

# THE NGA BY-LAWS

Rulebook for  
Chairpersons, Promoters, Judges,  
Amateur, and Professional Athletes  
(Inclusive of Mandatory Poses, Routines & Judging Criteria)



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# **THE NATIONAL GYM ASSOCIATION, INC. (NGA)**

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Library of Congress No. TXU 651-258

Revised: February 2025

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## **BACKGROUND OF THE NATIONAL GYM ASSOCIATION, INC. (NGA)**

The National Gym Association, Inc. (NGA) was born in 1979 and is a nonprofit organization with a dual mission: to support through education and encouragement the art and science of natural strength training and bodybuilding, and to provide more than adequate anti-drug information to support its slogan: Drug-Free Athletes of America.

One of the main ways the NGA does this is by sanctioning bodybuilding competitions throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad. This allows men and women the opportunity to compete against themselves and others in a quest for the achievement of their peak condition. With steroids and other performance enhancing drug use running rampant in the eighties, the NGA severed its ties with all other bodybuilding organizations to discourage such drug uses by only promoting drug tested shows. All NGA competitors must pass a polygraph test to validate a minimum drug-free period of seven years (see IV.2.2). The NGA is growing rapidly as promoters and competitors across the United States and Canada are coming aboard and natural bodybuilding is at an all-time high in terms of popularity.

The NGA has also entered the area of personal trainer certification with an extremely comprehensive home-study certification course. The NGA Trainers/Instructors Certification Course is designed to prepare men and women who have chosen to pursue careers as free-lance personal trainers or as private training instructors. The course is therefore designed to satisfy a demanding and well-informed client's expectations for safety, professionalism, and current knowledge.

The NGA also represents the interest of fitness facility owners and managers for the expressed purpose of maintaining the highest possible standards of safety, education, and training, as well as the support of fair athletic and aesthetic competition for the amateur and professional athlete. Setting and maintaining these standards has always been an important issue for the fitness industry, and today it has even greater significance because personal training and private instruction have become a major focus of facility staff and management.

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### **I. Appointed Chairpersons & Promoters By-Laws**

The NGA Committee shall nominate and appoint all Chairpersons. All Chairpersons shall be fully knowledgeable and abide by all rules as set forth in the NGA By-Laws. In the absence of an NGA Chairperson, the Promoter shall act as the NGA Chairperson and follow the same rules and regulations until a Chairperson is elected in such region.

One of the most rewarding benefits of being an NGA Chairperson or Promoter is to know that their efforts are helping to provide competitors with ample opportunities to pursue their competitive aspirations without using drugs thus helping to prevent the use and abuse of



dangerous substances. **Any involvement with organizations or media entities that are not completely devoted to drug free training therefore represents a conflict of interest for an NGA Chairperson or Promoter.** NGA Chairpersons and Promoters are strongly advised not to participate as competitors, promoters, judges, or officials of any organization that does not drug test all its shows; nor should they be involved in any media entity not one hundred percent committed to natural bodybuilding. All NGA Chairpersons and Promoters should be perfect role models for drug free competitions.

The following duties and responsibilities are specifically for Chairpersons and Promoters:

## **I.1 Solicit Promoters**

1. Chairpersons shall seek qualified Promoters to promote NGA natural bodybuilding events.
2. Chairpersons are responsible to ensure that NGA Promoters are fully knowledgeable and abide by all the rules set forth in the NGA By-Laws by directing and providing pertinent NGA rules and regulations material (that includes the NGA Promoters Guidelines) to said Promoter who is promoting an NGA sanctioned bodybuilding event. This is to ensure that the highest quality standards for NGA events are being fulfilled.

### **I.1.1 Stage Presentation**

Promoters are responsible for ensuring that the stage is displayed with a banner that indicates the name of the show inclusive of the initials NGA (ie, The NGA Texas Punisher) and also includes the NGA logo prominently displayed. It should be centered and prominently visible on the stage so that people on social media and viewing photos will know that this is an NGA event. Failure to abide by this ruling will jeopardize your future promotion with the NGA.

### **I.1.2 Solicit Qualified Judges**

1. Promoters may ONLY use a Head Judge who is NGA affiliated, qualified and who is fully knowledgeable of the NGA By-Laws.
2. Promoters and Head Judges are responsible to obtain qualified judges that have a solid understanding and comprehension of the NGA By-Laws.
3. Promoter and Head Judge shall direct and provide pertinent NGA rules and regulations and NGA judging criteria to the appointed judges/test judges. This is to ensure that the highest quality judging standards for NGA events are being fulfilled.
4. Promoters are responsible to compensate judges. The following are suggestions:
  - a. Head judge = \$75 minimum
  - b. Judge = \$50 minimum

- c. Expeditors, backstage help, and others are compensated at an amount to be determined by each promoter.
5. Interview and arrange test judges for prospective future judges. All new judges must have at least one prior test judging experience at an NGA sanctioned event prior to serving as a regular judge and their test judge scores must be reviewed by the National Director of Promoter Relations. The Chairman, with agreement of the National Director of Promoter Relations, also has the authority to approve test judges to become a regular judge. If a test judge is found to be substandard, they may be required to be a test judge at 3 NGA sanctioned events prior to becoming a regular judge.
6. Discontinue use of a judge whose competence is still below the standards;
7. Schedule and contact judges to arrange judging panels for shows;
8. Attempts should be made to rotate judges so that no two shows have the exact same panel; and
9. The NGA Judging panel must be made up of a “majority” of NGA affiliated & qualified judges.

## **I.2 Pre-Contest Procedures**

### **I.2.1 Promotion of Contest**

1. The Promoter for an NGA sanctioned contest shall be responsible for adherence to NGA rules and regulations falling under his/her purview. The Promoter may serve as Contest Director or may appoint such a person under his/her guidance who shall act to represent the Promoter and not the individual.
2. The Promoter/Contest Director shall possess a copy of and be knowledgeable of the NGA Official Bylaws that include the NGA Promoter Responsibilities, along with any updates or amendments.
3. It is the Promoter’s obligation to notify the NGA Office when an event has been canceled. It is essential that notification be made within a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the scheduled event. Failure to abide by the NGA ruling will require the Promoter to pay the NGA Sanction fee in full. This ruling has been composed to avoid shows from being canceled.
4. It is the Promoter’s obligation to notify their registered PRO Athletes if there are less than 5 athletes registered as of 2 weeks prior to the show. This will indicate a possibility; and at the discretion of the Promoter, that the payouts may be less than advertised. This is communicated in the payout notification when promoting the show.

5. NGA Promoters are considered exclusive promoters to the NGA. NGA promoters shall not enter into or agree to promote, co-promote or market for another organization while actively promoting an NGA show.

### **I.2.2 Contest Notices**

The Promoter/Contest Director shall have the primary responsibility for the promotion of the event, including advertising and publicity, and the timely distribution of contest information, circulars and entry forms. No promotion of a contest shall be advertised or communicated without the sole approval of the NGA and all NGA Sanction Fees paid by the Promoter.

All notices of competition (i.e.: applications, posters, flyers, advertisements) must be submitted to and pre-approved by the National Director of Promoter Relations of the NGA and must include all pertinent information as follows:

1. The NGA official logo is mandatory.
2. It is mandatory that the title of all events shall be preceded by “NGA”. Example: 2023 NGA American Natural Bodybuilding Championships.
3. The NGA does not allow promotion of any other organization on posters, social media, advertisements, etc. Both logos and names of organizations are not permitted. **Failure to abide by this NGA By-Law will result in the event being deleted from the NGA schedule.**
4. In the event of a PRO Show, it is mandatory that the PRO Athlete amounts be clearly stated on all notices of competition, including the athlete application. It is the responsibility of the Promoter to announce to every PRO Athlete in writing every PRO payout scenario based on an assumed number of entries. Under no circumstances shall the Promoter deviate from their posted amounts (see example chart below). The PRO Athlete guidelines shall be communicated clearly as follow: (this example assumes there are 5 athletes in each PRO class and the PRO entry fee is \$100):
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$300
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200

The promoter also has the option to award only the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner with a cash payout. That amount shall be no less than \$500.

If there are less than 5 athletes in the PRO class, the payout may be adjusted accordingly, if it is clearly stated on all event notices of competition. Assuming there are less than 5 athletes, at a minimum, the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner should receive at least double what the PRO entry fee is.

Example PRO payout notification for publication:

<b><i>PRO PAYOUTS*</i></b>		
	<u>5-9 Athletes</u>	<u>10+ Athletes</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$500	\$1,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$300	\$500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$200	\$300
*Assuming the minimum number of athletes is met (5 & 10)		

### **I.2.3 Amateur and Professional Athletes**

Prior to prejudging, NGA Chairperson/Promoter shall direct all athletes into a designated enclosed area for instruction as to rules, regulations, sportsmanship and contest procedures. Officials shall not allow non-participants to attend athlete's meeting except for athlete coaches. Official shall insure that all contestants have filled out all necessary forms and follow through with the appropriate procedures as stated below:

1. Ensure that all participating athletes are holding a valid NGA Membership Card and are in good standing as stated in the athlete's section of this booklet. Acceptable proof shall be an NGA Membership Card, receipt or a canceled check or money order.
2. Collect non-refundable NGA membership fees as stated in the athlete's section of this booklet. All checks or money orders should be payable to the National Gym Association, Inc.
3. All athletes must sign a Drug Waiver Release Form before the commencement of the prejudging and maintain valid copies of the results to provide at each contest. Test results must be indicated on form.
4. Athletes must submit completed contest applications to the registration panel or online before entering the athlete's meeting.
5. Registered athletes shall attach his/her line-up number to the left side of his/her posing suit or trunks.

6. Athletes who have prepaid for their polygraph test and withdraw from said competition 7 days prior to the event must send a registered letter to the Chairperson/Promoter requesting refund and must state the reason.
7. If applicable, send all physical copies of athlete membership applications, membership fees and **FAILED** drug testing results to the NGA Headquarters within 24 hours after the competition.
8. Send all copies of the Master Score Sheets to the NGA office that clearly shows the first and last name of each judge and their corresponding scores as well as first and last name of each athlete and their corresponding contestant number. The NGA Advisory Committee will evaluate judges' score sheets and advise Promoters of results and any action that needs to be taken.

#### **I.2.4 Drug Testing/Retesting Policies and Procedures**

The Chairperson/Promoter shall be responsible for polygraph testing/retesting as well as optional urine testing for winners (urinalysis is mandatory at the NGA PRO Universe) as stated in section V. Drug Testing Policies and Procedures.

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## **II. Structure of an NGA Competition**

NGA competitions consist of the following:

### **II.1 Prejudging (Day Show)**

See each division for a description of the mandatory poses or t-walk.

### **II.2 Finals (Evening Show)**

1. Presentation of the line-ups (should be omitted for classes of five or less);
2. Posing routine music:
  - a. Amateur Men's Bodybuilding, Amateur Men's Classic Physique, Amateur Women's Physique and all PROS may provide their own music that is **FREE** of profanity;
  - b. All other Amateurs will utilize house music;
  - c. Posing routine to music (Amateurs: no longer than 60 seconds, PROS: no longer than 90 seconds), however can be changed at the promoter's discretion; and

- d. No athlete will be permitted to “guest pose” at a competition they are competing in.
3. Announcement of the top five or three (at the promoter’s discretion) per class;
4. Pose down (class);
5. Presentation of class awards;
6. Symmetry and muscularity comparisons for class winners (judged);
7. Pose down (overall); and
8. Presentation of overall awards.

