



**Policy and Procedures**  
**Section: 214**  
**Judges Program**

**Date: 30 January 2023**  
**Revision: 32**

**214.1 Overview**

214.1.1 The purpose of the IAC Judges Program is to train and certify volunteers to serve as Chief Judges and Grading Judges at sanctioned IAC contests, help those judges improve their skills, and publicly recognize Judges' achievements.

214.1.2 The Judges Program is administered by the IAC Judges Chair.

**214.2 Education Program**

214.2.1 The Judges Program Chair:

- a) Develops and distributes the academic training curricula,
- b) Updates the curricula annually to stay in sync with all contest rules and relevant Policy and Procedure changes approved by the IAC Board,
- c) Works closely with the Rules Committee to ensure the curricula fully and accurately reflect the IAC Contest Rules,
- d) Selects, trains, and maintains a list of individuals qualified to serve as Judges School Instructors,
- e) Develops and maintains guidelines and procedures for hosting a Judges School,
- f) Acts as contact for IAC Chapters considering hosting an IAC Judges School, coordinates and approves dates based on Instructor availability and schedule, and assigns or approves an instructor for each scheduled Judges Schools,
- g) Verifies that the host entered the list of attendees on the IAC website,
- h) Maintains a list of all Judges and all current Judges, and
- i) Submits an annual report to the IAC Board of Directors on the state of the Judges Program.

**214.3 Certification Program**

**214.3.1 General**

214.3.1.1 The goal of the Judge Certification Program is to provide a steady influx of new Grading Judges and to upgrade those Judges as their experience grows.



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**214.3.2 Responsibilities**

214.3.2.1 The Judges Program Chair:

- a) Prepares the exams for judge certification and continuing education, and secures approval of these exams from the Rules Committee prior to publication,
- b) Grades all written exams, providing a report to each examinee, and maintains a record of exam results,
- c) Verifies the IAC official records of judging activity for all IAC judges,
- d) Maintains the list of current Judges on the IAC website, and
- e) Participates in the selection of Judges for the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships in accordance with Section 501.4.

**214.4 Levels**

214.4.1.1 There are three levels of Judge qualification:

- a) Grading Judge. This is an entry-level certification for scoring flights at regional contests.
- b) Senior Grading Judge. After a Grading Judge has scored 250 contest flights, the Judges Program Chair shall automatically upgrade them to Senior Grading Judge. Senior Grading Judges are eligible to serve at both regional contests and the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships.
- c) Chief Judge. This certification is available to Senior Grading Judges who wish to learn or improve on the skills required to serve as a Chief Judge at regional contests and the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships.

214.4.1.2 Prior to 2023, the judge titles were Regional Judge, National Judge, and Regional-N. To facilitate the transition to the new titles, Judges Program Chair shall:

- a) Change the title of all Regional Judges with less than 250 flights to Grading Judge,
- b) Change the title of all Regional Judges with 250 flights or more, all National Judges, and all Regional-N Judges to Senior Grading Judge, and
- c) Award the title of Chief Judge to all IAC judges who have served as a Chief Judge at five or more sanctioned contests since the beginning of 2013. Those



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judges will not be subject to currency requirements in Section 214.7.2.2 for the 2023 calendar year.

## **214.5 Grading Judge Certification**

### **214.5.1 Academic Training**

214.5.1.1 The syllabus for Grading Judges shall include:

- a) Basic contest administration and operations,
- b) The Aresti symbolic language,
- c) Judging philosophy, and
- d) Grading criteria.

214.5.1.2 The academic training may be delivered in person or via interactive teleconference.

214.5.1.3 Grading Judge candidates must complete the academic training within the current or previous calendar year, except that the Aresti portion may be completed at any time.

### **214.5.2 Written Exam**

214.5.2.1 After completing the academic training, candidates must pass the Grading Judge Exam within the current or previous calendar year.

### **214.5.3 Practical Training**

214.5.3.1 Grading Judge candidates must award unofficial grades for at least three flights, each composed of at least nine figures, under the supervision and coaching of a current Judge. The supervised judging may take place in a practice setting or as a sidebar activity during a sanctioned contest.

