

MINUTES FROM THE 2008 STATE JUDGING COORDINATORS MEETING HELD 15TH JULY 2008 AT THE MARION CENTRE IN ADELAIDE

Meeting opened at 10.00am

- 1. Present:** Meryl Papas (QLD), Edith Peluso (QLD), Vanessa Polglase-Beck (QLD), Joan Duquemin (VIC), Karen Gilgallen (WA), Sandra Button (VIC), Margaret Woolf (NZ), Bridget Thompson (VIC), Stephanie Schahinger (SA), Jenny Whitworth (QLD), Gina Peluso (VIC), Veronica Sologuren (NSW), Maxine Devonport (QLD), Kathryn Western (NSW), Carol Lane (NSW), Margaret Lanz (VIC), Galrina Yeragova (QLD), Barbara Smith (WA), Karyn Murray (WA) Teresa Evans (NTD) and Karon Williams (NPM)

Apologies: Robyn Pride (NSW)

- 2. Minutes from the previous meeting held 10th July 2007** – accepted as correct. Moved Carol Lane (NSW) seconded Karen Gilgallon (WA)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Sandra Button asked if GA had sent a letter to the Chinese Gymnastics Federation re Elisa Pride's RG qualification and availability to judge. Karon Williams advised that this has been done.

2009-2012 FIG Code of Points

The FIG has released the second draft of the 2009-2012 FIG RG Code of Points. GA has downloaded the document from the FIG website and placed it on the GA RG website for easy access.

NPM Review

Now that the FIG has released the COP the NPM Review Committee can commence the NPM review and rewrite process. This will include a review of the Stages Manual.

RG Judging Sheets

Gina Peluso noted that everyone is now using the judging sheet that has Artistry and Difficulty on the same sheet.

4. State Reports

VIC – refer to report

- Chinese gymnasts and judges were invited to some Victorian comps this year.

QLD – refer to report

- Had some NSW & NZ gymnasts and judges invited to Brisbane to judge a competition.

NSW – refer to report

- Communication between GA and the RG Community is complicated at the moment. Information is being misinterpreted.
- 3 judges passed Level 3 course last year, 22 new Level 1A judges!
- Other states participated in NSW comps – very much appreciated. Would like to see judges coming across from other states as well.
- Practical exam for Level 1 courses are very difficult especially for new judges & parents, as they are based on Elite routines.
- Issue with running PowerPoint slides and the DVD's. This only appeared to be a problem in NSW.
- Found the 1B course to be rather long and repetitive.
- NSW has made some suggestions for the changes to the NPM.

WA – refer to report

- Very good year in terms of numbers.
- Brought in a fining system so that clubs actually have to supply judges at competitions. This seems to be working and increasing the numbers of judges participating in judging courses.
- RG moved into the new state gymnastics centre located at the Loftus Recreation Centre in Leederville
- WA Official of the Year awards for each gym sport, based on a points system. Awarded to Karyn Murray.
- Starting a new Judging Mentoring program shortly.

SA – refer to report

- Stephanie Schahinger won GSA Judge of the Year for 2007.

5. Upcoming Events

National Club Championships – Melbourne

- NCC will be held in Melbourne in October. Expression of interest forms have been emailed out by GV
- Aussie All Stars will be run prior to the event, with inclusion of Level 1-3 in the event. Looking at adding in a L2A & 2B judging course on 2nd October.
- All judges are welcome.

RG Skoolgirls Championships

- 18th October at PLC in Sydney. Event information and entry forms can be found on the GA website listed under national events.

2009 AYOF Selection Trial

- 2nd weekend in December in Adelaide.
- Juniors for 2009 will be allowed to compete.
- 8 gymnasts and 1 non travelling reserve will be selected
- 2007 FIG code will be used.
- A 3 day camp will follow the selection trial.
- 1 panel of judges for the trial.

2009 AYOF

- 13th to 18th January 2009 in Sydney.
- Application forms will be emailed out and judges. The RG Selection Panel will select the judges to judge at the event

2009 National Championships

- To be shared with MAG in Brisbane in July 2009. The event will be held at either Chandler or Boondall.

6. Judging Assignments

Teresa Evans judged at the following events:- Bourgas, Corbeil Essonnes and Pacific Alliance in 2008. Veronica Sologuren judged at Pacific Alliance. Sandra Button was to judge at the Kalamata event however she could not travel due to her father's poor health.

7. Intercontinental Judges Course

- 22nd – 30th November 2008 in Minsk Belarus
- GA will be nominating Teresa Evans to attend and applications will be open for the other position. Only two representatives will be going.

8. Continental Judges Course

- To be held in March in 2009, either Melbourne or Sydney. GA is investigating the possibility of running a L3 Judges course at the same time. As soon as more details come to hand, they will be distributed.
- The FIG is currently reviewing the requirements for hosting a Continental Judges Course.
- Also encouraging coaches to come as observers.

