



RETURN TO COMPETITION GUIDELINES

MAG & WAG PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE

To provide meaningful competition opportunities for all competitive members of the MGA in an environment that mitigates the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and keeps participants safe.

PRIORITIES

1. Adapt the competition environment to meet current public health measures and guidance.
2. Provide a competition environment in which all participants feel safeguarded from the risk of COVID-19 infection.
3. Create a competition environment that meets the needs of athletes to set goals, perform, and receive feedback through judges' scores.
4. Develop a hosting strategy that does not place additional risk or burden on the Host Club, financial or otherwise.

DEFINITIONS

- **Participants:** includes but is not limited to gymnasts, coaches, officials, volunteers, meet directors, etc.
- **Physical Distancing:** maintain a minimum distance of two metres between yourself and others, except for members of your family
- **Face Masks:** properly fitting disposable medical masks or reusable fabric masks

GUIDING DOCUMENTS AND PRINCIPLES

- [Government of Manitoba COVID Guidelines](#)
- MGA Return to Sport Guidelines (See Current Version)
- In addition to respecting public health measures, organizations must meet the following requirements:
 - Every Host Club, participating club, and participants must take all reasonable steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - Signage on symptoms, proper hand and respiratory hygiene (i.e. cough into elbow), and physical distancing must be posted throughout the facility; at a minimum, signage should be placed at all common entrances and where people tend to congregate.
 - Occupancy limits in controlled indoor settings must be based on the ability to maintain physical distancing between people who are not family.

- Where seating is provided, physical distancing requirements may be reduced to 1 metre while seated if all individuals are continuously wearing a face mask (i.e. not eating or drinking).
- Face masks are mandatory for all participants not engaged in physical activity or performing.

RISK MITIGATION MEASURES FOR COMPETITIONS

Risk mitigation must consider and apply across all relevant contexts (i.e., before, during, and after competition) and for all participants:

- **Reduce Capacity**
 - Competitions can be offered in two ways: **Without Spectators** (with or without live stream for viewing) or **With Spectators** (numbers further reduced)
 - The maximum capacity for a competition without spectators shall be 36 athletes
 - Host Clubs shall make every effort to split the athletes in a rotation in such a way that no more than 9 athletes are in any rotation
 - It is advised that sessions with younger athletes have smaller session sizes
 - The maximum capacity for a competition with spectators shall be 18 athletes
 - Each athlete is permitted to bring 1 spectator
 - Host Clubs shall make every effort to split the athletes in rotations in such a way that there are no more than 4-5 athletes per rotation
 - Clubs must state on their invitation which type of competition they are hosting; with or without spectators. Additionally, if it is without spectators whether there is live streaming for viewing or not.
 - For all competitions, the MGA will provide an option to have live online scoring during meet at the MGA's cost however the Host Club must provide a volunteer for data entry. The MGA will provide a recommended Live Streaming company with a negotiated MGA rate. The host club is responsible for the Live Streaming fees, more details available below.
 - Host Clubs shall develop and communicate a plan with the final schedule for athlete drop-off and pick-up, considering facility access, space for physical distancing, weather considerations, and athlete safety
 - The recommended number of coaches is 1 per 5 athletes; recommended max 2 coaches total per club session. Clubs may request permission of the Host Club/MGA for an additional coach for a session if they can demonstrate a legitimate need.
 - Host Club will provide the participating clubs with the rotation order a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of the competition to make appropriate preparations
 - Participating clubs will provide the Host Club with the names of their coaches assigned to each rotation a minimum of 1 week in advance of the competition
 - The maximum number of judges is 8 per session for MAG and WAG competitions (two judges per event)
 - The Event Head Judge will complete the scoresheet for the scorekeeper, and other judge will handle timing warm-ups and routines (where possible); Host

Clubs should seek advice from the appropriate Judging Chairperson/MGA if any volunteers are required.

