

Scoring Guidelines 2026-27 MANUAL

Scoring System Requirements:

Open Scoring and Score Flashing

Judges should not see the other judges' scores prior to entering or writing down their own score. Individual judges' scores and start values must be simultaneously flashed. Once flashed, the scores/SV cannot be changed without a conference or through the routine inquiry process. Judges must verify that their flashed values are correct and must not rely solely on meet personnel for accuracy. The NCAA allowable range of scores is to be followed for all collegiate competitions. Judges must record their individual score and SV, and are responsible for ensuring that these scores and SVs were accurately entered into the official scoring system. Verification can happen either at the time of entry or through the score verification process.

Example rhythm of judging and score flashing:

1. Judge calculates a score.
2. Judge writes the score and Start Value on the judges' Score Verification Form.
3. Judge (or judge assistant) enters the score into iPad or computer or paper score form.
4. All judges scores and Start Values are flashed (following open scoring rules).
5. After the Chief Judge receives the other judges' scores digitally or on paper, the Chief Judge reviews & accepts the scores.
6. If the scores are not in range or there is another permitted reason, the Chief Judge may not accept the scores, and a conference will be called. The resulting adjusted scores will be re-written/re-entered into the scoring system. The scores of all judges are re-flashed.
7. The Chief Judge will also enter and record any individual neutral deductions digitally or on paper score form, and on the Score Verification Form.
8. The scoring program should ensure automatic calculation of the average and final score for that gymnast. If not using digital scoring, the Chief Judge calculates the average and the final score (average score minus individual neutral deductions).
9. The final score should automatically be flashed on the Chief Judge's digital score tree flasher or raised and rotated by hand, and should stay up for minimum of 20 seconds.
   (Note, in digital systems, when Chief Judge selects the next athlete, the final score from the previous athlete will stay on digital flashers for the 20 seconds and then switch to the next athletes name).
10. In the post-season, it is the responsibility of the host to display the name of the competing athlete. This can either be displayed on digital score trees or on host-provided printed name signs.

Ability to Print Scoring Support Forms:

- **Official NCAA Women's Gymnastics Score Sheet** - Shows all teams, rotations, judges, and competitors.
- **Rotation Summary** – report broken down by each rotation with team and added individuals included for post season competitions. Needs to be printed after every rotation to be distributed to coaches, SIDs, TV, etc.

- **Lineup Verification Forms** - for coaches to verify their team lineup with gymnast's name (Team only).
- **Judge's Score Verification Form** (per event and per rotation) with session #, rotation #, all athletes from the team and the individuals rotating with team & event that includes columns for Start Value, multiple judges' scores, neutral deduction, and final score. It also needs a place for judges to initial & sign for verification.

To report results, the scoring program prints results for the teams, each event, all-around, NCAA final score sheets with all teams and scores, individual all-around gymnasts, and individual event specialists. (note: Judges' names are to be protected from public view outside the competition staff.)

Execute a Paper Score Verification System Simultaneously
The scoring procedures outlined below describe a verification system that is predicated on each judge placing the correct score for each gymnast on the appropriate judge's Score Verification Form prior to entering it digitally into the iPad or computer. The scoring system should be capable of handling lineup changes and score changes at all times during the meet. Examples of forms are in Appendix A.

- At the completion of a gymnast's routine each judge writes the score and Start Value on the judges' Score Verification Form in the column associated with their judge number.
- At the conclusion of the rotation, the event Runners pick up all judges' Score Verification Forms and takes them to that event's Scoring Verifier.
- When all scores have been entered for an event during each rotation, the Head Scorer prints the Score Verification event sheets and gives them to the Scoring Verifiers.
- When the Score Verifier receives the individual judge's Score Verification Forms from the event runner, he/she compares the judge's forms against the computer-generated Score Verification Form printed by Head Scorer to identify any errors.
- If an error is discovered, the Scoring Director and Meet Referee are notified to review the error and make necessary corrections.
- If no errors are found, the Score Verifier places his/her initials next to the event on that team's score sheet.
- The event runner, then takes the computer printed score verification sheet back out to the judges to verify accuracy as compared to their personal notes and initial next to each score & sign their name & judge number.
- The event runner returns the judge-signed score verification to head table Score Verifier to staple all judges' Score Verification Forms to the computer printed verification form as the verification record.
- All rotation verifications should occur during the 2-minute transition/4-minute touch warm-up (if possible) after every rotation. That way, there's only one event left to verify at the end of the meet.

Lineup Verification:

- Obtain a preliminary lineup from each team's Head Coach at the administrative meeting the day before competition.
- Have Head Scorer enter preliminary lineups for each team.
- Using the Lineup Verification Form, verify each team's lineup and/or obtain lineup changes from Head Coaches 1.5 hours prior to competition session.
- Once team lineups are verified, have Head Scorer print judges' score verification forms after pre-competition event timed warm-ups are complete.
- Head Scorer should also print all teams' lineups using the Lineup Verification Form. Runners should distribute the Lineup Verification Forms to the Chief Judge at each event.
- Once competition begins, at the start of each 4-minute touch warm-up period, the Head Coach of the team competing will verify their official lineup using the Lineup Verification Form with the Chief Judge or Chief Judge's Scoring Assistant. If there are no changes to their lineup, the coach should initial the lineup. If there are changes to the lineup, the coach needs to utilize the six lines below to write out their new lineup.
- The Chief Judge's Scoring Assistant will verbally call in the printed lineup to the Scoring Verifiers at the head table. First, indicate whether the coach has made any changes to the lineup, then verbally repeat the lineup by last name of athlete to ensure the paper line up and computer line up match. Lineup will be confirmed or updated electronically by the Head Scorer then shared with TV spotter at event and distributed across head table.

