

2017 - 2020

# BOYS GYMNASTICS

## Policies & Procedures

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National Federation of State  
High School Associations



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2017-20 NFHS

# BOYS GYMNASTICS

## Policies and Procedures

### State of Massachusetts

This version of the Boys Gymnastics Policies, Procedures and Rules has been prepared specifically for the State of Massachusetts

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To maintain the sound traditions of this sport, preserve the balance between offense and defense, encourage sportsmanship and minimize the inherent risk of injury, the National Federation of State High School Associations writes playing rules for varsity competition among student-athletes of high school age. High school coaches, officials and administrators who have knowledge and experience regarding this particular sport and age group volunteer their time to serve on the rules committee. Member associations of the NFHS independently make decisions regarding compliance with or modification of these playing rules for the student-athletes in their respective states.

NFHS rules are used by education-based and non-education-based organizations serving children of varying skill levels who are of high school age and younger. In order to make NFHS rules skill-level and age-level appropriate, the rules may be modified by any organization that chooses to use them. Except as may be specifically noted in this rules book, the NFHS makes no recommendation about the nature or extent of the modifications that may be appropriate for children who are younger or less skilled than high school varsity athletes.

Every individual using these rules is responsible for prudent judgment with respect to each contest, athlete and facility, and each athlete is responsible for exercising caution and good sportsmanship. These rules should be interpreted and applied so as to make reasonable accommodations for athletes, officials and coaches with disabilities.

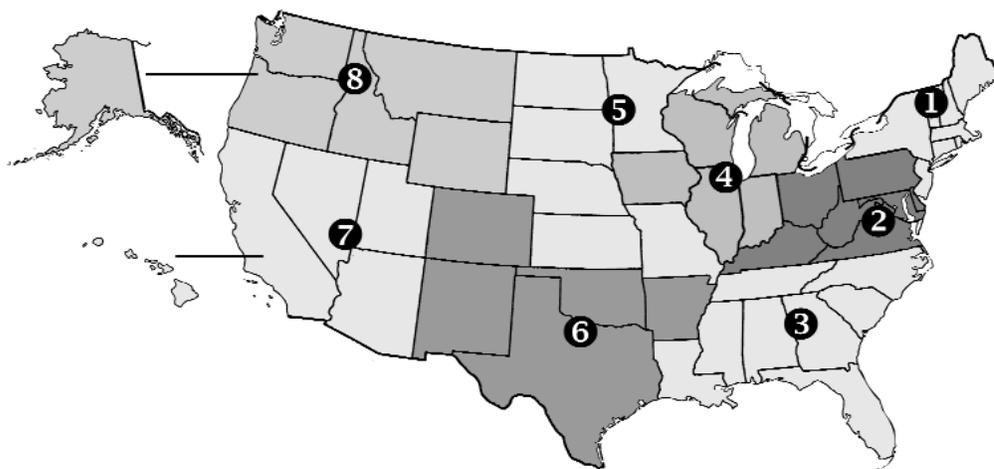
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The National Federation of State High School Associations serves its members, related professional organizations and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities, which support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities.



**USA GYMNASTICS**

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Requests for boys gymnastics rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the state association responsible for the high school boys gymnastics program in your state. The NFHS and USA Gymnastics will assist in answering rules questions **from** state associations whenever called upon.

Parts of this manual have been prepared and will be maintained by USA Gymnastics, as a collaborative effort with the NFHS on behalf of boys high school gymnastics and in support to the NFHS policies and procedures.  
USA Gymnastics is responsible for the maintenance and adaptations contained in Sections I, II, VIII and IX as outlined in the table of contents above.

**DISCLAIMER – NFHS Position Statements and Guidelines**

The NFHS regularly distributes position statements and guidelines to promote public awareness of certain health and safety-related issues. Such information is neither exhaustive nor necessarily applicable to all circumstances or individuals, and is no substitute for consultation with appropriate health-care professionals. Statutes, codes of environmental conditions may be relevant. NFHS position statements or guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other pertinent materials when taking action or planning care. The NFHS reserves the right to rescind or modify any such document at any time.

**NOTE:** Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

## I. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### COMPETITION

#### Section 1 UNIFORMS

**ART. 1** . . . During team competition, gymnasts on the same team shall wear uniforms of like color and design. Minimum uniform consists of a shirt, solid-colored long pants and footwear (socks or gymnastics shoes and socks). Shorts with/without footwear are acceptable for floor exercise and vaulting. Gymnasts shall wear uniforms properly and as designed by the manufacturer.

**ART. 2** . . . One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of the uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity. Neither the flag nor the patch shall interfere with the visibility of any competitor's number.

**ART. 3** . . . A single partial/whole manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2 ¼ inches, is permitted on each piece of the uniform.

**ART. 4** . . . During team competition, the uniform of the first competitor for a team shall establish the color and design to be worn by that team.

**ART. 5** . . . Jewelry shall not be worn nor taped over in competition.

**a.** Medical alert medals are not considered jewelry and shall be taped to the body and the alert should be visible.

**b.** Religious medals are not considered jewelry and shall be taped to the body.

**ART. 6** . . . Casts or splints on any body part(s) are prohibited.

**ART. 7** . . . Hand, wrist, elbow, knee and ankle braces, which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, do not require any additional padding.

**ART. 8** . . . Athletic equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn.

**ART. 9** . . . Improper uniform deductions for Articles 1-6, (as stated in sec. IX, Competition Rules).

## SECTION 2 WARM-UP TIME AND FLOOR PERSONNEL

**ART. 1** . . . Prior to the scheduled meet starting time, the host team shall provide 60 minutes of warm-up time on meet apparatus for eligible competitors only.

**ART. 2** . . . Only coaches, competitors and officials are permitted in the competition area.

**ART. 3** . . . In the event the visiting team arrives late, but before the scheduled starting time of the meet, the Superior Judge shall determine an adequate extension of the warm-up time which shall not extend beyond 20 minutes past the original starting time for the meet. In the event the visiting team arrives late, but after the scheduled starting time of the meet, the Superior Judge shall grant a warm-up period not to exceed 20 minutes.

**ART. 4** . . . Host teams are to schedule march-ins and introductions so that competition begins at the scheduled starting time.

## SECTION 3 ENTRIES AND TEAM SCORING

**ART. 1** . . . A team shall be limited to a maximum of five entries per event.

### NOTES:

**1:** By state association adoption, a team may have more than five entries per event.

**2:** By state association adoption, one or more all-around competitors may be required for a team to compete five gymnasts per event.

**3:** Age determination and competition level does not apply.

**ART. 2** . . . a. Gymnasts shall compete block style for all events. The order of team competition shall be alternated so the host team shall compete last in the final event. Two events are run concurrently.

b. By state association adoption, gymnasts may compete alternate style.

c. Recommended Rotation for Triangular and Double Dual Meets:

### ROTATION I

FLOOR EXERCISE

POMMEL HORSE

STILL RINGS

Home Team	Team B	Team A
Team A	Home Team	Team B
Team B	Team A	Home Team

ROTATION II		
VAULTING	PARALLEL BARS	HORIZONTAL BAR
Home Team	Team B	Team A
Team A	Home Team	Team B
Team B	Team A	Home Team

**ART. 3 . . .** Changes in the lineup shall be permitted in any event, provided the changes are made before the start of an individual event for that team.

**ART. 4 . . .** When it is discovered that a gymnast is bleeding, has an open wound or excessive blood on his uniform, he may complete his current event performance. However, he shall not return to competition until he has received proper treatment. (See [page 14](#) for Communicable Disease Procedures.)

**ART. 5 . . .** Any gymnast who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. (Please see [page 15](#) for further details).

**ART. 6 . . .** An all-around competitor’s score shall be the sum of his scores in the six events. If an all-around gymnast does not perform in an event, his score for that event shall be zero.

**ART. 7 . . .** The top three scores for each team in each individual event are added to determine the team’s score for that event.

**NOTE:** By state association adoption, the top four scores for each team in each event may be used to determine the team score for that event.

**ART. 8 . . .** The total team score is determined by adding the team’s event scores for all six events.

**SECTION 4 CONDUCT**

**NOTE:** No official or game personnel shall use any form of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarette, vaporizer or similar items beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the meet.

**ART. 1 . . .** Unsporting conduct includes actions which are unbecoming to an ethical, fair and honorable individual. It consists of acts of deceit, disrespect or vulgarity and includes taunting.

**NOTE:** The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances.

**ART. 2 . . .** Coaches and/or competitors during the meet shall not:

- a. Approach the judges at any time without authorization to discuss scores.
- b. Show overt signs of displeasure and/or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c. Delay the meet.

**ART. 3 . . .** The gymnast shall acknowledge the head judge by raising his hand at the start of the exercise, after he has been recognized with a green flag, and shall acknowledge a judge at the end of his routine.

**ART. 4 . . .**

- a. Showing displeasure and/or unsportsmanlike conduct first occurrence: As per rules (see [competition rules section IX](#)). If there is not a team score from which to take the deduction, it is taken from the gymnast's event score.

(Subsequent occurrence may lead to disqualification from the meet.)

**NOTE:** If a coach is disqualified and no qualified school personnel is available, the coach's team shall be disqualified from the meet.

- b. Delay of meet (each occurrence): (see [competition rules section IX](#)).
- c. Failure to acknowledge the head judge at the beginning of the routine by raising one arm: (see [competition rules section IX](#)).
- d. Failure to acknowledge a judge at the end of the routine by raising both arms: (see [competition rules section IX](#)).

**ART. 5 . . .** When in the judgment of the head judge, a coach moves out of proper position to spot during his gymnast's vault, still rings or horizontal bar routine, the coach is given a warning once during the meet before a team deduction is taken. Thereafter, (see [competition rules section IX](#)) a team deduction shall be taken for each occurrence.

## II. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### OFFICIALS

#### SECTION 1 DESIGNATED OFFICIALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**ART. 1 . . .** It is recommended that either one, two or four judges, one of whom shall be the head judge, evaluate all routines.

**ART. 2 . . .** All teams shall be evaluated by the same judge(s) on the same event(s). A scorekeeper shall be assigned by the host school.

**ART. 3 . . .** The meet officials maintain administrative responsibilities for the contest through the completion of any required reports or correspondence in response to any action occurring while the officials have jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents after the officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation competition.

**ART. 4 . . .** If an official does not show up within 15 minutes of the official starting time, the meet must begin.

**ART. 5 . . .** When no officials show up, the schools involved must provide a coach to act as an official. This person or persons will act as an official for the entire meet. If an official shows up after the meet has started the events in progress will finish. The assigned official will then assume their responsibility.

**ART. 6 . . .** When only one official shows up, the teams involved must do one of the following: a. Use the official present, plus a coach or other official that is in attendance. This must be unanimously agreed upon by the coaches of all schools involved. b. Use one official only. This must be unanimously agreed upon by the coaches of all schools involved. c. Use one official plus two coaches.

**ART. 7 . . .** Meet officials or meet personnel shall not use any form of alcohol, tobacco product, e-cigarette, vaporizer or similar items beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the meet.

**ART. 8 . . .** Meet officials shall not use cell phones or other electronic devices in the competitive area except those designated for meet administration.

**ART. 9 . . .** Electronic video devices shall not be used for any review or determination of a judge's decision.

## SECTION 2 DUTIES OF THE HEAD JUDGE

**ART. 1 . . .** Before the meet:

- a. Arrive at the meet site 20 minutes prior to the scheduled competition, and enforce all rules of competition;
- b. Ensure that the meet begins on time unless there are extenuating circumstances;
- c. Measure equipment and check floor markings for vaulting to verify specifications;
- d. Inquire about any unusual facility problems with meet director;
- e. Conduct a premeet conference with judges;
- f. Review responsibilities of scorers and flashers.

**ART. 2 . . .** During the meet:

- a. Judge every performance and record the score;
- b. In meets where inquiries are permitted, the head judge shall post the start value of the routine. The judges shall agree on the start value. It is the Superior Judge's responsibility to verify the start value is displayed correctly.
- c. Supervise the group of judges, control the scores when they are out of range and gather the judges together for consultation and corrections when it is noticed a judgment is contrary to the rules;
- d. Be responsible for the smooth running of the judging and the enforcement of the rules of competition and shall be responsible for all decisions throughout the meet;
- e. Has the right to consult with the other judges when scores drift from normal;
- f. All conferences should be as brief as possible;
- g. Determine the acting judges are ready and then give the signal for the gymnast to begin the exercise;
- h. Time falls from apparatus or routine interruptions, notifying gymnast when he has 30, 20, 10 and five seconds remaining;

i. Allow the contestant a second trial of the complete routine at a time selected by the head judge when there is equipment failure or interference not within the control of the gymnast;

**NOTE:** Failure of palm-guards or dowels shall be considered not within the control of the gymnast. A second complete trial shall be allowed at the discretion of the head judge.

j. Verify and sign the official scoresheet at the conclusion of the meet.

### SECTION 3 DUTIES OF ACTING JUDGES

**ART. 1 . . .** Before the meet:

- a. Arrive at the meet site 20 minutes prior to the scheduled competition;
- b. Participate in the premeet conference with the head judge;
- c. Be familiar with the rules, difficulty ratings and specific deductions;
- d. Follow the directions of the head judge.

**ART. 2 . . .** During the meet:

- a. Score each exercise of each event separately, without consultation;
- b. Place themselves around the apparatus, at the four corners whenever possible;
- c. Call for a consultation of judges if anything is noticed contrary to the rules.

### SECTION 4 MEET DIRECTOR

**ART. 1 . . .** The meet director shall obtain the facilities, equipment and personnel necessary for the conduct of a successful meet.

**ART. 2 . . .** Prior to warm-ups, the meet director shall see that all equipment is measured and meets rule specifications.

**ART. 3 . . .** Prior to the meet, the meet director shall designate areas where gymnasts may stretch just prior to competing, and areas where they may warm up skills during the meet.

**ART. 4 . . .** The meet director may order the floor cleared whenever necessary.

**SECTION 5 SCORING**

**ART. 1** . . . Scoring shall be done by the judges immediately after the performance of each exercise. The open method of scoring shall be used (**Note:** By state association adoption, closed scoring may be used).

- a. It is recommended scores be posted within 30 seconds;
- b. The head judge shall post the score first, concealed from the other judges;
- c. Other judges shall post their scores to the head judge;
- d. If the scores that count are within range, all scores shall be flashed simultaneously;
- e. If the scores that count are not within range, the head judge shall call a conference until agreement within the proper range is reached.

