



POLE SPORT & ARTS WORLD FEDERATION



POSA General Judges' Rules

Valid 2026-2028

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POSA



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ABBREVIATIONS

TWG	The World Games
SJ	Superior Jury
TC	Technical Committee
COP	Code of Points
NF	National Federation
HJ	Head Judge
AS	Apparatus Supervisor
D	Difficulty
E	Execution
A	Artistry
JEP	Judges' Evaluation Programmed
EP	Ethics Panel
POSA	Pole Sport & Arts World Federation
POS	Pole Sport
POA	Pole Art
AEA	Aerial Art
AES	Aerial Sport
WCH	World Championships



1. INTRODUCTION

Pole & Aerial is a judgement sport, and judges are an integral part of the sport of Gymnastics/acrobatics. As a result, the rules for officiating must be transparent, fair and must maintain sport justice for all athletes. Judges are trained within their own federation, gaining valuable experience before entering the international scene. The POSA is responsible for providing educational materials and courses as well as a fair examination process to achieve the international level of brevet.

The General Judges' Rules apply to all POSA competitive disciplines. In addition, specific rules have been developed for each discipline. Judges' Rules are approved by the POSA Executive Committee.

The POSA International Judges' brevet is issued in accordance with the General and Specific Judges' Rules. To be considered as an internationally breveted judge during an Olympic cycle, the judges must attend an official POSA Judges' course and pass the examination at the beginning of or during each respective cycle.

The Judges' courses and examinations are carried out according to the protocols listed in this document. Additional specific operational directives should be established to ensure consistency amongst the disciplines as well as a high level of educational delivery.

The assignment of sanctions and awards are the same for all disciplines. The quality of work of the judges is evaluated according to 5 criteria: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor.

2. JUDGES' EDUCATION

2.1 General Information

The judges' examinations will be offered with Retest possibilities. Examinations must be prepared and delivered with great responsibility and care following the protocols and directives as approved.

The format is identical at all courses.

The same schedule will be used on all courses.

All courses shall have the same curriculum and examination delivery. Details of the preparation process are listed in the Directives.

2.2 Type of Courses

All Judges' courses are published on the POSA website and social media.

2.2.1 Intercontinental Courses hosted by POSA

In each discipline one Intercontinental Course will be approved per cycle. Courses will be held online for all disciplines in November-December 2026.

The number of participants per NF is outlined in the Specific Judges' Rules.

NF's Presidents are invited to participate in the Intercontinental Course and are considered out of the quota. If they cannot attend the Intercontinental Course, they are considered out of quota at International Courses as well.

The Intercontinental courses will be held in English, without translation. The TC Members and/or the POSA President in each discipline will deliver the course. Marking examinations and compiling results will be processed and digitally computed automatically.

The full and results of the Intercontinental course (by judge number) will be reviewed by TC and POSA President and the results for the 5 criteria (excellent, very good, good, pass, fail) will be determined. The TC Presidents will sign off the document. This scale will then be published and applied for all other courses and the online examination for the whole cycle.

These are still reflected only by judge number not name. The results will have to be reviewed in accordance with the evaluation scale. Results will be verified by the TC Presidents and the POSA President. The Brevet Card Results Certifications will be sent to the federations. No results will be communicated at the end of any course.

2.2.2 International/national Courses allocated by POSA

International and/or national Courses will be organized in every continent from January to September 2026, both online and live.

The International courses will be held in English.

Marking examinations and compiling results will be processed and digitally computed automatically. These are still reflected only by judge number not name. The results must be reviewed in accordance with the evaluation scale. Results will be verified by the TC Presidents and the POSA office. The Brevet Card Results Certifications will be sent to the federations. No results are communicated at the end of any course.

2.2.3 Retest Courses hosted by POSA

In each discipline, one Retest course will be held online between October and December in English and without translation (See also article 2.7 below about other retest possibilities).

Marking examinations and compiling results will be processed and digitally computed automatically. These are still reflected only by judge number not name. The results must be reviewed in accordance with the evaluation scale. Results will be verified by the TC Presidents and the POSA office. The Brevet Card Results Certifications will be sent to the federations. No results are communicated at the end of any course. In any case, it will be the responsibility of the candidate who must repeat the test to contact the international federation to arrange the new test.

2.3 Online Examination upon NF

Each NF may request one (1) online examination (without course) to be organized between October and December under the supervision of the POSA. Additional requests due to time zones may be submitted to the POSA for approval.

Marking examinations and compiling the results will be processed and digitally computed automatically. These are still reflected only by judge number not name. Results will be verified by the TC Presidents and the POSA office. The Brevet Card Results Certifications will be sent to the federations.

2.4 Conditions of Participation

COURSE/EXAMINATION	PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS
All Courses and Online Examination	To be allowed to participate in any judges' course or to register for the Online Examination, the candidates must meet the following criteria: • Minimum age 18 in the year of the examination (Those under 18 can take the course, but their diploma (if they pass the test) will remain frozen until they reach the age of majority) • Being a member of an NF in good standing affiliated with the POSA • Have the nationality (citizenship) of the NF they represent • Be registered by his/her NF to participate • Have a working knowledge of English
POSA Intercontinental Course	Minimum category 3
POSA Retest Courses	• Retest to upgrade or after failure from Intercontinental/International Course. • Missed Intercontinental or National Courses (former brevet), with medical certificate

2.5 Judging Examinations

Details for each discipline are provided in the Specific Judges' Rules.

