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## **Judges Meeting Outline**

### **Before the competition**

- ❖ Contact competition director to confirm events offered, as this will affect the topics covered in the meeting. Find out length of time available to meet and ensure proper equipment is on site. Bring all applicable videos to competition. Is the judging meeting to coincide with breakfast? This may detract from the effectiveness of your meeting.
- ❖ Who are the judges on your panel? By April some judges have already judged three competitions and for others it may be the first of the season or their judging career.
- ❖ The head judge needs to find a “balance” between covering all levels of all events and overloading the judges during the period available.

### **Morning of competition**

- ❖ Contact the competition director upon arriving at competition and check on last minute changes/additions etc.
- ❖ Be positive and professional to all the judges on your panel. Your personal level of professionalism sets the tone for the entire competition. Encourage initial greetings and socialization, but ensure you include all members of the panel.
- ❖ Ask for any questions from the judges (meals, breaks, schedule, payment time, flights etc.) Find out all information ASAP. The judges need to know they can trust you to be their liaison at the competition.

### **Content of meeting**

- ❖ Review the events of the day in the order they appear in the program. You may decide to leave the afternoon events until the lunch break. Give each event equal opportunity for input and discussion.
- ❖ Review “event focus” of each event prior to discussion, there may or may not be a video available for each event.
- ❖ Review “what is expected” from the athlete to achieve each ribbon grade or score. For pre-events and pre-group ensure that “perfection” is not the goal to achieve a red ribbon. In the past, some judges have been a little “tough” when judging these events.
- ❖ For individual events, please direct focus of what the athlete is doing “right” in the program. Also, keep in mind that while many judges know each routine by heart, a new judge does not. Focus as well on the very basics of judging: what they do and how well they do it. For example, the 3.8 solo routine has the content to score in the low 4’s, but the execution of the athlete brings the score down to a 3.8.
- ❖ For the musical individual and group events, review the concepts of keeping in time with the music with both footwork and baton. Discuss the enhanced difficulty to complete this while using all areas of the floor. Also, discuss the levels of musicality and how baton and body should blend together. The musical group and individual events are where the judge’s scores differ the most. Perhaps we can take this time to learn from each other.

Your role as head judge is your priority from the moment you arrive at the competition until you leave. Take the position seriously and encourage teamwork, this will ensure a successful competition and increase our professionalism throughout the country.