**ART. 2** . . . When four judges are used per event, the scorer shall note on scoresheets the marks of each judge and then eliminate the highest and lowest marks, using the average of the two intermediate marks for the evaluation of the performance.

a. Example: **10.0 scoring**

9.6	9.6 and 8.6 are dropped, 8.9 and 8.7 are averaged, making the
8.9	evaluation of the routine 8.8.
8.7	
8.6	

b. Example: **10.0 scoring**

9.2	If there are two or more identical high (or low) marks, only one
9.2	is dropped, 9.2 and 9.4 are dropped, 9.2 and 9.4 are averaged,
9.4	making the evaluation of the routine 9.3.
9.4	

**ART. 3** . . . When two judges are used per event, the scorer shall note on scoresheets the marks of each judge and then average the marks for the evaluation of the performance.

a. Example: **10.0 scoring**

9.0	If the two scores are identical, the identical score is the evaluation
9.0	of the performance - 9.0 in this case.

**ART. 4 . . .** The judges' written and personal scoresheet is the official score.

**ART. 5 . . .** Any change in the official score of a judge shall be made before the next gymnast's performance.

**ART. 6 . . .** A computational error at the scoring table may be corrected in context with the official score of the judge at any time during or within 30 minutes after the meet. The head judge for each event shall verify the scores for his event and sign the scoresheet making the score official.

### III. General Guidelines for Sports Hygiene, Skin Infections and Communicable Disease

Proper precautions are needed to minimize the potential risk of the spread of communicable disease and skin infections during athletic competition. These conditions include skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment. The transmission of infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Herpes Gladiatorum, blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, and other infectious diseases such as Influenza can often be greatly reduced through proper hygiene. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has outlined and listed below some general guidelines for the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

#### Universal Hygiene Protocol for All Sports

- Shower immediately after every competition and practice, using liquid soap and not a shared bar soap.
- Wash all workout clothing after each practice, washing in hot water and drying on a high heat setting.
- Clean and/or wash all personal gear (knee pads, head gear, braces etc.) weekly.
- Do not share towels or personal hygiene products (razors) with others.
- Refrain from full body and/or cosmetic shaving of head, chest, arms, abdomen and groin.

#### Infectious Skin Diseases

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of the infection. All shared equipment shall be properly cleaned/disinfected prior to use.
- Coaches, officials, and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on "time until return to competition." Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or local guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.

#### Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and use Universal Precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

#### Other Communicable Diseases

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:

- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During times of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.

For more detailed information, refer to the "Blood-borne Pathogens," "Infectious Mononucleosis" and "Skin Conditions in Infections" sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

## IV. Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. An athlete does not have to have suffered a direct blow to the head or lose consciousness (be “knocked out”) to have suffered a concussion.

### Common Signs and Symptoms of Concussion Include:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can’t recall events after hit or fall
- Headaches or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right” or is “feeling down”

### Suggested Concussion Management:

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms at rest, while doing school work or with physical activity.

For further details please see the “NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports” at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

NFHS does not perform scientific tests on any specific items of equipment to determine if the equipment poses undue risks to student-athletes, coaches, officials or spectators. Such determinations are the responsibility of equipment manufacturers.

## V. Equipment Guidelines

1. Each NFHS sports rules committee is responsible for recommending the official playing rules to the NFHS Board of Directors for adoption. The committee is not responsible for testing or approving playing equipment for use in interscholastic sports. Equipment manufacturers have undertaken the responsibility for the development of playing equipment that meets the specifications established by the committee. The NFHS urges manufacturers to work with the various independent testing agencies to ensure the production of safe products. Neither the NFHS nor the applicable NFHS sport rules committee certifies the safety of any sport equipment. Only equipment that meets the dimensions and specifications in the NFHS sport rules may be used in interscholastic competition. While the committee does not regulate the development of new equipment and does not set technical or scientific standards for testing equipment, the committee may, from time to time, provide manufacturers with guidance as to the equipment-performance levels it considers consistent with the integrity of the game. The committee reserves the right to intercede to protect and maintain that integrity.
2. Each NFHS sport rules committee suggests that manufacturers planning innovative changes in sports equipment submit the equipment to the applicable NFHS sport rules committee for review before production.

## VI. Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the NFHS Board of Directors has adopted the following guidelines for coaches.

**The coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The coach** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

**The coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

## VII. Officials Code of Ethics

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

**Officials** shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

**Officials** shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

**Officials** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

**Officials** shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

**Officials** shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

**Officials** shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

**Officials** shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

**Officials** shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

**Officials** shall maintain an ethical approach while participating in forums, chat rooms and all forms of social media.

## VIII. Definitions

**NOTE:** The verb “shall” denotes mandatory.

**Alternate Style** - That system of competition in which members of competing teams shall alternate turns in each event is permitted by state association adoption.

**Apparatus Specifications** - Those limitations indicating size, width, thickness, height, stress and other pertinent information relative to apparatus.

**Assist** - The act of touching to give physical or psychological assistance to a gymnast performing a skill, which results in a deduction from the gymnast’s score.

**Average Score** - The score that results when the scores that count are added together and divided by two.

**Balk** - Any forward motion towards the vault table that is either stopped or backed up, **and** does not result in contact with the vaulting board or table.

**Block Style** - That system of competition in which all members of one team participate in succession in each event.

**Coach** - Any individual designated by the school with the responsibility of directing its team.

**Content Structure** - How skills are combined in the exercise.

**Difficulty** - A predetermined value of a particular gymnastic skill.

**Dismount** - The final skill of value used by a gymnast which completes a exercise.

**Event** - The name of a particular piece of apparatus which is contested in a gymnastic meet.

**Exercise (Routine)** - The complete set of skills or exercise performed by a gymnast.

**Form** - The body appearance and control a gymnast exhibits when performing.

**Head Judge** - An official at a gymnastic meet who is responsible for scoring the competitors and for the proper interpretation of all gymnastic rules.

**Landing Mat** - Any mat at least 4 inches ( $\pm \frac{1}{2}$  inch) in thickness, which is designed to provide a cushioning effect upon dismounting the apparatus. (When purchasing new landing mats, it is recommended they be  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick.)

**Mat** - A protective and resilient covering on the floor.

**Mount** - The first skill performed in an exercise.

**Open Scoring** - A system of scoring in which each judge openly displays the score he/she has awarded the gymnast.

**Presentation** - The manner in which a gymnast expresses himself before and after his exercise.

**Safety Collar**- A manufactured safety collar is required around the vaulting board for all round-off entry vaults.

**Scorer** - The person responsible for recording individual gymnast's scores and computing team scores.

**Skill** - A gymnastic movement with difficulty value.

**Spotter** - A coach who is in position to aid the gymnast during his exercise.

**Stand** - The position obtained by the gymnast before and after his routine in which he is in a balanced position upon his feet.

**Sting Mat** - A manufactured mat (1 ½" thick, ± ¼ ") containing a core of rebound foam.



The following boys high school competition rules manual was prepared by USA Gymnastics for the NFHS with specific modifications for the State of Illinois.

Rule modifications made by the State of Illinois are specific to that state and are not the responsibility of USA Gymnastics or the NFHS.

Questions regarding any portion of the rules manual may be addressed directly to the Men's Program at USA Gymnastics.

[www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org)

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### **How To Use This Rules Manual**

The Men's Program of USA Gymnastics, in consultation with current high school administrators and coaches, has prepared this *2017 to 2020 High School Program Competition Rules Manual*. The manual is an adaptation of the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Program rules for optional competition.

This manual has been written to provide states with a degree of flexibility regarding the level of competition, scoring format and special rule adaptations.

In this high school manual, two levels of competition are shown, Levels 8 and 9. Both levels are very closely related to the same levels of competition in the USA Gymnastics age group program. Level 8 constitutes competition requirements consistent with entry-level optional competition. The Level 8 program allows for the inclusion of higher difficulty elements and contains bonus opportunities for higher-level skills and performance factors. Level 9 requires potentially higher difficulty content but is still appropriate for less experienced athletes.

Both levels of competition can be adapted to use either the current International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) additive scoring format - which is also being currently used by the NCAA men's program - or the more traditional 10.0 scoring system. Scoring requirements for both systems are listed in this rules manual.

State coaches associations can also modify specific rule areas as needed to meet particular goals or requirements with regard to development in their state. For example a state might wish to modify dismount requirements or an individual skill difficulty rating.

USA Gymnastics stands ready to provide consulting support regarding any rule or format changes in order to assist states to tailor a rules manual to their need. In addition, USA Gymnastics, when requested, will provide states with a final version of the Boy's High School Gymnastics rules that meet their scoring and format choices. A state specific rules manual will make for easy use by a state's coaches, athletes and officials.

For rules manual support, please contact the Men's Program Director at USA Gymnastics.

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### **Compulsory Addendum – Illinois Freshman Compulsory Routines**

## Chapter 1 – General Competition Program Information

### I. General Rules and Regulations

#### A. Uniforms:

1. On Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Parallel Bars and Horizontal Bar, all gymnasts must wear long solid colored competition pants and footwear (socks and/or gymnastics shoes). Dark colored competition pants are allowed. On Floor Exercise and Vaulting, gymnasts may compete in short pants with or without footwear. A competition top must be worn on all events.
2. All gymnasts are required to wear a shirt or competition top on all events during warm-ups.
3. For safety reasons, jewelry of any kind is NOT allowed during warm-up or competition. This includes piercings of any type in the body. This is a medium deduction taken from the gymnast's "E" execution score.
4. Uniform violations will result in a medium deduction taken from the individual's score on each event in which the infraction occurs.

#### B. Coach's Professional Attire – (*Violators will be asked to leave the field of play*)

The following coach's professional attire is required at all competitive sessions, scheduled warm-up sessions and event training sessions.

1. Closed toe shoes, no sandals
2. Slacks, warm-up pants or hemmed "dress" shorts (No denim or "cargo style" – defined as having large flap pockets with a button or snap closure on the front and/or side of the thigh)
3. Collared shirts with slacks or dress shorts, a collared shirt with warm up pants. Note: a team "T-shirt" will be allowed at meets prior to conference and championship meets.
4. No hats.
5. No backpacks while spotting.
6. Coaches are permitted to wear their team T-shirt at meets during the regular season, up to but not including the Conference Championship meet at the end of the season.

#### C. Coach's Spotting Responsibilities:

1. A spotter is required to be in position to safely spot the entire performance on the Horizontal Bar, Still Rings and Vault.
2. A spotter is allowed on Parallel Bars.
3. If a spotter is present in the area of the Floor Exercise or Pommel Horse event, it is a large deduction from the final score of the routine.
4. The gymnast should not be allowed to begin the routine on rings, horizontal bar, or vault without the presence of the required spotter. If the spotter walks away prior to the completion of the routine a medium deduction will be applied with a warning to the coach that a second infraction will result in his remaining gymnasts not being allowed to compete on that event that day. The spotting deduction will be taken from the final team score. If there is no team affiliation in the competition, the deduction will be taken from the individual's score on that event.
5. An additional spotter is permitted on Still Rings, Vault, Parallel Bars and Horizontal Bar without deduction.
6. Assistance at any apparatus, whether general or as the required spotter, must be provided by an official coach as defined by the state high school association.

**D. Specialists:**

While All-Around competition is encouraged, it is recognized that specialists and multi-event participants can make significant contributions. Participation by specialists and multi-event athletes is permitted and strongly encouraged in all levels of competition.

## II. Equipment and Mat Specifications

The NFHS does not perform scientific tests on any specific items of equipment to determine if the equipment poses undue risks to student-athletes, coaches, officials or spectators. Such determinations are the responsibility of equipment manufacturers.

**A. The equipment for all competitions must be from an equipment manufacturer and meet the following apparatus specifications.**

**Floor Exercise:** A strip floor exercise competitive area shall be 60-68 feet in length by a minimum of 6 feet wide. The entire width of the floor area shall be a level surface. This area should be over a padded spring floor.

**Pommel Horse:** 115cm (45 ¼ inches) shall be from the floor to the top of the horse body. The mat shall provide a level, flat surface at least 4" thick. An additional mat up to 8 inches thick may be used for mounting or remounting. However, the mat must be removed after the gymnast leaves the mat surface.

**Mushroom:** From the surface of the mat to the top of the mushroom the height will range from 16-30 inches. The top diameter is 24" minimum (across dome side to side). The dome is 3-6 inches from dome base to apex. The minimum matted area under the mushroom shall be 10" X 10" X 1 ¼ ". It is the responsibility of the host school to provide the mushroom equipment.

**Still Rings:** From the floor to bottom of the ring a maximum height of 280cm (110") with a suggested height of 264 – 280cm (104-110"). The landing surface shall be a minimum of 12cm (4.7"). Additional matting up to 50cm (20") may be used.

**Vaulting:** Height of the vaulting table from the floor to center top of the vaulting table is 135cm (53"). This height will be the same from the freshman compulsory level through varsity level. The landing surface shall be at least 20cm (8"). A minimum landing distance of 15 ½ feet from end of vault table to any structure will be provided. A minimum distance of 60 feet shall be provided for the run up. The FIG landing zone will be used. Vaulting lines are to start at the width of the vaulting table and extend to 1.5 meters wide at a distance of 15.5 feet from the edge of the vaulting table where the landing mats begin. The required landing surface of 20cm (8") can be increased to a maximum of 50cm (20"). One manufactured hand placement mat may be placed on the run-up strip (not on the board) for a round-off entry vault. It is the responsibility of the team of the gymnast performing the round-off entry vault to provide the safety collar and/or hand placement mat. Freshman compulsory level through the varsity level.

**Parallel Bars:** Maximum height from the floor to top of bars shall be 200cm (78 ¾"). The landing surface shall be a minimum of 12cm (4"). Additional matting up to 40cm (16") may be used. The mat surface between the bars and uprights must be a minimum of (4").

**Horizontal Bar:** Height of the horizontal bar from the floor to top of the bar shall be 265cm (104") to the suggested height of 280cm (110"). The matted surface area shall be 7.5"W X

30"L X 10cm (4") H. The landing area on both sides of the uprights shall be 30cm (12"). The maximum mat thickness is 50cm (20").

