



Coaches & Judges GUIDE TO NATIONALS

WELCOME TO THE 2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!
San Jose Convention Center
 June 23–29, 2009

This guide is designed to provide additional information for coaches and judges not covered in the Athlete and Parent Guide to Nationals. Please refer to that Guide in order to know “everything there is to know” about Nationals. If you have questions that are not answered here, please feel free to ask Ann or Kathy. We will do our best to provide a quick response. We hope you and your athlete(s) will have a great week!

TECHNICAL PACKET

Your Technical Packet includes the following:

From the Competition Office: (The Competition Office is located near staging.)

- **Credentials*** – All coaches, judges, staff and officials must have their picture made at the Competition Office in order to receive a credential. Bring your best smile!
- **Athlete Passes*** (One pass for each athlete. The passes are good for admission to all sessions.)
- **Nationals Refund Request and Nationals Entries Correction Form**
- **Invoice, if applicable**
- **Flyer from Ross Athletic Supply regarding sale of competition equipment**
- **Participation certificates for the athletes**

From the USA Gymnastics website:

- **Schedule**
- **Training Group Assignments**
- **Start Lists**
- **Guide to Nationals for Athletes & Parents**
- **Guide to Nationals for Coaches & Judges**
- **Volunteer Sign-up Information**

*Credentials and athlete passes are not being mailed this year.

COACH'S MEETINGS

No Coach's Meetings are scheduled. If you have questions, please ask a staff member in the Competition Office. A monitor in the Competition Office will alert you to updates. Please check the monitor before asking your questions, as the answer may be available there. We have many new teams who are competing at Nationals for the first time. Please make the coaches and athletes welcome and help them with the logistics of the competition whenever possible. Remember how overwhelming it was your first time!

CODE OF ETHICS

The USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics is in effect for every athlete, coach and official. Please remember this and act accordingly. Parents and coaches are reminded that you are responsible for the actions of your athlete(s) and

for any damages caused by them at the Convention Center or at the hotel. The Code of Ethics can be found at http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/aboutus/pages/code_of_ethics.php.

COMPETITION CARDS, LEVELS 8-10 ONLY

- Competition cards are required for all events for Level 8, 9 and 10 competitors.
- Boxes with blank forms and boxes for completed forms are located in the Competition Office.
- NEW: Please separate the competition cards into Levels as there will be a box for each level.
- The competition cards are posted on the web site for those who wish to prepare the comp cards before arriving in San Jose. Competition cards are color-coded for easier sorting: TRI-Blue; TU-Pink; DM-Green; TRS-Yellow. Please print the cards on the appropriate color of paper for each discipline. Light colors are necessary since the cards are to be copied.
- Only the official competition cards will be accepted. The competition cards may not be altered.
- **Procedure for submitting competition cards:** When you submit the card(s), wait for a copy of the card to be returned to you. If the card is misplaced you will have a copy and can produce it to avoid the 0.2 pts. deduction. If you have prepared your comp cards ahead and wish to bring a copy with you when you turn them in, you may have the staff verify your copy instead of waiting for a copy to be made.
- Failure to turn in a competition card or cards that are not completely filled out with skill identification and difficulty value in place and calculated will result in a deduction of 0.2 pts. from the difficulty score.
- *Blank competition cards are available in the Competition Office after 2:00 pm June 23.*

The following schedule shows when and where competition cards are due:

Who	When	Where
<i>Levels 8-10</i>	<i>Wed., June 24 – 3:15 pm</i>	<i>Box marked Completed Comp Cards - Competition Office</i>
<i>Regional All-Stars</i>	<i>Sat., June 27 – 5:00 pm</i>	<i>Box marked Completed Comp Cards - Competition Office</i>

DD CONFIRMATION & COACH/JUDGE COMMUNICATION

Coaches may request confirmation of an athlete's degree of difficulty by completing a DD Confirmation Request form. The forms will be at the judge's tables. As always, there are rules!

- Coaches must complete the form with the athlete's name and the pass (1st or 2nd, Optional, Compulsory) and give it to the Chair of the Judge's Panel.
- No conversation or explanation!
- The Chair of the Judge's Panel will confer with the Difficulty Judges to determine if the correct DD score was flashed by consulting the Competition Card for addition errors or discrepancies between the 2 Difficulty Judges and Chair of the Judge's Panel.
- The judges cannot watch the official video or any other video.
- If the judges discover an error, then the DD will be corrected immediately.
- The Chair of the Judge's Panel will deliver the completed DD Confirmation Request form to the Meet Referee. The coach who submitted the request must go to the Meet Referee for the results of the inquiry.
- Coach's submitting the request may ask for confirmation for any athlete in the current flight, including their personal athletes.
- If the request concerns their own athlete, then the coach will have 30 minutes from the time of the request submission to file an official appeal with the Meet Referee.