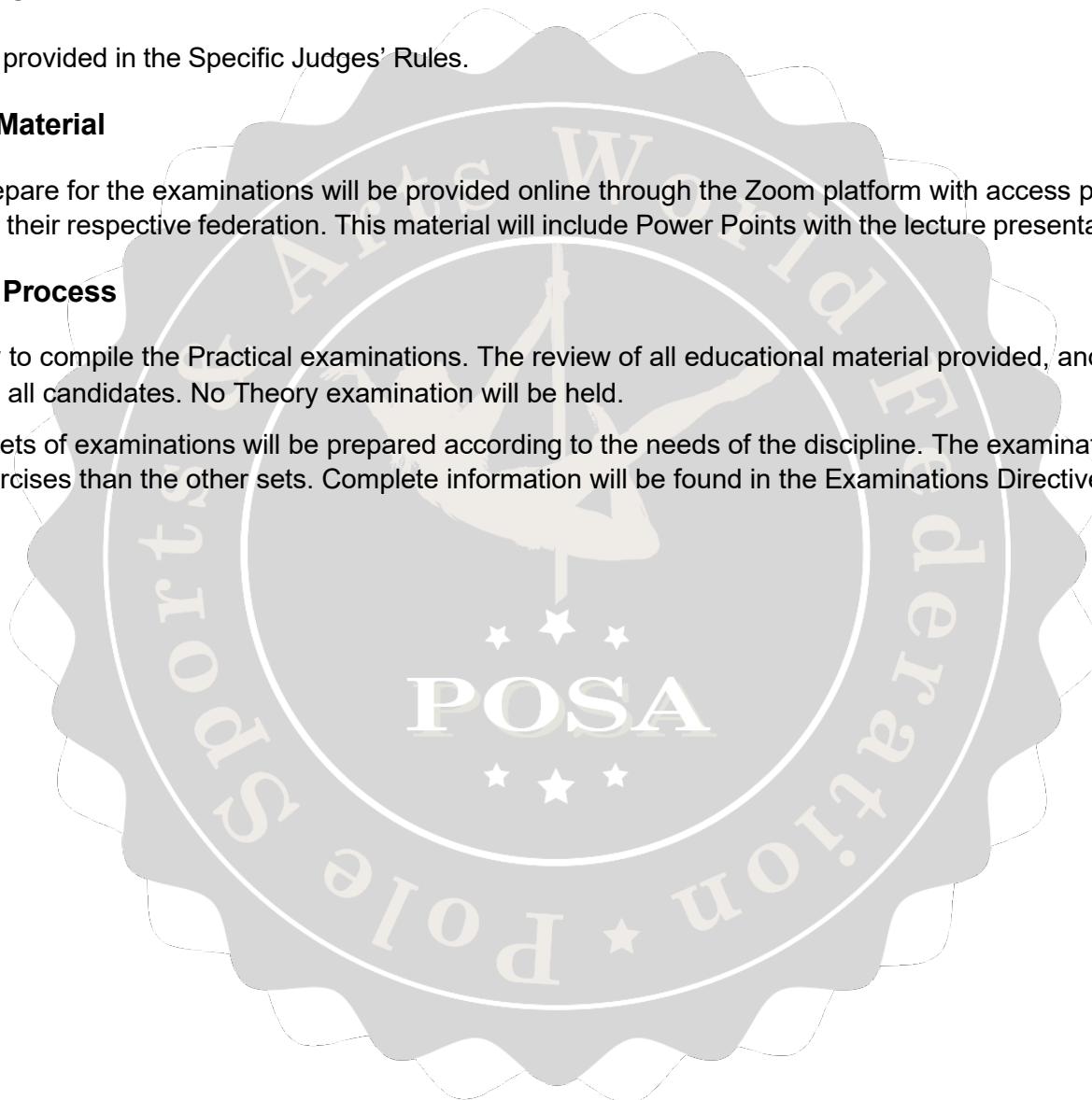
2.5.1. Educational Material

All Educational Material to prepare for the examinations will be provided online through the Zoom platform with access permitted for each candidate after registration by their respective federation. This material will include Power Points with the lecture presentations.

2.5.2 Examination Process

TC will have the responsibility to compile the Practical examinations. The review of all educational material provided, and a strong theoretical knowledge are expected from all candidates. No Theory examination will be held.

For each discipline, multiple sets of examinations will be prepared according to the needs of the discipline. The examination for the Intercontinental Course will have different exercises than the other sets. Complete information will be found in the Examinations Directives and/or Specific Judges' Rules once published.



2.6 Examination Results and Experience Requirements

All judges taking a POSA judging course for the first time will become certified national judges if they pass the written assessment test with 60% and the video assessment with 60%. They will then be qualified to judge all POSA competitions at regional and national level in the languages they are fluent in. The certificate is valid for one year and must be updated annually. To qualify for re-certification as a national judge they must judge a minimum of 2 competitions per year. Credits (competitions) do not have to be gained from live judging and can come from shadow judging/video judging etc. (see the list below).

All national judges wishing to certify as an international judge must be a national judge for a minimum of one year and judge a minimum of 4 national's competitions and have higher grades in the exams and attend the Intercontinental Judges Course; these Judges should be fluent in the English language and pass the intercontinental judges test in English if they have not already done so. Both the written assessment test and the video assessment must have separate scores of 70%. As you know, the national judges must attend the Intercontinental Judges (organize every 2 years) Course to become an international judge.