**B. General:**

1. A panel mat may be used to mount pommel horse or parallel bars.
2. The spring board may only be used to mount the Parallel Bars and for Vaulting. If a spring board is used inside the uprights to mount Parallel Bars it must be removed as soon as the mount is completed (for the safety of the gymnast).
3. It is the responsibility of the coach to determine if ceiling mounted rings provided are acceptable for his gymnast's use. If a ring tower will not be available for competition, the coach should be notified in the premeet information packet so that the coach may choose if he wishes to have his gymnasts participate.
4. A school may not host a Sectional meet if the school cannot provide a ring tower for competition.

**C. Additional Matting:**

1. **Floor Exercise:** A landing mat up to 10cm (4") may be used once for landings of any value skill. The mat must be removed at a safe time after that skill. The mat may only be used for one skill per routine. If the person placing or removing the mat steps into the competitive area during a gymnast's performance or a 4 inch mat is placed in more than one location there shall be a 0.5 team deduction. If there is no team affiliation in the competition the deduction will be taken from the individuals Floor Exercise score.
2. **Still Rings:** The landing surface may be raised to a height of 30 cm (12"). An additional safety cushion of up to 20 cm (8") may be used.
3. **Vault:** An additional safety cushion of up to 20 cm (8") may be used in addition to the required 30 cm (12") landing surface height. In Junior Elite competition up to 32" of additional matting may be used to raise the landing surface.
4. **Parallel Bars:** An additional safety cushion of up to 20 cm (8") may be used.
5. **Horizontal Bar:** An additional safety cushion of up to 20 cm (8") may be used. In addition to the required 30 cm landing surface height.

## Chapter 2 – Judging Guidelines

### I. General Judging Guidelines:

#### A. Document Precedence:

1. The International Gymnastics Federation (Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, FIG) *Code of Points* will be used except where superseded by rules found in this High School Competition Program Manual and approved updates. Therefore, the order of precedence when determining which rules to use in the event of conflict is:
  - a. Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association approved updates found at [www.ihsgca.org](http://www.ihsgca.org).
  - b. Illinois High School Association Boy's Optional Rules Document Modifications.
  - c. The High School Competition Program Manual with Rules Updates published by High School Competition Committee.
  - d. The NGJA/USAG Rules Interpretations available at <http://www.ngja.org>
  - e. The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) *Code of Points* is available at <http://www.fig-gymnastics.com>

#### B. Judging Duties:

1. The judges in all boys competitions will perform the duties of both the “D” (Difficulty) and “E” (Execution) Jury Panels as listed in the FIG *Code of Points*, except in the case of a competition where four or more judges are used in a single panel.
2. On floor exercise and vault, the judges will have the additional responsibility of Line Judge.
3. There is no time limit on floor exercise so there is no need for a Time Judge to keep time on floor exercise.

#### C. Minimum Score:

In Illinois the minimum score for any boy's gymnastics routine, including vault, is 1.0.

#### D. Range of Allowable Scores:

When using two judges, or a four or more judge panel, the point difference between both, or the middle scores, may not be greater than:

E Panel Score Additive Scoring Format	D + E Panel Score 10.0 Maximum Scoring Format	Allowable Deviation
9.50 - 10.00	9.50 - 10.00	0.10
9.00 - 9.45	9.00 - 9.45	0.20
8.00 - 8.95	8.00 - 8.95	0.30
6.00 - 7.95	6.00 - 7.95	0.50
<6.0	<6.00	0.80

#### E. Routine Repetition Rule:

1. One attempt at a routine is allowed.
2. Should circumstances occur that are beyond the control of the gymnast which interrupt his attempt at a routine, the gymnast may be given the opportunity to repeat his routine, at the discretion of the head judge.
3. Should a handguard (grip) tear during the routine, the gymnast will be allowed to repeat his performance, at the discretion of the head judge.

**F. Spotting Deductions:**

1. An official coach, as defined by the state high school association, must do all spotting.
2. If there is no spotter when required, the routine may not begin. If the spotter walks away when required, take a medium deduction and the coach will be warned that another infraction will disqualify all of his athletes on that event for that day. The spotting deduction will be taken from the event's final team score. If that individual is not affiliated with any team, then the deduction will be taken from the individual's score on that event.
3. If, during the exercise, an incidental brush or touch occurs between the spotter and the gymnast, without interrupting or assisting in the skill, there is no deduction.
4. A coach may not spot an athlete from a surface that is higher than the allowable competition surface. The head judge will not allow the athlete to compete if this rule is violated.

**G. Videotape Review:**

There is no videotape review of routine performance for any score evaluation.

**H. General Apparatus and Behavioral Deductions:** General Spotting, Apparatus and Behavior Deductions should be taken from the "E" execution score.

1. Falls:
  - a. A fall onto or off the apparatus will be deducted 0.5 in addition to any other execution errors.
  - b. If the gymnast falls off of the apparatus, the judge announces that the gymnast has 30 seconds to remount the apparatus.
  - c. The coach may ask the head judge if the gymnast received credit for the skill on which he fell. The head judge will answer the coach with a "yes" or "no" response. There will be no other discussion.
2. If a coach speaks to the gymnast during his performance, a medium behavioral deduction of 0.2 should be taken. This deduction will be taken only once during a routine. It is not a deduction for a coach to speak to his gymnast during the 30 second time between a fall and a re-mount of the apparatus for the continuation of his routine.
3. Any visible tattoo that is not covered receives a medium behavior deduction.

**I. Landings and Dismounts on the Feet without Deduction:** For safety reasons, a gymnast may land or dismount with their feet apart (enough to properly join their heels together) upon landing from any salto. A stick is defined as a landing in which the feet do not move. All FIG execution deductions (those while in the flight phase and lack of extension before landing) must always be considered in addition to the landing requirements. The feet are allowed to be the width of the "fist" apart for no deduction. Deductions for the feet apart, lateral or astride in any direction are: Less than the width of the shoulders is a small deduction, wider than the width of the shoulders is a medium deduction. The gymnast must complete the landing by bringing his heels together without lifting and moving the front of his feet. This is done by raising the heels off the mat and joining them together without lifting the front of the feet. The arms must also be in complete control with no unnecessary swings.

- J. Inquires:** At championship meets, two written inquires are permitted. A third inquiry is permitted if one of the first two inquiries is upheld. A second inquiry is permitted for the same skill/routine. It will be applied toward a coach's total inquiries.
- a. The inquiry may only pertain to difficulty, element group requirements and bonus. A major deduction (0.5) shall be taken for any illegal inquiry.
  - b. The inquiry shall be submitted no later than seven minutes after all scores are recorded in that rotation.
  - c. The inquiry shall be given to the meet director/meet referee, who will give all legal inquiries to the event judges for review. The judges may consult with the meet referee, however, there shall be no video review.

- d. Decision of the judges at the conclusion of the inquiry is final.
- e. If a second inquiry does not result in a score correction, a 0.5 deduction shall be taken from the team score. If there is no team affiliation in the competition, the deduction will be taken from the individual's score on that event.
- f. When more than one inquiry is submitted on a given event, the coach shall receive the outcome of the first inquiry and must then inform the official whether to proceed or withdraw the subsequent inquiry.
- g. If a procedural error occurs and the incorrect start value is flashed that results in an inquiry, the correction will be noted and the inquiry will be marked "void". This void inquiry will not count toward the two permitted inquiries.

**K. IHSA Optional Competitive Overview:**

1. The IHSA will use the 2013-16 USA Gymnastics Men's J.O. Age Group Competition Program Level 9 rules with Illinois modifications.
2. Optional rules are based on the FIG Code of Points with J.O. and IHSA modified exceptions listed in the Optional rules sections.
3. Optional score calculation:
  - a. Dismount must count for Element Group Requirement.
  - b. Count the highest value part for each required Element Group credit first.
  - c. Count the highest remaining skills for maximum numbered parts.
  - d. Less than 6 recognized skills results in a 1.0 deduction from the "E" score for each missing part. Thus a 5-part routine results in a maximum "E" score of 5=4.5, 4=3.5, 3=2.5, 2=1.5, 1=0.5
4. Exercise Presentation Rules:
  - a. Small = 0.1, Medium = 0.2, Large = 0.3, Fall = 0.5, ½ extra swing = 0.2, full extra swing = 0.3.
  - b. Because of the 10.0 maximum score and the corresponding reduction assigned to the Exercise Presentation (EP) score, (5.5) it is important that the judge become familiar with the reduced values of each medium and large deduction. Almost all "EP" errors in the FIG Code of Points are listed as small, medium, large and fall deductions and can easily be converted to the appropriate reduced High School "EP". In general, when the FIG Code of Points or the USA Gymnastics J.O. Age Group Program book uses a numeric value for a deduction instead of the written small, medium, large or fall references, it should be converted to the appropriate "EP" deductions for high school. Some deductions will be kept the same and are identified in the text.

Example: Short routine stays at 1.0 per missing part.

5. All General Judging and Rule Guidelines will be taken off the "E" execution score. Technical directives governing the "E" score can be found in the FIG *Code of Points*, Section 9.

**II. Optional Judging & Rules Guidelines:**

**A. Routine Construction Table 9:**

Note that unless otherwise stated, all rules will be as per the FIG Code of Points. Please refer to the document precedence statement in Chapter 2 – Section I - Paragraph A, for further clarification.

\* See Chart Below

**10.0 Maximum Score Format**

<b>Routine Construction Table – 10.0 Maximum Score</b>	
<b>Presentation Start Value (“E” Score)</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Parallel Bars &amp; Horizontal Bar</b>	
<b>Execution Bonus</b>	0.1 Awarded if execution deductions are 0.8 or less and all Element Group Requirements are met.
<b>Number of Skills Counted for Difficulty (Part of “D” Score)</b>	8 (7 + dismount)
<b>Maximum Difficulty (D) score</b> <b>Difficulty Values for individual skills</b>	<b>2.0</b> <b>A=0.1, B=0.3, C=0.4, D=0.5, E=0.6</b>
<b>Maximum Element Group Start Value</b>	<b>2.5</b> (0.6 for Element Groups I, II, III.) (0.4 or 0.7 for Element Group IV)
<b>Dismount Skill Value Required for Full Element Group IV Credit (0.7)</b>	<b>B or higher value dismount</b>
<b>Dismount Skill Value Required for partial Element Group IV Credit (0.4).</b>	<b>"A" value FIG dismount</b> Exceptions noted in II - D - 3a, 5f, 6j
<b>Vault</b>	
<b>Number of Vaults Allowed</b>	<b>1</b>

1. Optional rules are based on the FIG Code of Points with NFHS modifications.
2. Count the highest value part first for each required Element Group Credit.
3. Count the highest remaining skills for maximum numbered parts.
4. Less than 6 recognized skills results in a 1.0 deduction from the "E" score for each missing skill.

**A. General Bonus:**

**1. Execution Bonus:**

- a. Routines that have execution deductions of 0.8 or less will be awarded 0.1 in bonus if all Element Group requirements are met.

**2. Stick bonus:**

- a. Stick bonus of 0.1 for a B value dismount, 0.2 for a “C” or higher value dismount.
- b. Stick bonus will be added to the “D” score. The “D” score plus bonus cannot exceed 2.0.
- c. There is no stick bonus on Pommel Horse.

3. All bonus will be added to the “D” score. The “D” score plus bonus can never exceed 2.0 (maximum “D” score). Bonus cannot be awarded if there is a single large deduction or fall while executing the skill.

**B. Event Specific Bonus:**

Event Specific Bonus cannot be awarded if there is a single large error or fall in the execution of the skill. One skill or combination may fulfill one bonus requirement. The higher value bonus will be awarded.

**1. Floor Exercise:**

- a. Multiple salto skills will receive +0.1 in bonus.
- b. Any C+B or B+C skill acrobatic connection will receive 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large execution error. Bonus will not be awarded for counter salto. Example: Double back salto stretched (D), plus front salto layout (B).
- c. Any flair through a handstand will receive 0.1 bonus.

**2. Pommel Horse:**

- a. Any “B” or higher Flair skill will receive +0.1 in bonus. (**Note:** This bonus does not apply to the excepted dismount as described in the Event Specific Exceptions section.)
- b. Any “B” or higher Spindle skill will receive +0.1 in bonus.
- c. Any “B” or higher Flair with a Spindle will receive both bonuses for a total of 0.2 in bonus.
- d. Any full longitudinal cross support travel (Magyar or Sivado) with 1 extra circle in the saddle (4 hand placements for Magyar & 3 hand placements for Sivado) will receive “E” difficulty credit and Element Group III credit. + 0.1 in bonus. This bonus skill, Magyar or Sivado direction, can only be performed one time.
- e. Any full longitudinal cross support travel (Magyar or Sivado) with 2 extra circles in the saddle (6 hand placements for Magyar & 5 hand placements for Sivado) will receive “F” difficulty credit and Element Group III credit, + 0.2 in bonus. This bonus skill, Magyar or Sivado direction, can only be performed one time.
- f. **Note:** An athlete may use both a bonus “F” and “E” travel (Magyar or Sivado) in his routine. (Example: “F” Magyar plus “E” Sivado). He cannot use either 2 “F” or 2 “E” travels (Example: “E” Magyar plus “E” Sivaado).
- g. The following sequences on one pommel will receive “C” value and Element Group IV credit plus 0.1 in bonus. These sequences count as “flop sequences” and will follow all FIG rules.
  - 1. Direct Stockli B (DSB) + Direct Stockli B (DSB)
  - 2. Direct Stockli B (DSB) + pommel loop
  - 3. Pommel loop + Direct Stockli B (DSB)
- h. Circling directly out of 3/3 longitudinal travel with a 360 degree turn or greater will receive 0.1 bonus (Example: Mogilny, Belenki, Tong Fei, Roth, Wu to circles).
- i. Circle or flair to handstand (includes dismount) will receive C value.

**3. Still Rings:**

- a. All Element Group II and III "B" value or higher skills performed with a total of no more than 0.2 in execution deductions will receive 0.1 in bonus.
- b. All multiple flipping and/or single or more twisting dismounts will receive a 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large deduction.
- c. A locked arm giant in either direction will receive 0.2 bonus. This bonus may be awarded only one time in a routine. Held handstand required. i.e. Box 81, 87 Ring skills.
- d. A locked arm press with "no arm bend" will receive 0.2 bonus. Other FIG deductions may apply.

**4. Vault:**

- a. The gymnast shall perform only one vault.
- b. If the gymnast balks on his first attempt, a second attempt will be allowed with a 1.0 deduction taken from his vault value. No other rule violations will permit a second vault. No third attempt will be allowed.
- c. A 0.1 stick bonus is allowed for non salto vaults. 0.2 stick bonus is allowed for salto vaults.

