFAGG Office at least one week before the competition starting date. See more in the IFAGG regulations for competition organizers.

The competition organizer must share the results, judges score tables and a list of judges with the IFAGG Office and to participants and judges of the competition within one week after the competition.



4. Gymnasts and control of gymnasts

4.1. General rights of participation in competitions

Official IFAGG competitions are open to gymnasts who:

- belong to a registered IFAGG member and have the right to represent an IFAGG member (according to a national decision)
- have the nationality of the IFAGG member's nation in accordance with the IFAGG Statutes and GCR
- comply with the age and gender requirements of the GCR and competition rules
- have a valid license, are not under suspension and will respect the decisions and rules of the IFAGG

4.2. Competition licenses

A competition license is a contract between a person and the IFAGG. Gymnasts, coaches and judges must have a valid license in the IFAGG for sanctioned A or B category competitions.

The license season starts 1.1. and ends 31.12. The IFAGG Council confirms license fees and requirements annually before the start of a new license season. For license categories and fees, see Appendix B.

The IFAGG member is responsible for

- applying for licenses by registering the gymnasts, coaches and judges to the IFAGG register
- sending an invoice inquiry to the IFAGG Office
- making the license payment to the IFAGG.

A license is activated once the license payment has arrived in IFAGG's bank account. The license is valid until the end of the license season.

4.3. Age of participants

For international IFAGG competitions, participants must be the following age in the year of the event, counted from the year of the birth of the gymnasts:

Age category

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| - Students | 17 years minimum |
| - Seniors | 16 years minimum |
| - Juniors | 14-16 years |
| - Pre-Junior | 12-14 years |
| - Novice | 10-12 years |
| - Children 8-10 | 8-10 years |

In all age categories a nominated Group can have a maximum of 2 gymnasts who are a maximum of 1 year older/younger than the age limit.

In international competitions and tournaments groups can participate in only one age category.



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4.4. Control of nationality, age, and license status

During the accreditation process before the competitions, the LOC will check the nationality of the gymnasts as well as their age and the status of their IFAGG license.

In the World Championships, Junior World Championships, IFAGG Trophy, Continental Championships, World Cup and World Challenge Cup competitions organizers can conduct passport control immediately after the competition exercise. In passport control all competing gymnasts must show their passports to the organizer, who can then verify the age of the competing gymnasts.

4.5. Insurance

Everyone who participates in IFAGG competitions and events must have their own insurance. The IFAGG is not responsible for any insurance.

4.6. Right to compete

A group has the right to compete, even if one/some of the nominated gymnasts in the group do not have a right to compete, but these unauthorized gymnast(s) cannot compete in the competition.

A group of less than 4 registered gymnasts is not allowed to compete in any IFAGG sanctioned competition. If a group starts its' competition performance with four gymnasts and ends with less than four gymnasts, the result of the group is disqualified.

If a group or some member/s of the group have competed without having the right to compete, the IFAGG can disqualify the group's result in the competition and apply a penalty.

The IFAGG Council can invite a group representing a country/club that is not an IFAGG member to IFAGG sanctioned competitions and give them a special right to compete.

4.7. Nominating gymnasts to a team

A gymnast must represent a group and a group must represent an IFAGG member and a country. In senior and junior categories, a group can have a maximum of 15 nominated gymnasts during the competition season.

A group consists of 6–15 nominated gymnasts. For every specific competition the group can use 6–10 gymnasts on the competition carpet (=team) from the 15 nominated gymnasts (from the group). Nomination for each competition (preliminaries and/or finals) must be done among nominated gymnasts. If a group nominates 15 gymnasts for the first competition – the group has used up all their nominations for the season. If a group nominates less than 15 gymnasts for the first competition, the group can add gymnasts during the season up to a maximum of 15 gymnasts (names).

4.8. Changing a group

A gymnast can belong to only one group at the same time.

Gymnasts can change their group and short/long program and mixed team category after the end of a license season. A new group can be formed by buying a new license under the new group when a new license season begins.



IFAGG General Competition Rules

Gymnasts can change their group a maximum of one time during the license season. The change can be made only after the first part of the competition season - during June 1st – September 30th. The age requirements for a group must be met.

