

Women's Technical Committee Meeting

Oct. 24, 2004

Adam's Mark Hotel - Indianapolis, Ind.

I. Roll Call

Chairman Cheryl Hamilton called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Region 1	Neela Nelson, for Sue Graff
Region 2	Linda Mulvihill
Region 3	Carole Bunge
Region 4	Linda Thorberg
Region 5	Char Christensen
Region 6	Pat Panichas
Region 7	Myra Elfenbein
Region 8	Marian Dykes
TC-Asst. Chairman	Audrey Schweyer
NAWGJ	Carole Ide
NJOPM	Connie Maloney

II. Certification of Judges

The responsibility of judges' certification has been brought in-house to the USA Gymnastics office and will be under the direction of the Technical Committee. Connie explained that the office will soon form a Task Force which will meet with Kathy Kelly and Connie Maloney in late November. The purpose of the Task Force will be to provide information and ideas that will assist the National office and the Technical Committee with the development of policies and procedures for this endeavor. The Technical Committee, in conjunction with the National office, will determine:

- the policies and procedures for the certification of officials for the Jr. Olympic Program.
- the final timelines for implementation of this program to insure that the new system will be up and running efficiently by the summer of 2005, when the exams for the new cycle will be first offered.

Recommendation that any current State, Regional, or National officer for USA Gymnastics or NAWGJ be eligible to apply for the position of Test Administrator. Any individual who has served in this capacity in the past may also apply. The Technical Committee will determine the number of TAs necessary for each state/region and will make selections from the applications submitted.

Motion: C. Christensen

Second: M. Elfenbein

PASSED

Note:

An application form will be sent via e-mail as well as posted online. If additional personnel are needed, the TC will consider recommending individuals. Those individuals selected may begin administering the new compulsory and optional exams beginning in late August, 2005.

- All TAs must pass the new Level 5/6 exam prior to administering the compulsory exam.
- In order to give the Optional exams, the TA must have re-certified in 2005. This may be done through a Level 10 Recertification course, a National course, or by passing the new Level 10 test.
- TAs who presently hold a Brevet rating will have their Optional ratings extended until such time that the Brevet Courses are offered, and will be eligible to administer the new exams beginning late August 2005.

Recommendation that the authors of the new Jr. Olympic Level 5 and 6 compulsory text and deductions be exempt from taking the 2005-2013 Level 5/6 Compulsory certification exam.

Motion: P. Panichas

Second: L. Thorberg

PASSED

Recommendation to continue with the same levels of certification: Level 5/6, Level 7/8 (with a practical exam on only Level 8 routines), Level 9 and Level 10.

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: P. Panichas

PASSED

The committee discussed the timeframe for developing the written exams. Members of the Technical Committee, as assigned by Cheryl, will be responsible for writing and proofing the exams. Connie Maloney will send the final version of the deductions and text to the test writers/proofreaders by December 6, 2004. Optional exams will be written after the rough draft of the new optional rules/deductions is completed (by early January 2005).

III. NAWGJ Report – Carole Ide, President

Carole distributed a written report to all members of the committee. The 2005 NAWGJ National Judges' Cup will be held Jan. 7-9 in New Orleans and the National Symposium will be held in Portland, OR July 14-18.

Carole also explained the new system for assignment of officials for the NCAA competitions. At the time of her report, 65 out of 85 universities are participating, even though the system is not mandatory until 2006. All January meets have been assigned and by November 15th, judges will be notified of their assignments.

Carole also stated that NAWGJ, as the service organization for the judging population, is ready and willing to do whatever needs to be done to assist USA Gymnastics with a smooth transition regarding the certification procedures and test administrators.

IV. Technical Committee Assistant Chairman Election

Cheryl explained to the committee that there have been changes to the Operating Code in regards to the National Elite Committee and the Judges' Selection Committee. The position of National Elite Technical Committee Chairman has been removed. References to the NETCC position in the *2004-05 Rules and Policies* are no longer valid.

Recommendation to nominate Audrey Schweyer as Assistant Chairman of the Technical Committee.

Motion: P. Panichas

Second: L. Thorberg

PASSED

Due to no other nominations, Audrey Schweyer was elected to the position of Assistant Chairman by acclamation. Cheryl explained that Audrey will continue to function primarily as the contact person for Elite technical questions and concerns.

