

Hello everyone,

We are in the time of the season when the competition heats up, the shows are coming to life, many performances are spectacular, and yet there are still several weeks for the teams to evolve and refine. Remain the educated fans of our activity providing all of the relevant information you can. Here are a few topics for this week's reflection.

Performance Info. Please ensure to read the performance info entered by the teams and acknowledge that somehow at the start of your files. While we do not judge the teams against their insight information, it does establish trust we are receiving anything they wish to share. Just stating the concept or title goes a long way.

Caption Integrity. It is always a good reminder for each of us to fully embrace the integrity of each of our respective captions. The notion of a "pretty" recap is often misunderstood. Recaps that read more like zip codes are usually the ones that tell the truest picture of guard strengths and weaknesses. The two General Effect judges are not expected to agree on every guard (which is why there are two!). It can be uncomfortable to have a number stick out on a recap. *You are the only "you" in your seat judging your caption that day.* You are always expected to judge your caption; you will always be supported in doing so. Keep digging in!

Critique. Our overall experience so far has been that critiques have run smoothly with professional and worthy exchanges between staff and judges. Keep in mind that this is the time of the season that critiques can sometimes become a little more intense. As the end of the season and Championships draw closer, be prepared for instructors to ask more direct questions about your number and files, and more comparative questions about neighborhood competitors. Stay the course, listen, take notes, and when appropriate, reaffirm your willingness to take another look in finals. Our ability to be open, calm, and supportive in these situations goes a long way to keep critiques productive and professional.

Box Thirds. There are no hard line boundaries anywhere on the scoring system. A box third is rather large. Use your full range of numbers and give the teams the points they have earned in whichever subcaption they earn it. The top of Box 4 and entry into Box 5 are the same criteria: *all/all for Box 4 and some/some for Box 5.* All of those numbers say the same thing. Of course, moving further into Box 5 must demonstrate *most* to *all* of the criteria *all* of the time.

Have a great weekend and please reach out with any questions.

Sam & William