To make a change to a group, an IFAGG member must contact the IFAGG office by email and pay the administration fee and the possible difference in the price of the gymnast license (e.g., license for seniors vs. license for juniors). For the administration fee, see Appendix B.

Groups must agree among themselves on the commercial issues arising from the change of the gymnast's group.

The gymnast's license is valid until the end of the license season.

4.9. Foreigner's right to compete and represent a country

A gymnast who is not a citizen of the country that the Group represents still has the right to represent the group and country, if at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- The gymnast has lived in the same country that the group is representing for at least 6 months.
- The gymnast has not competed in her own country, nor represented her own country in any IFAGG sanctioned A-category competitions during the past year.

The IFAGG must always be informed of the cases mentioned above. The IFAGG member is responsible for informing the IFAGG Office.

Even if the conditions are not fulfilled, the IFAGG Council can give a gymnast a special right to compete in some or all competitions for specified reasons. This special right must be applied for by a member of the IFAGG.

4.10. Mixed-teams category

To be ranked in the mixed-team category, the group must perform with at least 2 participants from both genders on the competition carpet on each competition day. If the group does not fulfill this rule, it is disqualified from the mixed-team category competition.

4.11. Assistance by Coaches

In no case may a coach, team leader or another official person communicate, verbally or by signal, to a gymnast or to a group during the performance of exercises.

Any assistance that contributes to the successful execution of an exercise, will result in a penalty from the team's scores. *See IFAGG Competition Rules*

4.12. Respecting the performing team

All the teams and coaches must respect the competing team and not disturb the competing team, evaluating judges and audience during competition and/or trainings. Loud voices or music from outside of the competition area during the performance of another team are not allowed and will be penalized. *See IFAGG Competition rules.*



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4.13. Competition attire, national identity, and advertising

Competition attire for women is a leotard or unitard, for men a leotard with tights or unitard. Competition attire is described in more detail in the Competition Rules.

Gymnasts can have a national identity (flag or national emblem) on their competition attire, but it is not mandatory.

Advertising can be displayed on the gymnast attire/leotard maximum twice.

The maximum space of any emblem, logo or trademark is 30 sq cm, including the background.

- National emblems in the competition dress: max size 30 square-cm (max size 5x6 cm)
- Other logos or emblems in the competition dress: max size 30 square-cm each

Advertising space is allowed on either hip to the side, anywhere on either sleeve, or anywhere on the front to ensure aesthetic presentation. Emblems, logos or trademarks are not allowed on the back anywhere.

Gymnasts or groups can also have the original logo or trademark of the manufacturer of the attire in the competition attire, but the size must be as it is in the manufacturer's commercially sold attire.

Competition attire must follow competition rules.

Sanctions: If the competition attire does not correspond to the rules, the Artistic Value judges can deduct according to the Competition Rules and the competition judges can require the violating advertisements be removed or covered.

4.14. Welcome meeting

The LOC provides important information during the welcome meeting of IFAGG competitions. Representatives of participating IFAGG members must attend the official welcome meeting.

The guidelines for welcome meetings are in the competition organizers manual.

5. Judging

These General Competition Rules are binding for all judges in all IFAGG competitions and events.

5.1. Requirements for judges

Judges in international competitions must have a valid IFAGG judging license and they must be educated according to the IFAGG judging system rules and respect IFAGG judges' regulations. Judges can be licensed only by IFAGG members.

National judges are allowed to judge in B-category competitions which are not connected to A-category competitions. In A-category competitions and in B-category competitions connected with A-category competitions, only international IFAGG judges are allowed.



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The choreographer or coach of a participating group cannot be a judge in the competition category in which the group competes. Every judge is her-/himself responsible for being a qualified judge.

5.2. Judges right to represent a country

Nationality or permanent residence min. 1 (one) year from the country representing is required.

If a judge wants to change the represented country, he/she must prove that he/she can represent the country. Changing of the country must be informed to IFAGG Office by the IFAGG member in the new country. IFAGG member in the new country must inform the IFAGG member in the old country about the change.

- A judge changing the represented country must attend an education event before he/she can represent the new country in international competitions and not to lose his/her license.

5.3. Judging panels

Head judges of the different panels (technical value, artistic value, execution) must be nominated by the judge's system.