V. Equipment

It was suggested that the specifications for equipment in the *Rules and Policies* be given in both centimeters and inches. Connie will add this to the *R & P* in the future.

VI. Injury Petition Form

Myra Effenbein suggested that the Injury Petition Form have the following change in wording:

II. Physician's written verification of illness or injury and release to return to "**gymnastics training**". Connie will make the changes to the form posted on the web site.

VII. Unusual Situations

The committee discussed the procedures that should be used in the situation when one judge inadvertently misses the exercise.

Recommendation that the following procedures be used in the case when one judge misses the exercise:

A. With a 2-judge panel: The gymnast has two options after the coach is advised of the score of the judge who evaluated the whole routine: 1) accept that score, OR 2) repeat the exercise after a reasonable period of rest. If the gymnast elects to repeat, the score of the second routine will count.

B. With a 4-judge panel: The final score is determined by entering a score for the judge who missed the routine that is equal to the highest score given by the three other judges and then averaging the two middle scores, as usual. This method gives the gymnast the benefit of having the highest possible score and there is no need for the option to repeat the exercise.

In either case, the Chief Judge should consult with the Meet Referee, who will then notify the coach of the gymnast's options.

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: N. Nelson

PASSED

VIII. Level 7 Uneven Bars Certifications for the 2004-2005

If a gymnast performs a stalder circle backward to clear support (#6.104) in order to fulfill the 60° circling element at Level 7, the angle is determined according to the clarification on page 72 in the *JO Technical Handbook*. This states that this element does not require an open hip angle at the completion. The judge would consider the line from shoulders to hips when evaluating the amplitude (angle) of the body.

If the same element was used to fulfill the 2nd circling element (group 3, 6, or 7), the general rule for amplitude for optional skills would apply; that is, determine the angle from shoulders to hips and if it is 45° above horizontal or better, take no deduction. If the angle is below 45°, then an "up to 0.20" deduction would be applied.

IX. Floor Exercise Music

Clarification regarding "song or voice": The Floor Exercise music may not include voice/song, but other sounds, such as whistling, animal sounds are allowable.

X. Brevet Courses

The dates of the FIG-Intercontinental, FIG-Continental, and USAG Brevet Courses have yet to be determined, pending the decision by FIG of the schedule of the Intercontinental Course. All current US Brevet judges will be invited to one of the Brevet courses which will be held in late 2005 or early 2006.

XI. Upcoming Projects

In order to accomplish all of the educational projects necessary for the first year of new compulsories and optional rules, the Technical Committee will meet again from April 29-May 1 in Indianapolis. Members were asked to arrive on Thurs. April 28 and plan on leaving Mon. May 2nd, if possible.

The TC will be working on the following projects:

Judging Exams:

Theoretical exam – Levels 5/6, 7/8, 9, 10, Level 10 Recertification (self-test), and National Courses

Practical exams – Level 8, 9, 10, Level 10 Recertification (self-test), and National Courses

Film Evaluations:

Videos for the Technical Symposiums, Level 10 Re-certification Courses, and the National Courses.

Judges' Training videos for Level 4-6, and all Optional levels

Base Score videos for all levels

Power Point Presentations:

For lectures at Technical Symposium, Level 10 Re-certification Courses, and National Courses.

Jr. Olympic Code of Points

Revise the text in the present *JO Technical Handbook* to be included in the *JO Code of Points*

Proofing of the new *JO Code of Points*, including illustrations of elements.

All members of the Technical Committee will be working at the two National Technical Symposiums to be held in conjunction with the Master Compulsory Workshops:

June 4-5 - Louisville, KY

June 11-12 - Reno, NV

Connie requested that the members inform the office if they have a conflict with either weekend so plans can be made for the distribution of jobs.

XII. Judges' Mileage Reimbursement for 2005

Effective JANUARY 1, 2005, the standard mileage rate will be increased to 40 cents per mile for all business miles driven.

XIII. Upcoming Meetings

The next joint meeting of the Jr. Olympic and Technical Committees is scheduled for the Monday and Tuesday, May 16-17, 2005 following Jr. Olympic Nationals in Ontario, Calif..

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

*Approved by President Robert V. Colarossi
December 1, 2004*