

Part III
Section 1: RHYTHMIC GROUP COMPETITION

I. TYPES OF COMPETITION

- A. Junior Olympic Groups compete according to the Junior Olympic Rules. (See *Rhythmic Junior Olympic Handbook*.) Groups are divided into three categories: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced.
- B. Elite Groups compete according to the FIG Rules. (See *FIG Code of Points*.) Groups are divided into two age categories: junior and senior.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ELITE GROUP COMPETITIVE LEVELS

- A. Senior Elite groups are composed of five gymnasts and one alternate, who meet senior age criteria, performing the designated routines according to the FIG Rules. An alternate is not required.
 - 1. Senior Elite groups may compete one or two of the routines required for the year at USA competitions.
 - 2. To be eligible for selection to international events, a Group must compete with both FIG Group events.
- B. Junior Elite groups are composed of four gymnasts and one alternate who meet junior age criteria, performing the designated routine according to the FIG Rules. An alternate is not required.

III. ELITE GROUP COMPETITION

- A. Elite Groups may qualify to USA National Championships according to qualification procedures as decided by the Rhythmic Program Director and Rhythmic Program Committee.
- B. Elite Groups that qualify to USA National Championships will earn Level 10 status.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF JUNIOR OLYMPIC GROUP COMPETITIVE LEVELS

- A. The purpose of the Junior Olympic Group program is to:
 - 1. **encourage rhythmic clubs to teach the rhythmic group aspect to rhythmic athletes**
 - 2. foster collaboration and greater participation at the Junior Olympic level
 - 3. develop groups that will eventually lead to elite/international USA group performance
- B. Age Divisions are not required; however, when there are more than six (6) groups registered in a Division, in any one age group (CH, JR, SR) the meet director may opt to award by age group.
- C. Competitive Level: There will be three (3) levels - Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced. The coach determines the level at which a group will compete.
- D. Equipment: The size of the equipment is determined by the equipment regulations in the Rules & Policies.
- E. Multiple Groups: If a club enters more than one group into a competition, up to three (3) athletes from that club can be entered into two groups.
- F. Competition and technical rules for J.O. Group are defined in the current Rhythmic Technical Handbook.

V. JUNIOR OLYMPIC GROUP COMPETITION

- A. **Group Competition may be held at local, State, and Regional Championships.**
- B. Beginner groups meeting the qualification criteria will be eligible to compete at the Junior Olympic Compulsory Championships; Intermediate and Advanced groups meeting the qualification criteria will be eligible to compete in the Junior Olympic Compulsory Championships.
- C. The Group Championships will be held annually.
- D. Any registered gymnast can compete in the rhythmic group program.
- E. Group exercises may be performed as Duet, Trio, 4 gymnasts or 5 gymnasts.