## **II.3 Divisions of NGA Amateur Bodybuilding Competitions**

NGA competitions can include some or all the following divisions:

1. Men’s Open – PRO Qualifier
2. Women’s Open – PRO Qualifier
3. Men’s Masters (**40+** Promoter has the discretion to divide the age groups as they see fit) – PRO Qualifier
4. Women’s Masters (**40+** Promoter has the discretion to divide the age groups as they see fit) – PRO Qualifier
5. Novice Men (not a qualifier)
6. Novice Women (not a qualifier)  
The definition and of a novice is: A competitor who has not placed 1<sup>st</sup> in any division or class of any organization
8. Debut Men – Never Competed Before (not a qualifier)
9. Debut Women – Never Competed Before (not a qualifier)
10. Couples (not a qualifier)
11. Kids (up to age 15 – not a qualifier and no membership or drug testing is required)
12. Teens (ages 16 to 19) (not a qualifier)
13. Juniors (ages 20 and 21) (not a qualifier)
14. Transformation (open to male and female – not a qualifier – no membership or drug testing is required)

## **II.4 Modification of Divisions**

Promoters have the option to cancel any division due to insufficient number of competitors or split divisions with ten or more competitors into evenly distributed subdivisions using age, weight, or heights as the criteria.

## **II.5 Crossovers**

1. Open PRO Competitors can cross over to the PRO Masters Divisions without the purchase of an additional PRO Card.
2. PRO Master Competitors cannot crossover to the Open PRO Division unless they have qualified in the Open PRO Division and have purchased an Open PRO Card.

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### **III. Responsibilities of an NGA Judge**

The duties and responsibilities of being a judge of a bodybuilding competition cannot be taken lightly. Competitors work extremely hard to prepare for contests, harder than athletes in most other sports, and deserve to be judged as thoroughly and equitably as possible. While a judge brings all their worldly experiences and emotions to the table with him, these must be kept in check to ensure that his/her placements are the result of objective analysis as opposed to subjective opinions. The judging criteria must be rigidly followed while all attempts should be made to avoid the common tendencies, which can compromise accurate judging. In addition, judges must be accountable for their decisions and accessible to the athletes. Judges must also maintain a level of accuracy deemed appropriate by the NGA as well as conduct characterized by professionalism and dedication. The goal of the NGA is to crown the finest bodybuilding athlete, without respect to size or reputation. Careful attention must be made to muscle quality, muscle separation and striations, symmetry (correct proportion), vascularity, absence of visible body fat, posing ability, and overall presentation and stage presence. While "ripped" competitors are desirable, "emaciated (anorexic-looking) competitors are not. Lean shape should be accompanied by quality muscularity. Furthermore, bodybuilders should also be judged on their ability to follow directions and act professionally (e.g.: hitting poses when commanded to do so, etc.). Judges will be cognizant of the consistency of crossover placing.

#### **III.1 Judging Criteria**

##### **III.1.1 Muscularity**

Refers to the size of the muscles, their shape, definition, and hardness. Muscularity is determined, in part, by the extent of the development in relation to the size of the skeletal structure. It also includes the shape/contour of the developed muscles and muscle groups, and separation (i.e.: the lines of demarcation between adjacent muscles) and striations delineating sections or fibers within the same muscle group, and the degree of firmness and muscle tone (lack of fat or water under the skin).

##### **III.1.2 Symmetry**

Refers to the structural harmony of the physique - the relative size of the various body parts and their shape. There must be a balance and proportion between different components (upper body and lower body, upper and lower parts and front and back of extremities, etc.). Symmetry refers not only to balance in size of these elements, but also the degree of definition

and detail. Symmetry is a measurement of evenness of development and how well all parts of the physique fit together.

### **III.1.3 Presentation**

The element of presentation covers everything not included in muscularity and symmetry. This includes the effectiveness of the display of the contestant's assets, and includes posture, carriage, projection and posing ability. Skin quality, evenness of tone, choice of posing outfit and grooming are considered.

## **III.2 Judging Specifics**

Certain markers are evident within the structure of physique judgment embraced by the NGA. These markers help to clarify the dimensions of judgment referred to above (muscularity, symmetry, and presentation), and have evolved over the history of bodybuilding as a sport. Judges are required to consider all aspects of each dimension of judgment, and to use these markers to compare and make placements within each NGA certified competition.

### **III.2.1 Muscularity**

In comparing muscularity, judges should look for evidence that the competitor is a bodybuilder, with muscularity that is greater-than-average. An impressive development of muscle and NOT the definition of average muscularity achieved simply via dieting is the quality sought in this area. In gauging muscularity, the judge should examine the degree of muscularity over the entire body.

The ARMS, judges should look for prominent bifurcated peaks in the biceps brachia, and for separate and distinct development of the brachialis and coracobrachialis. All three heads of the triceps should be separately visible and exhibit appropriate thickness and size. Muscle in the forearm should give the appearance of having 75% of the circumference of the upper arms when flexed and have necessary detail.

The SHOULDERS should exhibit all three heads of the deltoids in a balanced development, separated distinctly from the trapezius, chest and muscles of the upper arm. Also in this area, in the BACK region, the trapezius and sternocleidomastoid (neck) muscles should be developed and visible. The traps should extend down into the center back (rhomboid) muscles and the infraspinatus and teres minor groups should be visible. From these the latissimus sweep widely from the spinal insertions to beneath the arms, giving the back width. There should also be a deep furrow along the lower spine reflecting thickness of the erector spinae muscles.

From a frontal view, the CHEST should exhibit developed pectorals, which are thick and defined. Upper and lower portions should be distinguishable and of approximate equal thickness, with squared shape desirable along the outside, inside and lower edges for men. There should be no unsightly puffiness in male contestants, which is evidence of gynecomastia generally



associated with prior steroid use. Beneath the chest, the ABDOMINAL area should be clearly visible, with at least three horizontal grooves (lineae transversa), the third being at the level of the navel or slightly below. A vertical groove (linea alba) should be visible along the midline, with the abdominals clearly separated from the external obliques by lines which arc around and extend downward and inward toward the pubis (linea semilunares). The serratus anterior should be visible above the obliques, and below, the internal obliques and tensor fasciae latae should be visible above the hips.

The LEGS should feature balanced development of the quadriceps at the front, as well as that of the adductors along the inner thigh. From a rear view, the gluteal should be of a muscular nature, squared and trim rather than appearing soft and round. Separate and distinct development should be evident in the leg biceps when rear poses are done, featuring the biceps femoris, semitendinosus and semimembranosus. Calf muscles should be developed and appear prominent from the front (tibialis) and rear (gastrocnemius and soleus). The gastrocnemius should be noticeably divided between the two muscle heads, with the medial head somewhat longer. Calves should have a 60% circumference ratio when compared to the upper legs.

In looking at these muscle groupings, judges should be aware of the SHAPE, SIZE, DEFINITION and HARDNESS of each muscle. Muscles should have a pleasing contour (shape), with origins and insertions that give the appearance of appropriate placement within the anatomy. Average or long-bellied muscles are more desirable than short-bellied, in that they do not leave gaps in the physique (such as a gap near the inside elbow for a person with a short biceps muscle, or the long gap in the Achilles area for someone with short calf muscles). A full, well-positioned muscularity has a more favorable appearance and should be judged accordingly.

Size is not necessarily the key-determining factor, but evidence of thick muscularity is desirable in comparing qualities among bodybuilders. While genetic predispositions affect these qualities, successful bodybuilders have been able to overcome such "shortcomings" and make up for lack of muscle belly length or size in other areas.

The aspect of definition is equally important in judging muscularity. It must be possible to distinguish between muscles and muscle groups, as in demarcation of muscle outlines, as well as the visibility of markings (striations) between fibers within a separate muscle. Leanness is important, but an anorexic or overly dieted appearance is neither advantageous nor desirable. Definition within the confines of a well-muscled physique is what judges should be looking for. Definition and hardness are the signs of a "finished" physique, which is the result of hard training, the absence of body fat, and a limited retention of body water. Vascularity is a sign of a defined muscularity but is not always an indication of a finished physique (i.e.: vascular forearms on a competitor with a bloated midsection). Judges should examine vascularity in context with the other factors named herein when ascertaining levels of muscularity among competitors.

In every class there exists the difficult task of the judging staff placing competitors based

on basic criteria. This is especially difficult when you have a competitor that may be considered to have too much muscularity for their class versus a competitor in the same division that lacks being fit and tone (i.e. Bikini vs. Figure). In this instance, because it is a bodybuilding competition, the competitor that would be considered having too much muscularity shall be considered for the higher placement.

### **III.2.2 Symmetry**

In evaluating symmetry, the judge should be concerned with the harmony and proportion of the physique. This evaluation should begin with the SKELETAL STRUCTURE itself. Although a competitor may be limited by his genetic structure, the judge must honestly examine this characteristic to make necessary distinctions between bodybuilders. The ideal structure should include a near-equal ratio of torso to leg length, broad shoulders and narrow hips for a man, with similar proportions for a woman (albeit not so broad of shoulders). Furthermore, skeletal deformations (scoliosis, one leg too short, etc.) must be judged as imperfections despite the athlete's inability to change them.

Symmetry also includes judgment of MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT and the muscles themselves. The upper body and lower body development should be synergistic and fit together well. Likewise, the arms and legs should be in proportion to one another and also within each front to back. The physique should look balanced from the front, back and side, with no angle overshadowing the others. Within the muscles, themselves, balance must be existent pertaining to quality of muscle peak, height, development, length, shape and proportion.

A final aspect involves definition and hardness. There should be evenness between hardness in the upper and lower body, between extremities and the torso and between corresponding sides of muscle groups or the entire body (between arms and between legs). Judging symmetry involves finding defects within the physique by careful evaluation, which are separate from defects found in the area of muscularity. Symmetry is a difficult marker of physique competition to be judged.

### **III.2.3 Presentation**

The focus in the presentation is on all aspects of the performance other than the actual physique itself. Elements of display such as posture; carriage, projection, posing ability, attire, skin tone and grooming are all concerned. Presentation judging begins with the SEMI-RELAXED round, in examining how the contestant presents himself/herself. Contestants should face the position requested by the judges (side, front, etc.) without twisting, posing, moving, etc. They should stand erect and symmetrical, weight on both feet and arms at the sides. Any movement (posing) which impairs the judges' ability to look at presentation should be reflected in a markdown in scoring, costing the athlete possible higher placement. GROOMING is also examined during this time, with the emphasis on the athlete's ability to present a well-prepared and attractive appearance. Included here are evaluations based on hairstyle and length, skin tone (free of blemishes not under his control), discoloration of skin, tan quality and evenness, stretch

marks, sagging skin, etc. Jewelry other than rings and non-hanging earrings are prohibited. Slouching or lack of attention by front stage competitors (called out for comparison) between requested poses should be viewed negatively by judges and reflected in scoring. Those athletes at stage rear not being compared should use this time for rest but should still attempt to remain visibly erect and attentive.

Choice of POSING ATTIRE should conform to NGA rules and compliment the physique. Posing suits must be one in color, well fitted, have no jewelry or other distracting materials attached and are in good taste. They must be of a color which compliments the contestant's skin color and not be visibly soiled or discolored. Men's suits must fully cover the genitals and gluteal area (no "string thongs", etc.), and be cut thinly on the side to exhibit hip and abdominal muscularity. Women's suits must fully cover the breasts, gluteal and genitalia (no "string thongs", etc.), be of a two-piece variety (they may be connected by drawstrings) and allow sight access to the abdominals, full back and upper chest.

