



IFAGG Judges Code of Conduct

**Approved by IFAGG Council
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1. Introduction

Aesthetic group gymnastics is a judged sport. Therefore, judging rules must be transparent, fair, and uphold justice for all gymnasts. The judges are trained within their own official organization (federation/association/club), gaining valuable experience before entering the international scene.

The IFAGG is responsible for providing educational materials and conducting a fair examination process to certify judges at the international level.

Judges officiating at competitions must:

- uphold integrity of all decisions, showing no preference or bias;
- possess competence;
- demonstrate good moral and ethical behavior;
- show respect to others by being punctual and adhering to all rules;
- respect the judges' oath and the IFAGG Code of Ethics;
- follow the IFAGG competitions rules and IFAGG judges' regulations;
- do the judging according to IFAGG Competition Rules. A judge who violates the rules will be sanctioned according to the IFAGG Code of Discipline and this judges' Code of Conduct.

Any close relative (e.g., parent, grandparent, or their descendants, check point 4.2.) to a competitive gymnast may not judge that gymnast's team at any IFAGG sanctioned event. If such a conflict should or could arise, the following people are to be informed, so appropriate action can be taken:

- Responsible Judge of the competition
- Responsible Person for the competition
- IFAGG Council member
- IFAGG President
- IFAGG Office

2. Generalities

The **IFAGG Judges' Code of Conduct** applies to all IFAGG competitive **disciplines**, including both short and long programs. The rules for each discipline have been developed to clarify the differences. IFAGG Judges' Code of Conduct is approved by the IFAGG Council.

To be considered as an international judge during the calendar year, judges must attend an official IFAGG Judges' course and pass the exam (*see: International judging system*).

The Judges' exams are carried out according to the protocols listed later in this document.

All judges must annually renew their international license to judge competitions in the period from 01.01 to 31.12 of each licensed year. The official IFAGG member must obtain the licenses in the IFAGG license system.

3. Judges' registration, database and information

Name, international level and nationality of all IFAGG judges with a valid international judge's level are available in the IFAGG ASM system. IFAGG office and the official IFAGG member maintain a database with each judge's name, nationality, international judge level, license ID number and competition and courses experience. All judge courses and competitions are published on the IFAGG website.

4. Judges' obligations

4.1. Obligations

- Be knowledgeable and prepared for each specific judging assignment;
- Work quickly and accurately to produce an unbiased score and be prepared to justify that score with reference to current documentation;
- Be a cooperative member of the judging panel;
- Be unbiased, fair, and impartial in scoring;
- Be respectful of other judges, coaches, athletes, competition staff, spectators, and media, and to refer any questions or concerns to the Judge Responsible;
- Not communicating with other judges while at the judging table;
- Not using cell phones or any other electronic device while judging, including the calculator function; separate calculator is allowed
- Judges are not allowed to see the score tables until the competition ends.

Throughout the competition, the judges are not permitted to discuss evaluations with each other, other officials, coaches, or gymnasts. Results must not be discussed or negotiated in advance.

4.2. Affiliation

All judges must state their affiliation when registering with IFAGG. A judge is affiliated if they are, in the current season, one or more of the following:

- A parent, grandparent, sibling, or aunt/uncle of a competitive gymnast;
- A choreographer or a coach of a participating group and, therefore, cannot judge in the competition category in which the group competes;
- A registered athlete in the same competition.

4.3. Dress code

Judges' appearance must be professional and leave a business-like image.

During competitions, judges must wear:

- a business suit, either black or very dark grey/blue suit jacket;
- white blouse/shirt;
- black or very dark grey/blue trousers/skirt or dress;

The Judge Responsible and the Responsible person will discuss any infraction with the judge not wearing the correct uniform, and the judge will be asked to correct their uniform prior to the start of the day's competition.

5. International competition system

IFAG A-category competitions	IFAGG B-category competitions related to A-category competitions	IFAGG B-category competitions	IFAGG C-category competitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Championships • Junior World Championships • Continental Championships • World Cup • Challenge Cup • Mediterranean Competition • EUSA competition • Grand Prix competition • Other A-category competitions approved by Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All competitions related to A-category competitions • IFAGG Trophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other competitions approved by IFAGG Council, included in IFAGG event calendar • Regional competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National competitions with foreign participation • Open competitions • Invitational competitions • Online competition

Note! Starting from 2026 the competition system will be a four-level system.

