



## 2025 WORLD CHAMPS JUDGING NOTES FOR 2026

The 2025 World Champs may have been an overall success, however, there were some scoring issues that the FTA Executive and the Judging Panel felt we needed to address and update for 2026.

Some changes last year were introduced to the scoring system ahead of time, and some seemingly were made at the last minute. This resulted in some athletes feeling like their preparations were in vain when the basis of the scoring system became fluid, not leaving them time to adjust.

The reason for this ambiguity was the lack of accuracy in the 'rules' documentation that was sent out for athletes to sign when they registered, including omitted or contradictory information and a focus on the changes that had taken place, rather than the definitive rules governing this event. Naturally, not all aspects were considered, and some queries resulted in decisions having to be made at the time. A clarification was sent out via WhatsApp on Thursday, addressing questions arising from the judges meeting that evening.

This year, the aim is to ensure a comprehensive document is available to athletes who want to train for the 2026 event with time to understand and apply the rules to the skills they work towards. After months of meetings with the FTA Executive Committee and input from our judges, the following system is not being implemented for the 2026 World Championships and beyond.

### **Step 1** (*Immediately after the most recent World Champs*):

Judges meet with the organisers online to clarify the rules governing the event that has just passed and propose changes. A new document is drawn up detailing these rules, including any that were questioned during the event and how the scoring took place.

### **Step 2** (*Within 1 month of the end of the most recent World Champs*):

- This document is sent to the athletes with an invitation to submit suggestions for changes to 2026 scoring. Explain how the increased weight on creativity affected placings, including examples of **Moritz Lang** (Seniors, Friday) and **Mika Keller** (Juniors, Saturday).
- Set a deadline for replies to be considered for inclusion in an online poll on the FTA website, to be sent to the whole community.

### **Step 3** (*Within 2 months of the end of the most recent World Champs*):

Set up a poll on the FTA website, including judges' and organisers' suggestions for changes, plus some of the more popular suggestions from anything submitted by athletes via email. Invite all Freestyle Trampoline athletes to complete the poll for proposed changes, setting a deadline for submissions.

### **Step 4** (*Within 3 months of the end of the most recent World Champs*):

Judges and organisers meet before the end of the year to discuss the results of the poll, including changes to be made for next year. These are then collated and updates are made to the competition documentation for next year's event. The documents are distributed to athletes via official channels.

**Importantly, NO CHANGES can be made past this point.**

### **Rules clarification for the "Step 1" document detailed above:**

- There will be two creativity judges for 2026, along with making up **33% of the score. Difficulty will make up 33% (two judges) and execution will be 33% of the score (two judges). Scores will be out of 60 (10 marks per judge)**

- There is NO "feet to feet" bonus
- There is NO double twist requirement
- Difficulty judges will round UP 0.25 flips to 0.5 score
- Difficulty judges will round UP 0.75 flips to 1.0 score
- A set-up skill of no more than 1.75 rotation is allowed
- One "**control jump**" can be performed at the end of the combo. It must land on the trampoline in order for the 1.0 final landing bonus to be awarded. A safety flip is allowed but will reduce the final landing bonus to 0.5, as long as it still lands on the trampoline

## **HOW THE JUDGING PANEL WORKS:**

### **Difficulty Scoring:**

- 0.5 marks for each element (2-5)
- 0.5 marks for different body landings (2 or 3)
- 0.1 marks for each flip
- 0.06 marks for each full twist
- 0.5 bonus for twisting both directions in any skill
- 0.3 bonus for twisting both directions within the combo (this is automatically applied if the previous bonus is awarded)
- Bonuses for triple (0.3), quad (0.5) and quint (0.7) flips. Plus 0.2 for each subsequent.
- Bonuses for triple (0.3), quad (0.5) and quint (0.7) twists. Plus 0.2 for each subsequent

### **Execution ("Performance") Scoring:**

Score range 0.0 to 10.0

A baseline score of 5.0 is allocated. Deductions and bonuses are allocated based on the performance.

- The "cleaner" the combo, the more points are awarded. Clean in this context means purposeful shapes, transitions and take-offs. NOT strong or tight body shapes, pointed toes etc.
- Points are deducted for any "faults" including imbalanced or unconventional landings.

### **Judges AWARD points for:**

- Maintaining height by avoiding technical faults.
- Clean landing positions (ie standing up straight on feet, flat body position for stomach/back)
- CONTROL of each move and the overall combo.

There is no score change for using different areas of the trampoline bed or mat throwing.

### **Final landing bonus:**

- A bonus of 1.0 is awarded for landing the final move on feet on the trampoline, but both feet must be on the trampoline.
- No bonus will be awarded if the final landing results in the athlete leaving the trampoline.

