

**Sanction** (L. Sancre - make sacred) - authorization, support, approval

The USTA sanctioning procedures' intent is to insure the integrity, quality, and adherence to the standards, rules and policies of the USTA and NTJC. The granting of a sanction implies a good faith contract between the meet director and the USTA. The meet director is then responsible to uphold the standards found in the USTA handbook. The safety of the participants and the success of the meet are the responsibilities of the meet director. The meet director must provide proper equipment, at least the minimum number of NTJC certified judges, and verify all participants have USTA and AAU memberships.

Although the meet sanction is issued through the National Office 6 - 8 weeks prior to the event, a sanction may be revoked after the event for any violations of the standards. The meet director is responsible for following all guidelines. Exceptions may be made to the guidelines but the exceptions must be cleared through the National Office and all participants must be notified *prior to the event*. Any planned exceptions should have been listed on the sanction application and on the meet invitations when a sanction is granted. *Example*: small gym only allow for 80 ft. of floor.

Whether exceptions are granted or not, equipment specifications and standard guidelines do not ensure safety. Equipment quality, assembly, placement, and proper use are all factors that are the responsibilities of the meet director and the athletes' coaches.

As a meet director, you have a lot of responsibility; but you also have an awesome opportunity to be the facilitator of a great experience for hundreds of athletes, families, and fans. The sanction packet enclosed contains information vital to hosting a successful meet. A meet director should delegate all non-essential tasks so she/he can stay focused on the competition.

The meet director's priority is a safe, by the book, smooth-running competition.