

# Memo

**To:** GYB Sectional Managers  
**From:** Kurt Gibson  
**Date:** 5/5/2010  
**Re:** New NFHS boys' gymnastics rule

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Greetings sectional managers! I wanted to take a quick moment to bring to your attention a new NFHS boys' gymnastics rule that will require a modest amount of assistance on your end to help properly implement at the up-coming sectional meets.

The new rule requires that at meets where inquiries are permitted, the Head Judge shall post the start value of the routine. The judges shall agree on the start value, but if there's any disagreement, the decision of the head judge shall rule. If you're interested, it's rule 3-2-2b in the current NFHS Boys' Gymnastics Rule Book.

To help administer and implement the rule, there are two things I am requesting of you. First, in setting up your facility, it would be extremely helpful if the judges could sit together when judging the event. So if you could make that space available, that would be great. Secondly, I am requesting that you provide some type of flip chart or flasher that the Head Judge can use to display the start value. This will be something new to provide for the meet. The judges will still use a traditional flasher (or whatever you have or use in this capacity) to then display each gymnast's score on the individual apparatus.

Hopefully, this new rule change won't be unduly difficult to help implement. I'll also be sending you a PA your announcer can read to help fans follow what's happening once we get closer to the sectional meet. The purpose of the rule is to give coaches an idea of how their athlete performed in relation to the start score. In the past, coaches would not have known what the start value was so the change should help the over-all scoring process.

Thanks in advance for your help with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at the IHSA Office.

Good luck.

## INFORMATIONAL SCRIPT READ PRIOR TO COMPETITION

During tonight's competition each gymnast's routine will be evaluated by two officials. The National Federation of High Schools has implemented a new judging rule beginning this year. Spectators will see two scores flashed. The first score flashed is a gymnast's Start Value for his routine. Start value is a maximum total score for the criteria of form and execution, difficulty, special requirements, and bonus. This would be the maximum score achieved if the gymnast's routine were executed perfectly. After determining the Start Value, the gymnast's routine will be scored by traditional rules. A second score will be flashed. The second score flashed is the gymnast's average score evaluated by both officials.

Our hope is to inform our coaches, gymnasts, and fans of the way a routine is judged, increase transparency in the judging process and make each routine more enjoyable. We hope this adds to the pleasure and understanding of watching this great sport.