**5. Parallel Bars:**

- a. All Giant swings backward with turns (Giant swing backward with ½ turn, Giant swing backward with Diamidov) will receive a +0.1 bonus.
- b. All multiple (more than one) flipping and/or twisting dismounts will receive 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large deduction.

**6. Horizontal Bar:**

- a. Any "C" value Element Group II – Flight Element will receive +0.1 in bonus.
- b. Any "D" value, Element Group II – Flight Element will receive 0.2 in bonus.
- c. A Quintero to El-grip, "E" value skill, will receive +0.2 in bonus.
- d. Any "E" or "F" value Element Group II – Flight Element, except for a Quintero to El-grip, will receive +0.3 in bonus.
- e. Any Kovacs (Double salto backward over the bar) will receive +0.3 in bonus.
- f. Any "C" value Element Group II – Flight Element + "C" or higher Element Group II – Flight Element in direct connection will receive 0.1 in connection bonus. (Any "C" value or higher Element Group II – Flight Element may be repeated once in direct connection).
- g. A "C" value Jam to handstand will receive +0.1 in bonus.
- h. Any turning skill into or out of giants will receive a 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large deduction.
- i. Any multiple flipping and/or single or more twisting dismounts will receive 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large deduction.
- j. Any FIG "A" dismount preceded by a FIG "A" skill on Horizontal Bar will receive 0.1 bonus.

<b>Bonus Table - Optional Levels</b>	
Execution Bonus	0.1 Execution Bonus is awarded if execution deductions are 0.8 or less and all Element Group Requirements are met.
Stick Bonus All Events Except Vault and Pommel Horse	No Stick Bonus for A value dismounts 0.1 for B value dismount 0.2 for C or higher level dismount
Stick Bonus for Vault	0.1 for non salto vaults 0.2 for salto vaults
<b>Floor Exercise</b>	
Multiple salto skills	0.1
Any "B"+"C" or "C"+"B" acrobatic connection	0.1
Any flair through handstand.	0.1
<b>Pommel Horse</b>	
Any "B" or higher Flair	0.1
Any "B" or higher Spindle	0.1
Any "B" or higher Flaired Spindle	0.2
Magyar or Sivado – 1 extra circle in the saddle	0.1
or	Each skill may only be awarded once per routine
Magyar or Sivado – 2 extra circles in the saddle	0.2
On one pommel, DSB+DSB, DSB + pommel loop, pommel loop +DSB	0.1
Circle out of 3/3 longitudinal travel with 360 degree turn or greater.	0.1
<b>Still Rings</b>	
Element Group II and III "B or higher" value skills performed with a TOTAL of no more than 0.2 in execution deductions	0.1
All multiple flipping and/or single or more twisting dismounts performed without a single large deduction.	0.1
Locked arm giant in either direction (1 time)	0.2
A locked arm press to handstand, off the straps, with no arm bend.	0.2
<b>Vault</b>	
Stick Bonus	0.1 for non salto vaults 0.2 for salto vaults
<b>Parallel Bars</b>	
Any Giant swing backward with turns	0.1
All multiple (more than one) flipping and/or twisting dismounts performed without a single large deduction	0.1
<b>Horizontal Bar</b>	
Any "C" value Element Group II skill	0.1
Any "D" value Element Group II skill	0.2
Quintero to El-grip "E" value skill	0.2
Any "E" or "F" value Element Group II skill (except Quintero to El-grip)	0.3
Kovacs or higher	0.3
"C" skill + "C" or higher value Element Group II	0.1

skill in direct connection	
Any turning skill into or out of giants.	0.1
Any FIG "A" dismount preceded by a FIG "A" skill	0.1
All multiple flipping and/or single or more twisting dismounts performed without a single large deduction	0.1

**C. General Exceptions to the FIG Code of Points:**

**1. Dismount Exceptions:**

- a. Gymnasts will receive full Element Group IV credit for a "B" or higher value dismount. An "A" value dismount will receive 0.4 in Element Group IV Credit.
- b. Only a skill which has been designated as a dismount in either the J.O. or FIG rules may receive Element Group IV credit.

**2. Recognizable Gymnastics Skills:**

- a. Only approved skills by the IHSGCA Rules Committee are recognized for A value and receive no element group credit. Skills not on the list and not found in the FIG Code of Points will not receive value. Examples are: Single leg cuts and single leg cut travel on Pommel Horse, shoulder stand on Parallel Bars.
- b. A request or modification of a skill to be added to the "Non Element A List", must be submitted to the Chairman of the IHSGCA Rules Committee.
- c. When a fall occurs in an exercise, judges must give value for the completed part of the element prior to the fall. Give value for the skill that is seen.

**3. Straddling of the legs:**

- a. Straddling of the legs is allowed on skills including a strength press or hold.

**4. Short Routine:**

- a. The deduction for performing an exercise containing less than six parts (skills or elements) is 1.0 for each skill or element less than six. This deduction is taken from the "E" score. (For example: 5 parts – deduct 1.0, 4 parts – deduct 2.0, etc.)

**5. Element Group Requirements;**

- a. There is no restriction on the number of skills that can be performed from an Element Group for value.

**6. Skill Exceptions:**

- a. A skill which has a letter value assigned should be evaluated as if it has its own "code box".
- b. For instance, a "B" Stützkehre forward would have a different "virtual code box" for routine construction purposes than a FIG "C" value Stützkehre forward to handstand.
- c. It is, however, not the intention of this interpretation to allow for undue repetition of elements.
- d. The one exception to this repetition rule is on Parallel Bars in all levels for the basket (peach) skills. Both FIG value basket (peach) to handstand and the excepted "B" value basket (peach) with straight arms to support lower than 45° above horizontal may be used in a routine with each counting for difficulty.
- e. *Example #1:* A gymnast performs both a FIG "C" Stützkehre forward to handstand and the excepted "B" Stützkehre forward to 45° above horizontal in the same routine, only the

FIG “C” Stützkehre forward to handstand would be recognized because of its higher value.

- f. *Example #2:* A gymnast performs both a FIG “D” basket (peach) to handstand and the excepted “B” basket (peach) with straight arms to support lower than 45° above horizontal in the same routine. Both will be counted for difficulty.

#### D. Event Specific Exceptions to the FIG Code of Points:

##### 1. Floor Exercise:

- a. One landing mat of up to 10 cm (4”) may be used once for any value skill for landings only. Using the landing mat to rebound or punch from is an apparatus deduction. The mat should be removed at a safe time after completion of the skill.

##### 2. Pommel Horse:

- a. For all “C” or higher longitudinal travels in cross support a global skewing deduction will be applied (once per skill) rather than the FIG skewing deduction taken per each section of the pommel horse except where specified in the Junior Elite program.
- b. If the athlete uses his feet or legs to push off of the horse, neither difficulty nor Element Group credit will be given.
- c. Any circle or flair to handstand dismount will receive a minimum of “C” value with no limit on execution deductions. (**Note:** If a “B” value or higher flair to handstand dismount is performed it does not receive an additional (0.1) under the “B” or higher flair skills (0.1) Bonus rule.

##### 3. Still Rings:

- a. A forward or backward tuck salto dismount will receive “A” difficulty credit and Element Group IV credit (partial credit 0.4)
- b. A Felge (shoot handstand) upward with bent arms to handstand or giant swing to handstand will receive a “B” credit in Element Group I.
- c. An uprise backward to handstand or giant swing to handstand will receive “B” credit in Element Group I.
- d. No more than three Element Group II & III skills can be performed in direct succession on Still Rings without being broken up by an “A” swing element that has not already been done in the routine. The “A” swing element can either be a FIG Element Group I or a bail recognized by Illinois rules.
- e. If holding a non-listed part of no value for 2 seconds or more, deduct 0.1 each time. Example: inverted hang, inverted pike, and dorsal hang.

##### 4. Vault:

- a. All vaults used for IHSA Boys gymnastics will have adjusted values to reflect the 10.0 maximum score. See the Optional Vault Values Chart.
- b. Yurchenko style vaults will have similar value to regular entry vaults as follows
  1. Vault with rearward entry to the table will have a start value similar to Tsukahara vaults.
  2. Vault with ½ turn and forward entry to the table will have a start value similar to handspring vaults.
  3. The start value for Yurchenko vaults will be determined by the guidelines for the number of rotations and twists.
  4. Yurchenko vaults for Level 9 are identified in IX-2-II-E-iv-b on p. 39.
  5. All Yurchenko vaults must be performed with a safety collar around the board or the vault shall receive a zero. It is the responsibility of the vaulter’s school to provide the safety collar.
  6. A Yurchenko vault is void if a coach is not present as a spotter for a round-off entry vault.

**Illinois High School Association  
2017-2020 Optional Vault Values**

**Non-Flipping Vaults:**

Straddle/stoop/hecht	6.5
Front Handspring	7.5
Front Handspring ½ twist	7.7
Front Handspring 1/1 twist	7.9
Front Handspring 3/2 twist	8.4
Front Handspring 2/1 twist	9.0
¼ turn on, ¼ turn off	7.5
¼ turn on, ¾ turn off	7.7
¼ turn on, 5/4 turn off	7.9

**Back-Flipping Vaults:**

Tsukahara Tuck	9.0
Tsukahara Tuck ½ twist	9.3
Tsukahara Tuck 1/1 or Kasamasu	9.6
Tsukahara Tuck 3/2 or more twist	9.9
Tsukahara Pike	9.3
Tsukahara Pike 1/1 twist	9.9
Tsukahara Stretch	9.6
Tsukahara Stretch ½ or more twist	9.9

**Front-Flipping Vaults:**

Handspring, Tuck Front	9.3
Handspring, Tuck Front ½	9.6
Handspring, Tuck Front 1/1 or more	9.9
Handspring, Pike Front	9.6
Handspring, Pike Front ½ or more	9.9
Handspring, Stretch Front	9.9
¼ Turn On, ¼ off to Tuck Front	9.3
¼ Turn On, ¼ off to Pike Front	9.6
¼ Turn On, ¼ off to Stretch Front	9.9

**5. Parallel Bars:**

- a. Gymnasts at all levels may perform basket (peach) or giant with straight arms to support lower than 45° above horizontal and receive “B” difficulty credit and Element Group III credit. FIG angle deductions will not apply, only general execution deductions.
- b. Stützkehre forward to 45° above horizontal will receive “B” difficulty credit and Element Group I credit. FIG angle deductions apply.
- c. Giant swing backward to handstand may be performed twice for difficulty credit. (FIG COP page 115 #21 Kenmotsu only)
- d. Basket (peach) to handstand may be performed twice for difficulty credit. (FIG COP page 118 #10)
- e. Allow empty (1/2) swing prior to performing Element Group III skills using an early or late drop technique. An intermediate (full) swing is not allowed. (Example: Glide kip to swing, bail to Moy support, swing backwards to horizontal, drop to peach support.)
- f. A tuck salto dismount forward or backward receives an “A” value in Element Group IV. (Partial Credit, 0.4)
- g. Only one of the following static skills can be used in a Parallel Bar routine. They will receive Element Group I credit and assigned the appropriate difficulty. A legs together

planche or “V” will be given “B” difficulty value. A legs together planche on one bar, any Manna or swallow/maltese will be given “C” difficulty value.

- h. A back toss performed 45-74° above horizontal will receive “B” value in Element Group I.
- i. A giant swing with straight arms to any support position lower than nominal handstand will receive “B” value in Element Group III.
- j. Only one of the following skill combinations can be used in a Parallel Bar routine. A kip reverse straddle cut will be given “B” difficulty value and receive Element Group III credit. A front uprise reverse straddle cut will be given “B” difficulty value and receive Element Group II credit.
- k. A forward uprise with 1/2 turn (Stutzkehr) to support at horizontal with bars will receive a C value, Element Group II.

**6. Horizontal Bar:**

- a. Any “C” or higher Element Group II – Flight Element may be repeated once in direct connection to itself or another “C” or higher Element Group II – Flight Element. If not performed in direct connection, normal repetition rules apply.
- b. Upon catching a release skill the gymnast is allowed to perform a swing with a ½ turn and change of grip on the subsequent swing forward to a kip without deduction. This swing ½ turn will receive “A” difficulty credit and no Element Group credit.
- c. A maximum of up to five forward and backward body movements, of which the 5<sup>th</sup> movement must be a skill (Examples: stemme, free hip circle, Stalder, etc.), will be allowed without deduction. Inclusion of a back uprise action, even to partial support, up to or on the 4<sup>th</sup> movement, will be allowed without deduction. Mount: A maximum of up to five forward and backward body movements, of which the 5<sup>th</sup> movement must be a skill (stemme, free hip circle, Stalder, etc.), will be allowed without deduction. Inclusion of a “back-uprise” action, even to partial support up to or on the 4<sup>th</sup> movement, will be allowed without deduction.
- d. Adler skills:
  - 1. A “C” value jam to handstand will receive 0.1 bonus.

Jam to handstand	FIG “C” value	No angle deduction
Jam from 15 to 45 below vertical	JO “B” value	No angle deduction
Jam from 44 down to Horizontal	JO “A” value	No angle deduction
Jam below Horizontal	JO “A” value	Angle deduction 0.3

- e. Stoop in straddle leg cut from any swing will receive “A” value and Element Group III (Inbar).
- f. Any free hip or toe on front salto dismount will receive “A” value in Element Group IV.
- g. Hop or double roll to eagle grip is “B” value, in Element Group I.
- h. A back or front sole circle to handstand is “A” value and receives Element Group III.
- i. A tuck salto dismount forward or backward receives “A” value in Element Group IV (Partial Credit 0.4).

**E. Event Specific Restrictions to the FIG Code of Points:**

- 1. **Floor Exercise:**  
No restrictions on this event.
- 2. **Pommel Horse:**  
No restrictions on this event.
- 3. **Still Rings:**
  - a. Not allowed to perform Guczoghy or Li Ning skills.



