

NAWGJ-CT Meeting Minutes

Date: _____9/20/2026_____

Call to Order: 8:45 am by Co-SJDs Deb and Linda

Adjournment: 10:06 AM

Officer and Committee Reports

Deb & Linda – Co-State Judging Directors

Deb and Linda welcomed the group and reviewed the evening's agenda.

Sandi – Assignor

- Judges should make sure all updated ratings and related information are entered into Arbiter.
- Assignments are being made based on rating, test date, and other appropriate criteria.
- A large number of meets are already entered into Arbiter, including Judges Cup.
- Judges should review their Arbiter information and assignments carefully.

Erica – CPE Coordinator

- Judges were reminded to submit their CPE forms.
- **CPE forms are due May 31.**
- Forms may be submitted at any time throughout the year.
- Judges may include extra hours on their forms.
- CPE credits may be carried over in accordance with current rules.
- Beginning with the 2027 CPE year, the summer period will apply only to that CPE year rather than being available for either year.

- The CPE year will run from **June 1 through May 31**.
- Judges were encouraged to contact Erica with questions regarding their CPE requirements.

Sue – Hospitality

Sue coordinates cards and acknowledgements for members of the judging community and those associated with Connecticut USA Gymnastics.

Please notify Sue of:

- New babies
- Birthdays
- Get-well wishes
- Condolences
- Other significant occasions

This may include judges, coaches, and others connected with the Connecticut gymnastics community.

Jacquelyn – Secretary / Arbiter Fees

Jacquelyn continues to handle Secretary responsibilities and Arbiter fee administration.

Lorraine – Education Coordinator

- Judges who are preparing to test to a higher rating or who need educational assistance should contact Lorraine.
- Lorraine is available to help judges prepare and will plan educational opportunities based on the needs of the membership.

Lori – High School Assignor

- Lori is now handling High School assigning and other High School judging matters.

- Amy is no longer assigning High School meets.
- The High School test will take place during the October–Thanksgiving timeframe.
- The High School rules meeting is scheduled for November 16 and is mandatory.
- Melissa, the High School Rules Interpreter, will review routines and rules in detail during the meeting.

Kristen – New Judges Coordinator

- Kristen will assist new judges as they prepare to test compulsory, obtain required certifications, and begin receiving meet assignments.
- Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the New Judges program should contact Kristen.

Judges Cup

The theme for Judges Cup will be:

“Llamas in PJs”

Judges are encouraged to wear pajamas.

- Judges Cup will take place at participating gyms from October 12, 2026–January 13, 2027.
- Approximately **700 gymnasts** are expected.
- Meets and assignments are listed in Arbiter.
- Judges should complete/check off the Judges Cup sheet as required.

Meet Reference / Invoice Procedures

- The Meet Referee is responsible for completing the required paperwork.
- Paperwork should be provided to the Meet Director.
- NAWGJ should then be invoiced appropriately.
- The invoice should include the number of judges and the applicable **\$5 per-judge fee**.

The Meet Referee may collect the check and mail it to NAWGJ-CT if that is easier for the Meet Director. Otherwise, the Meet Director will mail it within 48 hours.

Finances

The financial report was reviewed.

- The account began August at approximately **\$14,000** and increased to approximately **\$23,000**.
- Judges Cup generated approximately \$117,000 in entry fees.
- Judges Cup expenses were approximately **\$67,000**.
- Approximately **\$16,000** has been spent on reimbursements to date.
- Approximately **\$42,000** in total expenses was reported.

Additional expenses discussed included:

- Congress reimbursements
- Fall Clinic expenses
- Educational reimbursements
- Operating supplies

Note: Exact figures for Congress, Fall Clinic, and related categories should be taken from the official financial report.

It was explained that NAWGJ operates under the national organization's nonprofit structure. Connecticut funds are technically part of National NAWGJ funds, making accurate tracking of income and expenses important.

The state uses its funds to support judges through educational reimbursements, National activities, clinics, and other approved expenses.

Avalara / Tax Information

National NAWGJ is implementing **Avalara** for payment and tax documentation.

- Judges will receive an email requesting completion of tax information/W-9 documentation online.
- Judges must complete the requested information in order to receive payment.
- Judges were reminded not to ignore the Avalara email.
- Information regarding applicable payment thresholds and tax reporting requirements will be provided through the system.

Reimbursements

Judges were reminded to submit outstanding reimbursement requests as soon as possible so the financial year can be completed.

Reimbursements discussed included:

- Congress reimbursement: up to \$455 for those who attended Congress.

- Judges who did not attend Congress may be eligible for up to **\$425** in other approved educational reimbursement.
- Up to **\$180** may be available for compulsory rating/educational workshop expenses.
- High School judges receive \$110, which includes NAWGJ membership, CIAC High School membership, and the High School Rule Book.
- Judges were asked to cash reimbursement checks promptly.

National Judges Cup

The **National Judges Cup** will be held in **Niagara Falls, January 8–10**.

Connecticut needs **two judges** who:

- Are interested in attending, and
- Have not previously had the opportunity to attend.

Previous attendees mentioned:

- Daphne
- Linda
- Deb
- Kathy

Daphne expressed interest in attending.

The competition uses a four-judge panel. Rating requirements will be considered when choosing representatives.

NAWGJ National Symposium

The **NAWGJ National Symposium** will be held **July 15–18**.

