

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE



MEDIA RULES

PART 1



FIG is an AIPS Member

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PREAMBLE

The FIG strives to maintain a professional work environment for journalists covering its events and sets the framework for all media professionals with these Media Rules. Part 1 is addressed to media representatives, who apply for credentials at FIG events and Part 2 consists of media operation guidelines for event organisers.

While registration is centralised at the FIG only for World Championships, Junior World Championships, the World Gymnaestrada and the World Gym for Life Challenge, the FIG Media Rules are also applicable at World Cups and World Challenge Cups.

Members of the media accredited to FIG events are required to act respectfully towards their colleagues, gymnasts, coaching staff, organisers, and volunteers. They must at all times act in accordance with international media and journalism ethics principles, maintaining high standards especially in regards to truthfulness, accuracy, objectivity, impartiality, fairness and public accountability.

By requesting accreditation, applicants accept the outlined terms and conditions and agree to respect them during the entire event.

1. ACCREDITATION

- 1.1. Media accreditation requests for FIG events as per **Appendix A** must be completed and submitted online via <https://media.gymnastics.sport>.
- 1.2. Individuals applying for credentials to cover FIG events must be professionally employed full-time by media outlets that have the business of news gathering as its primary source of revenue. Media credentials are not intended for those who sell photos or images. Credentials will not be issued to those involved in commercial ventures, to sponsor representatives or agents.
- 1.3. Freelance photographers and writers must provide an assignment letter on company letterhead detailing the actual assignment from the assigning editor, with his/her name, contact information and signature.
- 1.4. Credentials for websites staffed by full-time employees who are reporting for news purposes and who have submitted the questionnaire (**Appendix E**) shall be granted pending available space at the venue and meeting the following requirements:
 - The site must demonstrate a record of sustained, original news content on Gymnastics.
 - The site's own full-time staff must write an overwhelming percentage of its content.
 - Websites that will not be credentialed include: personal page publishers, discussion boards/chat rooms, subscription-based sites and Gymnastics clubs sites.

For more details, refer to **Appendix D**.

- 1.5. For representatives of FIG affiliated or associated national federations or continental unions acting as media for their press and communication activities and as press attachés, the FIG will deliver limited credentials. This includes web editors and photographers. When requesting accreditation, the federation must submit an official document duly signed by its president or secretary general, attesting in good faith the position of the media delegate(s) to the FIG by email. A double accreditation request (i.e. press and delegation member) will not be accepted. Press attachés are entitled to escort gymnasts from their federation on the athletes' lane of the mixed zone. A special Mixed Zone Card will be issued for this purpose.
- 1.6. Rights-holding broadcasters will be accredited according to their contract. Non-rights holders need FIG approval.
- 1.7. Only complete applications including all required documents and submitted online within the media accreditation deadlines will be taken into consideration. If space allows, late applications may be considered.
- 1.8. Any person who has a prior violation of any FIG Rules and Regulations and/or disregarded instructions given by FIG officials at events will not be accepted for media accreditation.
- 1.9. After the registration deadline, all applicants will receive an automatic notification email informing them whether their application for media accreditation was successful or not. The success or failure of all applications is entirely at the discretion of the FIG and the Local Organising Committee. Receipt of credentials in prior years does not guarantee credentials for future events. The FIG is not obliged to give reasons for any decisions made and all decisions communicated to accreditation applicants will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. Once an accreditation is granted, it may be revoked at any time without liability for compensation to the applicant.

- 1.10.** When issuing credentials, priority will be given to:
- International News / Photo Agencies
 - International newspapers
 - National and local newspapers
 - Magazines and weekly newspapers
- 1.11.** The quota of media accreditations per organisation are set as follows:
- Written Press (newspaper, magazine, news websites, agencies and national federations): max. two (2) professionals per organisation;
 - Photographer: max. one (1) professional per organisation (including national federations and with the exception of agencies);
 - Gymnastics websites and blogs: max. one (1) EE and one (1) EEP per organisation;
 - Radio: max. two (2) professionals per organisation;
 - Broadcaster (non-rights holder ENR): max. three (3) professionals per organisation
- 1.12.** Media being granted accreditation must attend the event as requested. Should they no longer wish to attend, they must notify the FIG (mediafig@fig-gymnastics.org) at the earliest possible occasion, but not later than seven days before the beginning of the event. Approved applicants who do not attend the event risk being denied accreditation at future FIG events.
- 1.13.** After signature of the respective broadcast rights agreement, rights-holding media outlets submit the list and photos of their staff online via <https://media.gymnastics.sport>.
- 1.14.** Media representatives who do not comply with these rules before or during the event will have their accreditation withdrawn for the remainder of the event and may be banned from attending future events.
- 1.15.** Accreditation cards may only be picked up by the bearer and not by a representative. They will only be issued on receipt of valid photo identification and after the media representative has signed the Media or Broadcaster Declaration Form **Appendices B and C**, respectively. The accreditation of any person found to be accredited under false pretences will be removed with immediate effect.
- 1.16.** Accredited media representatives must wear their accreditation cards at all times in the venue. Credentials may not be duplicated or reproduced in any manner. Credentials are not transferable and will not be replaced in case of loss.
- 1.17.** Accredited media representatives are only allowed to access the designated zones as displayed on the accreditation card. They must respect the defined and signposted routing system. Access zones and categorisation of different media are outlined in the FIG Accreditation Rules.

2. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

- 2.1.** Media are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
- 2.2.** Media not based in the host country are responsible for their own visas.
- 2.3.** To the best of their ability, the FIG and the Local Organising Committee will provide media with information about transport and accommodation.

3. GENERAL RULES

- 3.1.** Seats in the media tribunes are tabled and have power and an internet connection. While accredited media are not guaranteed seating in the media tribunes, the FIG and the LOC will do everything to accommodate attending media and offer them the best possible working conditions. Where media seating is limited due to space, a priority system will be used to assign seats. Auxiliary press seats consist of seating in the venue, but without tables or power.
- 3.2.** Accredited media must behave in an orderly manner throughout the event. All media must respect the work environment of their colleagues by maintaining a quiet and professional atmosphere in the media workroom and press seating. Applauding, cheering or whistling from within the designated media areas is not permitted. The display of flags and banners is also not permitted as well as dressing in such a way as to express excessive support for a participating nation. Abusive, threatening or aggressive behaviour will not be accepted. Media representatives must respect all instructions given by the FIG, the LOC and the venue security. The FIG reserves the right to revoke credentials for unprofessional behaviour or conduct.
- 3.3.** Members of the media are granted access to media areas strictly for the purpose of serving as a journalist. Interviews must be conducted in designated media areas or coordinated in advance.
- 3.4.** Gymnasts are required to leave the arena through the mixed zone after each appearance on the Field of Play (podium training, qualifications, finals, medal ceremonies). While they are not obliged to stop to give interviews, the athletes have been strongly encouraged to take the time to answer questions in the mixed zone. The FIG asks all media to uphold the expected level of professionalism and not to ask for athlete autographs or pose for photographs with athletes. Access to the mixed zone will be prioritised as follows:
 - Host broadcaster and rights-holders
 - Written press (agencies, FIG, LOC)
 - Other written press and radio stations
 - Non-rights holders and photographers
- 3.5.** During podium training media have access to the Field of Play. Furthermore, media are welcome to follow training sessions before competition start from a designated area in the training halls where available.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.1.** Photography will be permissible only in the designated areas provided that it does not interfere with broadcaster rights, personnel and conduct of the event. Access to photo positions on floor level may be limited by the FIG for high demand events. Pool photo positions (on the Field of Play for Artistic Gymnastics events and corner positions at Rhythmic Gymnastics events) will be assigned at the discretion of the FIG.
- 4.2.** All photographers who enter the dedicated photo positions in the venue are required to wear dark clothing and a bib, which will be provided by the LOC.
- 4.3.** Camera bags, computers and other obstructing material is not permitted on the arena floor. Monopods are permitted, tripods are not. Photographers may file from the workroom or from the specific download area where provided, but not from the Field of Play.
- 4.4.** Photographers shooting from the Field of Play may not communicate with or signal to the competitors or coaches at any point during the competition.
- 4.5.** Strobe or flash photography is strictly prohibited.
- 4.6.** Photographers must not cross in front of TV cameras or judges during competitions.
- 4.7.** Where possible, all photographers are allowed access to the Field of Play for the medal ceremonies.
- 4.8.** Photographers wishing to install remote cameras must e-mail the FIG at mediafig@fig-gymnastics.org at least one week prior to the event. All remote cameras must meet strict safety requirements. The availability of remote camera positions cannot be guaranteed.

5. BROADCASTING RIGHTS

- 5.1.** Rights-holding web and broadcast media outlets must adhere to the broadcast rights agreement in addition to these rules.
- 5.2.** Filming inside the competition arena by non-rights holders is strictly prohibited at all times with the exception of podium training. Internet journalists are not permitted to provide audio or video broadcasts from the competition to their respective websites or to social media at any time.
- 5.3.** Non-rights holders and Internet journalists (EE and EEP) are allowed to film training and podium training sessions. Once the competition got underway, training sessions will be closed to the media.
- 5.4.** Non-rights holding media may film and broadcast interviews conducted in the mixed zone as well as possible post-competition press conferences.
- 5.5.** Any non-editorial or commercial use of any pictures, audio, film/tape/digital images or drawing from FIG events is prohibited without prior, specific, written authorisation from the FIG and may require athlete approval for commercial use.

Upon violation of any of the above conditions or upon non-compliance with instructions given onsite, the FIG reserves the right to withdraw accreditation, with or without prior warning as well as deny accreditation to future FIG events.

An appeal can be made against a sanction taken by the FIG Media Officer. This must be in writing to the FIG Secretary General within 24 hours from the notification of the sanction. The decision of the FIG Secretary General is final.

For more details, refer to **Appendix F**, Sanction Procedures.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Events and Contacts

Appendix B – Media Declaration

Appendix C - Broadcaster Declaration

Appendix D – Website Criteria

Appendix E – Website Questionnaire

Appendix F – Sanction Procedures

Appendix X – Media Accreditation Policy

Appendix Y - Professional Journalism Policy

Appendix Z – Photo & Video Policy