

On Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 8:50 PM, <Marygymjud@aol.com> wrote:

Please follow the protocol set out for us by not approaching coaches with information about their athletes. First it is not fair to the other athletes in the meet. It is seldom accepted as we intended. Also each coach has a plan for their athletes and they may completely understand and accept the deduction.

Do not answer questions from coaches during a meet. Again it is not fair to other athletes to give specific verbal feedback to one team and not all. If a coach has a question during a meet they should send in an inquiry. This is our vehicle to answer specific questions about composition and Special Requirements. An inquiry gives us time to look up information and answer with specific information quoting a specific page(if applicable) when answering. When approached during a meet we do not always have time to collect our thoughts and give accurate and complete information. If you are a newer judge have the meet referee sit with you to answer the questions professionally and accurately.

When coaches approach tell them you can't discuss specific routines during the meet, if they have specific questions about a certain routine please fill out an inquiry. If they do not want to fill out an inquiry you can meet with them after the meet to discuss particular routines.

If a coach approaches you aggressively about your score or start value calmly state that you cannot discuss that routine but fill out an inquiry.

Do not be offended when someone inquires the inquiry is your protection as well as an opportunity to review your scores/ start values. Be professional in your discussions and use information from the code to answer questions. Judging Sheets are a great tool and very helpful but they are NOT ALWAYS 100% CORRECT! Use official materials only when answering inquiries. If you make a mistake fix it be gracious and look at this as an opportunity to learn or review. Make sure you are keeping up with the changes and clarifications. Check www.usa-gymnastics.org , www.nc-usag.org, and www.Region8gymnastics.org to find new information.

Gymnastics is not about your personal opinions but a careful evaluation using specific rules. If those with more experience give you insight about how you evaluate a requirement or skill LISTEN TO THEM. If there are things you are not sure about please send specific questions to me and I will have them clarified through the proper channels. This is especially true with Prep Op as we merge our rules with the Region.

**Thanks for all you do!
Mary Hoagland**