### **III.3 Common Tendencies That Can Compromise Accurate Judging**

While most judges set out to perform their duties in as fair and objective manner as possible, there are certain subconscious emotional prejudices which can inhibit their ability to do so. Every effort should be made to be aware of and avoid these impediments to accurate judging. The following are some of the most common:

1. Judging a competitor on reputation or previous placements instead of evaluating his/her condition on that given day. Even the top competitors sometimes miss their peak and should be judged and placed accordingly.
2. Judging a competitor favorably because of a personal relationship with the athlete. While most judges make all attempts to avoid any conscious favoritism they might show to friends and acquaintances, subconsciously it is very difficult to not see such people in a somewhat favorable light. It is essential for a judge to be aware of this and work doubly hard in evaluating and placing such an individual. In this situation, it is recommended that the judge leave the judges table and not judge the class.
3. Prioritizing attributes of competitors that the judge is particularly concerned with. This is particularly applicable when the judge is also a competitor. Most competitors have favorite body parts; possibly areas that they are lacking or have worked hard to bring up to par and therefore they place high priority on such areas. If conscious attempts are not made to avoid this mistake, judges with these perceptions might place competitors with good development in these areas ahead of someone more symmetrical and deserving of the advantage.

4. Allowing audience reactions to influence placements. Very often, the amount of audience response a competitor receives is more a result of how many people they bring with them as opposed to how good they look.

### **III.4 Scoring**

When the line-up is brought on stage, the judge should check to assure that the numbers on his score sheet match the competitors' numbers. After deciding the placement order, the judge should write the competitor's placement number beginning with one for the top competitor. There should be no ties. Double check to make sure that each competitor is placed, and the highest placement number is equal to the number of competitors in the class. A sample score sheet is included in the rear of this manual.

### **III.5 Use of a Summary Sheet**

This is recommended to facilitate judging. The process of judging can become very confusing, especially in the case of large, competitive classes. In such cases, a summary sheet to take notes on can aid in the evaluation process as well as handily providing information for inquisitive competitors. The following page is an example of how to use a summary sheet. A blank summary sheet is provided on the next page.

## NGA Judging Summary Sheet

## Class: Men's Bodybuilding - Open Heavyweight

#	Name	Sym	Shape	Chest	Shldr	Abs	Biceps	Tris	Back	Low Back	Ham	Legs	Calves	Def	Pres	Pl.	Comment
1	John Doe													Ex		3	Legs need work; upper body good
2	Alex Smith	Ex.	Ex.												Needs work	1	work on present., good genetic structure
3	Mike Strong	F												P	G	2	improve arms & calves, get more cut
4	Tom Sweeny		P													4	bring rest of body up to par with arms

EX = Excellent

G = Good

F = Fair

P = Poor

# NGA Judging Summary Sheet

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Name	Sym	Shape	Chest	Shldr	Abs	Biceps	Tris	Back	Lower Back	Hams	Legs	Calves	Def	Pres	Pl	Comments

EX = Excellent

G = Good

F = Fair

P = Poor



# National Gym Association

*Drug-Free Athletes of America*

## Judge's Score Sheet

EVENT NGA Championships DATE: 12/31/24

JUDGE'S NAME John Doe

DIVISION Men's Open BB CLASS: M/Weight

CONTESTANT NUMBER	PLACE	TOP 5 PLACE
12	8	
13	2	2
14	3	3
15	1	1
16	5	5
17	4	4
18	6	
19	7	
20	9	



# National Gym Association

*Drug-Free Athletes of America*

## Master Score Sheet

CONTEST: NGA Championships									DATE: 12/31/2024			
JUDGE'S NAMES and NUMBERS			A N D Y	F R A N	E A R L	T E R R I	B R O O K L Y N	B E L L A	P R E C I O U S	FINAL SCORING SHEET		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
CLASS: MENS' OPEN MIDDLEWEIGHT									S C O R E	T I E	P L A C E	
No.	NAME OF CONTESTANT		JUDGE'S INDIVIDUAL SCORES									
12	John Doe		3	2	1	2	3	1	1	9		2
13	Alex Smith		1	1	2	1	1	2	2	7		1
14	Mike Strong		2	3	3	4	2	4	3	15		3
15	Tom Sweeny		5	4	4	3	4	3	4	19		4
16	Jim Dodd		4	5	5	5	5	5	5	24		5

SIGNATURE OF HEAD JUDGE

SIGNATURE OF SCORER



### **III.6 The Importance of Accessibility and accountability to the Athlete**

An NGA judge has certain responsibilities to the athletes. First and foremost is to attempt to judge and place the competitors as accurately as possible. But many times, this is not enough. Competitors are frequently unhappy with their placements and the tension is exacerbated when a judge either cannot give them definitive reasons why they placed where they did or is not available after the show to do so. While the competitor usually disagrees with such explanations, they go a long way toward diffusing the tension and leaving the competitor with a favorable opinion of our organization. Other competitors accept their placements and look to the judges for constructive criticism on how they can improve. This can be an extremely important form of input for an athlete to use. Advice from judges who are competitive athletes and/or NGA certified personal trainers is of use. They not only can explain the competitor's shortcomings, but can also offer training, nutrition, and contest preparation tips the athlete can use to remedy the problems.

The use of a summary sheet or note pad (see III.5) facilitates the process of providing such information to competitors. NGA judges must remain for at least thirty minutes after the completion of the contest to be available to provide this service to the competitors.

### **III.7 Commitment of an NGA Judge to Natural Bodybuilding**

One of the most rewarding benefits of being an NGA judge is to know that athlete's efforts are helping to provide competitors with ample opportunities to pursue their competitive aspirations without using drugs thus helping to prevent the use and abuse of dangerous substances. Any involvement with organizations or media entities that are not completely devoted to drug free training therefore represents a conflict of interest for an NGA judge. NGA judges are strongly advised not to participate as competitors, promoters, judges, or officials of any organization that does not drug test all its shows nor should they be involved in any media entity not one hundred percent committed to natural bodybuilding. All NGA judges should be perfect role models for drug free training.

NGA judges will include experienced bodybuilding, physique, fitness, figure, and beauty and performance professionals. A panel of five to seven impartial men and women will be scoring judges. High and low scores will be dropped, and a placing system will be used. The head judge may be a scoring official. Ethical concerns are at the discretion of the NGA, the promoter and officials.

### **III.8 Performance Evaluation of NGA Judges**

Certain standards must be met to become an NGA judge and evaluation will continue to assure adequate judging performance once a judge has been named.

#### **III.8.1 Becoming an NGA Judge**

There are three phases to the evaluation of an individual before they can be named a judge. The first is an interview with an NGA official where the prospective judge's experiences, feelings about drug free bodybuilding, etc. will be explored. The second requirement is for the

potential judge to pass a multiple choice judging test. The third requirement is for the individual to test judge a show and achieve an accuracy rating of at least 70 percent.

### **III.8.2 Maintaining Status as an NGA Judge**

1. To remain on the judging roster, individuals must maintain accuracy ratings of at least 70% percent. If such standards are not met, attempts at retesting will occur followed by a test judging trial. Accuracy ratings of all NGA judges will be recorded and available for inspection upon request.
2. Maintain a professional dress/attire. NGA Judges may not wear shorts or t-shirts (excluding NGA shirts), sweatpants, jeans with holes, or flip flops.
3. Maintain a professional disposition at all times. No excessive talking, no texting, no phone conversations, and no picture taking at pre-judging.
4. Be present during the entire pre-judging and evening show.
5. Be present at the competitors and judges meeting prior to the start of the show.
6. Be present at the judges table for a minimum of a half hour after the conclusion of the show to provide feedback to athletes.
7. Reviewing and maintaining full knowledge of NGA By-Laws & judging criteria prior to every show judged.

## **III.9 Responsibilities of an NGA Head Judge**

### **III.9.1 Duties Throughout the Year**

NGA Head Judges must be NGA affiliated, qualified, and fully knowledgeable of the NGA By-Laws.

### **III.10 Duties the Day of the Contest**

NGA Head Judges shall be responsible for performing the following duties during the contest:

1. Conduct a pre-contest judges meeting reviewing all expectations of judges during the contest and judging requirements.
2. Delivering the pre-contest address to the competitors, explaining the proceedings, and answering all questions. Attention should be given to sportsmanship and assuring that first time competitors are aware of what the contest will consist of;
3. Making sure all judges are present and have their score cards set-up properly;
4. During the judging, the Head Judge will perform the following duties:
5. Calling for the poses (if competitors are routinely not posing in unison, cues should be given)
6. Warning competitors regarding rules and violations
7. Communicating with the judging panel regarding comparisons and when a class has been sufficiently judged

8. Rearranging the line-up for comparison purposes. Care should be taken to perform this function considering the input of all the judges. If a Head Judge is too autonomous in altering the line-up, he can inadvertently influence the other judges and possibly compromise the placements
9. Splitting large classes into top and bottom halves to allow adequate space for the competitors. This should also be done utilizing the input of the other judges. To assure accurate judging, the low finishers in the top half should also be compared to the high finishers in the bottom half.
10. Double check all score sheets before the final placings are printed.
11. Entering all the placements on the master score sheet, totaling the points, determining the placements, presenting the results to the announcer, and keeping track to make sure all announced placings are correct.

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## **IV. Athlete's Rules**

Only those male and female athletes who adhere to the National Gym Association (NGA) rules and policies, and who meet qualifications for eligibility explained in these By-Laws will be allowed to compete in an NGA sanctioned amateur, or a professional qualifier for the NGA PRO Division.

### **IV.1 Athlete's Registration**

#### **IV.1.1 NGA Member**

All amateur athletes (excluding transformation and kids divisions) shall pay the current applicable fee for an NGA Amateur Membership Card prior to competing in any NGA sanctioned competition. All professional athletes shall pay the current applicable fee for an NGA Professional Membership Card. Memberships will expire the following year one day prior to the day that the athlete enrolled.

#### **IV.1.2 Contest Entry Fee**

Promoters have the option to set an entry fee. All fees shall be submitted upon completion of the contest entry form. All teenagers and masters must show proof of age.

#### **IV.1.3 Use of Alcohol**

Athlete use of alcohol/liquor on any premises of an NGA sanctioned event is strictly prohibited and is ground for disqualification

#### **IV.1.4 Sportsmanship**

Any athlete who demonstrates poor sportsmanship at a contest shall be banned from NGA events for 6 months. Poor sportsmanship includes:

1. Not accepting or destroying trophies on stage.
2. Walking off stage with an attitude.
3. Not appearing at evening show without a valid reason given to the Chairperson or Promoter.
4. Or any irregularity or bad behavior will constitute poor sportsmanship.

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## V. Drug Testing Policies and Procedures

All NGA athletes must be completely free of the performance-enhancing drugs, as listed below. The length of drug abstinence may be lengthened by the NGA Staff (i.e.: natural for life) when policies are examined on an annual basis. The NGA Staff prior to the calendar year will announce any such changes when the alteration is to take place.

### V.1 Polygraph Testing

NGA athletes, both amateur and professionals must undergo and pass a polygraph test at each NGA sanctioned contest in which he/she is to participate unless a valid drug waiver form is presented. A Certified Polygraph Examiner that is confirmed and approved by an NGA Official must conduct polygraph testing.