Credits:

- First certification - A national judge can judge national / regional POSA competitions.
- Re-certification - annually.
- National judges - must judge a minimum of 2 competitions per year
- International judge - must be a national judge for a minimum of one year and judge a minimum of 4 national competitions and have higher grades in the exams, attend the Intercontinental Judges Course.
- International Head judge – needs a minimum of 8 competitions judge and must fulfil expected criteria

2.7 Retest Opportunity

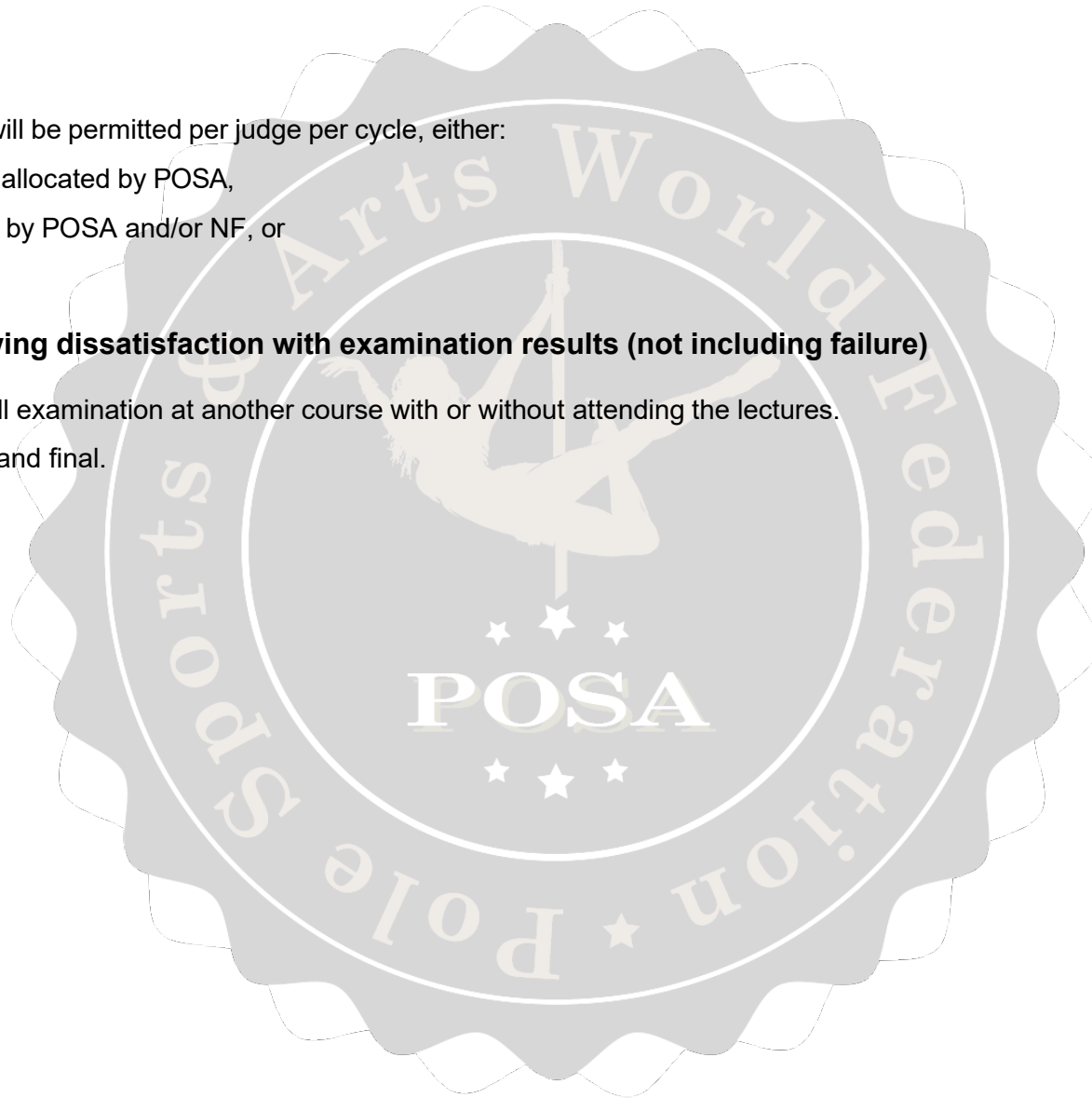
Only one Retest opportunity will be permitted per judge per cycle, either:

- at the International Courses allocated by POSA,
- at the Retest Course hosted by POSA and/or NF, or
- at an Online Examination

2.7.1 Retest following dissatisfaction with examination results (not including failure)

The Judge must retake the full examination at another course with or without attending the lectures.

The retest result will be valid and final.



2.7.2 Retest following failure

The Judge must take the entire course – except for an Online Examination where no course is held – and full examination again.

The retest result will be valid and final.

2.8 Judging Interruption

A judge who did not renew his/her brevet may continue his/her career as a judge after the interruption as follows:

- After one (1) cycle, a judge may re-qualify for the previous category held before the interruption, once the judge attains the examination results for that specific category and the missing experience requirements are fulfilled (within two (2) years of the new cycle). If judges do not achieve the experience requirement to match their examination results within 2 years, they will receive the Category in accordance with competitions judged.
- After more than one (1) cycle, the judge must begin the judging process again under the conditions that apply to a highest National level judge

2.9 Information concerning POSA Authorities and TC Members

The TC members shall automatically maintain for the following cycle the category they held in the cycle just completed.

