

# Dayton Judge meeting 2025

**Welcome** to first time judges: Brian Ward, Ira Jenkins, Alice Hays, Jen Karp, Branden Spidel. Discuss the weather situation and to keep phones on tonight, I may need them.

Material sent out prior to limit the nuts and bolts of this meeting, but most of each contests specific information will be given by your lead at each contest. See your lead judge **regarding transportation** – every lead has a car to transport (communication will be from them regarding departure time from the hotel), parking passes (see me) – not responsible for T&P judges. Food, etc. Programs cards – all digital. Spouse badges. WGI discount. **Drivers** – keys & transportation, refer to the spread sheet that was emailed to you. Questions - ask your lead.

LEADS – you're on, when and where are you meeting your panels?

**Room 1257 – judge room.** Meet there one hour prior to the start of your contest at UD, except **IO/SO (ask your lead where to meet)**

**World and Open class meeting on Saturday – SW meeting Saturday at 2pm (when Katie arrives), IW Saturday meeting at 3pm.**

**Optics** - No phones out while judging, unless you are using your phone to record your files. Behavior in stands / talking, etc. social media awareness. This is your safe zone, not the flight deck, or at the site, etc. Beware of social media. Flight Deck is NOT a safe zone. Seats in finals, see me. Saturday, use our suite.....food, etc. be overly cautious. Optics. Saturday night in Karl, Dale and Curtis' suite. **New zone with an open bar and snacks on Saturday night** – this worked out very well last year, just remember the HOF and many others will be in that zone. If you want to watch from the front, please let me know, but availability is limited.

Verify means verify.

Box 5 integrity has been fantastic, talk about this year and its characteristics. All means all.....but that does not mean perfection. Class standards and derived achievement.

Read the 300 character introduction for each group, for a few it is poignant - A requirement for World classes.

Need an **accountability** (per the steering committee) sent to me prior to the CAB meeting – box 6, perfect 10, ties, any anomalies, suggestions, etc.

**FINALLY** – Lead judges are your safety net, never hesitate to ask us anything at any time. Please be open to information. No collaborating in the stands.

The group with the fewest mistakes may not be the group with the most achievements. Before acknowledging the first to cross the finish line, we must ask **“What Race was Run?”** For World Panels – last years (2024) Box 6 “new” standard is THIS year's top of box 5. The standard is not new again. GE judges utilize the creativity bullet point on your sheet.

FROM KARL:

## Acknowledging backstory-

America's concept of 'competition' is no longer sport centric. As TV talent shows like *The Voice* and *America's Got Talent* inundate us nightly, we have seen a standard for competition that seems to be spreading into what Americans (as a culture) think is essential considerations to the comparison of efforts. The Backstory of performers has been elevated beyond simple human interest to factoring into judgements as contestants progress through elimination rounds. You see this when “America Votes,” but even when the experts decide who moves on and who moves away! Can't factor in backstory, even like Olympics.....'when this athlete was a child'.....American culture.

The only place where this extra consideration has a place in our activity, is when a unit appeals a reclassification, and that rarely impacts our decision. Nowhere in our system do we accommodate this extra consideration beyond what is expected in the philosophy. We have so many examples of units whose circumstance would merit this kind of consideration IF it were a part of our process. We fought this coming out of Covid, after certain schools suffered horrific incidents, and as World Class became a welcoming place for all ages and all capabilities. Please take care to remember that your work reflects the Units before us and be aware of the potential for your work to become a vehicle for personal expression.

This year is an anomaly – World class neighborhoods will create ugly recaps, system picks the winner. Permission for an ugly recap.....usually A class, with huge numbers, this year it is in all classes, especially world class. Judge your full caption, this is your protection against propensities, this year has special challenges. It doesn't all come down to performance, in all shows, both boxes can shift.....not making a decision is like abstaining from a vote... You are here to make decisions, ALL!... easy, challenging, including those perceived to be impossible. You represent the philosophy's reach.

### **World Judges ...Box 6 (From Karl):**

Last year's box 6 is now the top of box 5.