- Selection meets may have additional judges if required; Judging Chairperson and Host Club must discuss in advance to ensure space can accommodate
- Recommended volunteer positions include: Medical/First Aid Person, Athlete and Coach Check-In and Screening, Meet Director/Floor Manager, Music/Announcer, Live Scoring Assistant, Awards Coordinator, Cleaning Crew.
Note: Where possible these positions may be fulfilled by the same individuals with the goal of reducing overall numbers within the facility.

- **Physical Distancing**

- As much as reasonably possible, athletes from different clubs will be expected to refrain from intermingling
- While family is not required to physically distance themselves from one another, the MGA and Host Clubs are not in a position to recognize and monitor relationships; therefore, it is the expectation that all participants will practice physical distancing as much as possible even within their own teams
- Host Clubs must consider ways to accommodate for physical distancing, for example:
 - Remove any extra or unnecessary equipment from the competition floor
 - Provide additional floor or matted space for general warm-up, if possible
 - Group athletes from the same club together for rotations; mixed groups should be kept to a minimum
- Upon rotation to each event, one coach per club will approach the judges table to confirm the competition order and warm-up procedures
- There will be no march-in for award ceremonies:
 - Awards will be presented to the Top 3 Event and All-Around competitors in each level and age category, the remainder of the awards will be distributed to the club coach
 - Host Clubs will compile awards packages for each club to pick up at the end of the day to distribute upon return to their home gyms
- Judges tables should be large enough to accommodate a minimum of 1 metre separation between each judge with barrier between (to be provided by the MGA)
 - Volunteers responsible to assist with timing must be 2 metres away from the judges
- An area must be designated for coaches' personal belongings to be stored during the competition

- **Hand and Respiratory Hygiene**

- Host Clubs must ensure they have adequate supplies for appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene
- Hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol-based) should be available at entrances and exits, at each event and any other necessary areas in the facility
- Tissues and garbage bins should be available throughout the facility

- All judges and volunteer tables (scoring, music, first aid, etc.) should be stocked with hand sanitizer, tissues, and garbage bins
 - Washrooms must be well-stocked with soap, hot water, paper towel, and tissues and checked regularly for necessary refills
 - All participants must practice proper respiratory hygiene such as cough or sneeze into a tissue, or into your sleeve/elbow if a tissue is not available; dispose of the tissue and wash or sanitize your hands immediately
- **Face Masks**
 - All participants are required to wear a face mask when not engaging in physical activity or performance, including athletes who are waiting for their turn to perform.
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
 - Each participant must sanitize hands following warm up and between event rotations
 - The Host Club will be responsible for instituting a cleaning and disinfecting schedule, which shall include time between each session to clear judges tables, wipe down mats and equipment, and clean common areas or surfaces such as door handles, tables and chairs, scoring and audio equipment, and washrooms.
 - The Host Club shall have cleaning/disinfecting supplies readily available for spot cleaning as necessary; if an athlete's head or face or any bodily fluid comes into contact with the equipment or mats, it must be cleaned before the next athlete's turn
 - A thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the facility must take place at the end of each day
- **Screening**
 - The Host Club is responsible for conducting active screening of anyone entering the facility, including athletes, coaches and staff, judges, and volunteers; active screening constitutes:
 - Temperature checks with a non-contact thermometer, and
 - Confirmation from the COVID-19 - [Screening Questionnaire](#) has been completed prior to entry
 - The Host Club should communicate its screening protocols when distributing the final schedule

Contact Tracing

- Host Club/Participant Clubs/Judging Chairpersons must work with MGA to maintain a record of the names and contact information of all participants to facilitate contact tracing and must provide these records to Public Health officials upon request
- The collected information must be kept securely on file for 21 days after the competition, after which it should be destroyed; the information must only be shared with a Manitoba Public Health Official upon request

- Participating Clubs will work with MGA to submit a one-time Facility Declaration, Waiver and Privacy form, as well as contact information of guardian to cover each individual participant registered for the competition.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

