

## Volunteer Judges at Training Camps with Level 9/10 Athletes

### Goals

1. Ensure appropriate number of volunteer judges at the national and 8/9/10 training camps.
2. Revise the eligibility rule for national assignments requiring judges to be involved in the training camp from beginning to end (Friday afternoon through Sunday noon).

### Rationale

Region 8 typically conducts two training camps for Level 9/10 athletes. Historically, we have had too few judge volunteers at one camp and too many at the other. As a result, judges at one camp have had less opportunity to observe training camp because they were needed to staff more of the judge-gymnast stations. At the other camp, there were so many judge volunteers that many had no actual volunteer duties yet were getting credit for volunteering (not their fault—there were just too many volunteers). The new procedure increases the likelihood that (1) an appropriate number of volunteers will be available at both camps and (2) that volunteers will have volunteer work to conduct.

In addition, we wanted to re-visit the requirement that judges had to be involved in training camp from beginning to end in order to be eligible for a national assignment. Although this requirement served an important purpose when it was originally established, the structure of training camp has changed and this requirement is no longer needed. The new procedure eliminates the need for attendance from beginning to end and replaces it with a requirement that eligibility for a national assignment requires judges to volunteer for four eight-hour tracks every four years. This is comparable to the existing requirement with the exception that judges will now have more flexibility in scheduling their attendance.

**IMPORTANT:** This proposal does not restrict the number of judges who may attend training camps for in-gym hours or other educational purposes. The only restriction is on the number of **volunteer** slots available at each camp.

### Volunteer Opportunities at 2020 Training Camp (Level 8/9/10 and National)

1. At each training camp involving Level 9/10 athletes, two volunteer tracks will be offered. Volunteers in each track will work either the Friday-Saturday track and/or the Saturday-Sunday track. Additional tracks will be added if more than two 9/10 training camp sites are offered.

	National Camp		8/9/10 Camp	
	<i>Fri/Sat</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>Fri/Sat</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>
Track	A (8 hrs)	B (8 hrs)	C (8 hrs)	D (8 hrs)

2. At each training camp, judges may register for one track or two eight-hour tracks but they must work all 8 hours in each track for which they register. Friday tracks may begin earlier than the start of camp to provide opportunities for judges to assist with registration and other pre-camp logistical duties.

3. Judges who wish to be considered for a national assignment may fulfill the requirement of “four eight-hour tracks every four years” in any combination. For example, a judge may fulfill the requirement by working two tracks in each of two years (n = 4 tracks) or may spread this out to volunteer for one track in each of four years (n = 4 tracks) or any other combination. Hours less than 8 hours may not be combined or carried forward to apply to a “whole” track.

If you volunteered for Level 9/10 Training Camp or National training camp in 2019 and if you attended from beginning to end, these hours will be considered to be equivalent to two 8-hour tracks for the current four-year period (2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022) for national-rotation eligibility purposes. If you did not attend one of these camps from beginning to end, had to leave early, or arrived after the beginning of camp, you may count the time as one 8-hour track for this same time period.

### **Registration**

1. Judges will register for tracks on a first-come, first-serve basis. When a track is full, volunteer judges will be asked if they wish to register for other tracks that have openings. A waiting list will be maintained in case vacancies occur or if additional tracks are added.
2. A priority registration date will be established for:
  - a. Judges who are currently in the national rotation
  - b. Judges who live in the host state

An early registration date will be established for each camp for the two priority groups. After the priority date has passed, registration for volunteer slots will be open to all judges on a first-come, first serve basis.

3. Volunteers will be assigned to work at the *Judge/Gymnast* rotation and/or at the *Structured Floor Stations* as a Station Leader for other judges at the camp. We will have more *Structured Floor Stations* at each camp than in the past.

### **National Rotation Eligibility**

Judges who are in the current national rotation as well as judges who wish to be considered for the new rotation will need to fulfill all requirements prior to the selection process. Judges in the current national rotation will need to re-apply for consideration to continue in the rotation in the next cycle.

#### **NOTE:**

*These procedures were developed prior to the recent corona virus pandemic. The Region 8 USA Gymnastics Committee may make adjustments to these procedures, if needed, to respond to the still-evolving situation (March, 2020).*