New TC Members for the 2026-2028 cycle must review the educational materials and attend the intercontinental judges' course (no examination required).

Other POSA authorities while serving and continuing as authorities will continue to maintain their category in the subsequent cycle.

Other POSA authorities (not as candidates, or re-elected but not serving their mandate, or not re-elected in 2024) with a current POSA brevet will retain their Category (to a maximum of Category 2), if they review the educational materials and attend a judges' course (no examination required).

3. JUDGES' REGISTRATION, DATABASE AND INFORMATION

Names, brevet categories and nationalities of all judges with a valid brevet are available on the POSA website. In consultation with the TC, the POSA Office shall maintain a database with each judge's name, nationality, brevet level, and competition experience in the respective discipline. NFs are responsible for providing the POSA Office with any update regarding the above-mentioned information related to their respective judges.

4. GROUPINGS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (2026-2028)

Group 1 competition	Group 2 competitions	Group 3 competitions
• World Championships • The CSIT World Games • Continental Championships • Continental Games • World Cup Competitions	• All other Multisport Games • National Championships • All other POSA-approved international tournaments and competitions	• All other Regional/Interregional Championships

5. JUDGING PRIVILEGES PER CATEGORY

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
- May serve on SJ or HJ (all disciplines) - May serve as D-, E-, A - May be appointed to teach at international courses	- May serve on HJ - May serve as D-, E-, A- judge - May serve as HJ in POA & AEA - May be appointed to assist in teaching at international courses	- May serve as E- & A- judge at Group 2 competitions. - May serve as E- or A-judge at AES	- May serve as E- or A- judge at Group 3 competitions. - For POA, AEA and AER may serve as E- or A- judges at Continental Championships and World Cups (if necessary)

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR JUDGES AND SUPERIOR JURY FOR POSA-SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

Every Competition has a President of SJ/TD depending on the group and type of competition.

All positions, including T & L, require a valid POSA brevet unless otherwise provided. If there is an insufficient number of judges in the required categories at a competition, the TD or President of the SJ may take whatever action is needed to secure the running of the event.

POSA TC members:

- may only serve as Supervisors at POSA sanctioned competitions, unless extraordinary approval is given by the respective TC President and Secretary General.
- must inform their TC President in writing and in advance of attending any competitions, courses, seminars, clinics or lectures for judges or coaches outside the NF they represent, unless invited directly by POSA.
- may serve on SJ or as AS at the OG regardless of their category

Judges officiating at competitions must:

- have the nationality (citizenship) or the permanent residency of the federation they represent and authority to participate from their federation in accordance with POSA Statutes
- maintain integrity of all decisions, showing no preference or bias

- possess competence to apply the Code of Points and other rules of the POSA
- demonstrate good moral and ethical behavior
- show respect for others by being punctual and respecting all rules
- respect the judges' oath, the POSA Code of Ethics, the POSA Code of Conduct, and the POSA Code of Discipline

Any close family relative to a competitive athlete may not judge that athlete or his/her unit (pair, group, etc.) at any POSA sanctioned event. The following are considered as close family relative: people who are or were married to, or live in a registered partnership or co-habit with athlete as well as people who are related to a athlete by birth or marriage in direct or in collateral line, including the following persons: grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, nephew and cousin. If a conflict should or could arise, the following people are to be informed, so appropriate action can be taken:

- For competitions with a POSA TC / POSA SJ qualifying competition: Secretary General, EP President, TC President or President of SJ (if different)
- For all other competitions: EP President, TC President or President of SJ (if different).

The details of the procedure for the competition judges' draw, based on the principles mentioned in the Technical Regulations, are outlined in the Specific Judges' Rules.

Judges may only serve in one official position (e.g. D and E or E, at same time is not permitted) per competition phase.

Exceptions:

- HJ acts also as a judge in POA, AEA;
- HJ and Time are permitted in POA and AEA (only when necessary).

7. JUDGES' ATTENDANCE AT COMPETITIONS AND PODIUM TRAINING

Judges arriving late for competitions (force majeure) may be allowed to judge at the discretion of the HJ/ SJ President, but a signed note from transportation company is required to demonstrate the judge or federation was not at fault. Judges will be included in a draw on a specific day, only if they are present at the judges' meeting for that phase of the competition.

Judges may not leave earlier than the official departure day of the event when they are appointed by POSA. Judges need to ask permission of the TD / SJ President in advance before leaving a competition before completion. In General, Execution and Artistry/Artistic Judges are not permitted to

view the Podium Training of athletes. More details may be available in the Rules & Regulations of each respective discipline, COP or the competition Directives.

8. JUDGES' PANELS MINIMUM STANDARDS

The minimum standards required for judges' panels in POSA sanctioned competitions are presented in the tables below.

Any competition may be used by the standards of a higher group.

The panel maximum size may not exceed those of Group 1 for all disciplines and Group 2 for all disciplines.

All exceptions to the minimum standards must be approved in advance of the arrival day of the delegations by the respective TC President (or POSA President) for Group 3 competitions. Any other exceptions (Groups 1-3) will require approval from the LOC.

