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Technical Update
April 2013

- When does a skirt receive a deduction for being too short?

  The leotard bottom should not be showing in the front or back. This deduction should be taken at the beginning of the routine when they are standing, marching on and getting into their beginning pose. Once the routine has begun and the athletes are moving and dancing, this deduction should not be taken.

- What is the deduction for a skirt that flips up and does not fall back down?

  If one side does not flip back down it is 0.1 deduction. If both sides don't flip back down it is still a 0.1 deduction. This is applied each time it happens. There is NO penalty for a skirt flipping up, one side or both sides, during a skill. For example, if they are in a handstand and they come down out of the skill, continue the routine and the skirt does not fall back down, then a deduction would be applied.

- Who takes attire penalties?

  Attire penalties are taken by the CJP ONLY, not the artistry judges.

- How big does the National Emblem need to be on leotards?

  Min 30 cm squared

- Does Acro Cup 2013 count as a local qualifying meet?

  Yes. It counts for any USA level – for example, they competed 11-16 at Acro Cup but compete level 9 or 10 in their next local.

- Can an international meet count as a State or Regional meet?

  If an international meet (either Team USA or Club Meet) falls within 10 days of a State or Regional meet, it can count towards qualifying to the next level (in the case of State qualifying to Regionals). It CAN NOT count as a National qualifying score. You must have qualified at either your State or Regional meet. You must provide documentation to your Regional committee of your competition.

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- Qualifying scores for routine testing from 9 to 10 will be lowered to a combined score of 15. Qualifying scores for routine testing from 10 to Elite have been lowered from 16 to 15.5. Qualifying scores for routine testing from 13-19 to Seniors is 16.5.

- Please review the two letters below regarding National Team Slots and the upcoming JO Program revision project.

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Dear Coaches,

I trust that you are aware that a major review with subsequent revisions to the JO Program is currently underway. Our JO Program led us to strong success internationally initially, but based on the changes being made by the FIG, it is necessary to review the entire program to be sure that we can be more successful in the future.

A working group, with members from both the JO Committee and the Elite Committee, has been established to do the initial review and recommend changes. The first meeting has taken place, and I am happy to report that it was extremely productive.

Two main goals were established:

- Anticipate the skills that will be necessary for international competition in 2016 and make adjustments to the program to improve our international success.
- Look for ways to broaden the base at a recreational level.

The process will be to work from the top down to ensure that the JO program includes the skills that are necessary for international competition. And then to look at various ways to keep recreational athletes involved for a longer period of time.

The initial skill review revealed a few things that I wanted to pass along to you. This should help your training and planning leading into next year.

- Presses must be incorporated earlier in the JO Program.
- Trios and WP need to do more work on hands.
- Twists need to be encouraged.
- Mounts for pairs need to be included.
- Motions of the base need to be included in pairs.
- Linking must be part of the JO Skills.

I will update you as progress is made over the next few months. The JO Chair, Sarah Thomas, and the EC Chair, Marie Annonson and I are happy to answer any questions you might have. Please forward them through your regional representatives so that we can ensure that the information is communicated with everyone.

Best of luck in your training the rest of this season!

Tonya Case

Tonya Case
National Team Consultant

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Dear Coaches,

It has come to the attention of the selection committee that there are some questions about the slots that are available for pair/groups to be added to the National Team at Nationals. As a result, the selection committee has reviewed all of the team slots and you will find the information about open slots below.

You know that in previous selection years, we have been limited to three slots per discipline per level, but with a maximum of 12 slots available. The athlete selection committee made a proposal that we have 12 slots without limiting them per event so that in situations where we have large numbers of pair/groups competing, we can have more than three pair/groups. This was approved. However, we have been strongly advised that three is the magic number, and that we must be able to justify any decision that is made to go over that limit.

Here is the information about open slots for each of the four groups.

11-16 Age Group Team

Event	# currently on team	Slots available	Alternate slots available
WG	4 + 1 alternate	None	1
WP	2	1 - 2	2
MX	1	1 - 2	1
MP/MG	0	1*	1

*May be two if MX not filled

12 - 18 World Age Group Development Squad

Event	# currently on team	Slots available	Alternate slots available
WG	3	1	2
WP	0	3	2
MX	0	2	1
MP/MG	0	1	1

*May be two if MX not filled

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13-19 Junior National Team

Event	# currently on team	Slots available	Alternate slots available
WG	1	2	1
WP	0	3	1
MX	0	2	1
MP/MG	0	1	1

*May be two if MX not filled

Senior National Team

Event	# currently on team	Slots available	Alternate slots available
WG	0	3	1
WP	1	2	1
MX	3	0	1
MP/MG	0	2	1

Please note: There is no obligation to fill open slots, or to fill the 12 slots that are available for each team.

The number of open slots may be assigned slightly differently based on the quality of the field and the number of entries. **However, the maximum number of slots that will be filled for any Team, in any discipline is 4.**