**Compulsory Addendum**



**2017-2020  
Men's Junior Olympic  
Age Group Competition Program**

**ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL  
FRESHMEN COMPULSORY  
ROUTINES**

**Illinois High School Association  
Approved**



# **Compulsory Judging Guidelines**

## **A. Philosophy of Structural Elements of Scoring:**

The compulsory routines have been designed with a dual purpose because not all gymnasts should be asked to meet the same advanced development goals at any given competition level. Therefore, the scoring framework was created to provide basic routines for everyone and gradually increase the opportunity for bonus as an athlete's development progresses. The first purpose is to provide basic routines that are constructed to encourage participation, promote growth, and provide opportunity for the recreational gymnast to be successful and continue to progress. At the same time, the second purpose is to include in the routines the opportunity for the talented gymnast to challenge his development and mastery at each level with additional benchmarks which are rewarded with bonus. With this dual purpose in mind, the scoring format which utilizes a base score and bonus opportunities was developed. The specifics of each of the scoring components are addressed in detail below, but the philosophy behind the system of bonuses is expressed here. Specified Bonus was added to the basic routines to provide the perfect tool for having basic fundamental compulsory routines suitable and achievable for the recreational athlete, and at the same time, providing developmental goals and challenges for the more talented athlete. Virtuosity is at the foundation of the very name of our sport - "Artistic Gymnastics". The ultimate goal of every performance is technical excellence, artistic style, and the pursuit of perceived perfection which, in turn, define virtuosity. Virtuosity is not a fleeting subjective concept rarely applied, impossible to define, and of little use to us. On the contrary, we believe that young gymnasts should be educated to how they can apply this standard of excellence to their performance in compulsory gymnastics. This compulsory program seizes the opportunity to not only expand the latitude for virtuosity, but to offer the direction to apply this valuable and essential tool in development of the quality of our sport's performance. At the same time, it will offer a great deal of encouragement and motivation to the young athlete to know he has been rewarded for artistic and technical excellence. The end result of these variable scoring elements is to create a range of scoring that will adequately separate a diverse field of gymnasts and meet the needs of the wide range of ability levels within the program.

## **B. Base Score:**

1. The "base score" or "E" score for execution is 4.5 for all compulsory routines.
2. In a compulsory routine, the "base score" is an arbitrary number from which execution deductions are taken during the performance of the routine. The basic routines are designed so that they are achievable and should not result in falls or excessive deductions for the average recreational participant.

### **C. Specified Bonus:**

1. The use of Specified Bonus has proven to be a very successful addition to the Men's Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program.
2. At each level of competition we provide a set of basic skills that provides the foundation of fundamental ability and fitness. When the compulsory skills at that level reach an acceptable degree of a mastery, the gymnast can matriculate to the next level that offers new challenges.
3. To create growth and challenge within each level we offer options for achieving a specified performance bonus. This bonus rewards athletes for aspiring to a higher standard based upon achieving different benchmarks of skill mastery that are appropriate for that level.
4. The routines have been designed in such a way that at least one of the specified bonus skills is a little easier to achieve than the others in order to encourage each athlete's development.
5. The value of the specified bonus skills is (+0.4) each.
6. Specified bonus cannot be rewarded if there is a single "large error" (0.3) in the execution of the skill.
7. There should be a purposeful balance between encouraging a talented athlete's development and clean execution of basics. If a gymnast can successfully perform a specified bonus skill with a "medium" (0.2) or less deduction, he would be rewarded slightly for his higher level of achievement. Poor execution will negate the advantage. Officials are encouraged to take appropriate and fair execution deductions for the performance of the skill. Therefore, this program is designed to encourage an athlete's skill development and provide opportunities for specified bonus in each routine while maintaining a standard of "risk vs. reward" that is equitable within the overall context of the program.
8. A gymnast may repeat the skill to earn its value (including the dismount). Specified bonus skills may be repeated for value.

### **D. Virtuosity:**

1. This program has been designed to increase the potential for virtuosity to a maximum of 0.3 in each routine.
2. In order to help the coach, athlete, and judge set standards for virtuosity, bonus specific benchmarks for performance have been identified in each routine. Virtuosity bonus is generally intended for "levels of artistic or technical excellence or amplitude that may set apart a gymnast from other athletes" rather than for doing a more difficult skill.
3. There are three identified virtuosity elements in each routine (+0.1) can awarded for each element.
4. In all cases, virtuosity can be awarded for any qualified execution of a skill with (0.1) "small" deduction or less in execution.

### E. Routine Error and Deduction Table:

Table of Routine Errors and Deductions	
Error	Deduction
Missing part	0.5
Non-Recognized part	Element not recognized + execution errors
Routine Composition Error	0.3 (to be taken once per routine)
Fall	0.5
Fall on or off Mushroom	0.3
Large Error	0.3
Medium Error	0.2
Small Error	0.1
Empty and Intermediate swings	Empty ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) - 0.2, Intermediate (Full) - 0.3

### F. Specific Judging Guidelines:

#### 1. Explanation of "Part" & Routine Composition Error:

- A "part" is defined as a "numbered skill or sequence" in the routine.
- A "part" is a "missing part" if it has been omitted or is performed in such a way as to be unrecognizable.
- If the "part" is partially completed (more than 50%) it should receive credit and the appropriate FIG deductions (small, medium, large, or fall).
- Added "parts" such as circles on mushroom or pommel horse should be judged for execution error, not treated as routine composition error.

#### 2. Handstands:

A nominal handstand is shown at plus or minus 15° from vertical. The junior program will use FIG rules concerning swings to or through handstand or to strength holds.

#### 3. Swing and Position Criteria:

All swing and position required criteria are defined as one of the following:

- Horizontal
- 45°
- Vertical

#### **4. Added swings:**

Added swings will be treated, per FIG, as empty ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) swing medium deduction, or intermediate (full) swing large deduction, not as an added part or with the Routine Composition Error.

#### **5. Required holds:**

- a. Holds are two seconds, unless noted.
- b. Momentary holds are defined as holds which show a definite stop and are held up to one second. Momentary holds that do not show a definite stop, receive the deduction for no hold of a large deduction.

#### **6. Added Holds:**

- a. Added holds are to be deducted as rhythm errors and not as added parts.
- b. Multiple added holds will be treated as a Routine Composition Error and will be subject to a one-time large deduction.

#### **7. Steps:**

- a. There is no requirement specifying the number of steps in the run prior to tumbling sequences in floor exercise routines.
- b. If a run is specified, then at least one step must be taken prior to the hurdle; otherwise, a small deduction will be taken.
- c. A gymnast may take as many or as few steps as is necessary to execute the routine within the defined limits of the floor exercise mat.

#### **8. Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Parallel Bars & Horizontal Bar Bonus:**

- a. Specified Bonus:
  - i. Award +0.4 per specified bonus skill or sequence for performance as indicated in the compulsory routine text described.
  - ii. Bonus will not be awarded for a skill with a single large deduction.
  - iii. Specified bonus skills may only be attempted once to receive the bonus.
- b. Virtuosity Bonus:
  - i. Award a total of +0.3 for virtuous elements with a small deduction.
  - ii. Individual skills may be awarded virtuosity bonus, to a maximum of +0.1 per skill.
  - iii. Each compulsory routine has three identified virtuosity elements.
- c. Stick Bonus: Award +0.2 for stuck dismounts.

**9. Vault Bonus:**

- a. Virtuosity Bonus: Award up to +0.5 for exceptional power and/or efficient blocking action resulting in exceptional rise (height and/or distance) in the vault second (post) flight. Virtuosity may be awarded in increments of small (+0.1), medium (+0.2) or large (+0.3) bonus singly or in combination not to exceed the 0.5 maximum.
- b. Stick Bonus: Award +0.2 for stuck landings to the feet.

**10. Somersault Height:**

All somersault heights (Floor Exercise and dismounts) are measured from the center of mass. Center of mass is defined as the point around which the body is rotating in space during the execution of the somersault.

**11. Pommel Horse:**

- a. On all single leg cuts, the top leg (cutting leg) should be at minimum horizontal with the hips fully extended.
- b. On all pendulum swings, and false scissors, the top leg should be at minimum horizontal with the hips fully extended.
- c. Unless otherwise specified, all elements, compulsory or optional, begin and end in front support as per FIG.

**12. Still Rings:**

Unless otherwise specified, all basic swings on Still Rings should show a “turnover” action. See the Still Rings-Overview and Explanations, Basic Technique: Basic Swing for a full description.

**13. Vault:**

- a. The junior program will not give a zero score for any vault, with the exception of failure to attempt the vault at all (a scratch).
- b. A balked attempt vault may be repeated once with a deduction of 1.0 from the score of the second attempt.
- c. No third attempt of the same vault will be allowed. The minimum score for any attempted vault will be 1.00.
- d. The following specific errors and deductions will be applied to vault:

<b>Table of Specific Errors and Deductions for Vault</b>			
Error	Small	Medium	Large
<b>Run Deductions:</b>			
Run slows down before hurdle, insufficient velocity or acceleration	0.1	0.2	N/A
Improper arm swing action complementary to run	0.1	0.2	N/A
Rhythm break during run (stutter-steps) or insufficient stride	0.1	0.2	N/A
<b>Hurdle Deductions:</b>			
Hurdle does not stay on level plane as knees lift, insufficient knee lift	0.1	0.2	N/A
Feet not clearly in front of hips upon impact with the springboard	0.1	0.2	N/A
Arm circle or reach insufficient	0.1	0.2	N/A
<b>First (Pre) Flight Deductions:</b>			
Diving or insufficient rotation to the blocking surface	0.1	0.2	0.3
Body position too arched or piked	0.1	0.2	0.3
All other deductions per FIG	0.1	0.2	0.3
<b>Second (Post) Flight Deductions:</b>			
Repulsion not within 0° - 15° of vertical	0.1	0.2	0.3
Lack of distinct lift or rise from blocking surface	0.1	0.2	0.3
Body position too arched or piked	0.1	0.2	0.3
<b>Landing Deductions:</b>			
All landing deductions per IHSA varsity rules			

**14. Horizontal Bar:**

Unless otherwise specified, all swings forward on Horizontal Bar should be tap swings.

See Horizontal Bar-Overview and Explanations, Basic Technique: Tap Swing for a full description.

## FLOOR EXERCISE-Overview and Explanations

### Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine

#### **A. General:**

1. The compulsory floor routine is designed so it can be done on a tumbling strip 60 to 68 feet in length.
2. The routine on Floor Exercise emphasizes the gymnast working rhythmically and continuously throughout the exercise. A “hold” such as a designated handstand or a scale, may be the only allowed stops. There should be no other stops in the routines. The designated hold elements in the routines should be shown for only as long as indicated in the performance criteria or a rhythm deduction will be assessed. The tumbling and corner sequences are designed to encourage rhythm and have been developed to promote a variety of different transitional movements. As a result, the routine should be successfully executed in 45 to 60 seconds and must show continuous rhythm.
3. Unless otherwise specified, all transitional lunges should be executed with the back leg straight, front knee bent, heels down and the toes turned slightly outward. Only a momentary pause is allowed to show the position. Holding the lunge position more than momentarily will result in a deduction for rhythm.
4. The basic exercises are designed to help the recreational level participant successfully execute the routine. Benchmarks for virtuous execution are included to guide the gymnast. Many recreational gymnasts struggle with flexibility skills. Indicated flexibility skills have been selected as benchmarks for virtuous execution only. These added flexibility options are not required in the basic exercise. Gymnasts who excel in this area are encouraged to perform or execute this option. Judges may reward the gymnast accordingly using their discretion for excellent artistic performance.
5. Specified bonus elements tend to be skills that will be included or required in routines at the next level and follow a pattern of consistent progression.
6. Forward handsprings should be slightly over-rotated. A forward rebound is allowed.
7. On forward and backward saltos, the minimum center of mass should be chest high.
8. All hurdles should be executed with a full extension of the arms and shoulders and the forward leg should bend in pli  as the arms reach to contact the floor. The back leg should kick straight over the top as the forward leg thrusts from the floor and the hands push through the wrists and fingertips simultaneously to create maximum force and turnover.

## **B. Definitions:**

1. The term “plié” is defined as a bending of the knees as the feet contact the floor and is used to cushion the landing and promote control and/or rhythm. All jumps should land in “plié” to assist control, balance, and rhythm on landings.
2. A “sissone” is defined as a jump from two feet with an extended split of the legs and landing on the forward leg with the back leg extended.
3. An “assemblé” is defined as a kick upward to a jump from one foot to a landing with the legs together on two feet. This is done with a ½ turn in these routines.
4. A “salto” is defined as a flipping or somersaulting skill performed in the air and can be performed forward, backward or sideward.

## **C. Basic Technique: Forward Handspring**

The forward handsprings should show a straight-arm blocking action with full extension of the shoulders and a visible lift or rise from the floor. The forward leg should bend through the lunge position with the arms and shoulders fully extended upon contact with the ground.

It should also show turnover past vertical to the rebound with a fully extended position. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men’s Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program 3.2)

## **D. Basic Technique: Round-off and Back Handspring**

1. The round-off and back handspring should turnover past vertical to a hollowed body position with the hips rounded under, knees behind the toes, and the arms extended at horizontal or above in preparation for the take off backward to the handstand blocking position. The takeoff phase of the back handspring should fully extend backward in a linear horizontal direction.
2. The snap down phase of the back handspring, in preparation for a rebound, should be shorter and rotate up quickly to a standing position with the arms next to the ears, the head neutral, and at a blocking angle short of vertical for the rebound.
3. The snap down phase of the back handspring prior to the salto backward tucked should be shorter and rotate up quickly to a standing position with the arms next to the ears, head neutral, and at a blocking angle short of vertical.

## **E. Notes:**

1. The tucked backward roll extension to prone support is intended as a progression toward a back extension roll to handstand. A back extension roll to handstand may be shown without deduction. There is no height requirement on this skill.
2. The front scale should be done with chest and head up, arms to side with palms down, and the back leg at a 45° minimum angle below

- horizontal with the foot turned out on the standing leg. The back leg should be straight with the foot pointed and clear of the floor.
3. Cartwheels should show continuous rhythm. The landing leg should bend into plié and move smoothly through the lunge position with arms extended overhead into the next skill.
  4. The jump to straight arm straddled press to momentary handstand should be done with the minimal amount of jumping action necessary to complete the element. The object is, of course, to eventually be able to press to the handstand.
  5. The height of the dive roll should be consistent with the gymnast's center of mass. There is no distance requirement. The body position should be straight (a slight hollow or tight arch is allowed) and care should be taken to ensure that there is proper pressure exerted by the arms and hands upon arrival to the floor to ensure a smooth roll. In a properly executed dive roll, the body will roll through somewhat of a "candlestick" position and continue on through the tuck to the feet without stop, hesitation, or bounce.
  6. Execution of a split or pancake showing virtuosity in part # 3 can be performed as long as continuous rhythm is shown. There must be no more than a (0.1) small deduction in order to receive the virtuosity bonus. See the note regarding execution of these elements below the Level 5 – Floor Exercise description table. A press to handstand or from Endo roll directly from the split is allowed. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men's Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program 3.3)
  7. The salto backward tucked takeoff position leaving the floor should be vertical. The hips and knees should lift upward in front while the arms extend upward and the head is neutral.
  8. The rotation for the salto backward tucked should be initiated by lifting the lower body upward to the tuck position very quickly. The rotation is sustained by continuing to lift the upper body as the somersault turns over while extending the legs and hips quickly through the vertical position.