All polygraph tests given at an NGA event shall be valid for 90 days. It is the athletes' responsibility to obtain, maintain, and present his/her waiver form to the Chairperson or Promoter at the current contest so that the athlete will not have to be retested and pay the testing fee. If an athlete cannot show proof of a passed polygraph from a certified and approved Polygraph Examiner, he/she must take another polygraph.

Athletes MUST have a current NGA Membership Card PRIOR to undergoing polygraph testing. All consent, waiver, and entry forms MUST also be signed before testing. The polygraph test must be conducted before contestants can participate in the Prejudging, unless scheduling problems dictate that the polygraph be conducted between Prejudging and the Final shows. Absolutely no athlete may participate in the Finals show without submitting to a polygraph test.

### V.2 Urinalysis Testing

Promoters have the option to conduct a urinalysis test for all NGA amateur and PRO sanctioned shows. However, the NGA has strict qualifying standards for testing and retesting procedures regarding drug use for athlete participation.

All athletes competing in the NGA PRO/AM Universe or the NGA American Natural Championships (The Nationals) are subjected to a random urine test at the discretion or the recommendation of the Head Judge. However, it is **mandatory** that the first place PRO winners at the NGA PRO Universe in each division receiving monetary prizes are required to be urine tested. Any other PRO place winner that receives a monetary prize may also be subjected to a

urine test. If there are less than five athletes in a PRO class at the NGA PRO Universe, it is the Head Judge's discretion to test only the winner.

Prize money will not be awarded until all results of urinalysis tests are received by the NGA Office. If an athlete fails, all athletes in that division will move up a placing and prizes will be distributed accordingly.

### V.3 Banned Substances

The following substances and related compounds are banned by the **National Gym Association, Inc. (NGA)** and their use constitutes grounds for dismissal from **NGA** competitions and suspension from membership in the organization for seven years. Please note that it is the athletes' sole responsibility to refer to the following list regarding current supplements he/she may be taking. It is the athlete's responsibility to research all the ingredients of a prescription or supplement before consuming them to ensure that you are not ingesting something that can cause you to fail a drug test.

#### V.3.1 Anabolic Steroids - Including but not limited to:

Anabolic Steroids	Test panel update Periodically
1-Androstendiol	Methandriol
1-Androstendione	Methandrostenolone
4-Androstendiol	Methasterone
4-Androstendione	Methenolone
5-Androstendiol	6-Methylandrostendione
5-Androstendione	Methyl-1-testosterone
Bolandiol (19-Norandrostendiol)	Methylnortestosterone
Bolasterone	Methyltestosterone
Boldenone	Mibolerone
Boldione	Nandrolone
Calusterone	19-Norandrostadiendione
Clenbuterol (anabolic agent)	19-Norandrostendione
Clostebol	Norbolethone
Danazol	Norclostebol
Dehydrochlormethyltestosterone	Norethandrolone

Desoxymethyltestosterone	Oxabolone
5 $\alpha$ -Dihydrotestosterone/Drostandiol	Oxandrolone
Drostanolone	Oxymesterone
Epitestosterone (masking agent)	Oxymetholone
Ethisterone	Probenecid (masking agent)
Ethylestrenol	Prostanozol
Fluoxymesterone	Quinbolone
Formebolone	Stanozolol
Formestane (anti-estrogen)	Stenbolone
Furazabol	Testolactone (anti-estrogen)
Halodrol	1-Testosterone
4-Hydroxy-testosterone	Testosterone
Mestanolone	Trenbolone
Mesterolone	

### V.3.2 Growth Hormones/Peptides/Insulin and Diabetic Agents

PHARMACEUTICAL HGH, HCG and any other related compound.

All PEPTIDE HORMONES of any kind are banned. (There are some peptides that are used in wound healing that do not use the same pathway used in muscle growth. These may qualify for a medical exemption if prescribed by a wound specialist and approved by the advisory panel)

GROWTH HORMONE SECRETAGOGUES (GHS) are banned.

GROWTH HORMONE RELEASING HORMONES (GHRH's) are banned.

INSULIN/GLP-1S/ANY DIABETIC AGENT USED FOR WEIGHT LOSS (Note: This only applies to these medications when being used solely for weight reduction. This does not apply when used in diabetics to regulate blood sugar) e.g. Ozempic, Wegovy, Trulicity, Metformin, Byetta, ect...

### V.3.3 DHEA

As of **January 1, 2018**, these substances shall carry a **(2) year** ban time frame.

- **7-oxodehydroepiandrosterone**
- **7 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-DHEA**
- **7 $\beta$ -hydroxy-DHEA**
- **DHEA**

### V.3.4 Prescription Diuretics

Diuretic Panel	Test Panel Updated Periodically
Acetazolamide	Cyclothiazide
Amiloride	Dichlorphenamide
Bumethanide	Ethacrynic acid
Bendroflumethiazide	Furosemide
Canrenone	Hydrochlorothiazide
Chlorthalidone	Hydroflumethiazide
Chlorothiazide	Spironolactone
Clopamide	Triamterene

### V.3.5 Prescription Psychomotor Stimulants

Stimulant Panel	Test Panel Updated Periodically
Adrafinil	l-Methamphetamine (Levmethamphetamine)
Amfepramone (Diethylpropion)	Mefenorex
Amiphenazole	Mephentermine
Amphetamine	Methamphetamine
Amphetaminil	Methylenedioxymphetamine (MDA)
Benzphetamine	Methylenedioxymphetamine (MDMA)
Benzylpiperazine (BZP)	Methylephedrine
Cathine (Norpseudoephedrine)	Methylphenidate
Clobenzorex	Modafinil
Cocaine	Nikethamide
Dimethylamphetamine	Norfenfluramine
Ephedrine	Octopamine
Ethamivan (Etamivan)	Parahydroxyamphetamine

Ethylamphetamine (Etilamphetamine)	Phendimetrazine
Famprofazone	Phenmetrazine
Fencamfamine	Phentermine
Fenethylamine (Fenetylline)	4-Phenylpiracetam
Fenfluramine	Propylhexedrine
Fenproporex	Selegiline
Furfenorex	Sibutramine
Heptaminol	Strychnine

### V.3.6 SARMS

Although they are not approved or regulated by the FDA, SARMS are also on the list of NGA Banned substances and will not be permitted in any NGA sanctioned shows. Because their intent and use are for performance enhancing and have similar effects as steroids on the androgen receptor they will be considered Performance Enhancing Drugs (PED). They currently have no medical approval so are not acceptable for the Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Guidelines as set forth in the NGA By-Laws even if prescribed from a Physician. They include but are not limited to:

- MK-2866, GTx-024 (Ostarine)
- LGD-4033 (Ligandrol)
- GSX-007, S-4 (Andarine)
- GW-501516 (Cardarine)
- LGD-3303

### V.3.7 Miscellaneous

1. Muscle Implants of any kind
2. Chemical/drugs for the purpose of deceiving or passing the polygraph or urine test.
3. Any illegal or illicit bodybuilding drug or substance
4. Any FDA Banned Substance except if otherwise indicated.

## V.4 Medical Necessity

Those who take Prescription medications that contain banned substances will be considered eligible to compete if they meet the criteria set forth by the NGA and are approved by the NGA medical advisory panel. They must demonstrate that these medications are only being taken on the advice of a medical professional due to an existing condition that affects quality of life. In these special circumstances, a competitor will be required to provide documentation from their doctor on letterhead stating the name of the Banned Substance and



dosage along with the current ICD-10 code. The athlete must inform the promoter/NGA in advance of their intent to compete in an NGA show and may be required to have their documentation reviewed by the Medical Advisory panel before they can be allowed to compete. The accredited medical doctor must specifically attest to the fact that the medications or banned substances are prescribed to bring the athlete to a “normal” level for the individual. Current blood test results must also be provided showing the levels are within the “normal” range within 30 days of the date of the show. The NGA will not accept a medical exemption if the prescriber is prescribing out of normal ethical guidelines or if the prescriber is deemed questionable in character. (Pill Mill Type Prescriber)

In this specific event, the athlete may also be required to submit to a current polygraph (regardless of whether they took a polygraph within the last 90 days) that includes questions regarding the accuracy and legitimacy of the documents.

If you are seeking a medical exemption, please complete the following form and return to the NGA Promoter: <http://nationalgym.com/NGA-Medical-Exemption-Form.pdf>

# NGA MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM



The NGA is the oldest natural bodybuilding federation and prides itself on strict drug testing policies and procedures. Please review the NGA by laws prior to applying for a medical exemption. A medical exemption does not supersede any required drug testing (urinalysis/polygraph) and the results of those results are final and supersede the medical exemption. The goal of the exemption is to allow in rare cases a natural athlete to compete in a situation where a medical condition requires treatment with a said banned substance. The athlete will need to have all sections of this form filled out completely and return to the NGA for review at a minimum 30 days prior to any NGA event.

## SECTION 1 (To be completed by athlete)

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex (Circle):    Male    Female

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for

Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Banned Substance Requesting Exemption For: \_\_\_\_\_

### Athlete Signature/Medical Release

I authorize the NGA to conduct an evaluation for a medical exemption and accept all results as final. I understand that I will still need to pass a polygraph and urinalysis the day of the event. I also release any medical records and medical information for physician needed to determine a medical exemption.

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: (If Minor) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NGA MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

## SECTION 2 (To be completed by Physician)

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Practice/Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribed Banned Substance: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis Code: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) How long have you treated this patient? (Approx)
- 2) Do you suspect any prior use or abuse of banned substances that may have contributed to needed current treatment?
- 3) Please provide a brief explanation or reasoning for current medical treatment with banned substance.

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**Acknowledgement:** I certify to the best of my knowledge that the provided information is accurate, and the athlete is being prescribed an NGA Banned substance for a legitimate medical purpose. I also certify that the athlete is not using said substance for performance enhancing in any way.

Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NGA MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

## SECTION 3 (ATTACHMENTS)

Please Make sure to attach and return with the signed exemption form the following items:

- 1) Copy of Current Prescription from Prescriber or note from prescriber if banned substance is not a medical prescription item.
- 2) Most recent labs/bloodwork (Lab results should have Lab information and Lab phone number on the results page)
- 3) Short letter or explanation from the athlete as to why they are seeking this exemption and the date and contest they plan to compete in.
- 4) Copy of NGA Card
- 5) Any previous information on prior exemptions or drug testing failures.

Thank you for competing in the NGA. We appreciate your willingness to compete and apply for this medical exemption. As stated, all results/decisions are final. You will still be subject to uranalysis and polygraph testing the day of the event. Lab values should be within normal ranges. For any athletes on THT the T/E Ratio of 1/6 will still apply. Please contact the NGA if there any questions or concerns when filling out this form. You can scan send all documents and form to [nga@nationalgym.com](mailto:nga@nationalgym.com) or mail them to the following address:

National Gym Association  
PO Box 970579  
Coconut Creek, FL 33097-0579

#### **V.4.1 Testosterone** (Injections, patches, gels).

Considerations may be taken to athletes that are utilizing testosterone for medical necessity. In this case, said athlete must provide a current blood or urinalysis report that will indicate their levels are in normal range for their age. This report must be submitted prior to the competition that they are competing in. However, if the report reads that their testosterone levels are high or out of range then their results would be verified as a **FAILURE**. The athlete must pass both the polygraph and the blood/urinalysis tests to become eligible to compete in the NGA.

