



**Gymnastics**  
Australia

# **Acrobatic Gymnastics**

## **Roles and responsibilities of being a judge**

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# Australian Judging Framework – Acrobatic Gymnastics

This course is relevant to all levels of accreditation and should be reviewed prior to each course

Level	Exe	Art	CJP	DIFF	
1	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Advanced	
2					
3					
4	Intermediate				
5					
6					
7	Advanced	Silver	Advanced	Advanced	
8			Silver	Silver	
9					
10	Advanced		Silver	FIG Brevet	
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## Purpose

**This module covers what it means to be a judge, our role and responsibilities**

### Learning outcomes:

By the conclusion of this module you will,

- recall the roles and expected behaviours by a judge both at and away from competitions;
- know what to wear to a competition;
- have demonstrated how you apply the child protection laws from the position of a gymnastics official.
- have explored the importance of considered communication when responding to questions and when giving feedback.

### Relevance:

This module is relevant to the following levels of judge education:

- Beginner – taught and assessed
- Intermediate – reviewed and discussed
- Advanced – reviewed in light of taking more senior roles at competitions.

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## Judge's oath

Whilst there are multiple roles a judge may be allocated to for a competition, the primary role of a judge, is to rank the athletes competing, using the rules set for the competition in a fair and unbiased way.

We make this oath every time we judge and all responsibilities stem from this one clear purpose.

I declare on my honour that, in my capacity as a judge, I will allow myself to be guided only by the spirit of sporting loyalty and dignity and I pledge to judge the work presented conscientiously and without regard to person or nation.





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## What are the responsibilities of a judge?

- ✓ To be prepared for competition prior to arrival at the event through study of the rules and judging guide.
- ✓ To bring all necessary judging paraphernalia to the competition for recording exercises.
- ✓ To attend all meetings and briefings required of judges as per competition schedules.
- ✓ To wear the official uniform.
- ✓ To be in place on time, in accordance with competition schedules.
- ✓ To hold no other responsibility during the competition.
- ✓ To make no contact with any coach or athlete by any method during warm-up or competition sessions
  - ✓ contact may result in immediate dismissal from judging the particular competition session and will be accompanied by a formal warning.
- ✓ To register all scores immediately after the end of an exercise without discussion.
- ✓ To stay in judging position at the end of a round of competition until dismissed by the Superior Jury or CJP.

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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### We must present professionally in both appearance and in our behaviour

The code of points sets the rules for how we dress. We must wear corporate attire, with a white shirt, black jacket, trousers or skirt with conservative colours for ties or other accessories.

Wearing a uniform unites the judges as a group, demonstrates our purpose at a competition as well as our professionalism and respect to the athletes.

It's important to remove any colours or symbols that may connect you to a particular club or affinity that you hold.

It is acceptable to wear a badge or pin which identifies who you affiliate to, however, this should be conservative. For example, your state's or county's pin.



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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### We must come prepared to do the job!

We must know the rules of the competition and the level of sport we are set to judge.

We must bring our own copy of printed rule books, pens, pencils and papers to judge with.

We should review the work-order of the competition and know when the meetings are being held, and where to go for these.



We must bring our *Working with children* card to every competition. (The actual card – a photo of the card NO LONGER IS ACCEPTABLE).



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# Roles and responsibilities at a competition

## We must come prepared to do the job!

Judging sheets are sometimes provided but generally you are best to bring your own.

At national and state competitions, you can use any prompt sheets you create to judge with. Anything that helps you apply the rules quickly.

Technical Merit		N°	
W2-M2-MX2-W3-M4			
Shorthand		Total Deduc:	Score
Shorthand		Total Deduc:	Score

Group no.	Routine:						

Artistry Judging Guide 2017-2020

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise: Bal / Dyn / Comb / Final      WP / MP / MXP / WG / MG

No. / ID / exercise:	← Poor Satisfactory Good Very Good Excellent Perfect →										Score	
	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9		2
Partnership	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
W/ship / Connection	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Expression	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Projecting emotion, character, attitude, feeling	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Performance	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Space, pathways, how levels used, amplitude, etc.	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Creativity	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Variation, originality, imagination, inspiration	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Musicality	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
Match movement to music (melody, tempo, beat, mood)	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	

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## Duty of care

### Judges share a Duty Of Care to manage risks associated with the event

This means we need to be aware of the following:

- Apparatus Management – ensure relevant equipment meets standards & has not been moved, removed or altered
- Athlete Safety – ensure warm-up time periods are observed & adequate
  - **NOTE:** It is important we respect event ‘hierarchy’ – The Event Manager directs the event and will indicate to the Head Judge when to ‘take control’ - **Report any issues to the Event Manager**
- Event orientation – view podium training
- Child protection legislation - everyone involved in Gymnastics in Australia understands that child safety is everyone’s responsibility.