Discipline	Group 1 competition	Group 2 competitions	Group 3 competitions
POS	2 jury panels composed by: 5 EJ 2 DJ 5 AJ 1 HJ <u>SJ:</u> 1 President 2 DJ	Where possible, two panels 3/5 EJ 2 DJ 3/5 AJ 1 HJ <u>SJ:</u> 1 President 2 DJ	Where possible, two panels 2/3 EJ 2 DJ 2/3 AJ 1 HJ

Discipline	Group 1 competition	Group 2 competitions	Group 3 competitions
AES	2 jury panels composed by: 3/5 EJ 2 DJ 3/5 AJ 1 HJ ----- <u>SJ:</u> 1 President 2 DJ	Where possible, two panels 3 EJ 2 DJ 3 AJ 1 HJ ----- <u>SJ</u> 1 President 2 DJ	Where possible, two panels 2/3 EJ 2 DJ 2/3 AJ 1 HJ

Discipline	Group 1 competition	Group 2 competitions	Group 3 competitions
POA AEA	2 jury panels composed by: 1/2 EJ 2 TJ 4 AJ (with HJ in) ----- No SJ is required	Where possible, two panels 1/2 EJ 2 TJ 3/4 AJ (with HJ in) ----- No SJ is required	1/2 EJ 2 TJ 3/4 AJ (with HJ in) ----- No SJ is required



9. JUDGES' UNIFORMS

The judges' uniforms shall comply with the following requirements:

Judges' Uniforms Items Y = Yes N = No O = Optional	POS	AES	AEA	POA
Dark/blue suit with jacket & pants or skirt	Y	Y	Y	Y
White shirt /blouse	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tie (men only, Women optional)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scarf (women only, Men optional)	O	O	O	O
POSA or LOC Tie (men only, Women optional)	O	O	O	O
POSA or LOC Scarf (women only)	O	O	O	O
National Emblem	N	N	N	N
POSA Badge	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*
POSA-Pin	O*	O*	O*	O*
classic shoes or sneakers (e.g. solid black, blue or white color)	Y	Y	Y	Y
POSA PK judges' T-shirt				

* Except where forbidden with a uniform provided by a Local Organizing Committee

Note: Some disciplines have more detailed information regarding judges' uniforms in their CoP and Newsletters that take precedence over this table.

10. JUDGES' RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

10.1 Preamble

Once a judge is breveted by POSA, records are maintained to recognize or sanction their performance.

The nominations for recognition and awards are based on two distinct principles, excellent performance and long-term dedicated service to gymnastics as an active international official.

10.2 Excellence in Judging

This award is based on an "excellent" evaluation during a major POSA competition where a post competition control is conducted. The recognition will not apply to any specific phase of the competition, but to the overall performance during the entire event.

This will apply to the National Championships, World Championships, Continental Championships and possibly World Cup and Multi-sport Games, if an evaluation programmed is carried out. There is no limit to the number of commendations a judge may receive in a cycle if they fulfil the criteria.

Excellence in Judging Award	
One competition Overall evaluation of "Excellent"	- Letter to the NF signed by the Secretary General and the respective TC President / Commission President
Over one cycle "Excellent" judgement using the World Championships evaluations of the cycle (any fair or poor judgement will eliminate a judge from consideration).	- POSA Cycle Diploma Award - Letter to the NF signed by the Secretary General and the respective TC President / Commission President

10.3 Longevity of Judging Service

This award is based on a significant contribution to Pole & Aerial as an international official over a period of many years. The awards listed are based on a judgment without sanctions (except verbal warnings), during the designated period.

The member Federations submits to the POSA Sports Department (posaoffice@posaworld.org) the name(s) of their judges deserving the gold level award between 01 January and 28 February of each year. After verification by the respective Sports Event Manager and the POSA President that the conditions are met, the decision is taken and communicated to the respective NF.

The same nomination procedure applies for the candidates for the Honorary Judges' Award. However, after verification of the conditions, the Secretary General submits the request to the Executive Committee for final decision. Presentation is given at the discretion of the respective NF.

In the event that the NF does not take care of notifying the name of the judge(s) to be awarded, POSA may decide autonomously to proceed with the awarding.

Longevity of Judging Service	
- Gold level award for 5 years of service without sanction - Based on 5 World Championships, 3 Continental Championships	- Letter to the NF signed by the Secretary General and the respective TC President - Gold Long Service pin
POSA Honorary Judge's Diploma to retired judges who are breveted for a minimum of 5 breveted active cycles with minimum 8 World Championships, without sanction	- POSA Honorary Judge's Diploma signed by the POSA President and the TC President - Special insignia pin

11. JUDGES' DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND APPEAL PROCESS

11.1 General

Judges are obliged to respect the judges' oath and to execute their function at all competitions with highest possible quality (honesty and integrity) and without bias.

The TC and EP Commission members are responsible for the education, control and supervision of the work of the judges. They investigate and take any measure necessary during the competition, and following the event conduct an analysis of the competition videos as required.

Poor and/or biased judging will be subject to disciplinary proceedings and sanctions.

Judging is based on the Code of Points. Other considerations, such as nationality, friendship, etc. are deemed as biased judging. The official POSA JEP program will have to be used for the evaluation of the judges' work during and after the competition.

Sanctions because of poor and/or biased judging apply irrespectively of whether the judge acted consciously (with intent) or unconsciously (without intent). The NFs are also responsible for the actions and behavior of their judges.

