



March 18, 2021

To: Men's Development Program Community
From: Dusty Ritter, Men's Development Program Coordinator

Re: **Procedure for Qualification to the 2021 Men's Development Program National Championships. This document will supercede what is written in the Men's Rules and Policies except where specifically stated otherwise.**

Important Note – Clarification of New USA Gymnastics Terminology

USA Gymnastics is restricted by the USOPC from using the term "Olympic" with regard to designation of our programs and committees. As a result, those programs are renamed and will be sometimes referred to with new acronyms. Due to the pandemic, these new changes were required to be implemented prior to the release of our new program in May. In this document, the former Junior Olympic Program Committee (JOPC) is now titled Men's Development Program Committee (MDPC). The Junior Olympic Program itself is now the Men's Development Program. Our JO Nationals has been renamed the "Development Program National Championships" or simply "Development Nationals" for short. As you will read below, the two divisions represented at this year's Development Nationals will be using the designation "Junior National" (JN - replacing the Junior Olympic Division) and "Junior Elite" (or JE).

Special Note with regard to COVID Protocols

USA Gymnastics has developed COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols for all USAG hosted events. These guidelines are generally in line with CDC recommendations, and are updated regularly by USAG medical staff. Specific event protocols may be implemented as the event gets closer, but all participants should expect that they will be required to fulfill any requirements approved by the USAG medical staff when attending Development Nationals. Participants (defined as anyone who is participating as a coach, judge, athlete, staff, medical, etc. and has access to the floor or training areas) may be required to show test results or undergo testing prior to or during the event as well as maintain social distancing and masking protocols among other expectations or restrictions. Spectators are not considered participants, but may be required to follow event specific protocols as well.

I. Qualification to the 2021 Men's Development National Championships

A. Junior National Division qualification to the Development National Championship is based on the following criteria:

State Championships: Athletes must compete optional routines. Qualification to Regional Championships is determined by:

1. Athletes must achieve the regional qualifying score or meeting the qualification requirements
2. Athletes may submit a petition to attend Regional Championships through the petition process outlined in Section D below.

Regional Championships: Athletes must compete optional routines. Qualification to the Development National Championships is determined by:

1. Athletes must fall within the Region's total allotment or,
2. Athletes must achieve one of the top 2 scores at Regional Championships on any Individual Events to qualify as an event specialist - Level 10 only. (Will compete only on qualified event(s) at the Men's Development Nationals) or,
3. Athletes may submit a petition to attend Development National Championships through the petition process outlined in Section D below

B. Junior Elite Division qualification to the Development National Championships is based on the following criteria:

State Championships: Athletes must compete optional routines. Technical Sequences are not required. Qualification to Regional Championships is determined by:

1. Athletes must meet the regional standards/requirements in their respective region
2. Athletes may submit a petition to attend Regional Championships through the petition process outlined in Section D below.

Regional Championships: Athletes must compete both the Technical Sequences and Optional Routines. Qualification to Development National Championships is determined by:

1. Athletes must compete the Technical Sequences on all six (6) events either in person or virtually, depending on each region's protocols, and
2. Athletes must qualify within the region's total allotment, and
3. Athletes must achieve the following combined total score to advance to the Junior Elite Division at the 2021 Development National Championships:
 - a. Level 8 – 124.00 AA
 - b. Level 9 – 125.00 AA
 - c. Level 10 Jr. & Sr. – 126.00 AA
4. Athletes may submit a petition to attend Development National Championships through the petition process outlined in Section D below

****Athletes must declare upon submission of entry to Regional Championships their intent to advance to the Junior Elite Division or they will be placed in the Junior National Division.**

C. General Information Regarding Qualification:

Regional Allotment:

1. Regional allotment will be determined by the MDPC based on participant numbers derived from the USA Gymnastics Meet Reservation System for the respective state championships within that region. Regional percentage is based on the number of a region's participants as a percentage of the national numbers to achieve the target number of athletes qualified to the Development National Championships.
2. The allotment will be announced on or before April 1.

Qualification for the Junior Elite Division:

1. Advancement to the Development National Championships will be determined by the published allotment numbers based upon ranking within the region using the optional score in each age division.
2. Junior Elite athletes must also achieve the combined optional and technical routine score published in Section I.B.
3. Athletes who do not fall within a region's published allotment according to the optional AA score, but do achieve the required JE combined score will automatically have their scores

reviewed by the MDP Coordinator for potential inclusion in the Development National Championships.

4. At Level 8 & 9, a minimum of 60 athletes in each level may be approved to compete in the Junior Elite Division by rank order combined AA score from Regional Championship results. Approved petitions will be added to the field in addition to the qualified athletes. Should less than 60 athletes qualify by score plus approved petitions in Level 8 or 9, the field may be adjusted to reach a minimum of 60 athletes by this process.