# 2017-2020 Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines

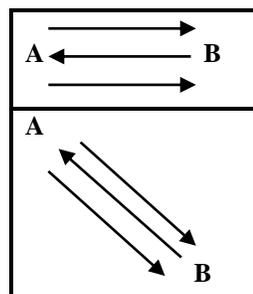
## FLOOR EXERCISE

Base Score	4.5
Specified Bonus	2.0
Virtuosity	.3
<u>Stick Bonus</u>	<u>.2</u>
Maximum Score	7.0

Stand at point

A  
Facing Point B  
Pattern:

A to B  
B to A  
A to B



Tumbling Strip

40 x 40

**Note:**

All arm positions are optional, unless otherwise indicated.

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Forward handspring	Show good presentation and posture while lifting arms upward. Run, hurdle, forward handspring to stand	Rebound allowed. Hurdle should show full extension reaching through the lunge position.	
2. Handstand	With either leg, step forward through lunge and kick to momentary handstand	Continuous rhythm must be shown throughout. Up to 2 second hold is allowed.	
<b>Specified Bonus #1: In #2, Full Pirouette (360°) in handstand (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#1. Pirouette</b>	With either leg, step forward through lunge and kick to handstand full pirouette	Continuous rhythm, 4 hand placements or less. Momentary hold is allowed.	
3. Forward roll, Straddle stand	Roll from handstand with straight arms to straddle stand, continuously lift head and arms upward and reach forward.		Roll from handstand to any <b>split</b> or <b>pancake</b> and return to straddle stand. (See Note below) * <b>(+0.1)</b>
4. Jump to press handstand	Jump to straight arm straddle press to momentary handstand.	Up to 2 second hold is allowed.	
<b>Specified Bonus #2: In #4, Straddle press handstand with straight arms (2 second hold required). Endo roll press to handstand with straight arms is also allowed. (See Note below) (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#2. Press handstand</b>	Straddle press handstand with straight arms. Endo roll press to handstand with straight arms allowed. (See Note below)*	2 second hold of handstand required	
5. Forward roll, Sissone, 180° turn	Roll from handstand with straight arms to sissone, land on forward leg and step forward to 180° turn (1/2 turn) rearward facing (A).	Legs must split 45° or greater on sissone	

## FLOOR EXERCISE (Continued):

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
6. Dive roll	Run, punch straight body dive roll to stand	Roll smoothly with support on hands to stand. Hollow or tight arch is allowed.	
<b>Specified Bonus #3: In #6, Run to punch, salto forward tucked to stand (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#3. Salto forward tucked</b>	Run to punch, salto forward tucked to stand.	Lift arms upward through vertical. Head neutral and chest up on takeoff.	
7. Jump ½ turn, Back extension roll, Arch support	Jump ½ turn to back extension roll with straight arms to prone, lower to arch support with head up, toes pointed and lift tucked or piked to stand	There is no height requirement for back extension roll. Show continuous rhythm.	<b>Back extension roll</b> through handstand with straight arms (+0.1)
8. Cartwheel, assemblé	Lift leg rearward with ¼ turn (90°) either direction to cartwheel or ½ turn (180°) to cartwheel, up to 3 steps forward to assemble with a ½ turn to corner facing (B).	The cartwheel may begin from either a sideward or forward facing position and the sequence should show continuous rhythm with no stop.	
9. Front scale	Lift back leg at 45° minimum below horizontal to front scale, return to stand with good presentation.	2 sec. hold of front scale required.	<b>Scale</b> with back leg at horizontal or greater (+0.1)
10. Round-off, Back handspring, Rebound	Run, hurdle, round-off, back handspring, rebound to stand.	Show turnover position and rotation to vertical with tight body on rebound. Control landing.	
<b>Specified Bonus #4: In #10, Run, hurdle, round-off, back handspring, back handspring, rebound to stand. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#4. Round-off, Back handspring, Back handspring, Rebound</b>	Run, hurdle, round-off, back handspring, back handspring, rebound to stand.	Show turnover position and rotation to vertical with tight body on rebound. Control landing.	
<b>Specified Bonus #5: Following the round-off, back handspring, back handspring in Specified Bonus #4, complete a tucked back salto. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#5. Salto backward Tucked</b>	Out of the second back handspring complete a tucked back salto.	Turnover past vertical on round-off and back handsprings. Vertical takeoff into salto with head neutral.	

**\*Note:** In # 3, the gymnast may roll directly from the handstand to a split (center or side) or pancake for virtuosity. There is no hold. The split or pancake should “show position and presentation” momentarily. The gymnast should then slide forward with his hands, bringing his legs together behind him in an extended position laying on the floor, circle his arms to his chest, push up to an arch front support and continuously lift to a straddle stand to continue the routine. The gymnast may also choose to perform the press to handstand or from an Endo roll directly from the split.

# **POMMEL HORSE-Overview and Explanations**

## **Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine**

### **A. General:**

1. Single leg swings will continue to emphasize rhythm and pendulum swing mechanics. An effort has been made to limit unnecessary repetition that can result in excessive execution deductions. It is understood that the apparatus is generally too large for the young gymnast to swing on effectively. With this in mind, the last two full pendulum swings will be judged for execution. There are no specified bonus skills on this portion of the exercise, but there is an opportunity to recognize virtuosity.
2. The basic format of the mushroom exercises is intended to keep the routines geared to the average recreational participant. The emphasis is on good circle technique which is reflected in the virtuosity bonus.

### **B. Definitions:**

1. A “front support position” is defined as one hand on either pommel with the pommel horse in front of the body. Arms straight, body straight and legs may be straddled.
2. A “rear support position” is defined as one hand on either pommel with the pommel horse behind the body. Arms straight, body straight and legs may be straddled.
3. A “full pendulum swing” is defined as one complete swing on each side of the pommel horse.
4. A “double leg circle” should start and finish in a front support position.

### **C. Basic Technique: Pendulum Swing**

1. The pendulum swing performed on the pommel horse is intended to teach the gymnast to develop a rhythmical shifting of the body weight to the support arm on each side with as much lean as possible while initiating the swing from the shoulders.
2. The legs should remain apart in a straddle position throughout the pendulum swings and leg cuts to promote a single body unit while swinging. It is important for the gymnast to develop the idea of initiating the pendulum swing from the shoulders while feeling the whole body moving as a single unit
3. The straddled position of the legs on each side is in addition to the swinging action of the torso from side to side. While the gymnast can be rewarded for greater flexibility, the amplitude of the swing by achieving a greater lean with the shoulders and extending the hips to a higher position on each side is the main goal in this development. Releasing the hand from the pommel on each side also encourages the athlete to shift his weight effectively, although it is not required for evaluation of the skill.

## **D. Basic Technique: Mushroom Circle**

1. The proper technique for the basic mushroom circle should show a complete extension of the hips with an open chest at the  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  circle positions. Squeezing the hips and gluteus muscles tight will enable him to maintain a straight body position throughout the circle.
2. There should be a slight counter rotation and opening of the hips and chest at the  $\frac{1}{4}$  circle position to prevent “rolling the hips over” as the circle travels around the front of the mushroom. This “rolling the hips over” will cause the gymnast to pike or over-hollow in an effort to square up his hips to the mushroom at the completion of the full circle. Properly executed, the counter-rotation on the first  $\frac{1}{4}$  circle will allow the hips to square up as the gymnast reaches the  $\frac{1}{2}$  circle in the rear support position.
3. Reaching the  $\frac{1}{2}$  circle in the rear support position with his hips squared or slightly counter turned will enable him to “lead” with his heels into the  $\frac{3}{4}$  circle position as he transfers his weight to his second arm. The greater the shoulder lean, the greater the circle speed and extension the gymnast will be able to achieve. The gymnast may use this lean and “heel drive” action to accelerate his circle through the  $\frac{3}{4}$  circle position throughout the second half of the circle.
4. The gymnast should keep his shoulders erect as he completes the full circle so that his body remains straight and extended, and he can effectively initiate the counter rotation into the next circle as he transfers his weight back to the first arm.
5. The goal is to educate the gymnast to correct circle technique. Training devices such as the floor mushroom can be used effectively to break down the various positions to achieve a proper circle technique.

## **E. Notes:**

1. Education of the circle technique and pendulum swing technique with an understanding of good body position is the goal at this level. The basic routine is designed to be achievable for the recreational gymnast while allowing him time to develop the strength to perform multiple circles.
2. Gymnasts who can progress more rapidly without compromising their proper circle technique are rewarded with specified bonus for performing multiple circles.
3. The pendulum swing, including the weight-shifting rhythm and swinging from the shoulders with extended hips will transfer to the double leg circles on mushroom and facilitate their success.
4. On the mushroom, the gymnast should continue to refine his circle. As this technique develops, the circle should become higher in elevation from support, faster in speed, and the lean should become stronger or more acute on each side. Developing the quality of this circle will be

an important component in being able to transfer double leg circle from the mushroom to the pommel horse.

5. As the gymnast performs the flair or spindle actions he should maintain full extension with his body position throughout the skill. Developing the quality of the double leg circle with chest and hip extension, speed, weight shift and shoulder lean will facilitate the ability to perform the spindle and flair elements without deduction.
6. The False scissor execution should conform to the same performance criteria for both the basic routine and for virtuosity.

# 2017-2020

## Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines

### POMMEL HORSE

This event will be performed and evaluated on two separate apparatus:

1. The mushroom - divided into quadrants (circle routine)
2. The standard pommel horse (pendulum swing routine)
3. The gymnast must perform the mushroom routine first, followed by the pommel horse routine
4. The gymnast will have up to 30 seconds after his mushroom routine to mount the pommel horse

<u>Scoring Breakdown</u>			
	Mushroom	Pommel Horse	
Base Score:	2.3	2.2	= 4.5
Specified Bonus:	1.2	0.8	= 2.0
Virtuosity:	.1	.2	= .3
Stick Bonus	.1	.1	<u>= .2</u>
Maximum Score			7.0

**Mushroom:** Note: A fall off the mushroom will result in a 0.3 deduction.  
**Note: The routine can be performed in either direction.**

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Double leg Circle	Step to the side and jump to one double leg circle	The body should show a stretched position with legs together and toes pointed	0.1 or less in execution deductions for each circle skill or specified bonus (+0.1)
2. Double leg Circle	One additional double leg circle	Maintain extension in the straight body position	
3. Double leg Circle	One additional double leg circle	Maintain extension in the straight body position	
<b>Specified Bonus #1: Two additional double leg circles prior to the dismount (+0.4). A total of five double leg circles must be performed before attempting Specified Bonus #2 or Specified Bonus #3.</b>			
<b>SB#1. Two double leg circles</b>	Continue to perform two additional double leg circles	Maintain extension in the straight body position	
<b>Specified Bonus #2: Following the two additional double leg circles in Specified Bonus #1, complete ½ spindle in two double leg circles prior to the dismount (See Note below)* (+0.4) (See Note below)*</b>			
<b>SB#2. ½ Spindle</b>	Complete ½ spindle in two double leg circles prior to the dismount	Maintain extension in the straight body position	
<b>Specified Bonus #3: Following the two double leg circles in Specified Bonus #1 or the ½ spindle in Specified Bonus #2, complete two flaired double leg circles prior to the dismount (See Note below)* (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#3. Two flaired double leg circles</b>	Continue to perform two additional flaired double leg circles	Flair should be extended throughout, toes pointed and leg separation 90° or greater	
4. ¼ turn flank dismount	¼ turn flank dismount to stand in front of the mushroom	Maintain extension in the straight body position	

**\*Note:** Specified Bonus #1 must be performed before attempting Specified Bonus #2 or #3, upon completion of Specified Bonus #1, Specified Bonuses #2 or #3 may be performed in either order. Up to two double leg circles may be performed after Specified Bonus #2 and #3 in preparation for the next element or dismount.

## POMMEL HORSE (Continued):

### POMMEL HORSE:

Note: The routine can be performed in either direction.

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Jump to front support	Jump to front support on the Pommels	Arms straight, body straight, legs may be straddled	
2. Two full pendulum swings	Initiate two full pendulum swings with the legs straddled 45° - 90° apart.	Shoulders and weight must shift from side to side. Top leg must be at or above horizontal on the 2nd and 3rd pendulum swing.	90° or greater leg separation on one <b>full pendulum swing (+0.1)</b>
<b>Specified Bonus #1: After #2, Leg cut forward, right leg false scissor (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#1. Leg cut forward, False scissor</b>	Cut right leg forward to stride support, continue stride support swing to right leg undercut returning to straddled front support swing (false scissor)	The top leg should be at least horizontal with the hips extended.	
<b>Specified Bonus #2: After SB#1, Leg cut forward, left leg false scissor (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#2. One full pendulum swing to Leg cut forward, False scissor</b>	One full pendulum swing to cut left leg forward to stride support, continue stride support swing to left leg undercut returning to straddled front support swing (false scissor)	The top leg should be at least horizontal with the hips extended.	
3. Leg cut forward, Leg cut forward	Left leg cut forward, right leg cut forward	Straddled position should be maintained with top leg at or above horizontal and the hips extended.	
4. One full pendulum swing in rear support	One full pendulum swing in rear support position	Straddled position should be maintained with top leg at or above horizontal and the hips extended.	
5. Leg cut backward, Leg cut backward	Left leg cut backward, right leg cut backward	Straddled position should be maintained with top leg at or above horizontal and the hips extended.	90° or greater leg separation throughout <b>leg cut sequence (+0.1)</b>
6. Leg cut forward, Leg cut forward, Dismount	Left leg cut forward, right leg cut forward and dismount to stand in front of the pommel horse	Straddled position should be maintained with top leg at or above horizontal and the hips extended.	

