

RHYTHMIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Conducted by Phone - August 19 & September 4, 2019

Roll Call:

Stefanie Korepin (Chair)	National Judges Representative
Suzi DiTullio	National Administrative Committee Chair
Natalya Kozitskaya	International Elite Committee Chair
Elena Savenkova	Member At Large
Rebecca Sereda	Athlete Representative
Rhythmic Program Coordinator	Jayme Vincent (non-voting)
Rhythmic Program Director	Caroline Hunt (non-voting)

National Administrative Committee Proposals

1. **APPROVED:** REGIONAL DATES 2020

A. We will not adhere to the rule requiring two weeks between a State and Regional meet for this Olympic year.

B. Regional Dates for 2020:

- i. Region 2 & 5 APRIL 4-5
- ii. Region 3 & 1 APRIL 25-26
- iii. Region 6 & 4 MAY 2-3

NOTES: Regional chairs would also like a calendar of state meet dates and we will encourage meet directors hosting 2020 events to acquire their sanctions as soon as possible.

2. **APPROVED:** NAC ELECTIONS 2019

A. Stagger the term of elections for the NAC committee members into the new cycle.

- i. Technical Reps will be elected in the Fall/Summer of 2019
- ii. Administrative Reps will be elected in the Fall/Summer of 2020

3. **NOT APPROVED (OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS R&P TEXT REMAINS AS-IS):** OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT 2020

A. Will include Level 4 & 5 athletes advancing from Regional Championships. Each Region will be allowed to field a team of 50 athletes total.

- i. TOP 25 Level 4 athletes in rank order no age groups
- ii. TOP 25 Level 5 athletes in rank order no age groups

4. **APPROVED:** VERIFICATION OF BIRTHDATE AND LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

A. Verification of an athlete's date of birth and their level eligibility will be done by the club administrator.

- i. Club team roster will come from USA Gymnastics member club administration page.

- ii. A parent must present an acceptable form of identification to confirm the athlete's date of birth. Accepted forms of identification are:
 - 1. *birth certificate with gold seal*
 - 2. *current passport*
 - iii. Parent will sign the verification form, witnessed by the club administrator.
 - iv. The club administrator will also verify that the athlete is of the correct age for the current competitive level.
 - v. The signed and completed verification form will be sent to the State Chairman no later than January 1, 2020.
 - vi. The State Chairman is responsible for cross checking the athlete's new competitive level. Adhering to the current requirements for being eligible to skip one level.
 - vii. The State Chairman will send a copy to the Regional Chair to keep on file for the season.
- B. Mistakes in either the gymnast's date of birth or registered competitive level must be corrected by the club administrator or parent, before January 1, 2020.

5. APPROVED: LEVEL MOBILITY

Create an easy to monitor mobility system which ensures athlete safety during the developmental stages of the sport.

A. Entry level rules for all ages

- i. To enter into the Junior Olympic development program an athlete must be a minimum of 6 years old by December 31st of the competition year. And may enter the appropriate category for her skill level. The coach will make this determination based on the athlete's physical and emotional readiness.
- ii. The athlete will advance through the levels sequentially after having successfully competed through to the State Championships, except level 3.
- iii. The athlete may not skip more than one competition level after completing her first or second year in any category.
 - I. Ex: A Level 3 gymnast may skip into Level 5 after competing successfully at her state meet. A Level 4 gymnast may skip into Level 6 after competing successfully at her state meet.

6. APPROVED: ATHLETES ENTERING INTO THE JO PROGRAM – XCEL, FOREIGN, ETC.

A. Entry level rules for athletes moving from Xcel into the JO development program for the first time.

- i. Any former Xcel Program athlete will be allowed to enter the Junior Olympic development program at a minimum age of 6 years old by December 31st of the competition year. And may enter the appropriate category for her skill level. The coach will make this determination based on the athlete's physical and emotional readiness.

7. APPROVED: MOVING BETWEEN JO PROGRAM AND XCEL PROGRAM

- A. Some crossover between programs will be accepted.