11.2 Disciplinary Measures and Sanctions

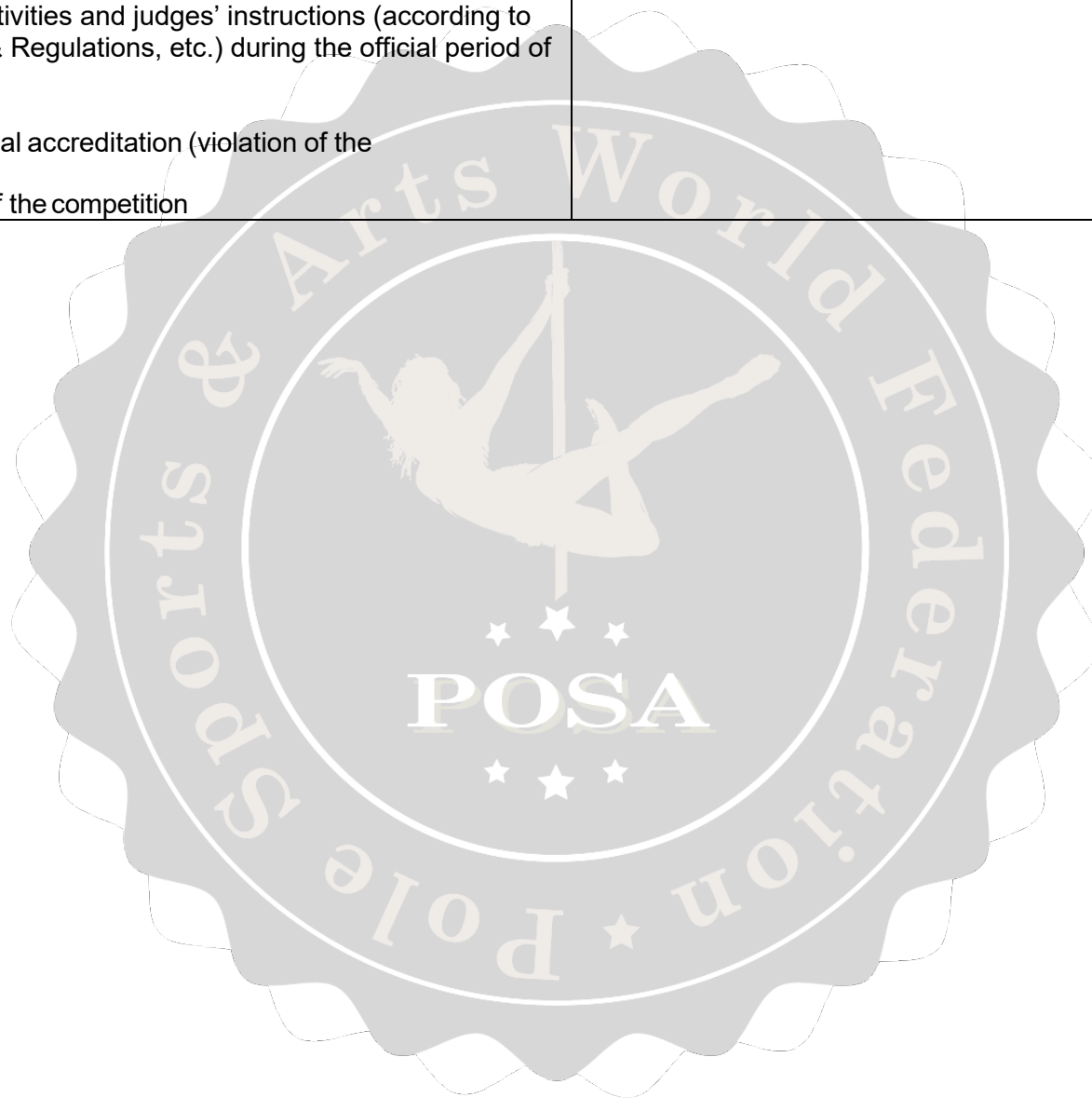
11.2.1 Disciplinary Measures during the competition

A judge can be warned once, at most a second time, and then may be excluded from the competition. However, in case of a very serious mistake, the SJ President with the HJ and/or the POSA President can exclude a judge immediately, without previous warning (obviously in case of Level 1 and 2 competitions).

The disciplinary measures taken during a competition are without prejudice to any possible sanction pronounced after the analysis made of the judges' work.

Action	Disciplinary Measures
A judge may be warned of the following: - Repeated deviations below or above the deductions for errors, as stated in the COPs - Showing favoritism or disfavor toward an individual athlete or a team - Taking part in obvious discussions and/or agreements with other judges with the intent of collaborating - Poor evaluation while judging - Instances of obviously incorrect judging decisions during competition	1) Verbal warning 2) Written warning or transfer to the EP Disciplinary Commission If a judge receives a verbal warning during the competition, the case will be analyzed in the post-competition evaluation and if confirmed, will may result in a written warning by the TC through the POSA Secretary General or transferred to the EP Disciplinary Commission 3) A judge receiving a second warning during a period of 2 years after the first warning is automatically referred to the EP Disciplinary Commission.
- Incorrect uniform	Prohibited from judging
A judge may be removed and replaced immediately or not allowed to judge in the following competition phase for the following: - Receiving a second warning - Taking part in obvious discussions and/or agreements with other judges with the intent of collaborating - Showing favoritism or disfavor toward an individual gymnast or a team, after a warning - Continued unjustified high deviations below or above the deductions for errors as stated in the Code of Points or in the COP and Rules & Regulations, after having been given a verbal warning - Speaking with other judges and/or giving some signs during the competition following a verbal warning - Having used means of communication which are not permitted	1. Immediate removal from the competition and prohibited from judging for all remaining phases of the competition 2. The case must be reported to the Secretary General and handed over to the EP Disciplinary Commission