Judges and Coaches are not allowed to speak to each other during the competition, casually or officially. The one exception is that coaches are allowed to approach the COP to ask about DD, terminations, etc. Appeal forms are in the Competition Office. Give appeals to the Meet Referee, Patti Conner.

COMPETITION STAFF

Area	Name	Staff Position
Administration	Ann Sims	Sr. Program Director / Competition Director
	Kathy Tyler	Program Manager / Competition Manager
Announcements	Jeremy Waldridge	Announcer / Music Coordinator
	Sean Norris	Announcer
Awards	Cindy Bessert	Awards Coordinator
Competition Office	Whitney Brockman	Competition Office Manager
	Thomas Brockman	Accreditation Manager / Competition Office
Equipment	Ross Morreale	Owner - Ross Athletic Supply
	Vaughn Smith	Equipment Manager - Ross Athletic Supply
	Jay Molina	Equipment Manager - Ross Athletic Supply
Hotels	Kristi Lowe	Representative - National Travel Systems (NTS)
Judges	Patti Conner	Judging Coordinator / Meet Referee
Scoring	George Kampas	Scorekeeper - Total Score
Staging	Jill Milroy	Staging Director
Trainer	Tim Ryan	Trainer - Hobbs Orthopaedic & Sports Therapy (H.O.S.T.)
Volunteers	Craig Johnson	Volunteer Coordinator / Competition Office

CREDENTIALS

Each coach registered and approved by the Program Office and each Judge contracted should have their picture made at the Competition Office in order to receive a credential. Credentials are good for admission to the Hall and to the staging area. You will be asked to show your credential each time you enter the staging area. Prior to receiving your credential, the credential checker will have a list of coaches to check. Bring your USA Gymnastics membership card so he/she can immediately identify your status. Coaches who are not current USA Gymnastics Professional or Jr. Professional members are not issued credentials. Coaches from teams who have unpaid invoices will be issued credentials when the invoice is paid.

DRESS CODE

Athletes: Competition attire is required for all training sessions, warm-up sessions, competition sessions and awards. Remember that this is a team/club event, not a USA team event. Consequently, athletes are not allowed to wear their competitive apparel received for a USA delegation event or national team, such as the World Age-Group Games & JumpStart National Team. This applies to training, warm-up and competition. Regional All-Stars apparel should not be worn prior to the Regional All-Stars competition.

Coaches: Warm-up pants, polo shirts or team t-shirts and gym shoes are required for all training sessions, warm-up sessions and competition sessions. That means no shorts, no sandals, no t-shirts from a recent concert, sporting event, family reunion, PTA fund raiser or anything else that is not related to T & T. Your credential must be around your neck where the staff can see it and not tied to your backpack that's in the stands, in your pocket, on your brother-in-law, in the hotel room, etc.

- Proper coaching attire is required (team warm-up, team t-shirt or polo shirt).
- No shorts.
- Gym shoes are required – no flip-flops or sandals.
- Denim pants are not allowed.
- Caps/hats are not allowed.
- Violators may be asked to leave the floor.

Judges:

All judges participating in the 2009 National Championships are required to adhere to the following dress code:

Men:

- Navy blazer, white shirt, navy tie and navy slacks. The tie may have other colors and designs, so long as navy is the base color.
- No shorts.
- No denim pants.

Women:

- Navy blazer, white blouse and navy skirt or pants.
- No shorts or excessively short skirts. Split skirts, or skorts, are acceptable if not excessively short.
- No denim pants or skirts.

Footwear:

- All judges will wear enclosed shoes of a dark color.
- No sandals, flip-flops, bright-colored or white shoes.