**New is not always the Best- and our Best is not always the activity's NEW Best!**

Though the numbers in box 6 can help you manage numbers when caught, be aware of the message sent when using those numbers if not because of a new standard.

The Activity's standard for "Best" was not established last year ...or in recent years .... or (most important to understand) not when you each decided to join the moving sidewalk of our activity. Your prior knowledge typically only goes back to this point. "New Standards" consider the entire 48 years of our collective existence. We count on you to know parts where you were not present. Be mindful when considering this and perhaps do some quick homework if needed.

### **Lastly-**

Like me, I hope it is an honor for you to be here. If not, understand it is still your exceptional abilities and unbiased history that makes you a trusted partner in the competitive process. You are trusted! This ultimately gives reason for this assignment. All units assume trust simply because of your presence. Please know this does not happen overnight, or with just any personnel.

Your word is your worth and you have turned in the work to be a trusted partner in this Championships weekend. Your being here is a big achievement that is earned through your performance each year. You have all our support! ...and I have a cartwheel and pompons at the ready for each of you!

Congratulations! I know you will be BRILLIANT!

-Karl

**Birthdays: WILLIAM, TRAVIS, IZZY**

**I need to meet with lead judges**, tonight or in the morning.

2025 Notes:

Locking after each round, what that does to the spreads and purposes of each contest during the weekend – put in CAB report

Ties in rounds create imbalance (rounds of 16 and 10, etc.). Forces scoring ranges higher and lower....this impacts the top when going into finals.

IW prelim judges cannot do SA or IA if it's an hour drive (avoid this)

Judges that are back to back in Cincinnati should get hotel there (once assignments are made, check with individual judges)

Continue to have three extra judges – it saved us this year with the weather issues and the 5 judges that needed to be replaced.

Continue using IW judge to work a non-working lead, but not an hour drive

## DAYTON 2025 INFORMATION FOR LEAD JUDGES:

**Introduce yourself to the CA and Tab people**, have a good working relationship with those folks will make you day go more smoothly, especially when things go sideways.

All sites must lock after each round, can take your time (say 2 or 3 teams into the next round), but cannot keep the entire next round. Check with the tab and confirm with them. Remind judges to use their full range of numbers **in round one**, otherwise it will play havoc later in the day. They must use the same tolerance in round one as in round six, discuss the fact that history shows us that we are more rigid in early rounds and less rigid in later rounds. The tolerance must be the same.

Ask **how the panel wants to receive information** during the contest: while it is occurring, at the end of a round, towards the end of a round. Please be patient with people if they don't immediately input a number. Some of them need to get grounded before they input. \*Look at the thresholds, only intervene when a ranking will make a threshold difference or is significant. If someone is running low, but is consistent from round to round, then all is good. If someone has a team in 5 and they are 1s and 2s across the board, let it go (unless it will impact the threshold). They are not to converse in the stands with each other.....the only safe place to do that is in the judge's room during breaks.....but they should not be discussing scores. The lead judge is their safety net where they can discuss scores.

**Food** – the office has assured that food will be available, and they have gone the extra mile to make sure, so please do not forego the meal.

**IO** split between sites – have anchors and solid notes, not ideal (William).

Insight sheets are no longer in use – but use the information in **Comp. Suite** regarding show titles and details for all classes. You will occasionally find a nugget that really sheds light on the premise.

**When things go wrong with a performance** – you must acknowledge it and it must manifest itself somewhere in your scoring. You must respond to the performance (even when it is not positive) –Karl says, you must assume that was the intention.

**Standings / rankings** - there are too many factors that impact the standings. Regionals run higher or lower or one judge running lower than the rest of the panel, a difference of only one point can make a difference of 20 positions, a great or poor regional performance, 400-mile rule. Some teams are allotted 1.5 points per week of automatic growth – how accurate is that? Standings are for seeding purposes only. Examples: 41<sup>st</sup> seeded in 2023 made finals in SA, 17<sup>th</sup> c.g. won.....be open to anything! Judge the round, pick the ones to advance regardless of performance order! This weekend is like no other during the season. They are all in the same building at the same time with the same panel for the first time all year.

