



President's Update – September, 2021

To All NGJA Members,

Here is a quick NGJA update as we prepare for the fall of 2021. This newsletter will address several areas and there will be more to come, so we have determined to move forward in the following manner:

1. **NGJA Governing Board Meetings** – the Governing Board has been meeting regularly over the spring and summer to discuss the NGJA Futures Project, an initiative to improve the NGJA organization and operations. A summary of this project and Governing Board decisions is attached and you will hear more about this at your upcoming certification courses.
2. **NGJA Registration** – registration/renewal of your membership is now open at NGJA.org. You can also register for your local certification course exams.
3. **Fall Certification Courses** – all local associations will move forward with their local courses. Course directors will determine the best methods to hold their courses and post their course registration. The new FIG and Jr Development (JD) program rules (formerly known as Junior Olympic/JO program) will be covered at all courses.
4. **NGJA On-line Testing** – as in the past, all NGJA members will be required to take their certification tests on-line. The testing site should be ready by the end of September. Note... the tests this fall will be more comprehensive than in the past. You will take a compulsory test and an optional test (JD and FIG). Both tests are divided into 7 modules each (one general module and 6 event modules).
5. **Fall JO Program preparation** – all indications are there will be JD competitions this fall, winter and spring. Meet directors have been promoting their competitions and there will be a variety of competitions. We will see virtual competitions, competitions with limited attendance (parents and/or athletes) or the normal competitions we are all accustomed to judging.
6. **NCAA Program and Initiatives for 2021 – note: COVID may impact plans for the season**
 - a. The NCAA program is finalizing its rules and calendar and will proceed similar to past seasons.
 - b. The NCAA has approved a limited number of virtual competitions, so this format will continue in 2022 on a more limited basis.
 - c. The 2021 NCAA preparation initiatives will continue as planned. As an organization, our challenge is to find consistency in our officiating across the US! This can only be accomplished by continuing our initiatives and evaluating our progress. As a result, I am asking everyone to again embrace the objectives established last year:
 - i. Emphasis on applying FIG rules at NCAA competitions
 - ii. Participate in the NCAA Judges Challenge in December – 4 week competition with awards
 - iii. NCAA NALs to align NCAA judging with FIG rules
 - iv. Evaluated NCAA routines on NGJA.org for education and comparison
7. **FIG Update** - the FIG Executive Committee has released information regarding its 2022 direction and certification of officials for the remaining 3 years of this cycle. It was decided to use online teaching and examination to approve judges up to a certain level. Here is what we know at this time (this is subject to change, and more details will be provided to the national federations soon):
 - a. Online materials will be provided by the FIG to all breveted judges and new candidates for certification. Judges who already have a brevet will be able to confirm their category – except for the category 1



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brevet – by passing an online test. NO continental courses are being planned at this time. This means recertification will occur as follows...

- b. There will be NO written test to recertify. There will be a PRACTICAL test given (around the end of the year) online. The time, date, and specifics are yet to be defined. If you pass the test, you will keep your current FIG category rating.
- c. An "Intercontinental Course" for category 1 judges is being planned for early 2022, but we have no further information on this. This course is by invitation only.
- d. We have no indication if there will be a special course given for judges who wish to become a FIG Brevet judge for the first time, but the FIG Executive Committee stated that "new candidates will be able to obtain their certification (up to category 3) through regional in-person courses hosted by a federation or continental union in 2023."

Special Comments - Since COVID continues to live amongst all of us, I am asking everyone to remember a few things as we navigate the coming months:

- The NGJA does not wish to put any of its members at risk. Carefully consider the environment you will be asked to work in. If you are uncomfortable with any situation or social environment, please turn down the assignment.
- Remember the NGJA is a service organization. Our job is to provide an officiating service and not to create more drama than already exists. If you are uncomfortable accepting a competition, turn it down. If you accept a competition, do all you can to assist in a positive outcome for everyone!

I hope you and your families are all safe and you enjoy the cooler days of fall!

Mike Juszczyk

NGJA President