214.5.3.2 Grading Judge candidates must perform supervised judging for an additional eight flights, or perform the duties of Grading Judge Assistant for at least 40 flights, or any combination thereof. **Example:** Four additional supervised flights plus 20 assists would satisfy this requirement.

214.5.3.3 At least two of the supervised grading flights, or at least ten of the assists, or any combination thereof must be in the Advanced or Unlimited category, unless the candidate has competed in Advanced or Unlimited within the current or previous calendar year.



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214.5.3.4 The supervising Judge(s) shall report the satisfactory accomplishment of all supervised judging to the Judges Program Chair.

**214.5.4 Practical Exam**

214.5.4.1 After completing the academic and practical training requirements, the candidate shall ask a current Senior Grading Judge or Chief Judge to select a second current Judge to jointly administer an oral/written Practical Exam.

214.5.4.2 Prior to the Practical Exam, the candidate shall present to the examining Judges a communication from the Judges Program Chair stating that all prerequisites were met.

214.5.4.3 The examining Judges shall use the Practical Exam to ensure the candidate will be able to perform the duties of a Grading Judge. At a minimum, the examiners will:

- a) Review all questions marked with incorrect responses on the Grading Judge Exam,
- b) Test the candidate's knowledge of the current IAC Contest Rules,
- c) Test the candidate's ability to apply the rules and judging criteria in a competition environment, and
- d) Review the rule changes for the current calendar year if the candidate completed the academic training during the prior year.

**214.6 Chief Judge Certification**

**214.6.1 Overview**

214.6.1.1 The goal of Chief Judge certification is to develop and maintain a corps of volunteers who are trained to manage contest flight operations.

214.6.1.2 Contest organizers will be encouraged but not required to use certified Chief Judges.

**214.6.2 Academic Training**

214.6.2.1 The syllabus for Chief Judges shall include:

- a) All sections of the IAC Contest Rules that involve the Chief Judge,
- b) Safety considerations, and
- c) Best practices.



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214.6.2.2 The academic training may be delivered in person or via an interactive teleconference.

**214.6.3 Written Exam**

214.6.3.1 After completing the academic training, candidates for Chief Judge must pass a written examination during the same or subsequent calendar year.

**214.6.3 Practical Experience**

214.6.3.1 After completing the academic training, candidates for Chief Judge must serve as Assistant to the Chief Judge for at least ten flights at sanctioned contests during the same or the following calendar year, unless the candidate has previously served as a Chief Judge at a sanctioned IAC contest.

**214.6.4 Certification**

214.6.4.1 Candidates must achieve Senior Grading Judge certification prior to applying for Chief Judge certification.

214.6.4.1 The candidate shall notify the Judges Chair upon completion of the steps and requirements above.

214.6.4.2 After verifying the information provided by the candidate, the Judges Chair shall update IAC records to reflect the candidate's new certification as a Chief Judge.

**214.7 Judge Currency**

**214.7.1 Revalidation and Currency Exam**

214.7.1.1 All Judges are required to pass the Revalidation and Currency ("R&C") exam each year, except for Grading Judges and Chief Judges who earned their certifications during the current calendar year.

**214.7.3 Academic Training**

214.7.2.1 Grading Judges and Senior Grading Judges are required to attend the judging philosophy and grading criteria portions of the Grading Judge academic training if:

a) They have not attended within the past five calendar years, or

b) They have not served as a Grading Judge, Senior Grading Judge, or Chief Judge for a combined minimum of 40 flights in the previous two calendar years.



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- 214.7.2.2 Chief Judges are required to attend the Chief Judge academic training if:
- a) They have not attended within the past five calendar years, or
  - b) They have not served as Chief Judge for a combined minimum of 40 flights in the previous two calendar years.

**214.8 Recognition**

- 214.8.1 The Judges Program Chair develop and operate a recognition program for IAC Judges. This program may include:
- a) Mementos such as pins, patches, certificates, etc., and
  - b) Public announcements of achievements such as new and upgraded Judges, and notable contributions to judging.