



Awarding Credit

A value part is “any element performed that meets the technical requirement in order to be considered complete and, therefore, received credit in the Difficulty category”. As we know, a basic routine shall contain at least four mediums, three superiors and one high superior. When an athlete is lacking the minimum number of elements of any value, elements of a higher value shall be used to replace elements of a lesser value on a one for one basis. If any element(s) is still missing, an official must deduct the actual value of the missing element(s). However, because we must judge to the benefit of the athlete, when using an element of higher value to replace an element of a lower value, the higher value element retains its original value. For example, when an athlete uses an Advanced High Superior (AHS) element to fulfill the requirement for a High Superior (HS) element, the AHS is awarded in the Difficulty category AND the Bonus category, provided the AHS is performed without a fall or spot.

When is an Element NOT a Value Part?

There are many reasons for not awarding a value part for a performed element.

- The athlete falls on the element and does not bare weight prior to the fall.
- The athlete fails to land on any part of the bottom of her feet first.
- A spotter facilitates the element.
- The element is performed for a third time during exercise.

Judging Decisions:

Now that we’ve looked at the basic requirements for Difficulty, we, as officials, must decide whether to award credit for the element in the Difficulty category. Simply speaking, if the technical criteria of the element is met, credit is awarded. What are the required techniques which must be met to award credit in Difficulty?

- Leg positions – The expectation is that legs are to be horizontal. If the body is open more than 135 degrees or more, the element is recognized as a different, lower value part.
- Degree of split – When a 180-degree split is required, credit may be awarded with a deduction of up to 0.2 if the split is at least 136 degrees. When a 135-degrees is required, credit may be awarded with a deduction of up to 0.2 if the split is at least 91 degrees. *Switch leg leaps requires a minimum 45 degree split prior to the switch. If the athlete fails to reach this requirement credit for a split leap must be awarded.*
- Degree of twist – Twists are complete when the feet land. Twists will be given value part credit if the element is completed within 89 degrees of the required end position. *If up to 89 degrees is missing a deduction of up to 0.2 must be taken. If more than 90 degrees is missing, the element must be recognized as a different, lower value part.*
- Degree of turn - Turns are complete when the heel drops. Turns will be given value part credit if the element is completed within 89 degrees of the required end position. *If up to 89 degrees is missing a deduction of up to 0.2 must be taken. If more than 90 degrees is missing, the element must be recognized as a different, lower value part.*

Conclusion: Consistency is key! Your decision to award credit for an element or not, is one that has a large impact on an athlete’s score, as do all your judging decisions. However, when it comes to Difficulty, a judge must be consistent when deciding to award value part or not (devalue) an element. Once you make that decision for each competition, you must maintain that decision for the duration of the competition. The choices are simple: award credit and deduct for incorrect technique or don’t award credit and establish execution and amplitude deductions.