A Judge Responsible must be nominated in every A-category competition (nominator is IFAGG Council) and strongly recommended for the B-category competitions (nominator is LOC, approved by IFAGG Council).

Minimum number of judges

- The minimum number of judges for the women and junior long program in the World Championships, World Cup Finals / Challenge Cup Finals and Continental Championships is sixteen (16), and in other approved international competitions is twelve (12). A full panel is strongly recommended for every international competition.
- Superior judges are required/strongly recommended in World Championships, Junior World Championships, Continental Championships, World Cups, Challenge Cup competitions and if possible, also for other A-category competitions.
- For short program competitions, there must be a minimum of 6 judges and one Judge Responsible, and recommendation is 12 judges and a Judge Responsible.

The IFAGG Council is responsible for the rules being followed.

5.4. Judge's registration to competitions

A Judges registration for IFAGG A or B category competition must be made by the official IFAGG member and using the official form available on the IFAGG website by the due date mentioned in the competition invitation and according to the instructions in the competition invitation. Note: often the judges' registration must be made both to IFAGG and to the local competition organizer, for example in KSIS. Late judge registrations are not approved.

The IFAGG Council makes the final decision on the Judges list.

The registered judges must have a valid judges license and follow the Judges Regulations.



5.5. Judging in the competitions

All judges must follow the IFAGG regulations, the IFAGG Code of Ethics for judges as well as competition rules and all other IFAGG regulations. Judges must work individually and during the competition event, the judging panelists are not allowed to discuss evaluation aspects among each other or with coaches, gymnasts or other officials. Results must not be negotiated beforehand.

During the competition, score tables with scores from all judges are only for head judges, superiors, judge responsible and relevant competition officials. Other judges (or coaches, other people) are not allowed to see the score tables until the end of the competition.

Judges must be present at all judges' meetings, official trainings and competitions on time. If a judge is late, she or he will be removed from the judge's panel.

Judging in the competitions is monitored according to GCR, IFAGG competition rules and judges' disciplinary regulations. The judge who violates the rules will be sanctioned by the IFAGG Code of Discipline and according to the judges' warning procedure.

Regarding the judging system, the competition is counted as a required competition for all judges that are in the panel, the Judge Responsible, superiors, reserve judges and time and line judges.

5.6. Judges' appearance

Judges' appearance must be professional and leave a business-like image. During competitions, judges must wear a business suit (black or very dark grey/blue suit jacket, white blouse/shirt, black or very dark grey/blue trousers/skirt or dress, and modest shoes).

5.7. Protest of results

Protests about the scores are not accepted/allowed.

The results are official after the competition, when head judges have checked the scores and signed the results. After checking the scores, if there are such mistakes in the score tables that correcting these impacts a group's scores, the head judges call the coach or another representative of this group to the secretary table and explains the situation to the coach/representative.

5.8. Judge courses

IFAGG Council grants the right to organize an international AGG judges' course according to the applications from IFAGG members. Details about judges' courses are specified in the regulations for IFAGG educational events.

6. Violations of rules

The IFAGG, its members and the committees of the members, and every person who competes or acts in IFAGG events is obliged to follow the good spirit of the sport, the ethical values of the sport, the principles of Fair Play, National and International Rules of Doping and other rules and regulations that are in force. Violations will be penalized according to the IFAGG Disciplinary Rules.



6.1. Doping

According to IFAGG statutes, the IFAGG declares that doping is prohibited, and the provisions of the WADA code shall apply. As a condition for participating in IFAGG events, a person must follow the anti-doping rules.

The procedure for penalties is clarified in the IFAGG Disciplinary Rules.

6.1.1. Therapeutic use exemption (TUE)

Athletes may have illnesses or conditions that require them to take medications or undergo procedures. If the medication or method an athlete is required to use to treat an illness or condition is prohibited as per the WADA Prohibited List, a TUE may give that athlete the authorization to use that substance or method while competing without invoking an anti-doping rule violation and applicable sanction.

If a gymnast has a TUE granted by gymnast's National Anti-Doping Organization, IFAGG will automatically recognize it for purposes of international-level competition without the need for relevant clinical information.