### **Creativity Scoring:**

Score range 0.0 - 10.0

Scores are allocated at the discretion of the Creativity Judge(s) based on their perceived value of inventive and unique 'styles'.

A creativity score 'menu' is adapted yearly to provide an estimation of value for some more common style variations

This is a GUIDELINE ONLY and will evolve over time as the culture shifts and the community improves their skill base.

Creativity judges will decide on the overall level of creativity, ALONGSIDE looking for some of these examples.

For example, elements such as stomach landings, cruise and sack skills will be considered even though they are not included here.

#### **0.1-0.7**

- Coca-cola flips
- Diamond tuck or any tuck position that doesn't really slow rotation
- Adding in twists at an odd moment
- Flatspins (regular)

#### **0.8-1.4**

- Alternative shapes in flips causing slower rotation speed
- Uncommon shapes that slow down rotation (ie rodeo)
- Skills with blind landings (eg front flips or back flip including a half twist)
- Interacting with an (approved) object during a skill

#### **1.5-2.0**

- Flat spins with shape, twists or open
- Different execution within twisting (eg snapu)
- Linking a backwards rotation from a forwards rotating flip
- Off axis flips
- Bowls / Zero's
- SOMETHING NEW!!

**Reminder:** the skills listed above are provided as a guideline only and will change each year. They may not be in these bandings for this year! A new 'live scoring' system proposed for 2026.

Here are the considerations for information relating to this:

'SCORING' sheets are created for the judging panel to note their scores onto after each athlete.

'DIFFICULTY' sheets are used to calculate the mathematical difficulty during performances.

'RESULTS' sheets are created, which are then **Published to the Web** and embedded in the World Champs website page at [www.ftaworldchamps.com/scoring](http://www.ftaworldchamps.com/scoring)

- **Note:** having the live scores on the fta world champs website will drive more traffic to the site and increase SEO
- **Note:** This sheet using an automatic import and sort function from the "Scoring" sheet

**A prominent note will be placed on the SCORING sheet explaining:**

*"This is the LIVE scoresheet, providing the PROVISIONAL results as they come in. Results are not final until all challenges have been heard and a full judging review has taken place. Usually, this is approximately one hour after the event. This message will be replaced when the results are finalised."*

The concern is that athletes, spectators and officials will not understand WHY scores may change. Therefore, it is important that announcers MUST explain that the live scores are provisional, and point out the "challenge and review" process that can result in scores being altered.

#### **The Judging Process:**

This information needs to be included in the 2026 rules documentation that athletes sign before they participate.

### **Preliminaries and Semi-finals:**

- Judges will make notes during the event for scores to review afterwards.
- Athletes have 30 minutes after their performance to submit challenges or clarifications to the judges (ie making sure judges are aware there was an 'untwist' element for difficulty bonus consideration, or landing position for landing bonus) if they believe their score is not representative.
- All scores are provisional until a review meeting has taken place approximately one hour after the event, between ALL judges and the event organisers.
  - Any notes for "to review" are addressed, then a final overview of scores is undertaken to check they are representative of what has taken place.
- Following the review meeting, the text is changed from "scores may change" (detailed above) to simply "FINAL RESULTS" and a message is sent to the athletes' WhatsApp group simply saying: Results have been finalised and can be found at [www.ftaworldchamps.com/scoring](http://www.ftaworldchamps.com/scoring)

### **FINALS:**

- Athletes have TWO minutes after their performance to submit challenges or clarifications to the judges if they believe their score is not representative.
- Judges will review scores after every round (Juniors, Women, Seniors) and finalise them within FIVE minutes of the end of the competition.

### **Judges' suggestions for changes to 2026 rules:**

1. Remove the 'no twist in set-up skill' requirement, allowing athletes to do a backflip half to stomach for 'Zach' skills. Keep no more than 1.75 rotations limit. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**
2. Clarify that an out-bounce or safety flip can be performed following the final skill, to allow more clarity on landings for Juniors and landing bonus for Seniors; allocation in Execution score. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**
3. Change the wording in the rule for athletes to perform different combos for each round to 'should' instead of 'must.' Variations in each round should still be highly encouraged and can be reflected in the creativity scoring. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**
4. Have equal weighting for difficulty, execution ("performance") and creativity scores by having SIX judges, each scoring out of ten, with a maximum score of 60 as the new normal. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**
5. Scores will be shown live on-line and then end of round scores will be shown on the jumbo screen, but only as 'provisional' until the 30 min inquiry period has elapsed after each round and the judges have reviewed all scores. Once they are declared 'official' by the Head Judge, score will not be changed or altered in any way and no further inquiries will be allowed. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**
6. Every athlete will have 30 mins following the posting of provisional scores to make a formal inquiry to the Head Judge, to have their combo and score re-evaluated. **CONFIRMED FOR 2026**