9. Judges Education

- a. New codes coming out so Judging Courses will be updated.

- b. Looking at doing modules on the internet. Can refresh courses online. 3 year timeline at this stage, commencing in 6 months.

10. General Business

10.1 Judges Education

- c. Finding it hard to put appropriately qualified people on panels, seeing as L1A can judge Execution on L1-9. Clubs have the qualified judges, yet they may not be able to be used at competitions due to their level of competition experience. Clubs sometimes do not have an appropriate mentor. The states can set additional criteria to the GA courses prior to the judges judging on a competition panel. Perhaps current technology can also be utilised for those clubs that cannot provide appropriate mentors. Hard to deduct on shapes if they have never seen those shapes before. NZ combine a coaching course with a judging course.

11. Other Matters

- d. Margaret Lanz has received a stamp bulletin with a RG stamp for the Olympics this year. Penny Blackmore is the gymnast on the \$1.35 stamp. Available from Australia Post.

12. Next Meeting

2009 National Championships, Brisbane July 2009

VICTORIAN STATE JUDGES REPORT 2008

Sandra Button

Victorian Judges have been kept busy since 2007 Nationals – with 4 LAT's – AAS - State Pennant – (a 10 Activity skills competition for Levels 1 -3) – Levels 4 – 6 & Stages 1 – 2 – State Championships - Multiples State Championships - Trials and International Stream State Championships

A 1A course produced five new judges, and there is a Level 2A & 2B course planned prior to National Clubs

Highlights from the past year include the Pacific Alliance Trial, with 3 Victorian Judges on the panel and other judges and volunteers assisting with the event

Four top Chinese Rhythmic gymnasts competed at State Championships and a combined MAG – WAG – RG “Chinese Challenge” competition.

They were accompanied by a judge who was included on panels

The low spot for 2007 was the cancellation of the National Clubs. This competition enables so many of our young judges to experience a “National” event – we look forward to welcoming new judges to the 2008 AAS and National Clubs.

NSW Judging Coordinators Report - R. Pride

In the endeavor to be a proficient Judging Coordinator I have tried to be a good **communicator, educator and leader**. We as State Judging Coordinators need to lead by example.

I think with these 3 points in mind it is possible to take up this volunteer position with relative ease.

When possible the NSW JMC/SMC tries to **over communicate** we work together in all aspects. We communicate via "Judging Matters" and this includes Q & A from our community and upcoming events, plus NSW Gymnastics bulletins and of course email being the quickest line of communication.

One of the issues that we continue to deal with is when coaches seek personal information via GA. I understand that they require answers to their points quickly but by this one line of communication, often this telephone conversation interpretation is a little "off" and then this personal interpretation of that point is often shared with others.

I have asked Teresa to ensure that at any point when coaches contact her personally that the response is cc to the JMC or myself. I will endeavor to again ensure that our coaches/judges direct the queries via the JMC. I normally crosscheck all my responses to judges and coaches with Teresa and I thank her for the time taken on small matters within such short time lines. Our NSW SMC meets each month and through this avenue our CEO Aaron Bloomfield, Technical Director Carol Lane, Sports Manager Pam Behan and other SMC members, we address any judging issues with the appropriate course of action.

Judging Courses

During the 07 Nationals three of our judges passed the Level 3 course. NSW held two 1A courses in this competition year taking in 22 new judges. We have held one Level 1B in May of 08 when 4 judges went through to the next level of accreditation. Last year 8 of our judges passed their 2A exam. Our judging community is solid and I congratulate them for their effort over the past 12 months. NSW have very large events, each competition taking up a full weekend and the judge's commitment to this call is most appreciated. This year Meryl Papas, Maxeen Davenport and Sandra Button have come to NSW for various competitions. We value the inclusion of inter State Judges and thank them for their assistance during this year. Hopefully we will bring in an interstate Judge for our Courses in '08-'09. We have reinstated our small NSW Judges membership fee this year to assist with such ventures.

Education does continue to challenge our team.

The 113 power points slides in the 1A Course with a practical video for assessment on Senior /Junior Elite exercises are both examples of the course material not being conducive nor appropriate to 1A judges preparation, or the 1B Course that again has a massive load of power point slides to be viewed in a short time frame. To add insult to injury at our last 1B course we received 2 blank videos for video analysis. So in the endeavor to educate our community our resources need to be fine-tuned – please. I think in principle package is workable there is some excellent material in the package but it needs a serious overhaul. I feel that possibly each State Judging Co., is modifying the GA material to get through the course efficiently, and this then does not give consistency nor competency across the Nation. There is the debate of fast tracking judges through the lower levels of judging, while this works for a few, for the majority this lack of experience is often paid out at the expense of the gymnast. This is not a good practice and in my view any judges fast tracked must be worthy of this escalation,

for an example judges who work on a daily/regular basis in the gym as a coach normally have a good understanding of the basics required in 1A/1B

During 08 I would like to see workshops on Shorthand and Confidence in Competency in NSW. Our judges need to be able to justify their mark, while being courteous and tolerant if there is a challenge to their presented mark.