##### **Testosterone/Epitestosterone Ratio**

The T/E ratio is used to measure the presence of exogenous testosterone, or illicit elevation of testosterone levels. A T/E ratio more than 6.0:1 is ruled as positive. Any substance that elevates T/E ratio above 6:1 is banned. **IMPORTANT FOR THOSE ON MEDICAL THT:** Regardless of having a medical exemption the athlete will be required to have a T/E Ratio at or below the 6:1 ratio, NO EXCEPTIONS. It will be the responsibility of the athlete to know when their last injection will be and how that may affect their ratio on the day of the drug test. It is advised to discuss this with the advisory panel prior to the event.

#### **V.4.2 Diuretics**

Considerations will be granted to athletes that have or are currently taking diuretics. Athletes shall have discontinued the use of diuretics for a minimum of 30-days prior to the event. When polygraphed these athletes shall be questioned on the 30-day period of sustaining from taking any diuretics. They must meet the guidelines as stated in section V.4 and be reviewed by the NGA Advisory Panel.

### **V.5 Acceptance of Testing Results as Final**

All NGA member athletes must sign a liability waiver freeing the NGA, NGA Staff, Promoter, Sponsors and all other assignees of these from liability regarding drug-testing. Athletes will not be allowed to compete without signing all required waiver forms. Athletes thereby accept the test results as final and legally binding and agree to abide by the results in reference to the participation in any NGA sanctioned event.

#### **V.5.1 Polygraph Failures**

The NGA has set up the following procedures to be followed when an athlete is not able to pass the polygraph test:

1. The athlete is automatically out of the competition for which he/she tested.
2. The athlete has the option of taking a retest at his/her own expense in the case of a polygraph failure.
3. If no retest options have been taken by the athlete, he/she will be banned from NGA competition (seven years for amateur and professional athletes) from that contest date.

4. If the athlete fails, the Polygraph Examiner must submit a written report and test charts stating his professional opinion as to why the athlete has failed the said polygraph test. This report must be submitted to the Chairperson, Promoter or NGA Headquarters if an NGA official was not represented at said event.
5. If the athlete fails the subsequent retest, he/she will be banned from NGA competitions (seven years for amateur and professional athletes) from that contest date.
6. Promoter or Chairperson must submit a letter to the athlete stating that they are banned from entering NGA shows for the next seven years. The NGA office must receive a copy of said letter.
7. Failure of the polygraph determines that the athlete will be banned from NGA competitions for a period of seven years of not competing, judging, speaking, guest posing, promoting, or to help in any capacity, etc. at an NGA show.

#### **V.5.1.A Polygraph Retest Procedures**

Any athlete failing the polygraph test has the following course of action to take. Failure to do so will result in a suspension (seven years for amateur and professional athletes) from NGA competitions from the date of the contest when failure took place. If the following criteria are met, and if the athlete passes the retest, he/she will be reinstated into the NGA with no further penalties:

1. If the athlete fails the polygraph, he/she is automatically eliminated from the contest in which the test failure took place.
2. The athlete has 21 days to be retested at his/her own expense.
3. The test and retest must include the Drug Testing Policies/Procedure questions as stated in the NGA By-Laws. This retest is to be done at the expense of the athlete and must be conducted by a certified Polygraph Examiner approved by an NGA official.
4. A written report and test charts must be submitted to the Chairperson, Promoter, or NGA Headquarters if an NGA official was not present at the retest.
5. In the case of an athlete passing the retest, the Polygraph Examiner must state his professional opinion as to why the athlete failed the previous test and passed the retest. The explanation of why the original test failed is critical to the athlete's opportunity for reinstatement into NGA competition and must be approved by the NGA Advisory Committee.

6. If the athlete fails the retest, he/she will be banned from NGA competition (seven years for amateur and professional athletes) from that contest date.

### V.5.2 Urinalysis Failures

1. Urinalysis tests conducted at an NGA event are considered FINAL.
2. Failure of the urinalysis determines that the athlete will be banned from NGA competitions for a period of seven years of not competing, judging, speaking, guest posing, promoting, or to help in any capacity, etc. at an NGA show.

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## VI. Qualifying Standards for NGA PRO Competition

The NGA maintains strict qualifying standards for eligibility in reference to athlete participation in NGA Professional sanctioned events. These standards include the following:

1. All NGA PRO competitions are 7 years' drug-free
2. All NGA athletes that qualify to obtain their NGA PRO Card shall apply and pay the fee within 90 days from the date of the qualifying event.
3. All NGA PRO athletes must maintain their NGA PRO Card annually.
4. By qualifying each year, NGA PRO athletes can maintain their NGA PRO status by competing at least once every three years in an NGA sanctioned show.
5. If an international competitor places first in a PRO qualifying class (with 5 or more athletes), an American that placed second will also be qualified to apply for their PRO status.

### VI.1 Participation in Qualifying for Professional Competitions

Those amateur athletes who participate in amateur competitions identified as qualifiers for PRO competition, and who place in accordance to standards identified by the NGA shall be qualified to apply for their official NGA PRO Status. Refer to the following NGA Tier System for contest levels:

1. **NGA TIER I: Non-PRO Qualifier Event**  
All classes are offered. Can include classes such as debut, novice, kids, teens, collegiate, etc.
2. **NGA TIER II: PRO Qualifier Event**  
The winners of each class are eligible to receive their NGA PRO application to join the NGA PRO Division. There must be a minimum of 5 competitors in that **class** to make it a PRO qualifier. If a class does not have 5 competitors, that winner of the **class** must win the overall to obtain their NGA PRO Application. There must be a total of 5 distinct athletes in the **division** for an NGA PRO Card to be awarded.

3. **NGA TIER III: Super PRO Qualifier**

The winners of each class are eligible to receive their NGA PRO application to join the NGA PRO Division. There must be a minimum of 5 competitors in that **class** to make it a PRO qualifier. If a class does not have 5 competitors, that winner of the **class** must win the overall to obtain their NGA PRO Application. There must be a total of 5 distinct athletes in the **division** for an NGA PRO Card to be awarded. Must be run with a Tier IV.

4. **NGA TIER IV: PRO Event**

All NGA PRO athletes with a current NGA PRO Card and in good standing are qualified to compete.

5. **NGA TIER V: Super PRO Event (NGA PRO Universe)**

- Qualifications for the NGA Universe will require current NGA PROs to compete in an NGA show the current year. Also, those athletes that placed at the 2023 NGA PRO Universe will not need to qualify the following year. All PRO Athletes that won first place in their class at the NGA Universe will continue to be forever qualified for the Universe in the same class ONLY. Incoming PROs from other accepted organizations are required to compete as an NGA PRO in the same year of and prior to the Universe.
- Amateur athletes that qualified in October, and November that didn't compete in the NGA Universe in 2023 can compete in 2024. Amateur athletes that have qualified to turn PRO in the current year are eligible to compete in this event. Also, amateur athletes that qualified to turn PRO at the NGA PRO/AM Universe the previous year automatically are qualified to enter the NGA PRO Universe the current year.

## VI.2 NGA Recognized Organizations

Due to the great demand of PRO athletes wishing to compete in the NGA PRO Division, the NGA has carefully evaluated every natural organization's PRO status qualification process. However, through the NGA Office, the athlete must present proof of their PRO status and purchase an NGA PRO Card. Therefore, the following natural organizations are recognized by the NGA as qualifying professional athletes to apply for an NGA PRO Card:

• IPE
• OCB
• SNBF
• WNBF
• FIBBN (Italy)

**There must be a minimum of 5 athletes in a qualifying class in the above organizations to be eligible to become an NGA PRO. Proof must be available.**



## **VI.3 PRO Master Divisions**

1. All Promoters can apply for a sanction to promote a PRO Masters event
2. PRO Master Qualifier - NGA competitive athlete must be at least (40 years of age for men and women). Current PRO Master Women that are under 40 will be grandfathered in as of January 2022. The promoter has the option to split the class depending on the age group allowing 2 athletes to turn PRO in the PRO master division.
3. Qualified PRO Masters - Cannot reenter a master non-qualifier event. Athletes can compete in another master qualifier or move up in the tier divisions established by the NGA.
4. PRO Masters Qualifier Events - Promoters must ensure and protect the quality of all athletes by maintaining a minimum of 5 athletes per class for PRO-status awards.
5. Professional Open and Professional Master Divisions - athletes that receive prize money must maintain PRO-status, as a professional or they must requalify.

## **VI.4 Maintaining Amateur Status While Holding an NGA PRO Card**

Athletes who hold an NGA PRO Card and have not placed in the money or have not accepted the money can still maintain their amateur status and enter NGA amateur shows. These rules will offer an athlete the opportunity to continue competing in NGA PRO qualifiers, so they can reach their goals in attaining other overall championship titles.

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## **VII. Men's Bodybuilding Competition**

### **VII.1 Judging Criteria**

1. **Class Breakdown**  
Men's Bodybuilding classes shall consist of the following 4 weight classes:
  - Lightweight – up to 156 ¼ lbs.
  - Middleweight – over 156 ¼ lbs. to 172 ¼ lbs.
  - Light Heavyweight – over 172 ¼ lbs. - 189 ¼ lbs.
  - Heavyweight – over 189 ¼ lbs.

The promoter has the option to run one class with four competitors or less.

2. Bodybuilders are judged on the overall quality of their muscular development. Judging is based upon the presentation of:
  - Mass
  - Definition
  - Proportion
  - Symmetry
  - Stage Presence

**Mass:**

A natural Bodybuilder must have large, developed muscles with visible separation in order for judges to accurately critique the shape, proportion, symmetry, and conditioning of the athlete's physique.

**Definition:**

Indicates the degree of muscularity brought about by the absence of subcutaneous body fat. Bodybuilders must come in at a body fat percentage low enough to see the texture of the actual muscle as well as vascularity. Defined muscularity is necessary to fully display the development of the physique. Definition is only of value when it allows massively developed muscles to be displayed.

**Proportion:**

Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Bodybuilders must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. Proportion specifically indicates a comparison of muscle groups. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique.

**Symmetry:**

Symmetry is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.

**Stage Presence:**

Includes posing performance and other factors influencing general appearance such as skin tone, grooming, charisma, and poise. Effective stage presentation is essential to display the physique to its maximum potential.

## **VII.2 Structure of an NGA Bodybuilding Competition**

NGA bodybuilding competitions consist of the following:

### **VII.2.1 Prejudging (Day Show)**

### **VII.2.1.1 Symmetry Round**

Relaxed poses from front, left side, rear, and right side. Competitors should be semi-flexed, not aggressively posing. The feet should remain flat on the floor and the body and head facing stage left and stage right for the side shots.

### **VII.2.1.2 Muscularity Round - Mandatory Poses**

Athletes will be called in groups of three to six to stage front for Mandatory Pose comparisons. Judging panels associated with the NGA shall use the following mandatory poses. These poses should be presented such that the judge may make a clear determination of comparisons, with contestants not turning from side-to-side (unless instructed). Contestants must hit the pose and relax on the command of the Head Judge, or he/she will be penalized with lower placement for not following instructions. The poses are:

#### **VII.2.1.2.A Front Double Biceps**

Contestants should stand on two feet and have upper arms out to the sides parallel to the floor, with elbows bent at approximately 90-degrees with forearms parallel to the torso. Legs, lats, chest, abdominals, and arms should be flexed.



#### **VII.2.1.2.B Front Lat Spread**

Contestants should face the stage FRONT facing the judges and grasp the waist with closed hands and spread elbows to flare latissimus. Show judges the width of the lats as well as detail in the lats, teres major, rhomboids and trapezius, erectors and rear deltoids.