All rounds are split in half and then scrambled; the winner of each round could come from anywhere. There were teams that withdrew from later regionals because their standing score increased 1.5 points a week, and they rolled the dice that they would not reach that score at a later regional.

Typical historic data, not a mandate:

Prelims SA – low 70, move on 85, top 93

Semis SA – 86,86,88,86 (86) cut off to move to finals.

IA prelims low 70 - 77 to move on - 92 high  
Semis IA low 78 - 84 to move on 93 high

#### HOW TEAMS ADVANCE:

SA prelims	Cintas 65/ Nutter 67	SA semis 4 rounds of 14 = 56	SA finals top 20*
IA prelims	6 rounds = 62	IA semis 3 rounds of 12 = 36	IA finals top 15
SO prelims	5 rounds = 55	SO semis 3 rounds = 36	SO finals top 15
IO prelims	4 rounds, 2 sites = 35	IO semis 24 one round*	IO finals top 15
SW prelims	3 rounds = 20	SW semis 20 one round*	SW finals top 15
IW prelims	3 rounds = 30	IW semis 20 one round*	IW finals top 15

SA/IA semis advance – ranked from prelims and placed in rounds, split into two groups and scrambled.

\*Only time all year where we judge 1-20 or 1-24 in one round. This takes a special understanding of numbers, where to start and not push into box 5 without purpose. Instructors have been told (for years) that scores could decrease from prelims, to semis to finals.

Judges are NOT audience proxies – we are educated and trained, we follow a criteria and use standards of box integrity in assigning scores.

**MATH – verify means verify**, but if you make an error, let your lead know immediately. We will have some flexibility to work with the tab and CA to open the program. Locking scores – limit your math errors, there is an absolute need to be careful and accurate. ....Lead judges have 30 minutes after scores are posted, after that they are official. Be aware of your tablets and recordings – look at counter..... Have your tablets been updated? THERE ARE EXTRA TABLETS AT EVERY SITE.

**Factoring in A class** (use your full range) do not take factoring into account. No need to think about the factoring, just do your job. The factoring will take care of itself, original intent per Karl / Steering Committee may change the percentages.... IA judges – keep your raw totals and be aware of them, the factoring should not break your ties. This seems to bite us every few years (we have two new IA judges here in 2025).

**Be succinct** and specific in your wrap-ups, so you can go right to your analysis, comparison, and scoring. Remember to consider derived achievement – but....

Color guards will look completely different from the last time you saw them. You are under no obligation to rank teams in a way you did previously. Competitive neighborhoods will absolutely change from regionals and in some cases will change from day to day here in Dayton. These neighborhoods are huge this year. Don't leave room in prelims or semis thinking you will need to fit guards in those spots, that's not your job. Know the job for each contest. You will have sub-caption ties, especially in rounds of 20 and 24. **Box 5 requirements** – lower third (some/some), middle (most/most) third, upper third (all/all). World class box 6 – last year's standard setting is not this year's standard setting. Good reminder to look at Box 5 “always applies.” Must consider the class standards.

Taking time after **finals** to review. It's okay to go back to the judge room to review your numbers if you need a little more time. But remember that they must get the awards ceremony going in Finals. We have had some issues with judges verifying without checking every number, once your device is locked it is hell to go back. That doesn't mean it can't happen, but there are a lot of factors that come into play.

**Semifinals panels** – do not take the order of appearance in any contest into your consideration – remember the purpose of prelims is to move teams to the next round, get them into neighborhoods. They are not ranking them top to bottom.....too many hours are between rounds, too few numbers to use.

**Know the purpose of each contest** – Be especially aware of red lines – how teams advance and be over cautious of your spreads. Know the meaning of a tenth. Be prepared for large rounds of 20-24. Do not go into that contest without giving it some thought. Your managers have provided you with some tools to that end. Additionally, your leads will inform you of the numbers of teams advancing. Different purpose in semis than in prelims – prelim panel was completely different. Everyone starts in last place! The system picks the winner! (Karl's bumper sticker). Know the thresholds for each contest and be acutely aware of your spreads around those rankings

**Displaced time (IA judges)** – individuals verses multiples (individuals expanding their individual ranges, but all would need to exhibit the skill for it to have significant value in growth.) Similarities abound, be conservative.

