

JUDGES' HANDBOOK

MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

VERSION 26.7.0 – JULY 3, 2026

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document defines the standards, requirements, and processes governing the development, certification, assignment, and responsibilities of judges within the Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) program in Canada.

It applies to all National and World Gymnastics (WG) Brevet judges operating within the Gymnastics Canada (GymCan) MAG program.

This document is to be read in conjunction with all applicable GymCan policies and technical documents, as well as World Gymnastics regulations, including but not limited to:

- World Gymnastics (WG) Technical Regulations
- WG General Judges' Rules
- WG MAG Specific Judges' Rules
- WG MAG Code of Points
- WG MAG Newsletters
- WG MAG Appendix to the Code of Points
- GymCan Technical Regulations
- GymCan Travel Policy
- GymCan Safe Sport Policy
- GymCan Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy

Where discrepancies exist, World Gymnastics regulations and GymCan policies take precedence

The Canadian judge assignments sheet is available here: National Judging Assignment 25-2028

2 AUTHORITY & GOVERNANCE

The MAG Judges' Handbook operates within the GymCan Program Management framework.

The Program Director (PD) has overall authority for the MAG program and is responsible for:

- Approving this document and any subsequent revisions
- Ensuring alignment with GymCan policies and strategic objectives
- Making final decisions on matters related to judging assignments and program direction

The Judges Development Working Group (JDWG) operates under the authority of the Program Director and is responsible for:

- Implementing the processes outlined in this document
- Managing judge development, certification, and tracking
- Recommending national and international judging assignments

- Providing technical expertise and guidance on judging matters

All recommendations made by the JDWG are subject to approval by the Program Director unless explicitly delegated.

3 JUDGES' DEVELOPMENTAL WORKING GROUP

- Pending update and approval of GymCan's Program Management Standard.

4 JUDGING STRUCTURE

Organization	Level	Eligible Judging Events
World Gymnastics	WG Brevet (1–4)	• All national competitions • International competitions as per the WG General Judges' Rules
GymCan	National	• D-jury at all provincial competitions, including Westerns/Easterns • D-jury at Canadian Championships and Canada Games (if needed) • E-jury at Canadian Championships & Canada Games • Time/Line at Elite Canada
PTOs	Provincial	• E-jury at Westerns/Easterns • D-jury at all provincial competitions
	Club Entry	• All provincial competitions (at the discretion of the PTO)

This document covers National and higher judges. For the lower levels, please contact your Provincial/Territorial Organization (PTO) for more information.

5 ELIGIBILITY

To be a National or higher official, you must be

a) Be at least 18 years of age on the date of the National Course.
b) A member in good standing with no outstanding invoices or debts, and no sanctions with GymCan or their respective PTO; and,
c) Meeting all GymCan requirements and regulations.

6 CERTIFICATION & NATIONAL JUDGES' LIST

a) Certification at any level is granted only once all requirements for that level are met.
b) GymCan maintains an official Canadian National Judges' List of all fully certified and active Canadian national and international judges. This list also includes international judges of other nations who reside and judge in Canada.
c) The Canadian National Judges' List will be updated following each National judges' course and World Gymnastics judges' course.
d) Lower levels of certification are under the jurisdiction of the respective Provincial/Territorial Organization.
e) Failure to maintain GymCan membership will result in removal from the National Judges' List.
f) Judges whose certification level changes or is revoked will receive written notification explaining the change.

6.1 CERTIFICATION

6.1.1 NATIONAL

a) Those wishing to become a National judge for the first time must attend a GymCan national judges' course and pass the accompanying exam. Recommendation from the Provincial/Territorial judging chair is required.
b) Current National judges must re-qualify for each quadrennial by attending a GymCan national judges' course and passing the accompanying exam.
c) Courses are scheduled every two (2) years, at the beginning and middle of the cycle.

6.1.2 WORLD GYMNASTICS INTERNATIONAL BREVET (I-IV)

a) National judges who have satisfied all requirements in the table below will be permitted to take the WG course and exam.
b) Current WG judges wishing to maintain or upgrade must meet the requirements as outlined in the WG General Judges' Rules and WG MAG Specific Judges' Rules.