#### **VII.2.1.2.C Side Chest Pose**

Contestants should stand on foot farthest from the stage with the front leg bent to show the calf and leg development. The front arm should be bent at approximately 90-degrees with the rear hand gripping at the wrist. The chest should be lifted and the abdominals pulled in tightly. The competitor may pick a side of choice to display to the judges unless told otherwise.



#### **VII.2.1.2.D Side Triceps Pose**

Contestants should stand in leg position like side chest pose, with the frontal arm hanging alongside the body, grasped at the wrist by the rear hand from around the lower back. The triceps should be tightened, shoulders, chest and abdominals flexed, and the legs and calves tight. The side of choice may be displayed unless instructed otherwise.



#### **VII.2.1.2.E Back Double Biceps**

This pose is exactly as the frontal version except that the contestant must bring the leg of choice toward the judges and "spike" the foot to show calf and leg biceps development. Contestants should not lean excessively toward the rear of the stage, nor lean backwards too far toward the judges.



#### **VII.2.1.2.F Back Lat Spread**

Contestants should face stage rear with the calf of choice "spiked" toward the judges and grasp the waist with closed hands and spread elbows to flare latissimus. Hamstrings and glutes should be flexed, with emphasis on showing judges the width of the back (V-shape) as well as detail in the lats, teres major, rhomboids and trapezius, erectors and rear deltoids.





#### **VII.2.1.2.G Overhead Abdominal with Quads**

The contestant must stand facing the judges with one leg extended slightly forward, and with hands clasped behind the neck. The abdominals must be fully flexed, with air expelled, with the legs and chest also tight. One-arm variations of the abdominal pose are PROHIBITED unless instructed by the Head Judge.



#### **VII.2.1.2.H Most Muscular Pose**

This pose will be required only for the men. The contestant must stand with one leg slightly extended toward the judges and assume a favorite of the following most muscular poses. Either the "crab", hands-on-hips or partial crab (with one hand behind back) variations may be used. Side most muscular poses are not permitted unless instructed by the Head Judge.



Model: Aleksander Pacocha  
Photos by: JLG Media

#### **VII.2.1.2.I Optional Poses**

The judging panel may request additional poses depending on necessity. These may include Side Hamstring Curl, Stand-On-Calves Pose, Serratus Side Pose, etc.

## VII.2.2 Finals (Evening Show)

1. Presentation of the line-ups (should be omitted for classes of five or less);
2. Posing routine shall include all mandatory poses;
3. Announcement of the top five per class;
4. Pose down (class);
5. Presentation of class awards;
6. Symmetry and muscularity comparisons for class winners (judged);
7. Pose down (overall); and
8. Presentation of overall awards.

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## VIII. Classic Physique Competition

Is for athletes that want to put on more size & muscularity than Men's Physique, but not to the extreme of a Bodybuilder. Classic Physique bridges the gap between a Bodybuilder & Physique. While symmetry and muscularity are still important, the focus in Classic Physique is on the Classic Physique posing, presentation, and execution of classic poses.

### VIII.1 Judging Criteria

#### 1. Class Breakdown

Classic Physique classes shall consist of 3 weight classes:

- Lightweight – up to 156 ¼ lbs.
- Middleweight – over 156 ¼ lbs. to 172 ¼ lbs.
- Heavyweight – over 172 ¼ lbs.

The promoter has the option to run one class with four or less competitors.

#### 2. Criteria

The judges look for fit athletes that display symmetry, proportion, muscularity, and overall conditioning, as well as stage presence and personality. Excessive muscularity, vascularity, separation, and striation will be marked down. A prominent V-taper shall be more definite compared to the Men's Bodybuilding class. Classic Physique Competitors are judged on the overall quality of their muscular development. In addition to the classic poses, judging is based upon the presentation of:

- Mass
- Definition
- Proportion
- Symmetry
- Stage Presence

**Mass:**

A natural competitor must have large developed muscles with visible separation in order for judges to accurately critique the shape, symmetry, proportion and conditioning of the athlete's full physique.

**Definition:**

Indicates the degree of muscularity brought about by the absence of subcutaneous body fat. Athletes must come in at a body fat percentage that allows for clear visually defined lines between all muscles. Defined muscularity is necessary to fully display the development of the physique. Definition is only of value when it allows massively developed muscles to be displayed. The Classic Physique competitor is not shredded with excessive striations like the Bodybuilder.

**Proportion:**

Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Athletes must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. Proportion specifically indicates a comparison of muscle groups. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique.

**Symmetry:**

Symmetry is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.

**Stage Presence:**

Includes execution of classic poses and other factors influencing general appearance such as skin tone, grooming, charisma, and poise that gives judges a classic aura from back in the days of "Arnold". Effective stage presentation is essential to display the physique to its maximum potential.

3. **Attire** – Solid color black spandex shorts. The NGA logo is the only bodybuilding organization logo allowed on shorts.

## VIII.2 Structure of an NGA Classic Physique Competition

NGA Classic Physique competitions consist of the following:

### VIII.2.1 Prejudging (Day Show)

1. Symmetry Round - Quarter turns
2. Muscularity Round - Mandatory Poses
3. Front Double Biceps
4. Side Chest
5. Back Double Biceps



6. Abdominal and Thighs
7. 3 Classic Poses of athlete's choice which may not include the most muscular pose nor any of the mandatory poses

### **VIII.2.1.1 Symmetry Round**

Relaxed poses from front, left side, rear, and right side. Competitors should be semi-flexed, not aggressively posing. The feet should remain flat on the floor and the body and head facing stage left and stage right for the side shots.

### **VIII.2.1.2 Muscularity Round - Mandatory Poses**

Athletes will be called in groups of three to six to stage front for Mandatory Pose comparisons. Judging panels associated with the NGA shall use the following mandatory poses. These poses should be presented such that the judge may make a clear determination of comparisons, with contestants not turning from side-to-side (unless instructed). Contestants must hit the pose and relax on the command of the Head Judge, or he/she will be penalized with lower placement for not following instructions. The poses are:

#### **VIII.2.1.2.A Front Double Biceps**

Contestants should stand on two feet and have upper arms out to the sides parallel to the floor, with elbows bent at approximately 90-degrees with forearms parallel to the torso. Legs, lats, chest, abdominals, and arms should be flexed.



#### **VIII.2.1.2.B Side Chest Pose**

Contestants should stand on foot farthest from the stage with the front leg bent to show the calf and leg development. The front arm should be bent at approximately 90-degrees with unclenched hands and wrists. The chest should be lifted and the abdominals pulled in tightly. The competitor may pick a side of choice to display to the judges unless told otherwise.



#### **VIII.2.1.2.C Back Double Biceps**

This pose is exactly as the frontal version except that the contestant must bring the leg of choice toward the judges and "spike" the foot to show calf and leg development. Contestants should not lean excessively toward the rear of the stage, nor lean backwards too far toward the judges.



#### **VIII.2.1.2.D Overhead Abdominal Pose**

The contestant must stand facing the judges with one leg extended slightly forward, and with hands clasped behind the neck. The abdominals must be fully flexed, with air expelled, with the legs and chest also tight. One-arm variations of the abdominal pose are PROHIBITED unless instructed by the Head Judge.



**Classic Pose "A"**



**Classic Pose "B"**

Model: Enmanuel Fuenmayor  
Photos by: JLG Media

## **VIII.2.2 Finals (Evening Show)**

1. Presentation of the line-ups (should be omitted for classes of five or less)
2. Posing routine shall include all mandatory poses plus at least 3 classic poses. The 3 classic poses may not include the most muscular pose nor any of the Mandatory poses
3. Announcement of the top five per class
4. Pose down (class)
5. Presentation of class awards
6. Symmetry and muscularity comparisons for class winners (judged)
7. Pose down (overall)
8. Presentation of overall awards

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## **IX. Men's Physique Competition**

Competitors can crossover into bodybuilding at the discretion of the promoter with the chairperson's approval.

### **IX.1 Judging Criteria**

#### **1. Class Breakdown**

Men's Physique classes shall consist of 3 weight class breakdowns:

- Lightweight – up to 156 ¼ lbs.
- Middleweight – over 156 ¼ lbs. to 172 ¼ lbs.
- Heavyweight – over 172 ¼ lbs.

The promoter has the option to run one class with four or less competitors.

#### **2. Criteria**

Men's Physique Competitors are judged on the overall quality of their muscular development in the upper body, stage presence and posing. In addition to stage presence and posing, judging is based upon the presentation of:

- Definition
- Symmetry
- Stage Presence

#### **Definition:**

Indicates the degree of muscularity brought about by the absence of subcutaneous body fat. This is not a bodybuilding contest therefore extreme muscularity will be scored down. The contestant should show good symmetry of his physique. Evidence of ab muscles

should be prevalent. The Men's Physique athlete must present a wide back with depth and a definite "V" taper to the waist, a well-conditioned core, definitive roundness in the delts and evidence of muscle separation. From the front, shoulders should be well defined and flow nicely into the triceps and biceps. There should be a taper in the lats into the oblique. In general, his physique should show separation, full muscle bellies and conditioning but not be over lean or excessively striated. From the side, the body should show a nice taper from the lat, to tie into the oblique showing a definitive "oblique sweep". From the back, the shoulders should be well toned, a balanced posture and the lats having a nice taper to the lumbar area. The Men's Physique competitor is not shredded with excessive striations like the Bodybuilder. Additionally, the physical lower body is not judged.

**Proportion:**

Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Athletes must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. Proportion specifically indicates a comparison of muscle groups. As an example for Men's Physique, large biceps and small delts will indicate a non-proportionate physique.

**Symmetry:**

Symmetry is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.

**Stage Presence and Personality:**

Contestants will be asked to walk in board shorts (Shorts must be above the knee in length and can be one inch below the belly button, no spandex and logos are not permitted on board shorts manufacturer's logo such as Adidas or Nike symbol are acceptable. Competitors will enter the stage without a shirt and barefoot. The moon pose is not allowed. Judges are looking for the contestant with the best "GQ-like" stage presence with an outgoing presentation with poise that convey his personality to the audience.

**3. Presentation**

Competitors will walk to the center of stage alone and perform quarter turns with optional pose of hand on hips or hands in pocket. Finishing facing the judges then proceed to the side stage.

Transitions from each quarter turn should be fluid and smooth without hesitation and poise must be well practiced. At the pivot points, quarter turns and pauses will allow for the "GQ" presentation with a professional demeanor. Waves and smiles are always a part of the presentation.

The competitors will face the front to the judges, you can have a slight twist with one flat foot and the other extended. You have the option of one hand on the hip or both arms extended. For each quarter turn the side you have the option of



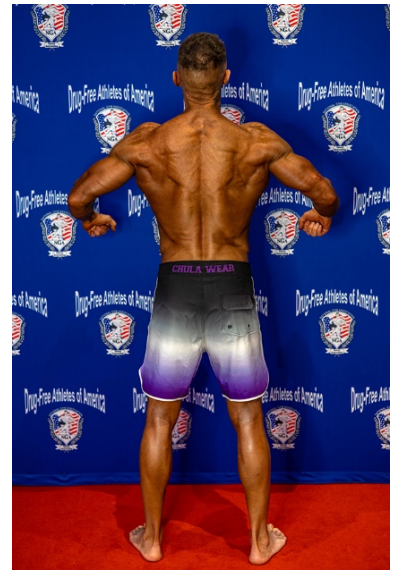
which foot is flat and which leg is extended while rotating to the right with a full twist of the upper body facing slightly to the front, again with the option of one hand on the hip or both arms extended. The quarter turn to the rear is the same as the front.