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>during the competition (e.g. mobile phone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cheating or proven corrupt behavior- Not attending the official activities and judges' instructions (according to the Code of Points, Rules & Regulations, etc.) during the official period of the competition- Abusive behavior- Abuse or misuse of the official accreditation (violation of the Accreditation Rules)- Obstructing the operation of the competition | |
|--|--|



11.2.2 Sanctions after a competition

After the conclusion of each Final, the HJs and/or SJ President or the POSA President, shall conduct the post-competition video/speech review and analysis of the judges' work.

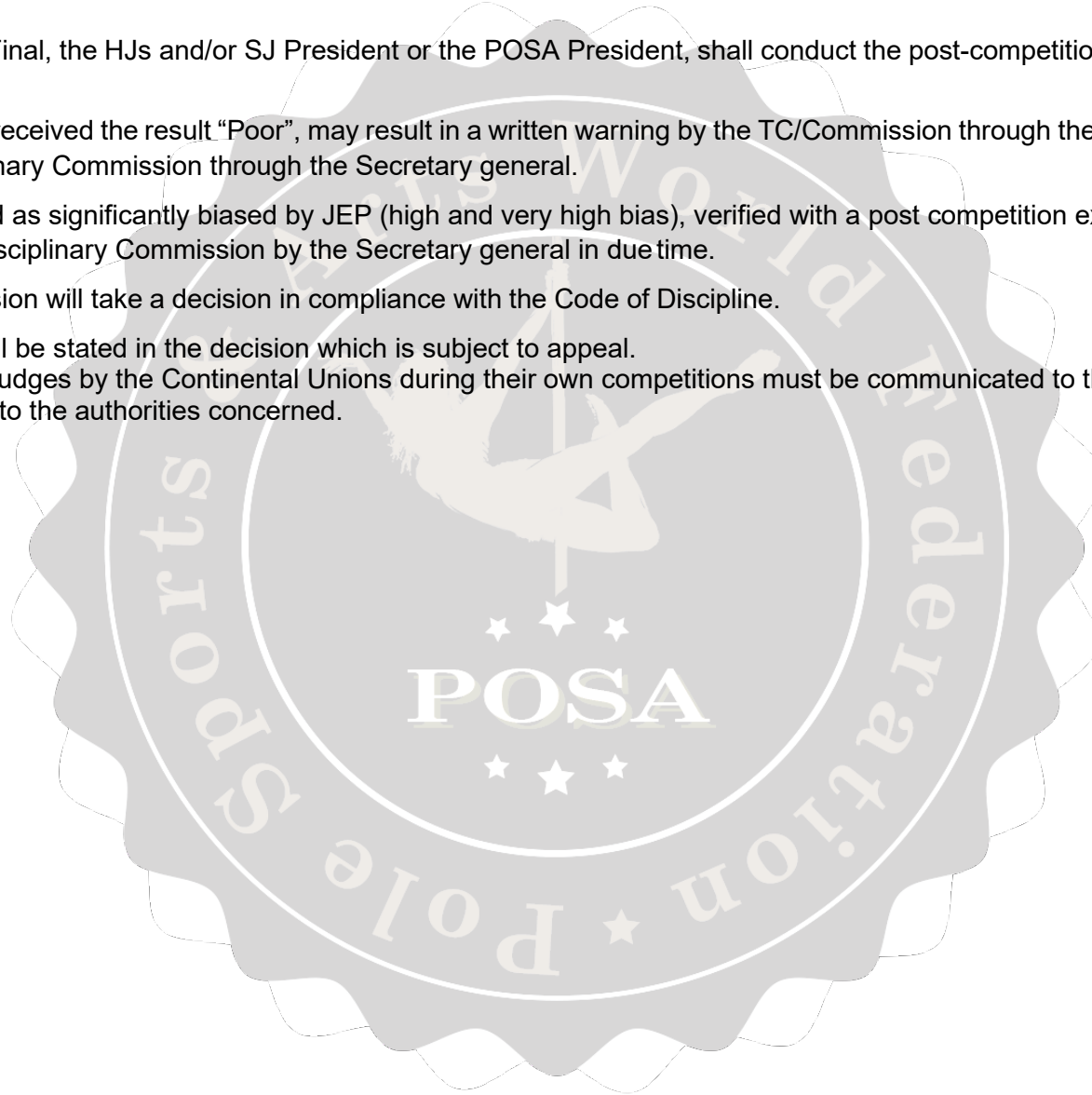
All cases, where a judge has received the result "Poor", may result in a written warning by the TC/Commission through the Secretary General or may be referred to the EP Disciplinary Commission through the Secretary general.

Judges having been identified as significantly biased by JEP (high and very high bias), verified with a post competition expert score from the TC, must be brought to the EP Disciplinary Commission by the Secretary general in due time.

The EP Disciplinary Commission will take a decision in compliance with the Code of Discipline.

The details of the sanction will be stated in the decision which is subject to appeal.

