Section 10: RULES FOR RHYTHMIC COMPETITIONS

I. LEVEL MOBILITY
   A. A gymnast may not move down a level once she has entered a State Meet, except by petition to the Regional Board.
   B. It is the coaches' discretion to move a Level 3-7 gymnast to another level.
   C. Any gymnast regardless of her level may compete as a member of a Junior Olympic Group without detriment to her standing as an individual competitor.

II. RESIDENCE RULES
   A. The geographic location of the club or team or coach determines the residency of the gymnast for Individual competition.
   B. In cases where the gymnast lives in one state and her club or team resides in another neighboring state, the following regulations exist:
      1. A gymnast may claim residency based upon the state in which her club is located or the state in which she actually resides.
      2. The gymnast may not change her residency once she has entered any USA Gymnastics competition during that competitive season.
   C. A gymnast may claim only one state as her residence for Individual Competition.
   D. In the event that a gymnast moves to another state during the competitive season, she may claim a new state-of-residence only after petitioning to the Regional Director in her new area. Her new coach should notify the State Director, Regional Director and the USA Gymnastics Program Director of her new residential standing.
   E. In the event of combined State Meets, the gymnast must indicate her residency on the entry form for awards.
   F. A gymnast may only claim awards from State and Regional Meets in the state and region in which she declares her residence.

III. FOREIGN, NON-CITIZEN AND GUEST ATHLETES
   A. Foreign athletes are defined as gymnasts who are non-citizens and who reside in and/or represent a foreign country. The USA Gymnastics National office must be notified and the appropriate sanction obtained for any competition or exhibition featuring foreign athletes whose primary residence is another country.
   B. Non-citizen athletes are defined as gymnasts who do not hold U.S. citizenship, but who reside in the United States. Non-citizens may participate at any sanctioned event up through Junior Olympic Championships and Eastern/Western Qualifier; however they may not take the place, rank or award of a U.S. citizen.
      1. The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) regulations require that all Foreign Athletes (anyone without United States Citizenship), regardless of age or competition level, must gain permission from the gymnastics federation of their country of citizenship and from USA Gymnastics before they may compete in any sanctioned USA Gymnastics event.
   C. Out-of-State or Out-of-Region Guest athletes are defined as gymnasts who live outside of the State or Region hosting the event. Guest athletes are in a separate award category and receive separate awards according to the same number criteria as resident competitors.
   D. All non-citizen athletes that currently hold a Level 10 or Elite designation will also be invited to attend the Eastern/Western competitions. If a non-citizen athlete acquires a score at the Eastern and/or Western competitions that is equal to or above the last qualifier's all-around score to the National Championships, the non-citizen athlete will be designated Level 10 for the following season.
   E. Athletes must be U.S. citizens to compete at National Championships.
   F. For the Junior Olympic Championships, at least half of the Group members must be U.S. citizens.
IV. ENTRY REGULATIONS AND FEES

A. All USA Gymnastics meets must be sanctioned.
B. All competitors must be registered with USA Gymnastics and their athlete registration number must appear on the entry form and official score sheets.
C. All coaches must be a USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Professional Member, and that USA Gymnastics number must appear on the gymnast’s meet entry form, also have a current safety certification.
D. Meet information:
   1. Meet information must be sent out a minimum of eight weeks before the scheduled event along with a USA Gymnastics meet entry form.
   2. Meet information must include level of competition, description of the competition site (including ceiling height, ceiling obstructions), description of competition carpet, and warm-up area, meet format, projected time schedule, housing arrangements, deadline of when the Level 9 and 10 score forms are due and when the forms will be returned to the coach following the competition, etc.
   3. State Meet Directors are obligated to send State Meet information to all USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Professional Members in the state.
   4. Regional Meet Directors are obligated to send Regional Meet information to all USA Gymnastics registered professional members in the Region.
   5. State and Regional Meet Directors are not obligated to send meet information outside of their respective State or Region unless a specific request is made.
E. Entry fees for Qualifying, State Competitions:
   1. State meet entry fees are determined by the regional board and the J.O. Rhythmic Program Committee. These fees are based on a minimum judging panel of 2 judges per athlete for Levels 4, 5, & 6 and 2 judges for Difficulty, 2 judges for Artistry, and 2 judges for Execution per athlete for Level 7, 8, 9 & 10.
      a. The maximum entry fee for Level 3 for individual competition is $35 or $15 per event.
      b. The maximum entry fee for Level 4 for individual competition is $45.
      c. The maximum entry fee for Level 5 for individual competition is $65.
      d. The maximum entry fee for Level 6 for individual competition is $65.
      e. The maximum entry fee for Level 7 & 8 for individual competition is $85.
      f. The maximum entry fee for Level 9, 10 & Elite for individual competition is $95.
      g. The maximum entry fee per team for Group competition is $60 per event.