6. Judges' categories and eligibility

Judging rights according to the international judging system			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the rights to be appointed by IFAGG Council as Responsible judge in A-category competitions (5 years' experience with 1 Level) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to act as Head judge in B-category competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has rights to act as international judge in all categories at all competitions except the World Championships and the IFAGG Juniors World championships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has rights to act as international judge at B-category competitions for Children Long Program and for all age categories Short Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to be appointed by IFAGG Council as Responsible person in A-category competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to be appointed by IFAGG Council as Responsible person in A-category competitions 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to act as Superior judge in A-category competitions (3 years' experience as 1 Level Head judge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to act as international judge in all categories at all competitions 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to act as Head judge in A and B category competitions 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the right to act as panel judge in World Championships 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the rights to be appointed as instructor at International and National IFAGG judges' courses 			

Examination and requirements for IFAGG judge courses	
Examination	<p>Exams will be available yearly during the main IFAGG Judges' Courses in January-February (in Europe and Other continent), with re-exam in March in same year and in September with re-exam in October same year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New judges may get certified to international judge level 4 (see international judge system) <p>All judges with existing level could rise level or take additional educational courses/events (see international judge system)</p>
General requirements to participate in judge courses	<p>To be eligible to participate in any judges' course, the candidates must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age 18 in the year of the exam • Be a member of a national gymnastics IFAGG organization • Nationality or permanent residence min. 1 (one) year from the country representing is required • Be registered by his/her national organization to participate • Be proficient in official IFAGG language - English • Pay a participation fee to IFAGG

7. Judges' attendance at competition and official trainings

- All registered judges, including reserve, time and line judges, must attend the judges' meetings, prior to the start of the competition. If a judge is late or was not present on the official training, loses the judge her/his right to judge at that competition
- Judges arriving late for any competitions (force majeure) may be allowed to judge at the discretion of the IFAGG Responsible judge/Responsible Person;
- Only judges who are present at the official judges meeting can take part in the draw;
- A judge may not leave earlier than the official departure day of the event when they are appointed by IFAGG. Judges need to ask the permission of the IFAGG Responsible judge/Responsible Person in advance before leaving a competition before completion;
- During the competition all assigned judges, including reserve, time and line judges, need to stay in the area assigned to judges

8. Judges' disciplinary actions and appeal process

8.1. General

- Judges are obliged to respect the judge's oath and to execute their function at all competitions with the highest possible quality, honesty and integrity, and without bias.
- IFAGG Council, Technical committee members and Judge committee members are responsible for education, control and supervision of the work of the judges;
- IFAGG Responsible judge and Responsible Person investigate and take any actions necessary during the competition and following the event conduct and analysis of the competition;
- Unsatisfactory and/or biased judging will be subject to disciplinary proceedings and sanctions;

- A judge may receive a maximum of one warning from the IFAGG Responsible Judge and/or Responsible Person for the competition; upon a second warning, they may be excluded from judging the competition by the IFAGG Responsible Judge and/or Responsible Person. However, in cases of severe errors or disrespectful behavior, the IFAGG Responsible Judge has the authority to remove the judge immediately without prior warning. Any disciplinary actions taken during the competition, including warnings or removals, may be appealed to the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee, whose decision is final.
- Judges who are issued a written warning by the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee post-competition have the right to appeal pursuant to the IFAGG Disciplinary Code. A judge who receives a second written warning within a 2-year period after the first warning will face a 1-year suspension from all IFAGG international competitions.

Following the submission of an official complaint to IFAGG via email to office@ifagg.com, the IFAGG Responsible Judge, in collaboration with the Judge Committee, is authorized to investigate judge's conduct or activities, and if needed, initiate disciplinary proceedings in the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee. Complaints against the conduct of the judge may also be lodged directly to the Disciplinary Committee, via email, in such case, pursuant to the IFAGG Disciplinary Code, the Disciplinary Committee will request the opinion from the Judge Committee.

Any disciplinary actions taken during a competition will not impact any potential additional sanction issued post competition. Following score evaluation or investigation of claims of disrespectful behavior, IFAGG Responsible Judge / Judges' Committee may issue written warnings through IFAGG office against judges whose conduct or performance is deemed unsatisfactory. The IFAGG Responsible Judge /IFAGG Judge Committee also has the authority to forward the matter to the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee via the IFAGG Office.