7 GYMCAN JUDGING LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Level	Min. Requirements to Attain Level
WG Category 1	• As per WG General Judges' Rules • At least two cycles as Category 2 • Judge 28 national competition sessions, where 14 are Junior/Senior level
WG Category 2	• As per WG General Judges' Rules • At least one cycle as Category 3 • Judge 24 national competition sessions, where 12 are Junior/Senior level
WG Category 3	• As per WG General Judges' Rules • At least one cycle as Category 4 • Judge 24 national competition sessions, where 12 are Junior/Senior level
WG Category 4	• As per WG General Judges' Rules • National for at least 4 years • Judge 12 national competition sessions, where 6 are Junior/Senior level
National	• Nominated by PTO • Minimum score of 70% (first time) or 75% (all others) on D and E • Judging Experience at the provincial Level

7.1 SESSIONS

A session is defined as a period of time during which a fixed group of gymnasts—and only that group—is divided among the apparatus, with each group having the opportunity to warm up, compete, and be judged on all six apparatus.

7.1.1 VALID SESSIONS

Event	Total Sessions Achievable
Any judging course	1 session (no Junior/Senior level session)
Elite Canada	6 sessions
Canadian Championships	8 sessions
Canada Games	8 sessions
Video Supervisor (organized by GymCan)	1 session
Online Judging (organized by GymCan)	1 session
National Selection	1 session per day

7.2 FAST TRACKING

7.2.1 NATIONAL

National Team athletes and coaches may enter the National level directly if they meet one of the following criteria:

a) Current or recently retired Senior National Team Athlete (within current or last cycle)
b) Current or recently retired Senior National Team Coach (within current or last cycle)

They must complete the National course and successfully pass the exam.

7.2.2 WORLD GYMNASTICS INTERNATIONAL BREVET

The only option to bypass a level is through the WG Fast Track option as outlined in the WG General Judges' Rules.

Judges should not expect to be assigned competitions for the purpose of upgrading mid-cycle. To ensure equal opportunity among Canadian WG Brevet judges, judges are expected to complete a full cycle in their current category before advancing to a higher category.

Where circumstances outside GymCan's control result in a judge obtaining sufficient experience to upgrade mid-cycle, GymCan will support the WG category upgrade.

8 ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be communicated by GymCan via email.

a) Judges must respond by the deadline stated in the email to confirm and secure their assignment.
b) Judges selected as reserves must also respond to the assignment email by the stated deadline.
c) Judges selected for funded assignments must be available for all competition sessions.

8.1 NATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

8.1.1 SELECTION

8.1.1.1 Elite Canada

GymCan may fund up to nineteen (19) Brevet judges to attend Elite Canada.

Funded assignments will be confirmed in the following priority order:

1. JDWG members will be assigned to their designated apparatus. Assignment to the D1 position is not guaranteed.
2. WG Category 2 or higher judges will be prioritized according to proximity to the event location.
3. Remaining funded positions will be assigned, where possible, to support representation from provinces and territories not already represented.

PTOs are encouraged to nominate provincially funded Brevet judges. These judges will be assigned to all sessions.

The LOC may nominate National or Provincial level judges as timers and/or line judges.

8.1.1.2 Canadian Championships

GymCan may fund up to nineteen (19) Brevet judges to attend Canadian Championships.

Funded assignments will be confirmed in the following priority order:

1. JDWG members will be assigned to their designated apparatus. Assignment to the D1 position is not guaranteed.
2. WG Category 2 or higher judges will be prioritized according to proximity to the event location.
3. Remaining funded positions will be assigned, where possible, to support representation from provinces and territories not already represented.

PTOs are encouraged to nominate provincially funded Brevet and/ or National level judges. These judges will be assigned to all sessions.

The LOC may nominate National or Provincial level judges as timers and/or line judges.