Lineup Changes or Substitutions

- Before the start of a meet, changes in the lineup may be made by the Head Coach notifying the NCAA Scoring Director, who will notify the scoring table personnel, Head Scorer, Meet Referee and Chief Judge at the event (via the Chief Judge's Scoring Assistant on headset).

- After the meet starts, the Head Coach must notify the Chief Judge on the event. The Chief Judge's headset person will notify the scoring table.

- Once a team begins an event (Chief Judge has raised the flag for the first student-athlete), a substitute may replace a gymnast in that same position in the lineup; the order of competition may not be changed. A gymnast who is removed from one event lineup may compete in other events. The Chief Judge assistant will notify the scoring table of the substitution via the headset. All line up substitutions will be made by the Head Scorer at the head table.

Tie Breaks for Post-Season

The scoring system should be capable of using additional scores when necessary to break ties.

- **Team Ties** - In the two semifinal team competition sessions, a tie for second place will be broken by counting six scores per event. If the tie still exists, the team score will be determined by using six scores per event, dropping the high and low score and adding the four middle scores.

- **Individual All-Around Ties** - Ties for the advancing all-arounder will be broken by evaluating the highest event score, then the next highest, and will continue until the tie is broken. If not broken, all four judges' scores will be counted for all four events.

- **Individual Event Specialists Ties** - Ties for advancing event specialists will be broken by counting all four scores on the event. If not broken, the Chief Judge score will be the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, the advancing individual will be the one with the higher NQS.

Routine Inquiries

- Routine Inquiries/Video Reviews will be handed directly to the Meet Referee for management. If the inquiry results in a score change, the Score Verifiers should note the change on the already verified score sheet, have the Head Scorer enter the change into the computer scoring system and reprint the score sheet. The new score sheet and inquiry are filed with the other verified scores. A copy of the completed inquiry is given to the Head Coach by the Meet Referee.

Team Neutral Deductions

- Team Neutral Deductions will be handled directly by the Meet Referee as a change to the team scores after the routine or rotation. The Meet Referee will bring the neutral deduction to the head scores table and the Head Scorer will apply the Team Neutral Deduction into the scoring system as a deduction to the team score and not to the athletes' score. A Team Neutral Deduction may be questioned or changed through the Routine Inquiry/Video Review process. Judges will verify the Team Neutral Deduction on the official score sheet during the verification process.

Post-Meet Score Reporting

End of competition timeline:

- Last gymnast's score is flashed and is imputed in the scoring system on the last rotation. From there, the judges remain on the floor while 6 minutes are allotted for any routine inquiries on any of the events *in the last rotation*. At the same time, the clock starts for 5 minutes for submission of any Video Reviews from any routine inquiries *from previous events*. Time is kept by the Meet Referee.
- If there are no new inquiries, and no Video Reviews submitted, then the competition is complete.
    - If a routine inquiry is submitted from a last-rotation event, then that inquiry needs to be processed by the judges (while on the floor), to include

making any score changes, and is returned to the Head Coach.
    - Then the Meet Referee, again, starts the clock for 5 minutes to allow for submission of a Video Review of that routine inquiry.
    - If no Video Review is submitted, then the competition is complete.
- If a Video Review is submitted, it is processed by the judges (still on the floor), and any score changes are made. Once this process is complete, then the competition is considered complete. All the above timing is led by the Meet Referee.
- Once the Meet Referee indicates competition is complete, the Judges are required to leave the floor to a private, neutral area, away from the competition. At this point, the final meet score is considered **unofficial**.
- The Head Scorer prints the official NCAA Women's Gymnastics Score Sheet and has the Meet Director/Scoring Director give it to the judges to verify and sign. (the last event rotation scores may start the verification process for the judges that are not involved in an inquiry process)
- Once all the judges have verified the final rotation scores and the scores on the Official Score Sheet, they will sign the official NCAA Women's Gymnastics Score Sheet. The scores are then considered **verified.**
- Once scores are **verified,** the awards ceremony can begin.
- The Official NCAA Women's Gymnastics Score Sheet needs to be signed by the Head Coaches in that round of competition in order to be considered **official.**
- The Meet Director/Scoring Director is responsible to get the signatures of the Head Coaches following the conclusion of the coaches post meet responsibilities (i.e. press conferences, team meeting, etc.). Remind Head Coaches to report to the head table to sign the official score sheet as timely as possible.
- The names of the officiating judges must be removed from any publicly available material published in relation to NCAA competitions, either institutionally or as individuals associated with the universities, in order to avoid dissemination of their names wherever possible. The judges' names may, however, be included in documents behind the administration wall on the Road to Nationals website.
- Please provide both printed and digital PDF copies of the signed official NCAA Women's Gymnastics Score Sheet to all coaches or SIDs. The Meet Director should keep all verification forms and the original copy of the signed official score sheet. A copy of the signed official score sheet needs to be sent or uploaded directly to the Road to Nationals website. For all post-season events, the NCAA site rep needs to send a copy of the signed official score sheet to the NCAA WGYM Championship manager.