The sanctions taken against judges by the Continental Unions during their own competitions must be communicated to the POSA Secretary General who shall forward this information to the authorities concerned.



11.2.3 Sanctions against Judges and Federations

The federations are informed about the sanctions against their judges (except in case of verbal warnings).

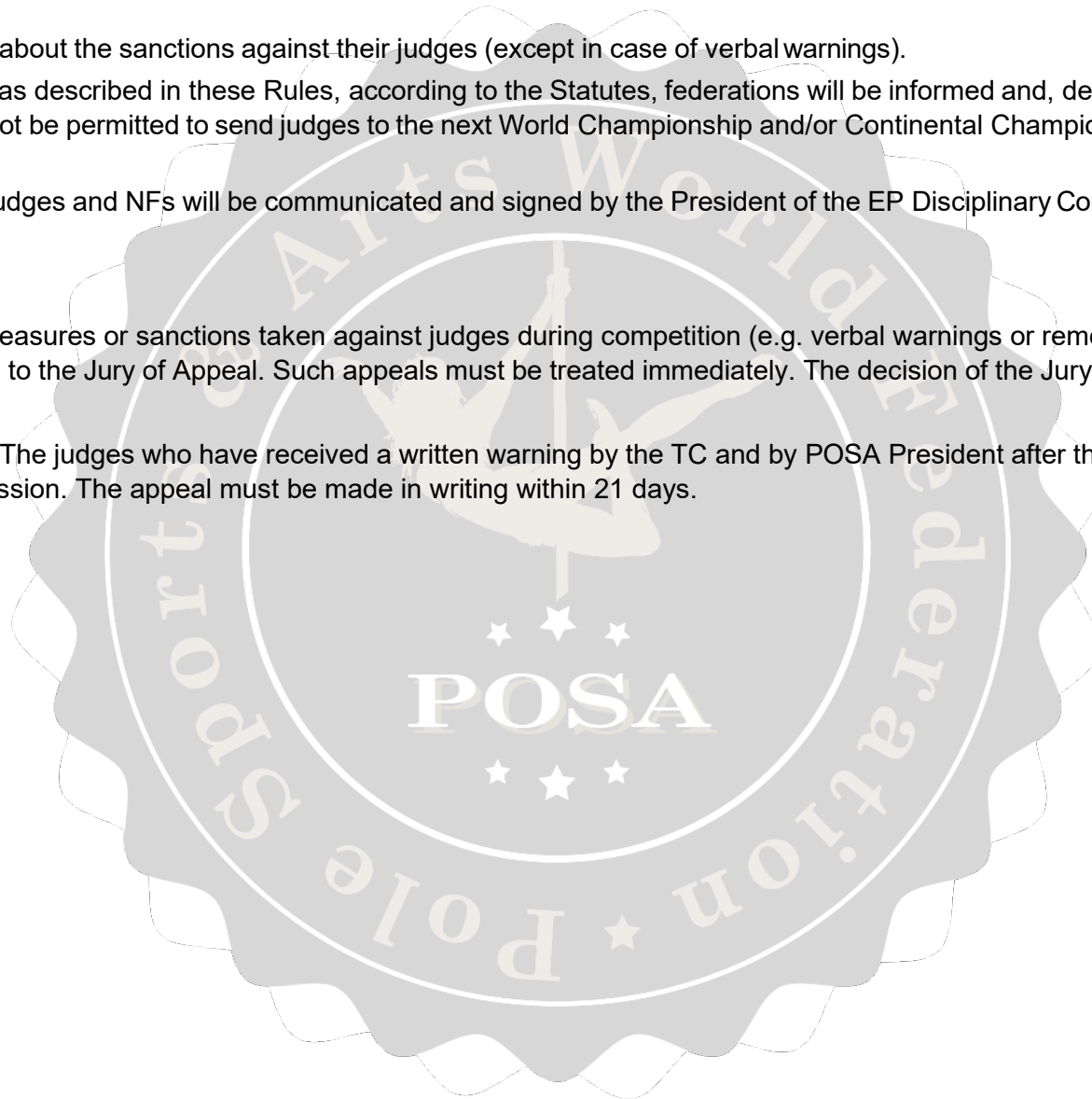
For sanctions against judges as described in these Rules, according to the Statutes, federations will be informed and, depending on the seriousness of the case, will not be permitted to send judges to the next World Championship and/or Continental Championship of the discipline concerned.

All written sanctions against judges and NFs will be communicated and signed by the President of the EP Disciplinary Commission.

11.3 Appeal Proceedings

Jury of Appeal: disciplinary measures or sanctions taken against judges during competition (e.g. verbal warnings or removal of a judge from the competition) can be appealed to the Jury of Appeal. Such appeals must be treated immediately. The decision of the Jury of Appeal is final and valid for the relevant competition.

EP Disciplinary Commission: The judges who have received a written warning by the TC and by POSA President after the competition may appeal to the EP Disciplinary Commission. The appeal must be made in writing within 21 days.



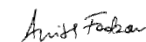
These General Judges' Rules have been approved by the Executive Committee at its online meeting, in June 2026. They enter into effect on 1st September 2026 and are also valid for all judges' courses for the cycle 2026 – 2028.

POLE SPORT & ARTS WORLD FEDERATION



Davide Lacagnina
POSA President

Chiasso, June 2026



Anisa Fadzan
Secretary General

