

The Judging Process

Selection of Judges: Aerial Arts America's mission is to create awareness in the aerial community and to promote safety through education and performance, while pushing the boundaries of technical and creative components. A judge's objective is to focus on qualities that will be assigned a numerical weight (e.g., execution of skills according to true assessment of a contestant's level). As such, our selection process comprises of judges whom possess ten (10) or more years with the following:

- Formal Aerial Arts education;
- Professional experience as an aerial arts performer;
- Exhaustive experience in teaching aerial arts at a full-pledged aerial arts school; and
- Professional experience as an advisor/ consultant in a wide variety of aerial arts affairs.

JUDGES' SCORING GUIDELINES

All competitions shall have three judges. Each judge shall appropriate a score of 1-100 distributed utilizing the following criteria (a short description of each is provided below):

A. Scoring Percentage

60% - Technique and Execution

Degree of Difficulty, Precision & Sharpness, Dynamics, Body Awareness, Placement, Control, Extension, Strength, Style, Flow and Continuity in Movement

20% - Choreography and Creativity

Structure, Transitional Skills, Flow, Incorporation of Skills suited for the contestant and theme

Note: Aerial Percentage Content (APC) is 80% *"... there must be at least 80% aerial related movement in your act."*

20% - Artistry and Stage Presence

Connection, Interpretation, Poise, Facial & More, Conviction, Confidence, Artistic Energy, Cohesiveness with Sound & Rhythm, Personality

B. Factors Affecting the Overall Score:

Running a festival is like running a company with many arms and divisions. In order to carry out an effective competition, we have set rules and guidelines that are carried throughout the competition. Compliance of these are of utmost important both to this organization and to all

participants to ensure a fair and just scoring. As such, we have laid-out these rules and guidelines in our FAQ page and we urge each participant pay special attention to these.

Score Deductions. Compliance volunteers shall be present throughout the entire competition to observe and to make notations. Judges shall be consulted on factors that address safety issues. The following instances will have score deductions (from 5- 10 points) from the total judges' scores.

- a. Act Duration
- b. Costume
- c. Mat and other safety related protections
- d. Acts that have been stopped due to safety issues (10 pts)
- e. Delay and other factors caused by the contestant including music change.

!!! It is the responsibility of each participant to read the [FAQ Page](#) thoroughly and to reach out to us for any questions.!!!

Aerial Percentage Content (APC) is 80% *"... there must be at least 80% aerial related movement within your act".* Although there is no score deduction, **Ground Movement** (e.g., dance, contortion or gymnastic skills) which does not encompass the use of aerial apparatus is not being judged. *.. "judges are required to score according to movements that are above the ground."*
- WCAAF FAQ Page

Score Tie: After all judges' scores have been added and deductions applied, if there is a tie in the score, then the contestant with the higher "Technical & Execution" score shall prevail.