The NPM review group selected at the '07 Nationals has not been given direction though the past 12 months other than one point of contact in November when we modified a few points. I know the amount of work that will be required to reconfigure the NPM in the coming cycle, therefore I am concerned that we have had no direction on this matter.

A couple of points I personally feel that we need to work on are to:

- Consider some of the levels of difficulties for a "levels" gymnast, and the aligning through the manual, in regard to their logical progression.
- CAP uniformity is needed through all affected levels.
- Considerations of Mastery payment for skills incorporating difficulties that are judged on a sliding scale – what is the base for 20% tolerance?

But until the NPM committee has met to "thrash-out" such points we are floundering as to NPM '09 details. I ask GA to convene a workshop on the NPM review. Possibly committee members could be given a segment of the NPM to work on and present to the Review Committee at the workshop, so it does not become a talk-fest. Even if the solution isn't 100% correct, let's present it for assistance within the committee to make the right solution.

As we all know FIG will release a reviewed Code of Points after the Olympics as they do each cycle. This will obviously have some impact but in saying this NPM does not have to mirror FIG, if that is what the community/committee so choose.

We need to be able to present to the community a levels solution, there are plenty of people out there to point out the problems but we the Review Committee need to take control and present a unified solution.

Retirements and Vale.

Unfortunately two of our strong member of the judging community of RG have taken leave this year. Virginia Elliott has retired due to her working commitments and family, although we still have contact with Virginia and call on her for her valued opinion when necessary.

Most unfortunate was the loss of Adele Bartlett who passed away this year. She is sadly missed from the Judging table.

As leaders we need to be an optimist. Uncertainty will create negative and demoralizing feelings within the community. I trust that the JMC'S and SMC's can rise above this and treat potential problems as an opportunity to improve our discipline.

WA Judging Coordinator Report July 2008

From January this year there has been no judging committee functioning only myself acting as judging coordinator.

Courses

WA has run the following RG judging courses so far this year:

Level	Date	Number of Participants
Level 1A	28/10/2007	11
Level 1A	18/05/2008	17
Level 1B	10/02/2008	4
Level 2A	16/3/2008	3
	Total	

We have another level 1a Course to be run on 19/10/2008 to accredit the judges in the lead up to our level 1-3 competitions.

Judging Numbers – as of June 2008

Level 1A	9
Level 1B	4
Level 2A	3
Level 3	3
Brevet	1
Total	20
**Judges in training	12

** (have passed judges course but have not paid and sent in registration forms)

Gymsports Judges Meeting

Gym sports judges meeting (ie the Judging Coordinator from each Gym sport) are now held every term and provide the opportunity for Coordinators from each gym sport to discuss issues arising and work together to ensure the smooth running of judging across all disciplines. Initiatives discussed include Official of the Year Criteria, Judge Fining System and Budget planning. All gym sports are currently working on a four year plan for judge education, travel priorities and funding.

Projects/Initiatives for 2008

1. New State Gymnastics Centre

In April, the new State Gymnastics Centre and GWA Offices opened for business at the Loftus Recreation Centre – approx 10 minutes drive from the Perth CBD. The majority of competitions will be held in the new centre.

2. Judges Invitational Competition

This is our major fundraiser for the year and this year the event ran successfully on April 5th-6th, with over 100 gymnasts competing. The committee worked hard to make this event more interesting and fun for the gymnasts with special prizes etc. Running successfully is always vital as funds raised provide for assistance with judges education and travel.

3. Judges Service Recognition Awards

The Official of the Year Award was presented to a judge from each Gym sports at the inaugural GWA Awards Dinner in February. Criteria was set by the Gym sports Judging Coordinators and was based on a points system the recipient chosen by each relevant SMC.

Congratulations to **Karyn Murray** who was the Official of the Year in RG.

4. Judge Fining System

Due to the difficulty with some Clubs continually not providing judges, the Gym sports Judging Coordinators have worked together to implement a new fining system for Clubs not providing the correct number of judges for competitions. This is based on a formula of providing a certain amount of judges for the number of competitors for each session. A \$100 fine is issued for every judge not provided by a Club. We have also introduced a Club Judge Liaison contact at each Club who is responsible for filling in all paperwork pertaining to judge nominations.

We have encountered some difficulties implementing this system, but are hopeful that as Clubs become familiar with the system and get proactive about getting more judges accredited, we should see positive results in the coming years.