# **STILL RINGS-Overview and Explanations**

## **Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine**

### **A. General:**

1. The inlocate should only be attempted by gymnasts who are able to execute an excellent basic swing at this level. The dislocate is introduced in this routine from the inverted pike position. The gymnast can focus on downward pressure and proper body position in the learning stages. The goal is to make sure the gymnast can execute the inlocate and dislocate safely while developing the strength and understanding of proper technique.

### **B. Definitions:**

1. "Turnover" refers to the rotation of the basic ring swing to the inverted position. See a more detailed definition under Basic Technique: Basic Swing below.

### **C. Basic Technique: Basic Swing**

1. Basic swings in these routines should show a "turnover" action. "Turnover" is defined as follows for forward and backward swings:
  - a. Forward – At the completion of the front swing, the body is in a candlestick position - shoulders down and toes up with a hollow body position, tight hips and gluteus muscles, and head forward. Backward and downward pressure on the rings must be applied as the body approaches the completion of the swing. The gymnast may perform this phase of the swing with arms straight or bent, but must forcibly apply pressure downward and backward on the rings to keep the center of gravity positioned correctly between the uprights and to maintain the proper body shape. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men's Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program 5.2)
  - b. Backward – During the execution of the back swing, the body is in a tight arch with shoulders down, rings spread as the body is approaching vertical (reverse candlestick position). Arms may be wide to facilitate keeping the shoulders down and maintaining downward pressure on the rings. Forward and downward pressure on the rings can be applied as the body approaches the completion of the swing.
2. It takes many years to develop an effective ring swing. Patience and deliberate focus during the early years on the properly executed turnover swing is one of the key components to further development.
3. Care should be taken to stress proper body shape and rotation in the swing first -rather than the height of the swing.
4. The fully developed ring swing can be executed to handstand in either direction with the proper body shape and technique. As an athlete

increases his turnover angle and quickness, downward pressure can be applied to the rings to facilitate the lifting of the shoulders from their position between the rings and toward the handstand in each direction. This pressure should only be applied at the very completion of the turnover as the body is approaching the vertical in each direction.

5. It is a common mistake for an athlete to apply this pressure prematurely during the swings. This inhibits the rotation of the body to vertical. This mistake will retard the development of a good ring swing.

#### **D. Basic Technique: Inlocate**

1. The inlocate should be an extension of a well-executed turnover swing. The body will transition from the tight arch (reverse candlestick) in the back swing through straight body as the body passes vertical and then to a hollowed position with pressure downward and backward on the rings during the downswing. The minimum amplitude for a properly executed inlocate should be with shoulders at ring level and directly between the uprights with the body at the vertical position during the swing.
2. On inlocates, "ring level" is defined as the bottom of the rings or the hands.

#### **E. Basic Technique: Dislocate**

1. To perform the piked dislocate, the gymnast should first learn to keep pressure downward on the rings while keeping his body in a tight hollow position with the head neutral as he opens backwards at or above horizontal to the dislocate.
2. From the tight hollow position the gymnast should push the rings forward while leading with his chest through the bottom of the swing. This forward pressure on the rings will result in the gymnast's ability to keep his center of gravity (hips) between or even with the uprights. Pushing the chest through the bottom while maintaining the tight arch promotes a late kick with the legs and hips to accelerate the rotation of the gymnast's turnover to the hollow candlestick position in the front swing.
3. It is important to learn this technique before the gymnast attempts the larger stretched dislocate or giant swing.
4. Spotting or holding the gymnast in the correct body positions while learning the skill can help the gymnast to understand how to apply pressure to the rings and keep his body position strong throughout the skill. It is best to perform this skill at horizontal for proper execution.

## **F. Notes:**

1. The primary emphasis in this routine should be to develop the basic swing in the manner described in the overview above. The forward swing can be executed with straight or bent arms. There is no height requirement on the front swing.
2. It is not necessary to rise or lift the body horizontally in the backward swing. Instead, emphasis should be on a tight-arch quick turnover with the shoulders down and the rings spread while keeping pressure forward and downward on the rings.
3. Emphasis on developing strength in the core and upper body with the pull-up and lifting legs toward “L” position as well as the lower to German hang elements is balanced in this routine with the emphasis on the basic swing.
4. Elements identified as momentary holds should not be held longer than required. The focus should be on good rhythm in execution and precision in the positions held...Show, stop, and go.
5. The muscle-up can be done with spotter assistance. The athlete should perform as much of it as possible, but there is no deduction for the spot. As the athlete is lifted to position, he should work his hands into a false grip (with wrists bent and on top of the lower curve of the rings). We understand that it is difficult to keep the arms completely straight and keep the wrists up high enough to facilitate the muscle-up. The arms should, however, be as extended and straight as possible before the muscle-up is executed. It is not appropriate to start the routine with bent arms. The muscle-up should be continuous. As the gymnast reaches the support position and the arms extend into full support, the body should be tight and straight once more with the rings turned out and arms free of the straps.
6. If the bonus option to perform the inlocate is attempted, it should conform to the Basic Technique for an inlocate as listed above. The skill will be judged strictly by these standards in order to emphasize the importance of maximizing the basic swing. It is the intent of this routine to continue to refine the basic swing until it can be performed with the correct turnover technique at ring level or higher.
7. Deductions on the inlocate can be taken for piking, insufficient pressure on the rings, lack of turnover, and other obvious technical errors.
8. The intent of the dismount is to encourage the gymnast to keep pressure on the rings while executing the turnover technique until his body has reached at least ring level. The dismount should also rise and show a full opening and extension prior to landing.

# 2017-2020 Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines

## STILL RINGS

Base Score	4.5
Specified Bonus	2.0
Virtuosity	.3
<u>Stick Bonus</u>	<u>.2</u>
Maximum Score	7.0

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Muscle-up	From a hang with false grip with arms extended and as straight as possible, muscle up to support	Spotter assistance is allowed. Cables must remain taut. (no slack) Slight pike in hips permitted	
<b>Specified Bonus #1: From a hang with false grip, muscle up to support with no spotter assistance. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#1. Muscle-up unassisted</b>	From a hang with false grip, muscle up to support with no spotter assistance	Arms extended and as straight as possible. Slight pike in hips permitted	
2. Support	Straight body, straight arm support with the rings turned out	2 second hold Arms free of straps.	
3. Backward roll, Piked inverted hang	Lift legs toward "L" position and roll backward and down to piked inverted hang	Bent arms allowed during roll. Show continuous rhythm.	
<b>Specified Bonus #2: From piked inverted hang in #3, extend body horizontally to hanging scale rearways (back lever). (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#2. Hanging scale rearways (back lever)</b>	From piked body inverted hang in #3, extend body to hanging scale rearways (back lever)	2 second hold	
4. German hang	Lower and extend to German hang position	2 second hold	Show fully extended shoulder flexibility in <b>German hang (+0.1)</b> (See Note below)*
5. Piked inverted hang, Swing backward	Pull out to piked inverted hang and immediately cast forward to swing backward	Turnover swing shown. Feet at 45° below horizontal minimum.	<b>Swing backward</b> turnover greater than horizontal <b>(+0.1)</b> (See Note below)*
6. Swing forward, Swing backward	Swing forward, swing backward	Turnover swing shown. Feet at ring level	<b>Swing backward</b> turnover greater than horizontal <b>(+0.1)</b> (See Note below)*
<b>Specified Bonus #3: From forward swing in #6, swing backward to uprise backward to support. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#3. Swing backward to Uprise, roll backward, swing backward</b>	From forward swing, swing backward to uprise backward toward "L" position, roll backward and down to piked inverted hang, then swing backward	Straight or bent arms during uprise. Bent arms allowed during roll. Show continuous rhythm.	

## STILL RINGS: (Continued)

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
7. Swing forward, Swing backward	Swing forward, swing backward to Immediate	Turnover swing shown. Feet at ring level	<b>Swing backward</b> turnover greater than horizontal (+0.1) (See Note below)*
<b>Specified Bonus #4: Inlocate stretched to swing backward. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#4. Inlocate stretched, Swing backward</b>	Inlocate stretched to swing Backward	Stretched body during inlocate	<b>Swing backward</b> turnover greater than horizontal (+0.1) (See Note below)*
<b>Specified Bonus #5: After #7 or from SB#4, swing forward to piked inverted hang, dislocate. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#5. Swing forward, piked inverted hang, dislocate</b>	Swing forward then immediately compress to tight pike and shoot to dislocate backward piked	Head neutral with straight body and pressure downward and forward on rings	
<b>8. Swing forward, Salto backward tucked</b>	Swing forward to salto backward tucked dismount	Showing turnover at ring level before release. Salto at ring level	

\*Note: A maximum of .3 can be awarded in virtuosity

# **VAULT-Overview and Explanations**

## **Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine**

### **A. General:**

1. Opinions regarding the development of vaulting skills vary greatly. The reason behind selection of our entry level vault is to focus on the very important skills of the run, the hurdle, and proper board technique and developing a meaningful progression to the handspring blocking technique on the vault table.
2. Although there is no Specified Bonus available on vault, the +0.5 for Virtuosity and the +0.2 for Stick Bonus are available.
3. For Virtuosity bonus, award up to +0.5 for exceptional power and/or efficient blocking action resulting in exceptional rise (height and/or distance) in the vault second (post) flight. Virtuosity may be awarded singly or in combination. The total virtuosity bonus cannot exceed the +0.5 maximum.

### **B. Definitions:**

1. "First flight" (pre-flight) is defined as from the moment that the gymnast's feet touch the springboard up to the support with one or two hands on the vaulting table.
2. "Second flight" (post-flight) is defined as including the pushing off from the table up to the landing in a standing position.

### **C. Basic Technique: Run**

1. A good run technique will be comprised of the following components:
  - a. Run should accelerate in velocity to sprinting speed and that velocity should be maintained through the hurdle.
  - b. Arms should be bent at the elbow and swing forward and backward rhythmically in a parallel and complementary movement to the run.
  - c. The legs should show a distinct lifting of the front knee and a full extension of the back leg in long quick strides as the gymnast leans forward into the run.

### **D. Basic Technique: Hurdle**

1. The arms should circle or move from back to front in preparation for the takeoff from the springboard. The arms may be bent or straight.
2. The knees should lift up and forward, and the gymnast should bend slightly at the hips while the body's center of gravity remains level during the hurdle. The legs and feet then extend forward to contact and fully depress the springboard well in front of the body. At this point of contact, the arms should be at shoulder level or above and almost fully extended in preparation for the contact with the blocking surface.

3. From a full depression of the springboard with the feet well in front of the hips and the arms extended forward, the gymnast must rotate quickly with a straight body, shoulders extended, tight body position as he rebounds and leaves the springboard surface. This rotation increases the velocity into the blocking surface.

### **E. Basic Technique: Block**

1. Blocking mechanics demand that the gymnast should rotate and extend fully to a tight hollow or straight body position into the blocking surface.
2. The gymnast can then block with an extended shoulder angle pushing down through the fingers and leaving the surface at vertical with a rise of the center of gravity. A straight-arm, quick blocking action should result in a distinct and powerful repulsion as the gymnast leaves the blocking surface and rises vertically with his body fully extended. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men's Junior Olympic Age Group Competition)

### **F. Notes:**

1. The Flyspring (Bouncer Handspring) over the panel mat surface is used to both lead up to the Forward Handspring and promote and complement the blocking technique that is used in the forward handspring in basic tumbling.
2. The technique to accomplish this execution would be to set the springboard back from the blocking surface far enough to allow the gymnast to rotate and extend directly to a tight hollow or straight body position into the blocking surface.
3. The gymnast should prepare with the basic hurdle technique as he approaches the springboard so that the completion of the arm circle results in a full extension of the arms and shoulders as he contacts the springboard.
4. The gymnast can then block with an extended shoulder angle pushing down through the fingers and leaving the surface at vertical with a rise of the center of gravity. When the run, hurdle, and block are executed properly, the gymnast will create sufficient power to continue to rotate to a stand on the landing mat.
5. If performed efficiently, the post-flight should not result in or require an excessive arch or pike in order for the gymnast to rotate to the landing position. A straight body, vertical repulsion from the panel-mat blocking surface should promote a tight body position as well as an extended shoulder angle as the gymnast leaves the blocking surface. A tight arch or tight hollow position is allowed without deduction during the post flight.
6. During the forward handspring, the run, hurdle and blocking mechanics become extremely important.
7. The most important concept to learn at this level is to become efficient with the proper run, hurdle and blocking technique in order to create

the power and velocity which will convert to height and rotation from the vault table.

8. The gymnast should promote maximum depression of the springboard. From the springboard, the gymnast must rotate forward or turnover very quickly to a fully extended body position as he contacts the vault table.
9. A common flaw is to hit the springboard standing too straight up. This makes it difficult to create rotational velocity. "Diving" onto the horse provides insufficient time to block and leave the vault table before passing vertical and starting to rise. This inefficient approach can result in a much less powerful post-flight.
10. Efficient execution of these essential techniques will allow the gymnast to progress toward somersault and twisting vaults.

## 2017-2020 Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines VAULT

Base Score	6.3
Virtuosity	.5
<u>Stick Bonus</u>	<u>.2</u>
Maximum Score	7.0

1. If the gymnast balks on his first attempt, a 1.00 deduction will be taken from the final score of the second attempt. No third attempts will be allowed.
2. The minimum score for any vault will be 1.00.
3. The minimum required matting for landing is 12" (30 cm).

### Handspring

Components	Description	Performance Criteria
1. Run	Run from less than 82" (25m).	Run must show an increase in velocity to sprinting speed and maintenance of that velocity through the hurdle. Distinct lift of the front leg and extension of the back leg in the stride. Rhythmical movement with the arms flexed or bent during the run.
2. Hurdle	Hurdle by lifting the knees forward while the body's center of gravity remains level and the feet extend forward to contact the springboard well in front of the body.	Feet must be well in front of hips on contact with springboard. Arm swing must begin from behind the shoulders and circle distinctly forward to an extended position through the hurdle. Arms may be bent or straight during the under arm swing.
3. First flight (pre-flight)	Body transitions from hollowed to straight or tightly arched to fully extended before vertical.	From the springboard, the gymnast must rotate forward or turnover very quickly with fully extended body position as he contacts the vaulting table.
4. Second flight (post-flight)	Body should show significant rise in post-flight. Nominal straight body position is maintained during post-flight.	Straight arms and fully extended body should be shown at the completion of blocking action. Body should show rise and leave the vault table upon reaching vertical. Maintain nominal straight body position throughout second flight. Body should show significant rise during second flight.
5. Landing	Maintain straight body position until landing.	Demonstrate control by showing extension in preparation of landing.

