

**RE: Paul E Tickenoff - 2011 NGJA Hall of Fame Award Recipient**

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The following is a condensed historical review outlining the professional accomplishments of Paul Tickenoff, as a contributor within the sport of gymnastics, as well as a judge within the NGJA, FIG, Southern California Gymnastics Judges Association (SCGJA), and USAG Region 1.

PREFACE:

Paul Tickenoff, who will be 69 years of age come this October, began his judging career at the age of 18 in Southern California, as a high school judge, and has since, with the exception of three years, been an active judge in the gymnastics community.

Not only has Paul participated within our sport as a notable gymnastics judge, but he has also been a successful gymnast, coach and gymnastics business owner at the local, national and international level. As a gymnast, Paul was a US National team member for four years, representing the winning USA team at the 1969 Cup of the Americas in Mexico City, while finishing third in the All Around. In 1970, Paul was a team member on the USA third place medal team, at the World University Games in Turin, Italy, placing 14<sup>th</sup> in the AA. In the same year, Paul also qualified second onto the World Championship team that competed in Yugoslavia. Paul was noted for consistently being a top-six AA finisher and event finalist in most all National and Collegiate championship meets in which he competed. Most notably of his collegiate competitive achievements were his four gold medals at the 1970 NCAA-Div II Championships, along with a first place team finish, followed up with five top-six finishes at the NCAA Div I level during 1970-71. Paul was also a Nissen Award nominee and listed in "Who's Who" of American College Students. Injury hampered his 1972 Olympic Team bid.

Paul has trained several post-collegiate gymnasts to National Championship Titles, with two top-two team finishes, and one gold medal team title from 1978 to 1980 at the Senior AAU National Championships, as head coach and Director of Campus Crusade for Christ Athletes in Action Gymnastic program. Paul accomplished this while operating two gymnastics centers in Southern California, not to mention maintaining an active role in the SCGJA.

In the business community, Paul has been self-employed since 1976 as owner/director and/or coach for gymnastics clubs, camp programs and his mobile gymnastics program (The Gym Mobile) that provided gymnastics instruction weekly to as many as 105 schools from 1982-2000. Over the years, Paul has participated and volunteered in numerous gymnastics workshops, clinics, and conferences as a technician, instructor and organizer for the continuing education of other gymnastics professionals.

As of late - Paul was selected unanimously, by the USAG state directors of Region 1 to fill the seat of Chairman to oversee the continued success and development of the Junior Olympic gymnastics program within Region 1, further supporting the depth of his commitment, as well as the respect and trust the community of coaches and leaders within Region 1 have for Paul's leadership and personal character.

CERTIFICATIONS: (First Certified) 1968 High School - 1972 Nationally certified - 1974 JO Certified - 1980 FIG

JUDGING EXPERIENCE:

Starting in 1968, Paul began judging HS meets in Los Angeles as a member of the SCGJA, before going onto College in Louisiana, where he continued to judge state high school and YMCA competitions. In 1971 after his collegiate career, Paul began judging college level competitions.

Since 1974, Paul has consistently judged 15-30 USGF/USAG Age group, Special Olympic or NCAA meets per year, at the Conference, State, Regional and National Championship levels. Since 1987, Paul has judged numerous NCAA Regional, USAG Collegiate and/or Senior and JO Nat'l Championship level events.

This year Paul will have judged and/or been designated Meet Referee at the Southern California State and Regional Championship events, as well as the NCAA National Championships. Paul has also judged several USAG Regional Qualifiers, Winter Cup and Olympic Sports Festivals, along with volunteering as an auxiliary judge for several collegiate, national and/or international competitions.

Since 1980, Internationally, Paul has judged the Chunichi Cup and two tour events; Tokyo World Sports Fair; Junior and Senior Pacific Alliance meets; and a China/Russia/USA meet. Paul has also been the recipient of the NGJA Regional Judge of the year award and two-time recipient of the Southern California Judge of the Year award. Recently, Paul was an official for the 2008 Pacific Rim Championship, as well as being selected to judge the 2009 African Championships and 2011 Tokyo World Cup.

Over the past twenty years, Paul has been a key figure in organizing and coordinating judges, including: meet referee and technical director for the Blackjack Invite; host to the USAG Winter Cup Challenge; this year's JO Technical Director; meet referee for the Pacific Coast Classic, Palm Tree Classic, San Diego Team Cup Challenge and Peter Vidmar International Invitational; as well as a meet director and referee for nearly two decades of Southern California State Championship events and sixteen of the past twenty-three USAG Region One Championship Events. His contributions to the sport have been recognized with several distinguished service awards.

However, Paul will admit that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the mentoring of former notable SCGJA Members such as: Les Sasvary, George Beckstead, Jack Beckner and Jerry Todd, for which he will ever be indebted to for their selfless and supportive guidance.

#### JUDGING COURSES AND CLINICS:

1974-present – Involved in numerous workshops, clinics & camps for coaches, gymnasts and parents

1978-present – SCGJA panel participant in Judges Courses

1980-present – SCGJA course material presenter

1987-present – NGJA course director/presenter

1987- Organized and held the first Western JO Regional workshop to train and certify course inst.

1992-present – NGJA JO and Nat'l guest course presenter several times to Arizona and Hawaii.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES:

1986-present – SCGJA board member. Offices held: Secretary, Treasurer, Educational Chairman, Co-meet Assignment Chairman and President (since 1995).

1987-2000 – (excluding 1990-91) NGJA Western region JOTD.

2000-2008 – NGJA region one JOTD

1993-1996 – JO-NAL (USAG)

1997 – Senior TA vault (USAG)

1997-present – USAG Winter-Cup auxiliary judges assignment coordinator and Black Jack meet ref.

2000-present – Encouraging use of SCGJA resources to support FIG and USAG special events

2009-present– NGJA Director West

#### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

In 1987, Paul created a proposal to revise the 1988-1992 USAG compulsory judging guidelines for all competitive levels. This document was adopted by the USAG compulsory committee with reference to Paul's name in the final document, along with a quote from his proposal mission statement.

Paul also, prepared a successful rebuttal document in 1994 opposing the first campaign for an open-ended Code, that ultimately was adopted after the judging fiasco in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Additionally, he has commissioned the production of several video study tapes for judges, along with written training material to prepare judges for meet assignments.

During the past five cycles, Paul has, at the request of Regional or State USAG chairs, drafted documents concerning interpretations and guidelines, as they pertain to judging rules within the Junior Olympic program. Paul has actively sought to help train new judges using a simpler approach to judging via written and visual training materials.

**IMPACT ON JUDGING:**

By his very nature to strive for excellence, Paul has impacted the judging community in a positive way. His love for the sport has shown it self in the way he relates to gymnasts, coaches and parents to bring about the best for all concerned. Paul is respected and appreciated by his peers for the values he maintains and the ethics he brings to the workbench of judging. Comparatively speaking, Paul has proven to be a real workhorse for the judging community throughout his dedicated years of service and by far is deserving of this most special honor and recognition.