Consequences for Non-compliance:

- Any judge arriving at a session inappropriately dressed will be asked to remedy the situation immediately. If unable or unwilling to find the appropriate clothing, he/she will be removed from the panel.
- If a judge who has been removed from a panel for non-compliance with the dress code is assigned to a later session, he/she will be allowed to judge if the appropriate attire is worn.
- Any judge who arrives at more than one session inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to judge national events for the remainder of the year.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE COMPETITION FLOOR

Coaches and judges, as well as athletes, are required to enter and exit the competition floor through staging. Coaches and judges who are caught going under or over the railing and cutting across the floor are subject to having their credential removed. Yes, going all the way down the floor to staging is a pain, but to allow uncontrolled access to the competition floor is a safety hazard and is unprofessional. Coaches are cautioned to make sure that athletes obey this rule. **Reminder:** The only athletes who are allowed in staging or on the competition floor are those in the current and on-deck flights. Coaches should remind their athletes to stay in the spectator area until their flight is called to staging. Unless serving as volunteers, parents and spectators are not allowed in the staging area or on the competition floor.

For each flight:

- Athletes will march in wearing competition attire – no gym shoes – and carrying nothing.
- Coaches must carry the athlete's belongings and go directly to the chairs by the least conspicuous method possible.
- Athletes will march to the judge's tables and present to the judges.
- Judges will escort the athletes from the competition floor to staging. Coaches should follow and carry belongings.

If there is an empty judging table you are not allowed to sit in the chairs or on the tables during the competition or flight warm-up.

FLIGHT AWARDS

Flight awards will be presented to all athletes in Levels 5-10. The **Superior Judge** will present flight ribbons to each competitor at the judge's table immediately following each flight. Coaches must stand behind the judge's table during the award presentation in order for the audience to have adequate viewing. *(Note: From time to time, scores may change after the flight awards are given due to the appeals process or a numerical error. Results are not final until overall awards are presented. However, all flight awards are final.)* Awards will be delivered to each judge's station prior to the competition. Additional ribbons may be found at the Awards Stage.

FLIGHT LEADERS

Judges will serve as Flight Leaders. They will march each flight on and off of the competition floor from staging.

HOSPITALITY

Our goal is to provide a meal for the coaches, judges and staff who are unable to leave the floor during meal times.

- All food and beverages will be served in the Hospitality Area.
- Only credentialed coaches, judges, staff and volunteers allowed in the Hospitality Area.

SCORING ALERT

A black screen with **Flashing Red Flight Numbers** will alert the audience of any deviation from the normal path of competition (change of score, appeal in process, etc.). Final results may vary from the scores originally flashed by the judges. *Note: Even though results may change, all flight awards are final.*

SPOTTERS

Even though there will be volunteers spotting the trampoline, there may not always be enough, so please spot when you can so that the athletes are safe and the competition is not delayed. In addition to the competition, there must be spotters during all training and warm-up times. Athletes and coaches must help!

TEAM FOLDERS

There are no team folders this year, but please check the monitor in the Competition Office for notices of schedule changes, instructions for the Grand March, etc.

TRAINING

- Training sessions are assigned and are posted on the web site. Tickets will not be issued this year for training sessions.
- Teams should arrive 30 minutes prior to training for stretching in the staging area.
- **Athletes will enter the competition floor with a coach when their team is called.**
- Everyone involved in a training session must enter through Staging and depart from the appropriate exit.
- When your team is called to the floor for training, **take all personal items with you into training**. You will exit the competition area another way, since another group will be in the staging area waiting to take the floor for training.
- No athletes will be allowed on the floor without a coach.

Each year there are nervous parents, and children who were not allowed to train, because their coach was late or a no-show. *It is extremely important that you communicate with parents about training times so that athletes are not put into stressful situations.*

VIDEO CAMERAS

Tri-pods are not allowed on the competition floor. You may video your athlete with a handheld camera, but only from the on-deck area. The spectators have paid admission to watch the competition and they do not have optimal viewing if coaches, tri-pods and cameras are obstructing their view. **CHARGE YOUR BATTERIES!** Electrical cords are a safety hazard and will not be permitted.

VOLUNTEERS (“ANGELS”)

T&T Angels are essential to the smooth operation of the event. Each volunteer will report to the Volunteer Coordinator, Craig Johnson, at the Competition Office to receive directions for their assignments, as well as their t-shirt and credential. Volunteers should pay for entrance to the competition and give the ticket to the Volunteer Coordinator for a refund on the day(s) they serve. If a meal is served during the shift, the volunteers will be included.

If you did not sign up as an Angel prior to arriving in San Jose and would like to volunteer, please see Craig in the Competition Office. Your offer of help is always appreciated!

When you see a T&T Angel, please let them know how much their hard work is appreciated!