Miscellaneous or Secondary Scoring System Requirements:

The Scoring System must

- Interface with and send results to the facility's videoboard & LED scoreboards.
- Provide internet access and interface with a web page for live meet results (i.e. stat broadcast).

- Include a separate program that can be used by the media (including the television crew) that provides instant, detailed results to assure timely and accurate reporting.
- Provide output to apply competitor's name and scores to digital score trees.
- If possible, allow every electronic device at every apparatus to be hardwired to internet and always plugged into power.

Recommended Scoring Personnel:
All personnel must behave professionally and in a "neutral" fashion: no clapping, cheering, etc., no cell phone use or gum chewing in the competitive area, and have only NCAA logos visible on clothing.

1. **Head Scorer** – computer programmer who has knowledge of scoring system. Able to enter line ups, make score changes, line-up changes, substitutions and add Team Neutral Deductions.

2. **Scoring Director** – Recruit volunteers for scoring assistants, running and flashers. Train and oversee all scoring personal, communicate meet procedures to judging panel. Scoring Director can also be the Meet Director, but in post season events and large-scale invitationals, the Scoring Director reports to the Meet Director(s).

3. **Score Verifiers (2)** – seated on one side of Head Scorer, to assist with meet flow & organization, relay lineup changes to Head Scorer, TV, PA announcer, media, and arena videoboard. Score Verifiers each verify two events - 1 person verifies Vault and Beam, the other verifies Bars and Floor.

4. **Chief Judges Scoring Assistants (CJSA) (4) –** one at each event next to Chief Judge on headset. Flash Scores & Verify Line-ups. Lineup changes given to Scoring Assistant by coach MUST be immediately communicated to Head Scorer. Test the headset/computer connection to the Head Scorer/main computer before competition. Call-in any problems to head table. Check for correct name of gymnast to be displayed at event. Enter scores for judge in scoring system (if preferred).

5. **Runners (4)** – one per event (four total). Can have dual role as Score Flasher. Will run score verification papers at the end of each rotation. It is important to get the rotation Lineup Verification Forms and the Score Verification Forms to and from the head table Score Verifiers as quickly as possible. Pick up Score Verification Forms from each judge and take to head table Scoring Verifiers. Take verified forms back to event judges for verification & signing.

6. **Score Flashers** – one per judge unless judge prefers to flash their own score and Start Value. Will help judge with administrative duties so that judge may focus on judging and will allow to meet to move more quickly.
    - Receive the score and Start Value from the judge verbally or written on Score Verification Form.

- Flip both flashers to the correct scores, when both are ready, put hand on top of flash pole with thumb up (flasher is facing you, not shown yet).
- Watch Chief Judge: when you receive visual approval, turn the flasher units around to flash the scores to the Chief Judge, then pivot the score flashing unit SLOWLY two times for all spectators, competitors, coaches and judges to see.
- Chief Judge Flasher – The Chief Judge's score is first shown in the same way as for the other judges, then the final score is shown digitally or raised and rotated to display for minimum of 20 seconds.

7. **Line Judges (2) Floor -** Use volunteer official judges if possible. Line judges need a yellow flag and out-of-bounds post-it notes to give to Chief Judge to attach to Chief Judges' Score Verification Form. On the Post-it notes, draw a square floor exercise mat diagram with the Chief Judge table indicated, then indicate the location of the out-of-bounds deduction on the floor exercise square. Deliver to the Chief Judge immediately after the routine is completed.

8. **Timers (3) –** To track timing for bar falls, beam falls, beam length of routines, and floor length of routine. Provide written instructions *(refer to latest Rules Modifications document)***.** Ensure that the timer knows what to do if the gymnast exceeds the allotted time on falls and length of routine. Any problems or questions—ask Chief Judge.

Required Scoring Supplies:

- Headset Communication (8 headsets) - two for Score Verifiers and four for Chief Judge Scoring Assistants at events to communicate with Head Scorer & Scoring Director at head table.
- Handheld or digital score flashers units – One for every judge on every event.
- Start Value flip charts - One for every judge on every event.
- Vault Number Score Tree (floor standing) & Vault Value Chart. The Vault value chart paper is taped to the back of the Score Tree
- "Up to Level (UTL)" orange card in acrylic stand – one required for every judge on Bars, Beam, Floor.
- One "Delayed Conference" red card required for each Chief Judge position.
- Green Flags (4) - one for each Chief Judge.
- Yellow flags (2) - one for each Line Judge on floor.
- Stop watches (4) - one for Bars and one for Floor, two for Beam. (can be volunteer's cell phone if preferred by the volunteer).
- Digital or manual Score Trees at each event (optional) for final score flashing.