Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2020

SITUATION 1: A routine contains two superiors and five mediums. The judges give credit for two superiors and four mediums in Difficulty. They deduct for one missing superior and one missing high superior.
RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT: Although a routine contains more than four mediums, only four mediums are given credit in Difficulty. The extra medium is not given credit in Difficulty. (4-1-2)

SITUATION 2: On bars, a gymnast jumps down off of the equipment and shows the judge that her handgrip was torn and needed to be changed before she could continue. After replacing her handgrip, the gymnast remounts the apparatus and finishes the routine. Each judge deducts 0.50 for a fall off of the bars when the gymnast replaced her handgrip. RULING: Incorrect procedure. COMMENT: The gymnast may leave the apparatus and request permission to change her handgrip without penalty. She may also request to repeat her routine or continue from the point of interruption at a time determined by the chief judge. [2-2-1b(9)]

SITUATION 3: On vault, a gymnast uses a Velcro strip to mark the point on the runway where she will begin her run. She also uses a Velcro strip to mark her take-off point for jumping onto the board. The judges do not stop the gymnast or take a deduction for marking the runway. RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT: There is no deduction for using athletic tape or Velcro on the vault runway. No chalk is allowed. (6-1-4)

SITUATION 4: On vault, a gymnast indicates she will perform a ¼ on – ¼ off. During the repulsion phase the athlete passes around the side of the table at about 30° from vertical. The judges deduct up to 0.30 for failure to pass through vertical. RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT: Failure to pass through the vertical is an up to 0.30 deduction. [6-4-2a (6)]

SITUATION 5: On bars, a gymnast performs her routine, which contains five elements consisting of mostly pullovers, leg cuts and hip circles. The judges do not take a deduction under choice of elements in Composition. RULING: Incorrect procedure. COMMENT: The guidelines for specific compositional deductions recommend that a routine that consists of five to six elements (or less) consisting of mostly pullovers, leg cuts and hip circles should have a deduction of 0.30. [7-3-3 (3)]

SITUATION 6: On bars, a gymnast has two consecutive extra swings during her routine. The judges deduct 0.30 for each extra swing for a total of 0.60. RULING: Incorrect procedure. COMMENT: The deduction for
two consecutive extra swings is 0.50. [7-3-4c (8)]

**SITUATION 7:** On beam, a gymnast falls while performing a back walkover. The coach and gymnast confer with each other while the gymnast is on the mat. At 30 seconds, the timer calls out “warning”. The chief judge terminates the routine at 30 seconds. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The fall time on beam is 45 seconds with a warning at 30 seconds. A routine is not terminated until 45 seconds. (8-2-1a-d)

**SITUATION 8:** On floor exercise, a gymnast performs her routine with forward rolls, backward rolls and cartwheels. The judges deduct 0.15 in Composition for a lack of variety of acro elements. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The deduction for lack of a variety of acro elements is up to 0.15. [9-3-3(1)]

**SITUATION 9:** A gymnast performs her beam routine with a jewelry applique of the team mascot on one side of her face and a temporary tattoo with the school initials on the other side of her face. The judges deduct 0.20 from the average score for improper uniform for the jewelry applique. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A jewelry applique is not permissible because it is considered jewelry. The temporary tattoo is not considered jewelry and is permissible. (3-2-5, Situation B 3.3.8)