5. Department Sport and Recreation Coloured Shirt Program

The WA Department of Sport and Recreation is supporting judge mentoring through the coloured shirt program. RG is trialing this program along with trampoline in 2008 with other gymnastics WA disciplines expected to take this program on in 2009. Judge mentoring has been ongoing with groups of judges practicing not on panels as groups with a mentor at several competitions. It is hoped that mentoring will improve retention and education of judges.

6. Department Sport and Recreation High Performance Officiating Scholarship

I was successful in receiving funds form DSR to attend the level 3 judging course in 2007 and to attain practical judging experience such as at national championships. RG plans to continue to apply for this scholarships and other funds or scholarships to encourage more judges form WA to retain or preferably increase there level of judging accreditation.

Karen Gilgallon
WA RG Judging Coordinator

Queensland RG Judging Report

6th July 2008



In addition to the Queensland's report presented by Jenny the judging report below relates to 2008 events January - June.

Level 1-3: February - March

Changing the scheduling of the Level 1-3 Carnivals from the end of 2007 to the beginning of 2008 reduced our competitor numbers. In the two carnivals we had 4 out of a possible 6 clubs entered. Ten judges participated in the events with 5 new 1A judges on the panel.

Level 4-International Stream Series Events: April- May

2008 was the inaugural year for combining Level 4 to international stream in two series (trials) events. This was for several reasons:

- 1) Allow clubs to be able to focus on a specific task per half year: January - July focus on individuals and August- December multiples and group.
- 2) Allow the Level 4-6 athletes to be apart the State Championships at Chandler
- 3) Condense the number of days for judging Level 4- elite by half in the calendar year

Our competitive numbers in Queensland are just manageable to compete all athletes under this umbrella in a 10.5hour judging day. This effort was only made possible by the hard work of 16 Queensland judges who willingly committed their time to these events. In such a new format I was proud of their efforts and thank them very much for their hard work.

Queensland State Championships Level 4 to International Stream – June

Over a sunny weekend in June 120 RG Athletes ranged from Level 4 to Senior Elite participated in the Queensland State Championships at Chandler. This Queensland "arena" spectacular hosted clubs from New Zealand and NSW. Attended by National champions and champions to be. An amazing 28 judges graced the floor for back-to-back sessions over the two days. The event was a wonderful effort from our small community. All volunteers, scorers and coaches are to be thanked. To our Rhythmic friends over the border and over the Pacific your welcome back anytime.

This year our judging community has adapted to many changes in such a short space of time. The support I've received in the past 12 months as a Coordinator from the Queensland's SMC and the community has been tremendous. I thank all members for your positive influence in the sport and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

Gina Peluso

SA RG Judging Coordinator's Report

Judging Courses

- ★ L1A's – six
- ★ L1B's – six
- ★ L2A's – two
- ★ L2B's – three
- ★ L3's – one
- ★ Expert – one

Total of nineteen judges in SA

A total of six judging courses were held in 2007 (two each of 1A and 1B and one each of 2A and 2B). The courses are working very well with workbooks for each participant designed by the Judging Coordinator. I have noticed that judges are bringing these workbooks to each and every competition that they judge at, as they find it a very handy reference – especially as it contains the Execution symbols.

We have had some parents take up the challenge of judging in 2007 and more have already enrolled in courses to be held later this year. It may take longer to educate them (due to their lack of background in RG), but some of them turn out to be very good judges in the long run.

Numbers are still low in the higher levels, but clubs are beginning to realize that if they want a quicker competition, then they have to have supply candidates for the higher level judging courses. It can become difficult to judge Elite gymnasts in our state as there are only two judges qualified to judge at this level. Makes for interesting panels when one of them is overseas.

One area that we are finding very difficult to find volunteers for is Assistant Judge/Scorer. There seems to be no one interested in just entering the scores into a scoring program (pure data entry).

Currently awaiting the new FIG Code.....

In General

The Judging Coordinator created an *Introduction to RG* course late in 2007 and ran it at a club earlier in 2008 – with great success. This course is aimed at introducing gymnasts, coaches, judges & parents to the sport of RG that know very little about the sport. The course covers both Elite & Levels and can be catered to the audience at a particular club (i.e. if there are no Elite gymnasts at the club, then this section of the course can be left out). The idea behind the course is to introduce the sport to a wider audience with the hope that their interest will be piqued enough in order to begin judging & coaching or even simply volunteer at RG events in the state.

Coaches that aren't highly qualified judges are finding it difficult at times to understand the Artistry symbols – for both Elite and Levels. And those coaches that cross between streams become easily confused in writing out a sheet for a Levels gymnast as compared to an Elite gymnast. This is something that is very slowly being rectified simply by spending the time in checking their sheets during club training. It is a HUGE help that we have the Expert judge here in SA. We have also used sheets for L7-

10 at two out of three State Team Trials this year, which the coaches find are wonderful as an educational tool – both in Artistry and Difficulty.