# **PARALLEL BARS-Overview and Explanations**

## **Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine**

### **A. General:**

1. There is emphasis on basic swing mechanics.
2. Obviously, the support swing to handstand is one of the most important elements on parallel bars. The program emphasizes the basic swing technique and avoids encouraging gymnasts to get to the handstand with excessive use of strength. This philosophy will also make the routines more achievable for the recreational participant.
3. A “hand-on-hand” spot is allowed without deduction on any compulsory skill that originates from support and bails into a long hang swing. There should be no evidence of facilitation of the element other than to ensure a secure grip.

### **B. Definition:**

The “proper grip” of the hands on the bar in a long hang is with wrists fully extended so that the fingers are the only part of the hand on the top of the bar. Care should be taken to rotate the hands inward to this grip as the shoulders extend from the beginning of the bail swing.

### **C. Basic Technique: Support Swing**

1. The development of a good support swing on parallel bars is essential to learning more advanced skills, so ample time should be devoted to develop the correct technique.
2. The ability of a young athlete to relax in the shoulders and lead with the chest through the forward downswing should be approached in small increments at first. When this position becomes stronger and more stable, the gymnast can exert more force and achieve higher amplitude with the swing.
3. The shoulders should stay over the hands in support for both the forward and backward swing.
4. Fluid movement and flexibility in the shoulders will allow for greater freedom and a smoother swing action. At the bottom of the swing, in both directions, the bars will flex downward. The gymnast should feel a downward push on the bars both to further depress the bars and to maintain pressure against the bars to promote control of the swing. As the flex of the bars returns in the upward direction, after the bottom of the swing, the gymnast will continue to push and extend to the straight body or tight hollow position at the peak of both the forward and backward swing. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men’s Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program 7.2)

### **D. Basic Technique: Long Hang Swing**

1. The long hang swing should be executed as a tap swing showing the following components: The body should have a distinct straight knee

- hollow shape at the peak of the back swing; relax to a fully extended hang at the lower vertical position; and kick once again to a tight hollow in the front swing.
2. Bent knees are allowed through the lower vertical position and on the front swing, but legs must be straight at the peak of the back swing.
  3. The gymnast should fully extend in the shoulders on the downswing with the head neutral through the bottom of the swing.

### **E. Basic Technique: Upper Arm Support**

1. In the correct upper arm support, the shoulders will be even with or behind the elbows (if the body is viewed from the side).
2. This position is conducive to the development of the necessary strength for any upper arm swing or skill acquisition. Although this strength takes time to develop, the gymnast should take care not to compromise the proper position of the arms in support during this swing.
3. Supplementing training with holds or upper arm dips in the correct position will help to build this strength.

### **F. Notes:**

1. An additional long hang tap swing has been added before the backward uprise to upper arm support to allow the athlete to show a correct stretched hollow position on the back swing. The goal in adding this swing is to require the athlete to show a well-developed tap swing that has a distance straight knee hollow shape at the peak of the backswing.
2. The front swing should exhibit the same tap as a front swing on horizontal bar with the exception of perhaps a bending of the knees (if it is necessary). The gymnast should learn to fully extend in the shoulders on the downswing with the head neutral through the bottom of the swing.
3. The concept for developing the forward uprise involves providing a longer progressive learning period for the development of this strength. To facilitate this, we have included in the basic routine the use of the legs pressing down on the bars to both assist the arms pushing up to a straight arm support position more quickly and to help extend the hips forward to the straight body position at the completion of the movement. When done correctly the legs should remain extended as this action is completed. As the gymnast builds more strength and quickness into this movement, he will be able to “bounce” his legs off the bars as he extends to the forward uprise position. When he is ready, he can use a forward uprise as a specified bonus skill.
4. On the dismount, shifting of the opposite hand to the dismount rail is allowed.

## 2017-2020 Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines PARALLEL BARS

Base Score	4.5
Specified Bonus	2.0
Virtuosity	.3
<u>Stick Bonus</u>	<u>.2</u>
Maximum Score	7.0

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Jump to long hang swing forward	From stand or short run, jump to long hang swing forward (tap swing, not glide swing)	Long hang swing forward to 45° below horizontal (bent knees allowed)	
2. Long hang swing backward, Long hang swing forward	Long hang swing backward. Long hang swing forward	Tap swing, not glide swing. Straight legs required at peak of swing backward. Long hang swing forward to 45° below horizontal (Bent knees allowed)	
<b>Specified Bonus #1: In place of #1 &amp; 2, Jump to glide kip, bale to long hand swing forward. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#1. Jump to glide kip</b>	From stand or short run, jump to glide kip to support, bale to long hang swing forward	Full extension on glide. Bent legs allowed on bail to long hang swing forward.	
3. Long hang swing backward, Upper arm hang (back uprise to upper arm)	Long hang swing backward to upper arm hang (back uprise to upper arm)	Long hang swing backward to 45° below horizontal. Straight legs at top of back swing.	<b>Long hang swing backward to horizontal or higher (+0.1)</b>
<b>Specified Bonus #2: After #3 swing forward, swing backward, bail, Moy to upper arm (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#2. Swing forward, Swing backward, Bail, Moy to upper arm support, upper arm swing back</b>	Swing forward, swing backward and bail to Moy catching in upper arm support, to upper arm swing backwards	Swing forward. Swing backward. Hips at bar height at catch of the Moy. An open or pike position can be shown at the catch of the Moy. Hand-on-hand spot allowed on bail	
4. Upper arm swing forward, Upper arm swing backward	Upper arm swing forward, upper arm swing backward	Shoulders even with elbows in upper arm support.	<b>Upper arm swing backward above bar height (+0.1)</b>
5. Upper arm swing forward, Straddled support	Upper arm swing forward to straddled support on bars	Legs should be straight as arms push up to the straight arm support with hips extended.	
<b>Specified Bonus #3: In #5, upper arm swing forward to forward uprise to support. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#3. Upper arm swing forward, Forward uprise</b>	Upper arm swing forward to forward uprise to support	Full extension on forward uprise with feet at bar height.	

## PARALLEL BARS: (Continued)

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
6. Push off bars, Swing backward	Push off bars to swing backward	Legs straight with continuous rhythm. Swing backward to feet at bar height	
7. Swing forward, "L" sit	Swing forward to "L" sit	2 second hold. Chest up and hips even with hands.	
8. Cast forward, Swing backward	Extend forward and swing backward	Swing backward to feet at bar height	
9. Swing forward, Swing backward	Swing forward, swing backward	Swing forward and backward to horizontal	<b>Swing backward to nominal handstand (+0.1)</b>
10. Swing forward, Swing backward to handstand, Dismount to side	Swing forward, swing backward to nominal handstand and push off either side to dismount landing.	Swing forward to horizontal. Hand change to one bar during push off.	
<b>Specified Bonus # 4: In # 10, swing backward to hold handstand prior to dismount. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#4. Hold Handstand</b>	Swing forward, swing backward to hold handstand and push off either side to dismount landing.	2 second hold	
<b>Specified Bonus #5:</b>	<b>Swing forward to back salto tuck dismount.</b>		
<b>SB#5. Tuck back Salto dismount</b>	Following #10 or SB #4, swing through support to tucked back salto dismount.	Salto backward should lift off the bars at shoulder level to dismount landing.	

# **HORIZONTAL BAR-Overview and Explanations**

## **Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routine**

### **A. General:**

1. The most important focus on the horizontal bar is the continued development of the basic giant swing technique. The more effective the body position is in the downward and upward phases of the swing the easier it is to perform the skills required on this event. Close attention should be paid to precise execution in this area in order to insure the safety of the gymnast as he progresses through each level.
2. The salto backward dismounts (flyaway) requires mastery of the hang position, the “tap swing” action, control of proper body position and timing of the lift.
3. In addition, turning skills such as the “blind turn” and the pirouette cannot be executed without mastery of proper swing technique, body position, timing of the wrist shift, and control of the proper body position.
4. Of particular importance in executing the “in-bar” skills that are included in the specified bonus options is the understanding of the importance of an early wrist shift to control the support position. The gymnast’s future development on this event is in large part dependent upon the ability to control the handstand position. Shifting the wrists early and freely in both the forward and backward direction to gain early support as well as an efficient hang position are the most important skills a young gymnast can develop.

### **B. Definitions:**

1. The “hollow” position is defined as body position with a hollow or rounded position in the chest and hips. This position is the start position in the back and finish position in the front of the basic tap swing.
2. The “tap swing” is defined as basic swing which starts and finishes in a hollow position, passing through a tight arch position at the bottom.

### **C. Basic Technique: Uprise**

1. An “uprise” should be performed by pulling down on the bar as the gymnast rises toward the peak of the backward swing in the hollow tight body position.
2. The head, shoulders and upper back should lead into the hop during the uprise. Ideally the release and regrasp should be performed with the center of gravity moving above the bar, not away from the bar.
3. The body should be in a hollow position as the bar is released. This will insure a controlled release and regrasp.

## **D. Basic Technique: Tap Swing**

1. The execution of the basic tap swing should start in the back and finish in the front in the “hollow” position as defined above.
2. The gymnast should relax fully, pushing his chest and hips down through the bottom past vertical in the “tight arch position” while letting his feet drag behind before initiating the piking action or kick to the hollow position on the upward phase of the forward swing.
3. It is critical that this swing be refined so that the timing of the tap produces a powerful lift and acceleration in the vertical direction. The hang position in the backward giant is a critical element to develop for future control of release skills and dismounts. (2017-2020 USA Gymnastics Men’s Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program 8.2)

## **E. Notes:**

1. The committee wants athletes to attempt the kip. Every effort has been made to write the text to encourage athletes and coaches to “go for it”. The goal is to make it worth the attempt and to be somewhat forgiving of execution during this skill-acquisition process.
2. To encourage those gymnasts that are being successful with the kip, specified bonus will be given to a kip to an immediate cast to any height.
3. The development of the swing  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn is extremely important and should be a priority. The criteria for proper execution of a “blind” turn are consistent through the routines and emphasize proper body position rather than extreme amplitude.
4. The option for a salto backward tucked or piked (flyaway) is included as a specified bonus skill. However, as with all specified bonus skills, the technical execution of the tap swing and the salto backward (flyaway) must be correct in order for the gymnast to gain the advantage of the points. Improper execution may actually result in a loss of points even though this skill is “fun to do.”

### **Note:**

The spotter is required to “follow the gymnast” through this skill for safety without deduction. If the gymnast is actually assisted in the skill rather than simply followed, the judge will take appropriate execution deductions and no specified bonus points will be awarded.

# 2017-2020 Illinois High School Freshmen Compulsory Routines

## HORIZONTAL BAR

Base Score	4.5
Specified Bonus	2.0
Virtuosity	.3
<u>Stick Bonus</u>	<u>.2</u>
Maximum Score	7.0

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all swings forward are tap swings and are to be a minimum of 45° below horizontal. Failure to show tap swings with proper body positions will result in a deduction per occurrence. Unless otherwise indicated, all swings backward are to be a minimum of 45° below horizontal with a hollowed body shape at the peak of the swing

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
1. Pullover, cast.	From hang position in overgrip, pullover to support. Pike and cast.	Momentary stop in support allowed. Cast to horizontal.	Cast to 45 degrees or higher (+0.1)
<b>Specified Bonus #1: After #1, Cast forward to ¾ giant swing backward (overgrip baby giant) (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#1. ¾ giant swing backward</b>	¾ giant swing backward to (baby giant)	Shift wrists prior to support.	
2. Back hip circle, Undershoot	Straight body back hip circle to undershoot forward		
<b>Specified Bonus #2: In #2, replace back hip circle with free hip circle to support free of bar (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#2. Free hip circle</b>	Pike and cast to free hip circle to undershoot forward	Straight or hollow body position on free hip circle. Hips clear of the bar throughout the free hip circle, support and undershoot.	
3. Swing backward, Tap swing forward, ½ turn	Swing backward, tap swing forward to ½ turn to mixed grip	Head neutral, toes leading on turn, hollow body shape.	
4. Tap swing forward, Swing backward, Grip change	Tap swing forward, swing backward, change to overgrip	Rise in shoulders to hollow position on grip change.	
5. Swing forward, Kip	Extended swing forward and kip to support	Swing forward with chest and hips leading through the bottom prior to kip.	
	If a coach assists the gymnast in the successful performance of the kip, the maximum deduction will be 0.3. If the kip is attempted and missed, the maximum execution deduction for the entire skill including the coach's spot to help the athlete to a support position will NOT exceed 0.3. Exception will be if the gymnast falls off the bar, then an additional 0.5 deduction will be taken.		
<b>Specified Bonus #3: In #5 &amp; #6, kip to immediate cast with continuous rhythm. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#3. Kip, Cast</b>	Extended swing forward and kip to immediate cast to undershoot forward, swing backward	Swing forward with chest and hips leading through the bottom prior to kip. Cast to any height.	
6. Cast, Undershoot, Swing backward	Cast to undershoot forward, swing backward	Cast to horizontal	

## HORIZONTAL BAR: (Continued)

Skills	Description	Performance Criteria	Virtuosity
<b>Specified Bonus #4: In #6, swing backward to back uprise to undershoot forward. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#4. Back uprise to Undershoot forward</b>	Uprise in hollow position and undershoot forward	Uprise to support with feet 45° below horizontal	
7. Tap swing forward, Swing backward	Tap swing forward, swing backward		<b>Swing backward</b> to horizontal or higher <b>(+0.1)</b>
8. Tap swing forward, Swing backward, Uprise, Dismount	Tap swing forward, swing backward to uprise in hollow position and release bar dismounting to stand	Uprise with shoulders to bar height	<b>Swing forward</b> to horizontal or higher in hollow position <b>(+0.1)</b>
<b>Specified Bonus #5: In # 8, replace dismount to stand with salto backward (flyaway) tucked, piked, or hollow layout. For safety reasons the spotter must follow, but not assist, the gymnast during the execution of this skill. (+0.4)</b>			
<b>SB#5. Salto backward tucked, piked, or hollow layout</b>	Tap swing forward, swing backward, swing forward to salto backward tucked, piked, or hollow layout	Show hollow body candlestick position with head neutral on release and stretched body before landing. Must show lift.	