F. Entry Deadlines:
   1. Prior to the State and Regional Meet dates, the maximum deadline for receiving any entry is sixty (60) days prior to the competition. The actual deadline date for each competition is to be established by the Meet Director and must be indicated on meet entry form.
   2. The Meet Director may refuse late entries.
   3. Late Entry: A minimum fine of $25.00 per individual entry will be charged to individuals whose entry is received after the deadline if entry is approved. No other penalties may be imposed upon late entries.
   4. In the event competition entry fees are required prior to a gymnasts' qualification, the meet director is obligated to make a full refund to the athletes that did not qualify.
5. For the J.O. Compulsory/Optional Championships, Rhythmic National Qualifying Competition, and National Championships the maximum deadline for receiving any entry will be established by USA Gymnastics.

G. Guest Entries:
1. Guest entries will only be accepted if time and space permits. States and Regions do have the right to close their meets.
2. Meet directors must notify Guest entries of acceptance at least 21 days prior to the event.
3. Guest entry fees are refundable if not accepted into the competition.
4. Guest coaches are advised not to finalize travel plans until notification of entry acceptance has been received.

H. The Meet Director may refuse an improperly filled out entry.
I. All-Around Qualifying Scores are to be earned from single meets only. Individual Event Scores may not be separated from one meet and added to the Event Scores of another meet for qualification.
J. Performing members of a Group must be listed on the entry form for Group Competition. If an alternate is designated, that name must also appear on the entry form.

V. MEET FORMAT
A. A well-selected meet format is the KEY to a successful meet. The Meet Director must select the most suitable format in order to avoid sessions that last over 3 hours. The following factors should be considered when establishing meet format:
1. Number of Competitors
2. Number of Age Groups
3. Number of Levels
4. Number of Judges
5. Number of Judging Panels
6. Number of Events taking place per session
7. Number and Length of Sessions
8. Best situation for competitors
9. Best presentation of the meet for audience satisfaction

B. Structuring the time of a session and event:
1. Depending upon the number of gymnasts, levels may be combined within one session.
2. For Level 3, calculate 2 minutes for up to four athletes competing on the floor at the same time if only one set of judges is used. If two sets of judges are used, events can be rotated and 1.5 minute should be calculate for two gymnasts.
3. For Level 4 calculate 2 minutes for two athletes competing at a time if only one set of judges is used. If two sets of judges are used, events can be rotated and 1 minute should be calculate for two gymnasts.
4. For Level 5 and 6 calculate 2 minutes for each athlete competing if only one set of judges is used. If two sets of judges are used, events can be rotated and 1.75 minute should be calculate for each gymnast.
5. For Levels 7-10, assuming two panels of judges are used, calculate the number of gymnasts per session using the following time recommendations per competitor:
   a. Individual competition - Level 7-2 1/2 minutes, Level 8-2 1/2 minutes, Level 9-3 minutes
   b. Group competition - 5 minutes
6. This formula calculates judging time only. It does not involve warm-up time, march in, introductions, awards, etc.
7. No gym may open before 7:30AM on the day of competition.
8. No session may run over 3 hours.
9. No gymnast may compete after 10:00 p.m.
10. In meets that cover several days, no gymnast will be required to report back to the competitive area in less than 12 hours from the completion of her session on the preceding day.
11. Any changes to the structuring of a session or event are up to the discretion of the meet director up through State Competitions and can warrant a financial penalty.
C. General Format Levels 3 & 4
   1. A march is required before competition and/or awards for each session.
   2. Level 3—up to four athletes compete on the floor at the same time from the same club, local and
      invitational meets only. Level 4—two athletes compete on the floor at the same time from the same
      club, at all meets.
   3. At local meets one or two judges may be used per gymnast.
   4. At state and regional meets 2 judges must be used per athlete for Level 4.
   5. Gymnasts should be grouped together according to club.
   6. The competition order of events will correspond with the International FIG regulations: RFX, rope,
      ball.
   7. Scores need not be shown

D. General Format Levels 5 & 6
   1. A march is required before competition and/or awards for each session.
   2. One athlete to compete at a time.
   3. At local meets one or two judges may be used per gymnast.
   4. At state and regional meets 2 judges must be used per athlete.
   5. The competition order of events will correspond with the International FIG regulations: RFX, rope,
      hoop, ball, clubs, ribbon.
   6. Scores will be shown.

E. General Format Levels 7, 8, 9, 10, and Elite
   1. A march is required before competition and/or awards for each session.
   2. Gymnasts should be grouped for competition according to age division and level.
   3. The competition order of events will correspond with the International FIG regulations: RFX, rope,
      hoop, ball, clubs, ribbon.
   4. Two judges must be used for Difficulty, two judges for Artistry, two judges for Execution at State and
      Regional events.
   5. Scores will be shown.

F. General Format Group Competition
   1. J.O. Group entries must compete the apparatus for the current competitive year.
   2. Scores will be shown.
   3. The award ceremony must be held in a timely manner.