An athlete who has compete in the JO Program and decided to compete for a season in the Xcel program will follow these re-entry guidelines.

1. The athlete may re- enter the JO program at the same level at which she left the JO program or at the next level in sequential order.
 - a. Examples: A JO level 3 returns after a season in the Xcel Program, she may re-enter as a Level 3 or a Level 4. A former Level 5 may re-enter as a Level 5 or a Level 6.

8. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMENT: LEVELS 3-6 COMPETITION TIMELINES

A. Revise rotation time allowance and include warmup requirements for levels 3-6.

i. **RECOMMENDATION:** Warmup time minimums:

1. Levels 3-4 is :45 mins
2. Levels 5-10 is 1:00 hour.

ii. Competition time maximums:

1. Level 3-4 is 2 hours
2. Level 5-6 is 2.5 hours
3. Level 7-8 is 3.0 hours

Proposed: Jaga

Secoded: Ellen

Approved: unanimous

9. RECOMMENDATION: SCORING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND REGIONALS

- A. For quick referencing of scoring data where advancing or qualify information is needed, we request all state and regional events use the KSIS scoring program.
- B. The KSIS fee for State and Regional events may be paid with regional funds.

10. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMENT: CLARIFICATION OF LEVEL 5-6 MOBILITY RULING FOR 2019

For 2019 a Level 5-6 athlete have must attended her Regional Championship to be eligible to advance to the next competitive level. The petition process is available for extenuating circumstances.

- A. A petition for level mobility must contain ~~hardship~~ **extenuating circumstances** or illness/injury documentation.
- B. All petitions will be reviewed by the regional administrative committee and a majority vote is required for acceptance.

11. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMNT: SCORING FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

- A. Scoring concerns include parents taking photo of score forms, parents eliminating neutral deductions and parents changing scores without the meet referee's knowledge or approval.
 - a. ~~State and~~ Regional Championships will be required to provide a scoring secretary in addition to a score master. This person must be unaffiliated.
 - b. ~~Invitational meets using parent volunteers must provide an unaffiliated score keeper. A parent volunteer will not be allowed to enter scores during their child's competitive session.~~ **State & Invitational meets should provide an unaffiliated score keeper, if possible. In the case that an unaffiliated score keeper is not available, a parent volunteer without athletes in that session may enter the scores.**

12. APPROVED: AWARDS FOR REGIONALS REVISED

- A. Individual Events
 - i. MEDALS will be given for 1st -3rd place regardless of the field and then up to 12th place
- B. Individual All Around
 - i. MEDALS or TROPHIES will be given for 1st-3rd place regardless of the field and then up to 12th place. Meet Directors are encouraged to award all participants.
- C. Group Awards-
 - i. Events MEDALS for all group members 1st-3rd place
 - ii. All Around MEDALS for all group members 1st -6th place

13. NOTE THIS USA GYMNASTICS RULE: ON THE FIELD OF PLAY INSURANCE ISSUE

- A. Babies, children, siblings and pets of attending coaches/judges/parent volunteers/gymnasts are not covered by our insurance policy and therefore are not allowed on the field of play or in the competitive warmup area during sanctioned events. This is considered a sanction violation.
- B. The meet director is responsible for informing and enforcing this policy.

14. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMENT: MEET DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION

- A. USA Gymnastics Meet Directors Certification Course **starting in 2021**. Exam to be offered online and contain the basic points and requirements for hosting a great sanctioned event referencing the Rhythmic meet director's guidelines.

15. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMENT: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES REGARDING JUDGES

- A. Grievance procedures for a Meet Director who has experienced an occurrence of judge's misconduct or failure to fulfil a contracted assignment.
 - i. Submit grievance to the Regional Judging Coordinator

- ii. The RJC will review/ comment and pass to the National Judges Representative
- iii. Judge will receive communication to address the issue and a warning, probation or suspension may follow. The judge will have the opportunity to respond.
 - 1. *1st offense will receive written warning*
 - 2. *2nd offense will receive probation with some remedial course work*
 - 3. *3rd offense will receive suspension with a timeline for return to position **to be determined by the NJR, RJC, and Regional Chair***

16. APPROVED WITH AMMENDMENT: MEET REFEREE/JUDGING REGULATIONS

A. Meet referees who are preparing to attend a sanctioned event need-

- i. A separate form for event evaluation and sanction violations
- ii. Timely receipt of Schedule and Rotations
- iii. Full cooperation from the Meet Director when rotations and time allotments are incorrect.
- iv. Proper hotel accommodations- no pullouts or cots!

B. Judges working an event are entitled to:

- i. A bed to herself
- ii. Lunch and Dinner (30 min minimum)
- iii. Airfare with a seat! and luggage fee (**Basic Economy or equivalent may not be booked. A judge must be booked in Main Economy or equivalent with an assigned seat**)
- iv. Transportation at conclusion of the event (not after cleanup) or the right to expense an Uber or Lyft

17. NOT APPROVED: INVITATIONAL MEETS WITH VISITING FOREIGN ATHLETES/JUDGE

- A. Proposal to allow the Judge to evaluate technical faults for Levels 3-8 provided the judge is given a Quick Reference sheet prepared by USA Gymnastics. This sheet should highlight the JO technical faults that are different from the FIG Code.

18. CPE CREDITS-

- A. **APPROVED with AMMENDMENT:** CPE Chart: CPE **clinic** carry over credits should read: Nat/Brevet =10 credits, Level 3-8 = 5 credits.
- B. **ANSWERED BELOW:** CPE Credit Questions
 - i. Will CPE Credits be given for all re-certification courses for 2021? **YES**
 - ii. Can judges use international courses for CPE credit? **YES, on a case by case basis if the judge is officially assigned by USA Gymnastics and the course is approved. Number of credits will be assigned by the Program Director.**

- iii. Could double credits be given to a judge who administers a regional course? **Additional credits for creating/presenting a course will be considered on a case by case basis with submission of requested planning documentation to the Program Director.**
- iv. Could credits be given for attending professional dance performances? **NO**

19. NATIONAL JUDGES SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. **APPROVED with AMMENDMENT:** Add an ~~NAC Zone Technical Rep~~ **Athlete Representative** as a 3rd member to the NJSC
- B. **APPROVED with AMMENDMENT:** Selection Process
 - i. Selection committee members with conflict of interest should recuse themselves from votes
 - ii. Make public the international event calendar with selected athletes, ~~judges, and delegation head~~
 - iii. Make public the process for selecting and assigning USA judges to international tournaments **in the form of meeting minutes from IEC meetings.**

Other Business

1. 2020 USA GYM CHAMPS STRUCTURE

Remove level 7/8 from the USA Gymnastics Championships, changing the event structure to fill those spots with additional level 9 and/or 10 athletes (exact numbers TBD). Allow all FIG groups to compete at USA Gymnastics Championships in a designated session.

Motion: Elena Savenkova

Second: Natasha Kozitskaya

3 – Yes votes

2 – No votes

Proposal passes

2. 2020 LEVEL 9 CLASSIC STRUCTURE

Level 9 JR/Hopes will compete 3 events (no Rope) at the 2020 Level 9 Classic.

Motion: Suzi DiTullio

Second: Elena Savenkova

Proposal passes

3. FIG GROUP APPARATUS 2020

For the 2019-2020 season, all FIG Junior and Senior groups will be allowed to compete with the 2020 or 2020 FIG apparatus. They will be awarded separately based on which apparatus they are competing. International assignments will be considered only for those competing the official 2020 apparatus.

Motion: Elena Savenkova

Second: Natalya Kozitskaya

Proposal passes

4. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

- i. Club Level International Events – Clubs may request to participate in club level international tournaments, using the process outlined in the Rules & Policies. A club may choose to invite a USA Brevet judge to travel with their team and judge the international event at the club's expense.
- ii. Brevet 2021 Courses
- iii. International Events in the USA