- **Competition Schedule**
 - Competitions should not start before 8:00 am or start after 6:00pm
 - The competition schedule must factor in cleaning time between each session as well as time for participants to enter and exit the facility safely
- **Food for Judges, Coaches, Athletes**
 - To eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission through food preparation and serving, Host Clubs is:
 - Not required to provide food for coaches. However, if they so choose, they can provide prepackaged food or snacks only such as bagged chips, nut-free granola bars, bananas, yogurt, etc. Clubs should ensure if they have a common area for food pick up that distancing can be maintained.
 - Judges will be provided a per diem for applicable meals (\$11 Breakfast, \$17 Lunch, \$26 Dinner) for applicable sessions. Per diems will only be paid for judges who are judging back to back sessions, where hotel stay is required (if breakfast not provided at accommodations), and where the session ends after 6:00 pm. Any inquiries regarding per diems must be submitted through the appropriate Judging Chairperson who will contact the meet director; individual judges are not to contact the Host Club.
 - No athlete meals or snacks will be provided
 - Beverages such as coffee, tea, water, etc should be provided throughout the day in disposable cups or prepackaged
- **Judges' Travel and Accommodations**
 - Judges will not be required to carpool to competitions unless they are family or choose to carpool; each judge will be paid round-trip mileage where applicable
 - Judges will not be required to share hotel rooms; each judge will be provided their own hotel room unless they choose otherwise
 - If a judge is not comfortable staying in a hotel and it is possible for them to commute to and from the competition over multiple days, the Host Club must provide the judge with mileage up to a maximum of \$150 (approximate cost for one night hotel stay) for each additional round trip
- **Other**
 - Clubs may charge a maximum of to the following for Competition Registration:
 - WAG
 - JO 1-4 - \$90.00

- JO 5+ - \$125.00
 - MAG
 - Regional - \$90.00
 - Provincial - \$125.00
- Host Clubs offering Live Streaming of the event may charge an additional \$10 per athlete. The Host Club is responsible to pay the Live Streaming fee (\$1000 – 1 Day, \$1500 – 2 Days, \$2000 – 3 Days).
- No out-of-province participants will be permitted for the 2020-2021 season
- It is recommended that Host Clubs work with companies that have refundable deposits in case of cancellation
- Host Clubs should purchase non-dated awards
- Participant gifts and individual certificates (with scores) are not permitted
- Host Clubs shall have disposable masks to provide should a participant forget to bring one. Host Clubs may choose to charge a reasonable rate for each disposable mask.
- **Cancellation of Competitions**
 - Should the Host Club be in a region that is moved into the Orange or Red phase of the Pandemic Response system the meet will be cancelled. The Host Club is required to reimburse the registration fee less a \$10 administration fee to all participants within 1 month of the competition date.
 - Similarly, should a participating club be unable to participate due to Orange or Red phases in their residing region, the Host Club shall reimburse the registration fees paid, less a \$10 admin fee for each of the club's participants within 1 month of the competition date.
 - If a Host Club decided to cancel for any reason outside of an Orange or Red phase of the Pandemic Response system or similarly related COVID-19 events, the Host Club must return 100% of the registration fees within 1 month of the competition date.
 - For all other refunds, the regular MGA Competition Refund policies apply as per the Program's Technical Regulations.
 - Any exceptions outside of the stated above will be reviewed by the MGA Board of Directors in conjunction with the Host Club.

JUDGES RESPONSIBILITY

- The judges must bring their own judging sheets, calculators and writing utensils to the competition, hosts will not be providing these.
 - Judges will be provided a packet of judging sheets prior to competition.
 - If judges require additional sheets, they must be ordered from the MGA at least 2 weeks in advance of the meet using the MGA Judging Sheet Order form.

