

HOW TO BECOME A TUMBLING AND TRAMPOLINE JUDGE

There are several steps to becoming a T and T judge. The certification is accomplished in a clinic, usually about four hours long, which includes your materials, informational discussion, and the actual testing. It costs \$45.00 for the clinic for one event. When you are certified, your initial pay is \$12.00 an hour. The pay may not be great but we enjoy our commitment to the sport and the friendships we develop with each other. Getting started is not easy however. There are several time and financial hurdles you must complete before you can actually judge.

It is possible to take a test to become a judge before you satisfy the professional membership requirements, but you will not be able to judge until the following membership steps have been accomplished:

You must become a Professional Member with USA-Gymnastics.

There is an annual professional fee of \$80.+ Go to usa-gymnastics.org and then to the Member Services link. There you can print off the membership form that needs to be sent into the main office with payment.

You must pass the Safety/Risk Management Certification Course to be a Professional Member. This is a course you can take on line with usa-gymnastics.org. Again go to the link in Member Services, The fee is \$65.00. The certification is good for four years.

Starting in 2008, all Professional Members have needed to undergo the NCSI background check, instituted to protect our athletes. Again you can find the correct information and link in Member Services. It may take a couple of weeks for your results. The cost is \$20.+ and the background check is good for two years.

When you test successfully, you will have a rating as a Category 3 judge in the event you choose – trampoline, double mini, or tumbling. It is recommended that you start with just one event, perhaps the one that is most interesting to you. You will judge performance during meets. The Superior Judge will make all the necessary calls for deductions, start value, etc. You will judge athletes of all levels at local meets. For the State Championships, Level 8 and above athletes must be judged by Category 2 or higher judges.

Contact Jola Jones, NorCal Technical Chair, for testing possibilities. Her contact information is

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