

UNITED STATES ARTISTIC SWIMMING



WELCOME TO JUDGING MANUAL

STEPS TO BECOMING A JUDGE

✚ *GETTING STARTED*

✚ *LEVELS OF JUDGES*

✚ *TRAINING*

✚ *TESTING*

✚ *TIMELINE FOR BECOMING A JUDGE*

✚ *MAINTENANCE OF SPECIFIC RATING*

GETTING STARTED

REQUIREMENTS

- ✚ All judges must be members of USAAS at the appropriate level:
 - ≈ Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 – minimum of Official Level 1/2, or Athlete.
 - ≈ Levels 3F, 3, 4JO and 4 – minimum of Professional or Life Member.
- ✚ Current in SafeSport
- ✚ Successfully completed the NCSI Background Check (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age).



LEVELS OF JUDGES

FIGURE & ROUTINE JUDGES

Level of Judge	Allowed to Judge	Events Allowed to Judge
Level 1F	Association meets	Novice, Intermediate and 12&Under Age Group Figures
Level 1	Association meets	Novice, Intermediate and 12&Under Age Group Figures Novice and Intermediate routines
Level 2F	Association and Junior Olympic Regional Figures	13-15 Age Group Figures
Level 2	Association and Junior Olympic Regionals	13-15 Age Group Figures Junior Olympic Free Routines Junior Technical & Free Routines
Level 3F	Zone and Collegiate Regional Figures	All Zone Level Figures All Collegiate Regional Level Figures
Level 3	Zone and Collegiate Regionals	Senior Technical Routines All Routines and Figures
Level 4JO/Master	US Junior Olympics Championship and US Masters Championships)	All figures at US Junior Olympics and US Masters Championships All routines at US Junior Olympics and US Masters Championships
Level 4	National Judge	All figures & routines at any National Championship

TRAINING

ONLINE & IN-PERSON TRAINING

Online and In-Person Training is available for all levels of Judges.

ONLINE TRAINING

All individuals wishing to do online training must complete the online program which is posted on the USA Artistic Swimming website under Resources => Judges.

After completion of the online training, it is required to attend a scheduled webinar. Training is held every 1-2 months depending on need.

IN-PERSON TRAINING

In-person training for Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 are arranged by your Association Officials Chair.

In-person training for Levels 3F, 3, 4JO and 4 are arranged by the Judges Administrator. Online training is available as well as in-person at the USAAS Convention.

TESTING

ONLINE & IN-PERSON TESTING

Online and In-Person testing is available for all levels 1F, 1, 2F & 2. In-person testing for levels 3F, 3, 4JO and 4 only at this time.

ONLINE TESTING

After completing the online training and attending a webinar, individuals will be sent a link to the online test.

Tests are open-book with a 2-hour time limit. Passing score of 90% is required.

Upon completion, the USAAS Education Director will receive notification of completion of the test, will grade it and send results to the individual and the Association Officials Chair.

The Association Officials Chair will set up practice judging at the next available competitions.

IN-PERSON TESTING

In-person testing for Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 are arranged by your Association Officials Chair.

In-person testing for Levels 3F and 3 are arranged by the Zone Officials Chair or USAAS Judge Administrator. Testing may occur at a Zone competition or USAAS Annual Convention.

In-person testing for Levels 4JO and 4 are arranged by the USAAS Judge Administrator. Testing may occur at the USAAS Annual Convention, U.S. 13-15 Championship, U.S. Junior Championship, U.S. National Championship or 12&U or 13-15 Age Division at the Junior Olympic Championships (online testing may be available in the future).

PRACTICE JUDGING/ORALS MENTORING & TESTING

Practice judging is required for all levels of Judges. Each level has specific events and specific competitions where they must be completed. See Appendix G for more details.

Oral Mentoring & Testing is required for Levels 3F, 3, 4JO and 4. See Appendix G for more details.

TIMELINE

TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING TRAINING & TESTING

Individuals may become any level or levels within a given year. Depending on the background, i.e. coach, athlete, parent, etc., the learning and understanding of judging may be different. Someone with a background in artistic swimming may easily do all training and testing for Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 in one year, where someone with less experience may choose to only do Levels 1F and 1, and then advance to the next level the following year.

It is suggested that individuals with experience may complete Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 in one year, then wait one year before moving on to a Level 3F and/or 3, and those without experience are recommended to complete Level 1F & 1 in one year before moving on to a Level 2F and/or 2.

It is possible for training and testing for Levels 3F, 3, 4JO and 4 to be completed in one year if all components of testing are completed successfully. Depending on experience level it is suggested to wait one year between 3F and 3 before advancing to 4JO or 4.

Level of Judge	Suggested Timeline for Individuals with no Experience	Possible Timeline for Individuals with Experience
Level 1F and/or 1	Year 1	Year 1
Level 2F and/or 2	Year 2	Year 1
Level 3F and/or 3	Year 4	Year 2
Level 4JO/Master or Level 4	Year 5 or 6	Year 3 or 4

MAINTENANCE OF SPECIFIC RATING

REQUIRED ATTENDANCE

Judges are required to meet minimum requirements to maintain their current level of certification.

Judges who fail to meet the minimum requirements to maintain their current level of certification shall hold their judges' rating on a conditional basis.

Levels 1F, 1, 2F and 2 will be notified by their Association Officials Chair of their status.

Levels 3F and 3 will be notified by their Zone Officials Chair of their status.

All Level 4JO and 4 Judges who become conditional or lapsed will be notified in writing 30 days following the USAAS Convention.

For all specific attendance requirements, see Appendix G.

REQUIRED UPDATE TRAINING – EVERY QUAD

All Levels of Judges are required to attend a Judge Update training every 4 years (the year after the Olympics). These trainings are held in person or online. If an online training is chosen, there is a test that is required and a fee is charged.

RETAINING JUDGE (LEVELS 2F, 2, 3F, 3, 4JO & 4)

Obtained by passing the same level test 2 times after receiving the specified rating. Timeline is: Year 1 – pass all required elements (test, practice judging (orals/mentoring if required), Year 3 – pass test again, Year 5 – pass final test to become retaining. Judges are always welcome, and encouraged, to test up to the next level.

Note: there is no retaining status for a Level 1F or 1, a written test must be completed every 2 years.