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# Child protection

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## Everyone's responsibility

Everyone involved in Gymnastics in Australia understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

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## Your responsibility

Abide by the legislation required in your state/territory - apply and ensure you have passed the requirements **before** the competition.  
*(Links to state/territory websites can be found in the notes section.)*

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## The competition organiser's responsibility

Before providing an accreditation to judge at event, sight, check and keep a record of every volunteer's working with children check.



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## Child protection – working with children cards

(As at March 2019)

	Title	Valid for	Cost
ACT	Working with Vulnerable Persons Check	Up to 3 years	Employees: Paid Volunteer: Free
NSW	Working with Children Check	Valid for 5 years	Employees: Paid Volunteers: Free
NT	Working with Children Clearance (or Ochre Card)	Valid for 2 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Paid
QLD	Blue Card	Valid for 3 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Free
SA	Screening Check – Child Related Employment	Valid for 3 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Paid
TAS	Working with Children Check Registration	Valid for 3 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Paid
VIC	Working with Children Check	Valid for 5 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Free
WA	Working with Children Check	Valid for 3 years	Employee: Paid Volunteer: Paid

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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### Child safe practical response

#### Scenario 1: A Child Safe Culture

A promising female athlete, Sarah, is competing with Tom as a mixed pair in the acrobatic competition you are judging. Their team has been competing at a high level for the past year, however, Sarah performs poorly today and they receive an unusually low score. You notice that while Sarah walks back to the competitors waiting area, her coach berates her for the poor performance. Tom is also shaking his head at her and rudely comments that she isn't up to his level.

When Sarah begins to cry, the coach agrees with Tom and tells her to quit crying and get ready for the next event. Sometime later you see Sarah and her coach having harsh words. The coach threatens to remove her from the champion team if she does not perform well in the next event.





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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### Child safe practical response

#### Scenario 1: A Child Safe Culture cont.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Using the spectrum of behaviour, which type of behaviour is being shown by the coach?
2. What is the cultural risk factor in this scenario and why?
3. What could you do to encourage a child safe culture in this situation?



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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### Child safe practical response

#### Scenario 2: Grooming

During an overnight stay for State Championships, you notice Maria, one of the female judges, having a private conversation with a young male athlete named Brian who is 14 years old. They are standing very close to each other and whispering. Maria has her hand on his shoulder. You feel uneasy, like you are interrupting a personal moment so you quickly walk away.

When you ask Maria what they had been talking about the next day, she simply laughs and said she was telling Brian that he should wear his blue balance leo for combined today to match his sexy eyes. At the competition you notice that Brian does wear his balance leo and receives an unusually high score from Maria.



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## Roles and responsibilities at a competition

### Child safe practical response

#### Scenario 2: Grooming cont.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What grooming behaviours are seen in this scenario and why?
2. Is there a risk location involved in this scenario?
3. In this scenario, how would you respond?



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## Communication

Often as judges we are asked 'why' a score is the way it is.

This can also translate to asking for help to improve for next competition.

Providing feedback to coaches / athletes from a judge's perspective is part of our role.

The way this is communicated needs to be considered.

Tactical communication is the ability to say the right thing in the right way and at the right time so as to achieve a desired result or a desired response.



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## Tactical communication cont.

### Saying the right thing

Requires you to:

1. Correctly assess the situation/incident
2. Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication.

### In the right way:

Speak your message using the correct

- tone
- pace
- pitch
- modulation and
- nuance

and accompany it with congruent body language.

### At the right time

- Consider the 'totality' of the situation.
- Successful communication requires good listening and interpreting skills.

### To achieve a desired result or response

Involves maintaining your safety, compliance with a direction, resolution of conflict.

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## Conclusion

**We have now covered, what it means to be a judge, our role and responsibilities**

### Learning outcomes:

By the conclusion of this module you will,

- recall the roles and expected behaviours by a judge both at and away from competitions;
- know what to wear to a competition;
- have demonstrated how you apply the child protection laws from the position of a gymnastics official.
- have explored the importance of considered communication when responding to questions and when giving feedback.

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