Frequently Asked Questions – Last Updated 10/20/2020

- 1. Will judges be scheduled primarily from within each region to keep costs as low as possible for the clubs?**

Yes, the Judging Chairpeople for the various programs will be instructed to try to schedule from within the host region first to minimize risk of travel between regions and keep costs as low as possible for the host club. If adequate panels cannot be achieved the Judging Chairpersons will look at bring in judges from other regions.

- 2. Are clubs allowed to do their own live streaming opposed to using the MGA Preferred Provider and if so, what fee are they allowed to charge the participants?**

The MGA BOD will review this at their October 28th meeting. This protocol document will be updated following that meeting with the outcome of their decision.

- 3. If a club had purchased Participant Gifts last year but their meet was cancelled due to COVID-19 may the host club present these to the attendees, this year?**

The MGA BOD will review this at their October 28th meeting. This protocol document will be updated following that meeting with the outcome of their decision.

- 4. If a participant requires an exemption on wearing a mask due to other underlying health conditions will this be permitted?**

Yes, a participant may be exempt from wearing a mask if they have a Doctor's Note confirming the underlying health issue. The Doctor's Note must be provided to the Host Club as well as the MGA.

- 5. Are 8 judges per panel required for all meets?**

No, 8 judges are the maximum number of judges required for meets. The Judging Coordinators will prepare the panels for the host clubs; upon preparation if changes are required the Judging Coordinator and Host Club will coordinate.

- 6. If clubs want to run smaller sessions than outlined is this allowed, and will there be any concession to judging honorariums?**

Clubs must keep in mind the occupancy guidelines set by the Government of Manitoba and the size of their facility to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. Clubs may create smaller session sizes if they wish to. The MGA BOD will review concessions to the Judging Honorarium at their October 28th meeting. This protocol document will be updated following that meeting with the outcome of their decision.

- 7. Can clubs put judges at two tables opposed to one?**

Yes, clubs are permitted to separate judges to increase physical distancing. The guidelines above are a minimum standard, clubs can choose to modify as long as it meets the minimum standards

outlined by the Government of Manitoba, MGA Return to Sport Guidelines and MGA Operational Plan for Competitions.

8. Can clubs choose to not present any awards at the competition?

The MGA BOD will review this at their October 28th meeting. This protocol document will be updated following that meeting with the outcome of their decision.

9. Who will liaise with the Public Health Authority if there are any contract tracing needs required?

The MGA will be housing one centralized database of all contact information therefore the MGA will liaise with Public Health if necessary.

10. If Judges/Coaches are required to bring their own meals, can microwaves or fridges be provided by the Host Club?

No, we are aiming to reduce risk and that would only increase cleaning protocols required by the Host Club. Therefore, judges and coaches will need to bring non-perishable food items or their own icepacks.

11. Can individuals who cannot be shown on the live stream still attend the competition?

Yes, the MGA will have the Privacy Release forms. The MGA will notify the Host Club, Live Stream Company and the Event Head Judges so they are aware. The Live Streaming company will black out the screen when these individuals are performing. However, the Participating Club and Gymnast must ensure they are not crossing over the pathway of the camera unnecessarily or are standing in range.

12. How will Host Clubs be able to forecast meet attendance to determine if Live Streaming is feasible from a cost perspective?

The MGA will send a survey out to all clubs to completed to help forecast demand for individual invitationals the week of Oct 26th.

13. Is there a fee related to cancelling the Live Streaming if COVID restrictions require?

Cancellation must be done one week (7 days) prior to the meet. If done in 7 days or less before the meet a cancellation fee of \$150.00 will be charged.

14. How many cameras will be provided for the Live Stream?

For WAG, 4 cameras will be provided: one for each event. For MAG, 2-3 cameras will be provided dependent on the number of panels running at an invitational.

15. Has the MGA considered extending the competition season?

The MGA BOD will review this at their October 28th meeting. This protocol document will be updated following that meeting with the outcome of their decision.