



## London GfA Coach and Judge Education Day



A big thank you to all clubs that attended our first GfA judge / coach education day, it really was what we had hoped, a day where everyone could share their ideas and thoughts to create a better GfA programme for all. Thank you to our tutors, June and Vicky, for encouraging such useful debate. We are sure everyone will join us in thanking Allstarz for providing the venue and a fabulous free lunch!

Everyone has agreed that it would be beneficial to hold another event in the autumn so please encourage any coaches and judges to attend the next event. We will also be holding our 'Rule change day' on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015, so don't forget to keep that in your diary.

A number of changes / slight amendments were proposed some of which will be implemented immediately and some of which will be used for November or beyond. An overview is below. We hope to have the full competition details online by this time next week.

### **Equipment:**

- Clubs asked for longer run ups for Bronze / silver / gold - these have been ordered
- Jump onto springboard Block (this will be 1m x 2m x 60cm) and is being purchased from Tracks 2000 in time for the competition.
- Flatback: Clubs asked for a slightly harder mat to go on top to help gymnasts block. Tracks 2000 is making a 10cm mat for us with denser foam which will go on top. We also decided to have 2 options for height of flatbacks as there is a big difference in heights of gymnasts in bronze and silver. The equipment will be safety landing modules (crash mats) piled up with the 10cm mat on top. Heights to be 100cm (3 mats with landing mat) OR 130cm (4 mats with landing mat).
- We are looking to have tape measures on the floor for run up distance.

### **Presentations:**

- We will be awarding placement ribbons for 4th, 5th and 6th in categories with more than 12 gymnasts.
- We will be buying silicone printed wristbands for all competitors as a keepsake of the competition
- We will award a small trophy to the top floor and vault scorer for each category where there are more than 12 gymnasts.



## **Judging:**

- For floor we will have an extra judge on each panel. Two judges will be 'E' judges (execution) who will take deductions on what they see. One Judge will become the 'D' judge (difficulty) they will just write down the moves they see with their difficulty or bonus.
- Tariff sheets. We are going to trial tariff sheets. Some clubs will be asked to provide a list of the moves a gymnast is performing in order. This will then be used as a checklist for the D judge. If a gymnast completes them in the wrong order, does different moves or misses some there is no deduction but the list is just there to help speed the judging process and make it more accurate. If your club would be willing to help in this trial then please let us know.
- Our new electronic scoring system that the committee has invested in will be of a great support. After a routine the score will be printed out so coaches immediately receive a copy of it with the Start value and final score.
- We will be implementing a 'Jury of appeal' so that if you have a query about a score (which you will have received instantly) you can query it and either get feedback or if there has been an error the score can be changed. This procedure is currently being written into a policy and will be shared with all clubs. There will be a charge to submit an enquiry which will be refunded if the appeal is correct.
- Lorna (our Judging convenor) is currently reordering our rules to make it easier for all to read and digest again this will be shared once ready. The rules are staying the same we are just making sure they are clear for all and easy to use in an A5 booklet format.
- We spent time looking at the jump onto block and how to make this progressive for gymnasts. This skill is in both the Men's and Women's artistic programme. Therefore we all agreed the changes on the hurdle step straight jump.  
Girls will land, then walk to end of block and straight jump off. Boys will have block sideways and be required to do an immediate rebound jump off. Full judging criteria will be sent out to all clubs, coaches and judges. Judging criteria can be found on our rules page linked to the event.
- **Clarification of Bonus:** The B+B (Bronze), B+C (Silver) or C+C (Gold and Gold+) bonus of 0.30 is for a series. Therefore it must be directly linked with no steps if it is acro or mixed series OR can be linked by continuous steps or chassés if it is a gym series.
- **Clarification of choreography for Blue and White:** For blue and white level routines there is no requirement to use the whole floor or add dance or links



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it is just the 10 moves that are needed with the Composition requirements added at blue (balance, strength / flexibility, mixed, gym and acro series.) Links can be added as transitions if needed eg in order to get to the floor or get up again.

- Frequently Asked Questions: We are starting to create a database of those questions that coaches, gymnasts, judges or parents constantly ask... any suggestions or ideas would be useful here.
- New or inexperienced Judges: Many of our clubs have identified judges within their clubs that are newly qualified. To judge at our event can be intimidating for a newly qualified judge as the event has grown so large. With the new scoring system we need 'secretaries'. These people sit on the table with the judges and operate the simple keypad to send the final score to the computer. This job would be perfect for a newly qualified judge as they can practise judging (with their score not counting) as they and then get to listen to the discussions with the judges which will develop their confidence. Please let us know if you have judges that weren't on your original list. We will need BG number, first and last name and available day (s).

### **Gymnet**

- We discussed the need to ensure your gymnet is up to date and some clubs felt they would like advice on this. Simon Evans from BG will be attending the competition on Sunday 1st June and will be available in the Warm up area to talk to clubs and give advice. We will also be holding some more training later in the year.
- Please ensure ALL coaches and judges have up to date membership, BG enhanced DBS and safeguarding qualification.
- A DBS once applied for online will show up instantly when we check, they are generally returned to you within a week.
- Safeguarding certificates must be sent to BG after the candidate receives them. If your coach / judge does not hold one then please book them on a course and speak to BG about having a waiver until the qualification is received. If a coach or judge is under 18 they **must** have a waiver from BG which clubs can apply for. Please ask for Dawn Fletcher in membership who is responsible for London.