8.1.1.3 Canada Games

Up to twenty-five (25) judges are assigned to the Canada Games by GymCan, in consultation with the Judging Development Working Group (JDWG). Judges must hold a National-level certification or higher.

Judges will be assigned in the following priority order:

1. Brevet Category 4 judges will be assigned first to fulfill the D1 and D2 positions.
    a. If there are insufficient Brevet Category 4 judges available, Brevet Category 3 judges will be assigned, followed by judges from the next highest available Brevet category, as required.
2. National-level judges will be assigned to the E-jury.
    a. National-level judges may be assigned to the D-jury only if there are insufficient Brevet judges available to fulfill the D-jury positions.

Provincial and Territorial Organizations may not nominate judges for the Canada Games.

8.2 INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

8.2.1 SELECTION

Judges for international competitions are selected based on the following criteria:

a) Competition group and category of judge
b) Years of judging experience, particularly international experience
c) Number of competitions needed to maintain or upgrade category
d) Calibre of judge (high exam scores, WG Excellence in Judging Award, JEP rank, etc.)
e) Judge's contributions to the Canadian judging community
f) The judge's past behavioural history

While selection is based in objectivity, there is an element of subjectivity to the selection of judges to international meets. For example, the JDWG takes years of judging experience into account, but that does not mean that the judge with the most international experience will always be assigned first; if that were the case then none of our judges would get experience. The table that follows gives a brief overview of the competition and what judge is typically selected for it. The information is subject to change without warning as governing bodies outside of the control of GymCan make changes regularly.

8.2.2 BEFORE & DURING THE COMPETITION

Judges representing Canada abroad are expected to:

a) Follow the instructions from the Team Manager, Head of Delegation, or another designated individual.
b) Assist the traveling team with any judging related questions.
c) Attend pre-competition meetings.
d) Attend pre-competition training camps, when applicable.
e) Review routines and D-scores for Canadian athletes, as requested.
f) Read all documents and information provided by GymCan and the host.
g) Inform your PTO MAG judging chair about your assignment.
h) Respect deadlines for confirming availability.
i) Comply with all WG rules, as required.

8.2.3 JUDGING REPORT

After every domestic or international competition, the judge(s) must submit a written report using the official Judging Report Template, within two weeks following the conclusion of the competition.

Competition	Group	Selection
Olympics	1	• 1 judge Cat. 2 or higher, for at least two cycles • Selected by WG and based on JEP ranking
Youth Olympic Games	2	• 1 judge Cat. 3 or higher who is under 37 years of age • Selected by WG and based on course results
World Championships	2	• 2 judges Cat. 2 or higher, for at least two cycles • Judges nominated for selection to upcoming Olympic Games and/or Intercontinental Course
Junior World Championships	2	• 1 judge Cat. 2 or higher, for at least two cycles • Judges nominated for selection to upcoming Olympic Games
Sr Pan American Championships	2	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher
Sr Pan American Games	2	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher
World Cups	2	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • These competitions are only when we have an athlete attending and are generally prioritized for the judges nominated for selection to upcoming Olympic Games
World Challenge Cups	3	• 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher • These competitions are only when we have an athlete attending and are generally prioritized to give judges experience to maintain or upgrade their category
Jr Pan American Championships	3	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher
Commonwealth Games	3	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • Generally given to the judges nominated for selection to Olympics to gain multi-sport games experience
FISU Games	3	• 1 judge Cat. 3 or higher
Pacific Rim Championships	3	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher
Jr Pan American Games	3	• 1-2 judges Cat. 2 or higher • 1-2 judges Cat. 3 or higher
All other WG sanctioned competitions	4	• Any WG brevet judge • Selection depends on the competition

8.2.4 OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the competitions listed above, Canada may occasionally be invited to provide neutral judges for external competitions. Previous examples have included the Asian Games, African Games, and African Championships.

Selection for these opportunities will be considered on a case-by-case basis when they arise.

These opportunities are external to GymCan and are not part of GymCan's High Performance Program or National Team activities. Participation is undertaken independently by the selected judge. GymCan will not provide funding or logistical support and assumes no responsibility or liability related to the judge's participation.