**Front Pose**



**Side Pose**



**Back Pose**

Model: Josh Miller  
Photos by: JLG Media

#### 4. **Comparison Round**

The competitor will be brought back out in a group and be directed to do quarter turns. Judges will have the opportunity to compare competitors against each other in the quarter turns.

## IX.2 **Judging Format**

### **Prejudging**

The Promoter has the option to present the athletes at prejudging via an I-Walk. As the class is lined up backstage - ready to compete. Each competitor takes the stage individually and is introduced by competitor number only. The athlete goes mid stage- hits one or two poses and goes to the back line. Once every competitor is on stage (at the back line) all competitors then line up as per normal prejudging parameters.

### **Quarter turns**

### **Finals**

The T-Walk will start from the back of the stage to house music. At the pivot points, quarter turns and pauses will allow for repositioning, attitude display and professional demeanor. Two or three poses will be executed at each point. Finals routine will be a maximum of 60 seconds for amateurs with house music and 90 seconds for Pros, performed to music of athlete's choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest.

## **IX.3 Attire**

Suits worn by men's physique athletes for prejudging and finals must be board shorts with no evident brand logos. All suits must be in good taste. No props will be used at any time during competition/judging of men's physique.

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## **X. Women's Physique Competition**

### **X.1 Judging Criteria**

1. Class Breakdown  
Promoters have the option to divide the class as they see fit.
2. Women's Physique athletes are judged on the overall quality of their muscular development. Judging is based upon the presentation of:
  - Mass
  - Definition
  - Proportion
  - Symmetry
  - Stage Presence

#### **Mass:**

A natural women's physique competitor must have developed muscles with visible separation in order for judges to accurately critique the shape, proportion, symmetry and conditioning of the athlete's physique.

#### **Definition:**

Indicates the degree of muscularity brought about by the absence of subcutaneous body fat. Athletes must come in at a body fat percentage low enough to see the texture of the actual muscle as well as vascularity. Defined muscularity is necessary to fully display the development of the physique. Definition is only of value when it allows well developed muscles to be displayed.

**Proportion:**

Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Competitors must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. Proportion specifically indicates a comparison of muscle groups. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique.

**Symmetry:**

Symmetry is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.

**Stage Presence:**

Includes posing performance and other factors influencing general appearance such as skin tone, grooming, beauty, charisma, and poise. Effective stage presentation is essential to display the physique to its maximum potential.

## X.2 Structure of an NGA Female Physique Competition

### X.2.1 Prejudging (Day Show)

#### X.2.1.1 Symmetry Round

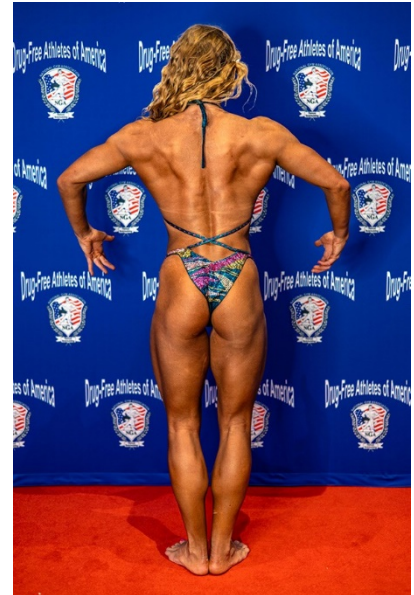
Relaxed poses from front, left side, rear, and right side. Competitors should be semi-flexed, not aggressively posing. The feet should remain flat on the floor and the body and head facing stage left and stage right for the side shots.



**Front Pose**



**Side Pose**



**Back Pose**



### **X.2.1.2 Muscularity Round - Mandatory Poses**

Athletes will be called in groups of three to six to stage front for Mandatory Pose comparisons. Judging panels associated with the NGA shall use the following mandatory poses. These poses should be presented such that the judge may make a clear determination of comparisons, with contestants not turning from side-to-side (unless instructed). Contestants must hit the pose and relax on the command of the Head Judge, or he/she will be penalized with lower placement for not following instructions. The poses are:

#### **X.2.1.2.A Front Double Biceps**

Contestants should stand with one foot flat and the other leg extended and have upper arms out to the sides parallel to the floor, with elbows bent at approximately 90-degrees with forearms parallel to torso and open hands. Legs, lats, chest, abdominals, and arms should be flexed.



#### **X.2.1.2.B Side Chest Pose**

Contestants should stand on one flat foot with the other leg extended. The arms are extended with one hand on top of the other. The chest should be lifted and the abdominals pulled in tightly. The competitor may pick a side of choice to display to the judges unless told otherwise



#### **X.2.1.2.C Side Triceps Pose**

Contestants should stand in leg position like side chest pose, with the frontal arm hanging alongside the body, grasped at the wrist by the rear hand from around the lower back. The triceps should be tightened, shoulders, chest and abdominals flexed, and the legs and calves tight. The side of choice may be displayed unless instructed otherwise.



#### **X.2.1.2.D Back Double Biceps**

This pose is exactly as the frontal version except that the contestant must bring the leg of choice toward the judges and "spike" the foot to show calf and leg development. Contestants should not lean excessively toward the rear of the stage, nor lean backwards too far toward the judges.



#### **X.2.1.2.E Overhead Abdominal with Quads**

The contestant must stand facing the judges with one leg forward, and with hands clasped behind the neck. The abdominals must be fully flexed, with air expelled, with the legs and chest also tight. One-arm variations of the abdominal pose are PROHIBITED unless instructed by the Head Judge.

Model: Emily Aikins  
Photos by: JLG Media



#### **X.2.1.3 Finals**

Finals routine will be a maximum 60 seconds for amateurs and 90 seconds for Pro's, performed to music of Athletes choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest.

### **X.3 Attire**

Suits worn by women's physique athletes for prejudging must be a two-piece that crosses in the back. Suits do not need to be a solid color. The bottom of the suit must be V-shaped. Absolutely no string thongs are permitted. All suits must be in good taste.

No heels may be worn, or props will be used at any time during competition/judging of women's physique.

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## **XI. Figure Competition**

### **XI.1 Judging Criteria**

#### **1. Class Breakdown**

The Promoter has the option to divide the class as they see fit.

#### **2. Criteria**

The judges look for an athletic body with feminine conditioning that displays symmetry, proportion, muscularity, overall conditioning as well as stage presence

and personality. Excessive muscularity, vascularity, separation, and striation will be marked down. In addition to the poses in quarter turns, judging is based upon the presentation of:

- Mass
- Definition
- Proportion
- Symmetry
- Stage Presence

**Mass:**

A Figure competitor must have feminine developed muscles with a small amount of visible separation in order for judges to accurately critique the shape, symmetry, proportion and conditioning of the athlete's full physique.

**Definition:**

Indicates the degree of muscularity brought about by the absence of subcutaneous body fat. Evidence of ab muscles is preferred. Figure competitors must present a wide back with depth, a sweep to the quads, a well-conditioned core, definitive roundness in the delts, a small amount of muscle separation, a nice "V" taper, and tight glutes with definitive separation between the glutes and hamstrings. There shall be no evidence of muscle striations, graininess or muscle thickness as seen in Women's Physique.

From the front, shoulders should be well defined and flow nicely into the triceps and biceps. There should be a taper in the lats into the oblique, noticeably flowing into the sweep of the upper thigh. In general, her physique should show separation and conditioning but not be over lean or striated.

From the side, her body should show a nice taper from the lat, to tie into the oblique - showing an "oblique sweep". The legs should be muscular with a minimum separation of the quads. The calves should be well developed, and semi-flexed with the use of heels.

From the back, the shoulders should be well toned, a balanced posture and the lats having a nice taper to the lumbar area. The glutes and hamstrings should be firm and should show a well-developed outer sweep to the thigh. Calves will be firm and nicely developed. Limited body fat in this area is a strong adage.

**Proportion:**

Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Athletes must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. Proportion specifically indicates a comparison of muscle groups. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique.

**Symmetry:**

Symmetry is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.

**Stage Presence:**

Includes execution of quarter turns that are fluid without hesitation and with poise as well as other factors influencing general appearance and overall polish to include skin tone, hair, makeup and accessories. Effective stage presentation is essential to display the physique to its maximum potential.

**3. Presentation**

In each quarter turn: a relaxed erect stance, eyes and head facing the same direction as the body, heels together, feet inclined outward at a 30-degree angle, knees together and unbent, stomach in, chest out, shoulders back, arms relaxed at side and slightly back from centerline of the body, elbows slightly bent. As the athlete turns, the positioning of the arms will cause the torso to torque toward judges and open-up features, lines, and shape.

T-Walk will start from the side of the stage with the house music. At the pivot points, quarter turns and pauses will allow for repositioning, attitude display and professional demeanor. Two or three poses will be executed at each point. Finals routine will be a maximum 60 seconds for amateurs with house music and 90 seconds for Pros. Pros perform to music of their choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest.

At the pivot points, quarter turns and pauses will allow for hair repositioning, attitude display and professional demeanor. Waves and smiles are always nice.





**Front Pose**



**Side Pose**



**Back Pose**

Model: Angelica Thompson  
Photos by: JLG Media

#### **4. Attire**

Suits worn by Figure athletes must be a two-piece that crosses in the back. Suits do not need to be a solid color, but pastel and skin colored suits can wash out on stage. The bottom of the suit must be V-shaped. Ornamentation like sequins is permitted. Absolutely no string thongs are permitted. All suits must be in good taste. Body piercing and hairpieces are allowed, but jewelry should be limited. No oil may be used. Sheen is okay. Clear heels (not platforms) shall be worn and props are not used at any time in the Figure Competition.

## **XI.2 Prejudging (Day Show)**

1. The Promoter has the option to present the athletes at prejudging via an I-Walk. As the class is lined up backstage - ready to compete. Each competitor takes the stage individually and is introduced by competitor number only. The athlete goes mid stage-hits one or two poses and goes to the back line. Once every competitor is on stage (at the back line) all competitors then line up as per normal prejudging parameters.
2. Contestants will be brought out all at once and do quarter turns to the right.
3. Judges score symmetry, proportion, and tone/conditioning. The judges may move Athletes around. Keep smiling and listen to the calls. Body shape includes how the muscle groups are shaped, pleasing to the eye and proportionate.
4. The judges will look for a fitness type of physique, which includes a level of overall muscle tone achieved through athletic endeavors but not a bodybuilding

development style. The muscles have a round and firm appearance, indicating muscle tone and condition. There should be muscle definition between major muscle groups, like biceps and triceps, but not excessive separation or cut. Muscle tone also means the absence of excessive fat and water with a sense of overall body hardness. Judges will look for an even balance of muscle to frame and balance of body parts to each other.

### **XI.3 Finals (Evening Show)**

1. Contestants will be brought out again as a group. Exiting off stage, athletes will be re-introduced individually for “T-Walks”. Follow the stage directions given earlier and stroll at a pace that will take up approximately: 60 seconds. Athletes will be judged on Presentation/Poise. Judges are looking for confidence, grace, and overall style. Charisma, inner beauty and appearance are considered. How athletes walk, carry themselves and “come across” is pertinent.
2. A final line-up may follow. Judges may ask to compare contestants for any final comparisons.
3. Each round will be worth one half of the total score.
4. At the awards time, all ladies will come out for a final group stroll.
5. The final top three or five (promoter’s discretion) will receive their awards.