D. Petitions:

1. Petitions may **only be submitted by the athlete's coach** and submitted petitions must meet protocol procedures and be fully documented for consideration. Petitions may only be submitted for athletes who are unable to compete at the qualifying competition due to injury, illness, or extenuating circumstance.
 - a. Coaches are responsible for submitting ALL required documentation for a petition.
 - b. Petitions must be received by either the State Chairperson (for Sectional or State meets) or the Regional Chairperson (for Regional and National meets) before the competition begins. Petitions should provide all documentation including:
 - i. actual copies of score sheets for score verification;
 - ii. doctors' statement (in case of injury or illness); and
 - iii. coach's statement
 - iv. petition form and entry fee for event being petitioned to
 - c. Petitions that do not meet either the time or documentation requirements will not be accepted
 - d. Petitions for athletes injured during a competition must be turned in to the State Chairperson (Sectional or State meet) or to the Regional Chairperson (at the Regional Championships) by the conclusion of the event where the injury occurs (unless an emergency situation dictates otherwise). Documentation must be received by the State Chairperson (State Championships) or the Regional Chairperson (Regional/National Championships) within 48 hours of the conclusion of the event and must include the same documentation stated in Section D.1.b.
2. **Junior National Division:** In addition to the requirements stated in Section D.1, coaches must also submit results from a minimum of **two** USA Gymnastics sanctioned meets during the **current or previous competitive season**, showing that their athlete's scores would place them in the top 50% of athletes who qualified by score from their region using the published national allotment. The petition will not be accepted if these requirements are not met.
3. **Junior Elite Division:**
 - a. For athletes that were unable to compete in their Regional Championships (or designated qualifying competition for Development Nationals), coaches must follow the requirements in Section D.1. They must also include scores from their athlete's Technical Sequences performed at any USAG sanctioned event in the current or previous competitive season.
 - b. For athletes that do compete at their Regional Championships (or designated qualifying competition), but do not meet the approved JE qualifying score, coaches must submit scores from their athlete's Technical Sequences performed at any USAG sanctioned event in the current or previous competitive season, which will be combined with that athlete's optional score from Regional Championships (or designated qualifying event). The combined score must show that the athlete would have achieved the current qualifying score to compete in the JE category at Development National Championships. **Accepted Level 8 JE Petitions for 11 year-olds will not count against the allotment.**

II. Format for the Development National Championships. Refer to Official [Event Website](#) for detailed schedule, including training and competition times:

A. Format for Junior National Division:

1. Level 9's will compete one session, Capitol Cup format on Thursday morning. Awards for All Around and Individual Events follow immediately after the session. Awards will be given in single age years.
2. Level 8's will compete one session Capitol Cup format on Sunday morning. Awards for All Around and Individual Events follow immediately after the session. Awards will be given in single age years.
3. Level 10's will compete in three Capitol Cup sessions on Friday. The third session will include the Regional Team for Level 10 Jr. (15/16) and Level 10 Sr. (17/18). Three additional squads of non-regional team athletes will be placed in this session by random draw.
4. From the pool of Level 10 eligible athletes, 30 All-Around athletes will advance in rank order from each single age year to the finals session on Sunday afternoon from both the Level 10 Jr. and Level 10 Sr. divisions. Awards for All Around and Individual Events are based upon combined score from both days and will be given in single age years.
5. Level 10 Athletes who place in the Top 6 on an individual event who are not already in the Top 30 AA will advance to finals on that event only from each single age year.
6. Each Flight (A & B) will be composed of 6 squads of approximately 10 athletes. Athletes from the same club will be placed in the same squad and flight wherever possible. One flight will compete while the other flight warms up. Squad assignments for finals qualifiers will be published and posted on the day following the preliminary optional session for each age division.

B. Format for Junior Elite Division:

1. Level 8 & 9 Junior Elite Division athletes will perform Optional routines in the second session on the 1st day of competition (Thursday). Level 10 Junior Elite Division athletes will perform Optional routines in the third session on the 1st day of competition (Thursday).
2. Junior Elite Division athletes will perform Technical Sequences in the finals session on their 2nd day of competition (Saturday).
3. All Junior Elite Division athletes will advance to the Finals session on the 2nd day of competition.
4. Junior Elite Division athletes will be eligible to receive awards in single age year categories in each age division.

C. Format for Junior Elite Division Finals:

1. Final ranking will be determined by combined scores of 1st and 2nd day for both the All-Around and Individual Events.
2. Junior Elite Division athletes will compete in Session 1 on their second day of competition and perform Technical Sequences to achieve their combined score and ranking.

III. Qualification for Junior Elite National Team selection

- A. Athletes will be selected to the Junior Elite National Team in both Level 8 & Level 9 at the conclusion of the Junior Elite Finals Technical Sequence session on Saturday based upon their combined All-Around score from Day #1 (Opt) and Day #2 (TS).
1. Athletes will be selected by single age years as follows; 11years old (1), 12 years old (3), 13 years old (3), 14 years old (3)

2. Four (4) additional NT spots will be determined by open selection. Athletes may be selected from any of the four single age years based upon the results in rank order of combined 2-day total score as well as discretionary criteria listed below:
- Age Group(s) prioritized based on strength/competitiveness of the field
 - Technical Sequence results
 - Start Values from day 1 optional routines

- B. Athletes in both Level 10 (15-16 & 17-18*) age groups will advance to the U.S. Championships. All Around scores for the Junior Elite Division will be the combined totals from Day #1 (Opt) and Day #2 (TS) competition. Athletes will advance based upon rank order AA score as follows:
- Level 10 15 years. – 11 athletes
 - Level 10 16 years – 11 athletes
 - Level 10 17 years – 12 athletes
 - Level 10 18 years – 8 athletes
 - MPC approved petitions

- C. Athletes in both Level 10 (15-16 & 17-18*) age groups will be selected to the Junior Elite National Team based upon their combined 2-day result at the U.S. Championships. Process for selection will be determined pending MPC approval and released prior to US Championships.

*Special Note: Athletes who are 19 years old on May 31, 2021, which is designated as the competitive age determination date as published in the Men’s Program Rules and Policies, are eligible to compete in the Development National Championships in the 18-year old age group.

IV. Regional Allotment:

2021 Development Nationals Allotment Table					
	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10 Jr	Level 10 Sr	Total
Region 1	17	24	30	36	107
Region 2	8	11	10	13	42
Region 3	22	33	49	37	141
Region 4	10	18	22	19	69
Region 5	29	32	45	38	144
Region 6	5	9	13	13	40
Region 7	25	26	36	42	129
Region 8	18	29	33	40	120
Region 9	9	11	15	15	50
Total	143	193	253	253	842