8.2.5 SELECTION OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, INTERCONTINENTAL JUDGING COURSE, & OLYMPIC GAMES JUDGES

8.2.5.1 Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for selection, judges must:

a) Have no prior sanctions or warnings. Judges who received a warning letter or any sanction from World Gymnastics or GymCan during the current cycle are ineligible.
b) Have no ongoing disciplinary proceedings under World Gymnastics or GymCan at the time of nomination, or at any point until the conclusion of the Olympic Games.
c) Must a member in good standing with GymCan.
d) Have at minimum a WG Brevet Category 2 as a Canadian for at least two cycles.
e) Be an active judge as defined in the table in section 5 with their PTO and GymCan.
f) Fulfill all national judging requirements as outlined in the judging online sheet, including:
    i. Judge the required number of sessions at Elite Canada, Canadian Championships, and designated selection events as required.
    ii. Judge both the Junior and Senior sessions at Elite Canada and Canadian Championships as these categories are what will be judged at international competitions.

8.2.5.2 Selection Process

a) WG Brevet Category 1 judges receive priority in the Canadian ranking.
b) If Canada has two Category 1 judges, and they both meet all international and domestic requirements, then they are automatically selected by World Gymnastics as Canada's Olympic judges.
c) WG Brevet Category 2 judges who meet all international and domestic requirements, as defined in the table in section 5, will be considered for selection.
d) The MAG Program Director, in consultation with the JDWG Committee, will identify the pool of eligible Category 2 judges for Olympic consideration and for the Intercontinental Judging Course.
e) Selected judges must provide a confirmation letter indicating their availability for the Olympic selection process.
    i. Judges who fail to maintain the GymCan requirements at any point I the cycle will be removed from the selection process.
f) If no judge is selected for the Olympic Games, the judge (from the Olympics selection pool) with the highest JEP results in the current cycle will be prioritized for the Intercontinental Course, along with the judge from the previous Olympic Games if they have not yet had the opportunity to attend the Intercontinental Course. If the judge with the highest JEP results is already admitted to the Intercontinental Course (i.e., they are Category 1), then the judge with the second highest JEP results will be selected.
g) The JEP ranking is done as per how World Gymnastics does the ITO selection for Olympic Games.

8.2.5.3 World Gymnastics JEP Process

a) All judges selected for the pool will have an equal opportunity to participate in JEP evaluated competitions as outlined in the ITO Selection Criteria for the Olympic Games.

8.2.5.4 Expectations for Worlds & Olympic Judges

Judges selected, or in consideration, for Worlds and Olympics must:

a) Attend and judge all National Team selection events, including but not limited to:
    i. Canadian Championships
    ii. Elite Canada
    iii. Designated international selection events (as required)
b) When requested, attend National Team training camps and pre-departure camps, such as pre-World Championships and pre-Olympic Games camps.
c) Attend all assigned international competitions throughout the cycle.
d) Provide feedback to coaches and athletes upon request by the National Team program.
e) Submit judges' reports as required.
f) Stay current with the international developments, including updates to the Code of Points, WG newsletters, new interpretations, and official clarifications.

8.2.6 FUNDING

GymCan will confirm the funding model for the event, which may be fully funded, cost-shared, or self-funded. Refer to the GymCan Travel Policy for additional details.

8.2.6.1 Funded

For funded events, GymCan funding may include, but is not limited to, the following eligible expenses:

a) Airfare to and from the nearest international airport;
b) Shared accommodation;
c) Meals included in the accommodation package or GymCan's per diem, where applicable;
d) On-site delegation transportation between the destination airport and the accommodation; and
e) On-site transportation required for official delegation activities.

8.2.6.2 Cost-Shared

For cost-shared events, some eligible expenses may be covered by GymCan and/or the host organizing committee. Any remaining costs are the responsibility of the selected judge(s). The cost-sharing model will be communicated to the selected judge(s) in advance.