[TOP](#)

## **XII. Bikini Competition**

The NGA recognizes that fitness takes on many levels. The purpose of this division is to allow athletes who are physically fit, hold a strong image for stage and camera, and compete in a fair and drug free arena. We are looking for fit, toned, proportionate builds, with feminine shape and conditioning that is universal in appeal.

In every class there exists the difficult task of the judging staff placing competitors based on basic criteria. This is especially difficult when you have a competitor that may be considered to have too much muscularity for their class versus a competitor in the same division that lacks being fit and tone (i.e.: Bikini vs. Figure). In this instance, because the NGA is ultimately a bodybuilding competition, the competitor that would be considered having too much muscularity shall be considered for the higher placement above others in the class that do not meet the minimum criteria.

#### **Participants:**

1. Women of all ages who are interested in stage experience or a personal best can compete.
2. Persons interested in pursuing a modeling career in the fitness and health industries.

3. Athletes who feel they are marketable on stage and in print, and in a variety of mediums.

## **XII.1 Judging Criteria**

### **Competitive Components**

The overall image of the athlete is toned, sculpted physique that bears firmness, non-evident body fat and a fitness tyle. This translates to an overall body quality with mild definition and no muscular separation. Athletes will want to give the impression that they work out, did more than just diet to get to the stage and can maintain this impression long after the curtain closes.

Throughout the competition, Judges will consider the following:

1. **Symmetry:** is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left bicep less developed than the right bicep indicates a lack of symmetry.
2. **Proportion:** Implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. Athletes must strive for equal development between all muscle groups. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique.
3. **Definition:** Muscle groups may not be overly developed or defined. Evidence of ab muscles is acceptable. Bikini competitors must present a conditioned core, small amount of roundness in the delts, slight separation between the glutes and hamstrings with full round glutes. There shall be no evidence of muscle striations, graininess, square glutes, muscle separation or density. The Bikini athlete in her truest form presents a tight and toned physique.
4. **Presentation:** We ask that athletes bring a totally fit look to the stage. This includes complexion, face, hair, smile, and beauty. Presentation includes an athlete carries themselves, posture, gait, balance, graceful movement, positioning, stature, and finesse. Stage Presentation encompasses how the athlete displays their own self-expression, appeal, how athletes project themselves, image, camera savvy, stance, posing in creative and attractive ways. An Athlete's overall look is important and should include a sense of vibrancy, charisma, confidence, sex appeal, a positive and fun attitude, personality and individual style.
5. **Attire:** A suit that enhances their physique. Pay attention to style, fit, colors, a flattering suit that may be decorated and made to order for the ladies. String thongs are prohibited. Clear high heels.



## XII.2 Prejudging (Day Show)

### XII.2.1 Comparisons

The Promoter has the option to present the athletes at prejudging via an I-Walk. As the class is lined up backstage - ready to compete. Each competitor takes the stage individually and is introduced by competitor number only. The athlete goes mid stage-hits one or two poses and goes to the back line. Once every competitor is on stage (at the back line) all competitors then line up as per normal prejudging parameters.

The class is brought out and half turns are called. Present a confident stance, but not overly flexed. Arms and leg positions are at the athlete's discretion. Facings are from front and back. Relaxed poses that show off the athlete's overall tone and condition are required. Officials may move athletes around for comparisons. As a group, the class will be instructed to pose, walk to the back, face the judges then walk to the front.

Bikini poses will consist of front and back only. Competitors **may not bend over** when executing the back pose. Points may be deducted if the Bikini competitor bends over during the back pose. The back stance will present the entire back of the bikini body presenting balance and symmetry. There are two options to present the back pose. In both poses the upper torso will be upright to present the tone and condition of the upper back with a slight evident v-taper to the lower back:

1. One hand shall be placed on the hip; the other hand/arm is gracefully extended to the side. The side with the extended arm will also showcase an extended leg to the side.
2. Both hands rest on the upper quads.



**Front Pose**



**Back Pose "A"**



**Back Pose "B"**

Model: Carly Ducote  
Photos by: JLG Media

## XII.3 Finals (Evening Show)

Once again, the class is brought out for overall impression. Each participant is then allowed 60 seconds (90 seconds for PROS) for free style stage presentation. It is customary to follow a stage T walk outline that is performed to music of athlete's choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest. Amateurs will perform to house music.

Judges will review how athletes work the stage, angles of poses, presentation, athlete's personality, and overall appearance. This is the athlete's time to shine, show their spirit and have fun!

**NOTE:** Classes for all Women's Division are at the discretion of the Promoter for utilizing height or weight.

[TOP](#)

## XIII Bikini Model Competition

The NGA Bikini Model requires competitors to bring an original and creative bikini based glamor wear that incorporates the bikini and compliments their physique in a classy high fashioned elegant display. It is suggested that the Bikini Model is judged live at the evening show only.

### Participants

1. Fit women of all ages who are interested in pageantry style competition that allows their personal creativeness to shine.
2. Persons interested in pursuing a modeling career in the fashion/fitness model industry.
3. Athletes who feel they are marketable on stage and in print, and in a variety of mediums.

### XIII.1 Judging Criteria

#### Competitive Components:

The overall image of the Bikini Model competitor is beauty and a toned physique that is complemented by extravagant glamor wear.

Throughout the competition, Judges will consider the following:

1. **Glamour Wear:** is not simply a bikini with feathers. A true Bikini Model ensembles herself with Glamour wear that displays her own unique twist with class and style combining high fashion and elegance with their outfit. High heel shoes are required to enhance the outfit, however, clear high heels are not required.

2. **Tone and Condition:** A tight and toned physique and includes a polished complexion, face, hair, smile, makeup, and beauty.
3. **Poise and Presentation:** How the competitor carries themselves, posture, balance, graceful movements, positioning, stature, confidence, finesse, and smooth and classy transitions.
4. **Style and Stage Presence:** Competitors own self-expression, appeal, image, camera savvy, stance in creative and attractive ways. Competitors' overall look is important and should include a sense of vibrancy, charisma, confidence, sex appeal, a positive and fun attitude, personality, and individual style.

## **XIII.2 Bikini Model Runway Walks**

### **T-Walk**

All ladies will do an individual t-walk then exit the stage. When all t-walks are completed all Bikini Models will be lined up at the back of the stage. These walks are open to the Bikini Model's creativity. We encourage glamor, class, flare, and elegance. The Bikini Model T-Walk may not include standard "Bikini Competitor" poses. This ruling clearly differentiates the Bikini Model from a Bikini Competitor.

Amateur Bikini Models are allowed 60 seconds and 90 seconds for PROS for free style stage presentation. It is customary to follow a stage T-walk outline that is performed to music of athlete's choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest.

### **Comparison Walk**

The class is brought out and they will walk from the back to the front of the stage. Arms and leg positions are at the Bikini Model's discretion. Officials may move competitors around for comparisons. As a group, the class will be instructed to model by walking to the front then walk to the back when prompted. The Bikini Model must remember that their walk may not include standard "Bikini Competitor" poses.

Competitors may not bend over when executing their walks. Placing may be compromised if the Bikini Model bends over.

At least 50% of the gluteus must be displayed and incorporated into the stage walk. Keep in mind that string thongs are not permitted.

Judges will review how competitors work the stage, presentation, glamour, originality, personality, and overall beauty. This is the Bikini Models time to shine, go all out and showcase both their hard work in the gym and the originality of their glamor wear.

**NOTE:** Classes for all Women's Divisions are at the discretion of the Promoter for utilizing height or weight.

[TOP](#)

## **XIV. Wellness Competition**

Again, the NGA continues to recognize the many emerging levels of fitness. The Wellness Division is best suited for the female athlete with a more developed lower body than a Bikini Competitor possesses. We are looking for an overall fit and toned build where the lower body (hips, glutes, hamstrings, and quads) shows more genetically larger size and muscular development compared to the upper body.

### **XIV.1 Judging Criteria**

#### **Competitive Components**

The overall image of the Wellness athlete is a fit, toned, sculpted physique that bears symmetry, firmness, non-evident body fat and a more muscular developed lower body as compared to the upper body. Throughout the competition, Judges will consider the following:

- 1. Symmetry:** is simply equal development of muscularity on both right and left sides of the physique. As an example, a left quad that is less developed than the right quad indicates a lack of symmetry. The body shall be developed equally side to side and back to front.
- 2. Non-Proportion:** Proportion implies an even balance of muscular development in comparison to each muscle group. As an example, large biceps and small quads will indicate a non-proportionate physique. The Wellness Competitor presents the Upper body as fit and toned similar to a Bikini Competitor. However, the Lower body (hips, glutes, hamstrings, and quads) is clearly larger in mass compared to the upper body with muscle fullness and conditioning. Judging will consider competitors with equal proportion of upper body to lower body as unacceptable.
- 3. Definition:** Muscle groups are complete and not overly developed or defined. Evidence of ab muscles is acceptable. Wellness competitors must present a conditioned core and small amount of roundness in the delts with no visible striations and vascularity. Excessive muscularity, vascularity and striations in the lower body will be marked down.

**4. Poise and Presentation:** How an athlete carries themselves, posture, gait, balance, graceful movement, positioning, stature, and finesse.

**5. Style and Stage Presence:** Athletes own self-expression, appeal, how athletes project themselves, image, stance, posing in creative and attractive ways. An Athlete's overall look is important and should include a sense of vibrancy, charisma, confidence, a positive and fun attitude, personality, and individual style.

**6. Attire:** A bikini suit that enhances the physique (the top is not attached to the bottom as it is in a Figure suit). Pay attention to style, fit and color. String thongs are prohibited. Clear high heels.

## **XIV.2 Prejudging (Day Show)**

### **XIV.2.1 Comparisons**

The Promoter has the option to present the athletes at prejudging via an I-Walk. As the class is lined up backstage - ready to compete. Each competitor takes the stage individually and is introduced by competitor number only. The athlete goes mid stage-hits one or two poses and goes to the back line. Once every competitor is on stage (at the back line) all competitors then line up as per normal prejudging parameters.

The class is brought out and quarter turns are called. Athletes present a confident stance, but not overly flexed. Wellness facings are from front, side and back. Relaxed poses that show off the athlete's overall tone and condition are required. Officials may move athletes around for comparisons.

Wellness Competitor poses will consist of quarter turns front, side and back. Front facing pose will show one leg of the athlete's choice slightly bent and showcased toward the judges with a straight arm at side and the opposite hand on the hip. The Side pose (with head facing judges) will have the front leg extended straight with the back leg bent allowing the torso to bend slightly forward and the opposite hand rests on the hip. **The back facing pose will showcase the entire back of the body presenting symmetry with a lower body focus. Both hands shall be placed on the thighs. The upper torso will be upright to present the tone and condition of the upper back with a slight and evident v-taper to the lower back. Wellness Competitors may NOT bend over when executing the back facing pose. Points may be deducted if the competitor bends over during the back facing pose.**

## **XIV.4 Finals (Evening Show)**

Once again, the class is brought out for overall impression. Each participant is then allowed 60 seconds (90 seconds for PROS) for free style stage presentation. It is customary to follow a stage T walk outline that is performed to music of athlete's choice following the rules set forth by the NGA. The promoter has the option to adjust the maximum time limit. Music containing profanity or explicit language will not be allowed and may result in being disqualified from the contest. Amateurs will perform with house music.

Judges will review how athletes work the stage, angles of poses, presentation, athlete's personality, and overall appearance. This is the athlete's time to shine, show their spirit and have fun!

**NOTE:** Classes for all Women's Divisions are at the discretion of the Promoter for utilizing height or weight.