- The Symposium is held every four years.
- Registration should be completed by **December 31**.
- NAWGJ-CT will pay the **\$280 registration fee**.
- Additional assistance may be available to help defray attendance costs.
- Classes are specifically geared toward gymnastics judges.
- Regional activities and competitions are also part of the Symposium.

NAWGJ-CT Committee members' expenses will be paid to attend, if they are able to attend.

Green Flag Award

Members were encouraged to submit nominations for the **Green Flag Award**.

After nominations are received, a vote will be held.

A person who has previously received the Green Flag Award is not eligible to win again.

Previous Green Flag Award Winners:

- Lorraine
- Laurie
- Amy
- Alison
- Debby
- Linda

Lands' End

Members were reminded that Lands' End has a **20–40% off sale ending October 2.**

Member Folder / Documents

Judges were reminded that their folders contain important current documents, including:

- NAWGJ contract
- Current CPE information
- Safety information
- Other current judging documents and requirements

A line has been added to the NAWGJ contract clarifying that:

Judges serve as independent contractors.

Safety and Scam Awareness Presentation

Presenter: Mike Butsch

Former FBI

Secure Community Network

Email: mbutsch@securecommunitynetwork.org

Phone: 872-273-9980

Mike presented information on fraud prevention, cybersecurity, situational awareness, and common scams.

He discussed his current work involving:

- Security assessments
- Threat response

- Coordination with law enforcement
- Support for Jewish communities, faith organizations, nonprofits, and interfaith organizations
- Scam and fraud prevention education

Mike emphasized that **anyone can become a victim of fraud** and that modern scams have become increasingly sophisticated.

Approximately **\$16 billion in fraud losses** have been reported, with many operations being run by highly organized groups outside the United States, including operations based in parts of Asia.

Key Scam Awareness Points

A simple way to think about many scams:

You give it. They ask for it. They take it.

Members were encouraged to recognize common warning signs:

- Unexpected contact
- A sense of urgency
- Emotional pleas
- Threats
- Requests for secrecy
- Unusual payment requests
- Requests for verification codes
- Pressure to act immediately

Social Media

- Be cautious about maintaining completely open public social media profiles.

- Information posted publicly can be used by scammers to make their communications appear more legitimate.

Passwords and Data Breaches

- Change passwords when notified that information may have been involved in a data breach.
- Do not continue using compromised passwords.
- Use a reliable system for creating and managing unique passwords.

Phishing and Impersonation

Scammers frequently use:

- Phishing
- Impersonation
- Malware
- Spyware
- Fake websites
- Fraudulent emails and text messages

Do not click unfamiliar or suspicious links.

Spoofing

Phone numbers and caller IDs can be manipulated so that a call appears to come from a legitimate person, business, or financial institution.

Do not assume a call is legitimate simply because the caller ID appears familiar.

Multi-Factor Authentication

Members were strongly encouraged to use multi-factor authentication whenever available.

Never give another person your multi-factor verification code.

Legitimate organizations should not call and ask you to provide a verification code that was sent to your phone.

Banks and Financial Institutions

If contacted unexpectedly about a bank or credit account:

- End the call.
- Contact the institution independently.
- Use the number printed on the back of the card or on an official bank statement.
- Do not rely on the phone number provided by the caller.

This is especially important when dealing with wire transfers.

Verify Before Acting

Scammers often create panic because people are more likely to make poor decisions when frightened or rushed.

When in doubt:

Pause. Verify. Report.

Useful resources include:

- **IC3.gov** – FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
- Federal Trade Commission
- Local law enforcement
- Your financial institution

Information should be reported quickly when fraud occurs.

Additional scam-awareness information is available through **PauseTake9.org**.

AI, Voice and Video

Members were warned that voices, photographs, and videos can now be manipulated or generated using artificial intelligence.

Do not rely solely on hearing a familiar voice or seeing a familiar-looking video as proof that a request is legitimate.

Device Security

- Turn on automatic software and security updates.
- Keep phones, computers, and other devices updated.
- Avoid giving home Wi-Fi networks names that clearly identify the household or owner.
- Consider using a password manager.

Public Wi-Fi and VPNs

- Avoid using unsecured public Wi-Fi for sensitive activity.
- A VPN can provide additional protection when using hotel, airport, lake/campground, or other public networks.
- VPN services such as Nord and similar providers offer individual and bundled plans.
- Using cellular data on a phone is generally preferable to unsecured public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions.

The overall message of the presentation was:

Stop the scam before it starts. When something feels unusual, pause and independently verify it.

Raffle / Door Prizes

Raffle prizes were distributed throughout the meeting.

Recipients and prizes included:

- Sharon – Flip book refill pages
- Jackie – Flip book refill pages
- Mikki – Flip book
- Melissa – Neutral deduction resource
- Christina – Start Value resource
- Maureen – \$50 Lands' End
- Ann Marie – Start Value resource
- Kim – Flip book refill pages
- Kathy Johnson – Starbucks
- Kristen – Amazon gift card
- Gina – \$50 Lands' End
- Lilly – Jacket
- Daphne – Start Value resource
- Erika – Lands' End
- Abigail – Start Value resource
- Jamie – DEM cards
- Sue – DEM cards
- Carlie – Jacket
- Bonnie – Earrings
- Lori Buggie – Earrings
- Dandeline – PJ pants
- Victor – Start Value resource
- Pat – Flip book
- Kathy B. – DEM cards
- Sandi – DEM cards
- Darryl – PJ pants
- Erin – Starbucks
- Lorraine – PJ bottoms
- Laurie D. – Blanket

Adjournment: 10:06 AM