8.2.6.3 Self-Funded

For self-funded assignments, no expenses will be reimbursed by GymCan.

Where official accommodation is mandatory, GymCan will arrange the booking and invoice the selected judge accordingly. Where official accommodation is not mandatory, the selected judge may arrange their own lodging but must provide their accommodation details to GymCan in advance.

The selected judge may travel with the delegation at their own expense, in which case GymCan will arrange the flight and invoice the judge accordingly. If the selected judge chooses to travel independently, they must provide their travel itinerary to GymCan in advance.

8.2.7 PERSONAL TRAVEL

Judges selected for international competitions may request to add personal travel before or after the competition.

Judges who wish to add personal travel must notify GymCan prior to the selection event. If personal travel is not disclosed before the selection event, the judge is responsible for any additional costs associated with changes to, or cancellation of, travel arrangements.

9 RESPONSIBILITIES

All judges are to adhere to the *GymCan Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy*, *GymCan Travel Policy*, and *GymCan Safe Sport Policy*.

a) When attending an international competition, judges are also to adhere to the following:
   i. WG Code of Ethics
   ii. WG Code of Conduct
   iii. WG Technical Regulations
   iv. WG General Judges' Rules
   v. WG MAG Specific Judges' Rules
   vi. WG MAG Code of Points
   vii. Any other rules and regulations stipulated by the local organizing committee
b) Failure to adhere to the above documents will result in sanctions towards the offending judge. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:
   i. Written warning
   ii. Removal from competition
   iii. Removal of assignment(s)
   iv. Suspension for a prescribed duration
   v. Expulsion

9.1 COMPETITION JUDGING CHAIR

At GymCan domestic competitions, the Competition Judging Chair serves as the primary authority overseeing the competition and acts as the official liaison between GymCan and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), as well as judges, athletes, and coaches. GymCan retains final decision-making authority in all matters.

9.2 APPARATUS HEAD JUDGE (D1)

The D1 judge on their apparatus at GymCan domestic competitions has the additional responsibilities of:

a) Acting as liaison between the competition judging chair and the judges, athletes, and coaches.
b) Ensuring a climate of trust and mutual respect on their panel.
c) Verifying compliance of equipment before the competitions
d) In consultation with the D2 judge, completes and submits a report shortly following the conclusion of the competition.
e) Educate panel members.

10 INACTIVITY

Officials who become inactive by not judging any sessions during a cycle may request reinstatement by submitting a request to the JDWG. The JDWG will review the request in consultation with the official's P/T MAG Judging Chair.

11 LIST OF CANADIAN OLYMPIC JUDGES

Olympics	Judge(s)	MTC/EC/SJ Member(s)
2024	Kader Mecellem	Jeff Thomson (MTC)
2020 (2021)	Bruno Martin	Jeff Thomson (MTC)
2016	Chris Grabowecky	Hardy Fink (SJ)
2012	Ray Heiderich	Edouard Iarov (MTC), Hardy Fink (SJ)
2008	Chris Grabowecky, Jeff Thomson	Hardy Fink (SJ)
2004	Kelly Thompson, Chris Grabowecky	Hardy Fink (MTC)
2000	Jeff Thomson, Robert Paquin	Hardy Fink (MTC/EC)
1996	Jeff Thomson, Robert Paquin	Hardy Fink (MTC)
1992	Dave Copeland, Don Eagle	Hardy Fink (MTC)
1988	Hardy Fink	
1984	Hardy Fink	
1980	*Boycott*	
1976	John Tutte, Hardy Fink	
1972	Eugene Oryszczyn, Willy Weiler	
1968	Jacques Chouinard, Albert Dippong	
1964	-	
1960	Jean-Paul Marcil	
1956	-	

12 DOCUMENT TIMELINES

Version	Date	Change(s)
Draft 26.4.0	April 4, 2026	- Updated document style - Updates from open discussions
Draft 26.5.0	May 7, 2026	- Alignment with GymCan policies - Draft circulated to Brevet judges
Final 26.7.0	July 3, 2026	- Final document published