6.2. Ethical and fair play principles

Fair Play is the basic guiding principle in the sport of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics. The gymnasts, groups, coaches, other assistants of the gymnasts, judges, managers, clubs, delegation members and competition organizers will be on their best behavior during the competition by acting in the spirit of Fair Play. The disturbance of other gymnasts or teams during their performance and intentionally misleading the judges and/or officials is against the IFAGG code of ethics. The participants of the competition event must follow the IFAGG regulations.

Conduct always should reflect honesty, good sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect.

Violation of the IFAGG Code of Ethics will be penalized according to the IFAGG Disciplinary Rules.

All judges must follow IFAGG regulations, the IFAGG Code of Ethics for judges as well as competition rules and all other IFAGG regulations. The judges who violate these rules will be sanctioned by the IFAGG Disciplinary Rules, according to the judges' warning procedure.

6.3. Official complaint

An IFAGG member can make an official complaint to the IFAGG Council or to the Disciplinary Committee. Complaints from other than IFAGG members are not accepted. A refundable deposit must be paid to IFAGG for the official complaint (see Appendix C). If the complaint is proved to be justified, the money will be refunded. Otherwise, the money is kept by the IFAGG as a fee for processing the complaint. The complaint must be reported within 30 days of the incident that the complaint concerns. The process of noticing a violation is described in IFAGG Disciplinary Rules.



7. Administrative information

7.1. Yearly report

IFAGG members are obliged to send yearly (Administrational Information) statistics to the IFAGG Office using the form provided by the IFAGG Office.

7.2. Handling personal data

Competition organizers must handle the personal data of participants according to local laws and regulations and with care. Personal data can only be used for organizing the competition or event and personal data must be deleted after the data is no longer needed for this purpose.

8. Commercial regulations

8.1. Broadcasting of international AGG competitions

The IFAGG owns the broadcasting rights of IFAGG sanctioned competition events in Aesthetic Group Gymnastics. Broadcasting must be negotiated and agreed on between the LOC and the IFAGG.

For World Championships the LOC must provide at least a good quality on-time video stream internationally. Live streaming is recommended for all competitions.

For competitions that are broadcast, the LOC must negotiate and the IFAGG must approve the use and visibility of the IFAGG and the IFAGG's logo during the competition and in marketing materials used for marketing the competition.

IFAGG Rules for Competition Organizers must be followed.

Additional information is available from the IFAGG Office or IFAGG officials.



Appendix A Participation fees

The fees and sanctions are fixed by the Council and are to be paid to the Competition organizer. The sanctions apply for World Championships, Junior World Championships, IFAGG Trophy, Continentals and World Cup & Challenge Cup competitions, in Senior and Junior categories.

The organization and participation fees are determined yearly by the Council. Information on organization and participation fees is sent to all members and published on the IFAGG website and/or in other official IFAGG announcements.

Participation fees (paid to LOC)

Situation	Fee / sanction *		
	WCh	WC/CC /A	B-cat.
Entry fee per Group, max 6 gymnasts and 2 coaches	250 EUR	150 EUR	100 EUR
	300 EUR	180 EUR	130 EUR
Entry fee per Group, 7-15 gymnasts and max 3 coaches	100 EUR	100 EUR	100 EUR
	100 EUR	100 EUR	100 EUR
Accreditation fee for additional participants, e.g. physician, physiotherapist	decided by competition organizer, stated in competition invitation		
Sanction fee after missing the preliminary entry or for late entry	100 EUR		
Sanction fee after missing the definitive entry or for late entry	100 EUR		
Sanction fee for not participating after the definitive entry	100 EUR		

Appendix B License fees

The license fees are determined yearly by the Council. Information on license fees is sent to all members and published on the IFAGG website and/or in other official IFAGG announcements.

License season starts 1.1. and ends 31.12. The IFAGG Council confirms license fees and requirements annually before the start of a new license season.

Always check the current license prices on the IFAGG website. As an example, license fees:

License type	Fee
Gymnast – senior	25 EUR / gymnast
Gymnast – junior	15 EUR / gymnast
Gymnast – pre-junior, children over 12 years old	5 EUR / gymnast
International judge	50 EUR / judge
International coach	10 EUR / coach

Administration fee for changing a gymnast in a group during a license season	10 EUR / gymnast
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Appendix C Official Complaint fees

Official Complaint fee	500 EUR
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