**IA judges sample the presentational** – then go where every you would like (dancers, etc.).

**Profiling** – the following paragraphs are discussion points around profiling - **use at your convenience.**

Using full range of numbers, many judges fell back on the formulaic approach to profiling and spreads. Of course consider derived achievement, but you must put that tenant in context.

There have been some misinterpretations that perhaps the bottom-line number has less importance than in the past, and that isn't the intention. Sub-caption integrity and ranking/spreading the sub-captions does not mean that there are 2 independent contests going on, but rather 2 equal partners contributing to the goal of bottom-line ranking, spread, and rating as close to the correct box third as possible.

One reason judges begin with the WHAT and put the HOW lower most of the time is a simple one. There is an assumption that students should be able to handle the work written by the instructor staff. Some instructors do not write for the skill set of the students OR they assume the skill set will eventually match the writing OR they trust other staff members will train the students to achieve the written work.

In one scenario, it can be stated reasonably that if a staff does not write for the student skill set, then it is not the students who are "at fault" for a bad run. We see without the ability or understanding to perform the material they were given. Is it not plausible then to assess the performance over the rep?

Training and the association of that training is worthy of discussion, especially with the addition of the "completion of phrase." Performers are not training themselves. It is the knowledgeable staff that provides the information necessary for performers to do what is being asked of them. So, a legitimate mind shift could pose the question, it is one group of staff members that provide the training for the performers in conjunction with another group of instructors (no doubt sometimes the same instructors) that allow the sub-caption profiling to occur?

Dale has asked that these panels stop and eat on their own as a panel. Save the one receipt and give it to me or Dale for reimbursement. Dealing with food at various sites, with various rules can be tricky (how long food can be kept out, etc.). These panels have been informed.

**Nutter (Eric)**

B - 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

L - 12 PM - 2 PM

D - 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

- *SO panel will need dinner on their own after they are done*

**Truist (Fred)**

B - 7 AM - 9 AM

L - 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM

D - 5:45 PM - 7:45 PM

- *SO panel will need to eat before arriving*

## **‘25 Championships Live Trials and Roster Practice**

### **THURSDAY**

UD – IO Prelims -**William**

- **Trial – Shannon Clark -GE**
- **Trial – Jennifer Barton -DA**
- **Trial – Sanya Gross – MVT**
- **Trial – Jonathon Brown – MVT**
- **Trial – Lee Eachus – MVT**
- **Roster – Robby Saner – EQ**
- **Roster - Anthony Riederer – DA**

UD – SW Prelims – **Curtis**

- **Roster – Joshua Potter – GE – Rounds 2&3 only**
- Roster – Tony (above) already there

UD – IW Prelims – **Curtis**

- **Trial – Michele Wallace-Bowers - MVT**
- Trial - Shannon – GE Already there
- Trial – Jen DA already there
- Trial – Sanya Gross – MVT Already there
- Trial – Jonathon Brown – MVT Already there
- Trial – Lee Eachus – MVT Already there
- Roster – Joshua Potter – GE Already there
- Roster – Tony (above) already there

Convention Center – IA Prelims – **George**

- **Roster - Jeff Hargis -MVT**

### **FRIDAY**

Nutter Center – SA Semi Finals – **George**

- **Trial – Shannon Clark -GE**
- **Trial – Jennifer Barton -DA**
- **Trial – Sanya Gross – MVT**
- **Trial – Jonathon Brown – MVT**
- **Trial – Lee Eachus – MVT**
- **Trial – Michele Wallace-Bowers – MVT**
- **Roster - Anthony Riederer – DA**
- **Roster – Joshua Potter – GE – Rounds 2, 3 &4 only**

UD – SW Semi Finals – **Curtis**

- **Roster – Robby Saner – EQ**

Truist – SO Semi Finals – **Fred**

- **Roster - JeK Hargis -MVT**