8.2. Disciplinary actions against Judges during the competition

Judge Responsible will issue warnings and can remove and replace a judge immediately for any misconduct.

Listed below are some actions that are not allowed, and the warning or cards that would be applied. There may be other situations that occur which will be considered on an individual basis.

Actions	Consequences
<p>A judge can be warned for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with team members during the competition; • Taking part in discussions and/or agreements with other judges with the intent to collaborate for agreed results; • Unsatisfactory or disrespectful behaviors during panel meetings; • Show unprofessional behavior, including the use of phone, taking pictures, eating, improper dress code, etc. during the judging. 	<p><u>VERBAL WARNING*</u></p> <p>1st offence - verbal warning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a judge receives 1 verbal warning during the competition, the case will be analyzed in the post- competition evaluation and if confirmed, will result in a written warning by the Judge Responsible via the IFAGG office.
<p>A judge can be removed and replaced immediately or not allowed to judge in the following competition phase for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving a second verbal warning; • Taking part in discussions and/or agreements with other judges with the intent to collaborate; • Speaking with other judges and/or giving some signs during the competition following a verbal warning; • Having used means of communication which are not permitted during the competition (e.g. mobile phone); • Cheating or proven corrupt behavior; • Not attending the official activities and judge meetings before competitions; • Abusive behavior; • Obstructing the operation of the competition; <p><i>The exclusion of a judge during a competition can be followed by further sanctions depending on the severity of the problem.</i></p>	<p><u>REMOVING AND REPLACING IMMEDIATELY* (YELLOW CARD)</u></p> <p>If a judge is removed from the panel during the competition, she/he will have one or some of the following consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written warning • Suspension • Downgrade of judge level • Publication in IFAGG website • Warning letter to the Federation • IFAGG member not permitted to have a judge at one or more IFAGG competitions <p>Receiving the YELLOW CARD must be reported to the IFAGG Council and handed over to the Disciplinary Committee which can, having the requested opinion from the Judge Committee and Judge Responsible, and having heard the parties involved, impose one or several sanctions mentioned above. The yellow card is valid for 2 years.</p>
<p>A judge who receives a second yellow card within a 2-year period after the initial warning</p>	<p><u>SUSPENSION FROM IFAGG COMPETITIONS* (RED CARD)</u></p> <p>A judge who receives a second yellow card within a 2-year period after the first yellow card, will face a 1-year suspension from all IFAGG sanctioned competitions the license will be downgraded</p>

8.3. Sanctions after a competition

After the conclusion of the competition, the Judge Committee shall conduct the post-competition video review and analysis of the judges' work as prescribed in the IFAGG Competition Rules. The competitions are randomly selected.

All cases, where a judge has received the result "Unsatisfactory", will result in a written warning proposed by the Judge committee and signed by the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee through the IFAGG Office.

All proposals for sanctions (except verbal warnings) after the competition must be referred to the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee.

8.4. Sanctions against judges and IFAGG official members

- The federations are informed about the sanctions against their judges (except in case of verbal warnings);
- For sanctions against judges as described above, IFAGG official member will be informed and may, depending on the seriousness of the case, not be permitted to send judges to the next World Cups, Challenge Cups, Continental Championships, World Championships;
- All written sanctions against judges and IFAGG official members will be communicated and signed by the Disciplinary Committee after consulting the IFAGG Council and Judge Committee and all other needed bodies.

8.5. Level of Appeal

Judges who are sanctioned during competition have the right to appeal to the Disciplinary Committee. Appeals for verbal warnings are submitted to the IFAGG Judge committee. Such appeals must be addressed without delay.

The decision of the IFAGG Disciplinary Committee is the final and valid for the relevant competition.

9. Educational and examination information

9.1. Educational materials

All educational materials to prepare for the IFAGG judge exam are provided on the IFAGG website. The materials include IFAGG Competition rules, IFAGG General competition rules and Judges papers.

[Rules](#)
[Judging documents](#)

9.2. Examination rules

[The examination rules](#) can be found from the IFAGG website.



10. Judging panel

All the detailed descriptions of all roles of judging panel can be found from [Duties and responsibilities of Judge panel](#) on the IFAGG website.