VI. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
   A. At the conclusion of each session and within an appropriate time gymnasts should be recalled for
      presentation of awards.
   B. Award sequence shall be as follows:
      1. Event awards: Presented beginning with State competitors. Awards are presented in ascending order
         beginning with 1st place.
      2. All-Around awards: Presented beginning with State competitors. Awards are presented in ascending
         order beginning with 1st place.
   3. Guest awards: presented separately. Follows the same award sequence.
   C. 1st-3rd place All-Around awards will be presented regardless of the number of entries in that division.
   D. An appropriate award stand or markers should be used.

VII. THE "DRAW"
   A. Must be used to determine the line-up or order of performance for all competitors for all of the events.
   B. The draw must be completed prior to the competition and presented at the coaches meeting.
   C. The number of places to be dropped must be determined before the draw and applied equally to all
      gymnasts based on the draw.
   D. In All-Around competition a gymnast and whenever possible the same club shall not compete as the first
      competitor in more than one event.
   E. If a gymnast is called to perform immediately after competing, she should be given a recovery period by
      dropping her position on the list of order of performance by four places. Consult the Head Judge.
   F. All members of the same age group will be drawn for competitive order in the same session — Level 7-10
G. Local, state and regional competitions will have a random draw based on age group and Level of all gymnasts (including guest competitors).

VIII. OFFICIALS

A. For State and Regional competitions the Meet Director must contact the Regional Judging Coordinator in order to obtain properly rated officials for all sanctioned events. When all meet details have been provided the RJC will send the meet contracts to the assigned judges.
   1. For State and Regional Competitions the Regional Judging Coordinator will make the assignments on a rotating basis according to the certified judges in the respective State or Region.
   2. For Regional Championships, a USA Gymnastics approved Meet Referee must be contracted in addition to the panel of judges for all levels.
   3. For local and invitational competitions the Meet Director may use the services of the RJC.

B. The USA Gymnastics Judges Selection Committee will make assignments for JO Compulsory/Optional Championships, National Qualifying Competition, and National Championships.

C. Officials must have the appropriate certification for the level of competition being judged. Note: For State and Regional Level 9/10 competitions, judges assigned to judge execution may carry a Level 7/8 rating.

D. Minimum number of Officials per panel when two alternating judging panels are used:
   1. Level 3 - One judge per gymnast.
   2. Level 4 - One or two judges per panel for local meets. Two judges per panel for state and regional meets. When two judges are used one will act as head judge and the scores will be averaged.
   3. Level 5&6 - One or two judges per panel for local meets. Two judges per panel for state and regional meets. When two judges are used one will act as head judge and the scores will be averaged.
   4. Level 7/8 - Three to six judges per panel for local meets. Two for Difficulty, Two for Artistry, Two for Execution, for State & Regional meets, with one judge acting as head judge for all sanctioned meets. Contact Rhythmic Regional Technical Chair for any exceptions.
   5. Group Competition
      a. At all local and State meets, a minimum of two (2) judges (one per panel) must be used.
      b. At the Regional Championships, a minimum of four (4) judges (two per panel) must be used.
   6. Level 9 and 10
      a. For State and Regional competitions please contact your Regional Director or Regional Judges Coordinator for information about judging panels and scoring formulas.

E. The Regional Judging Coordinator will assign the highest rated judge to serve as meet referee. (See Judges Section for Meet Referee responsibilities.) A Meet Referee is recommended at Regional Championships for all levels.

F. It is possible to use only one panel of judges if the meet entry is small.

G. Once an official or panel has begun to judge an event, there may be no substitutions of officials or panels until the entire event is completed.

H. Petitions to use lower rated officials for State and Regional competitions must be approved by the Regional Judging Coordinator in consultation with the Rhythmic Technical Committee Chairman at least 1 month prior to the competition.

I. Line judges are considered technical officials and must be at least 16 years of age. Line judges are not used for Levels 3 &4.
AWARDS FOR STATE AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. ALL USA Gymnastics State and Regional Championships ribbons, and medals must be ordered through
the official USA Gymnastics supplier. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure that all USA gymnasts
receive the same awards at State and Regional competitions. The design of these awards may vary from
year to year. A meet director may not change this format for awards but may, if meet budget allows,
present additional local organizing gifts, provided the gift is given to all participants. Athletes advancing to
the various Championships, should receive a recognition award for qualifying to their Regional Team.
1. Order forms are available from the official USA Gymnastics supplier.
2. The meet director should order awards 4-5 weeks before the competition.

B. The AWARD CHART. The items shown are the minimum required. Meet Directors are allowed to
upgrade their awards if budget permits. State Competition award requirements are as shown on the
AWARD CHART. -
1. State Competitors- Athletes who reside in the state which is hosting the event.
2. Out-of-State Guests- Any athlete who does not reside within the state may receive separate awards in
   the same numbers as resident competitors. The type of awards must be specific in the entry
   information and must be ribbons for individual events and medals for All-Around.

C. Regional Competition award requirements are as shown on the AWARD CHART
1. Regional Competitors- Athletes who reside in the region which is hosting the event.
2. Out-of-Region Guests- Any athlete who does not reside within the region may receive separate
   awards in the same numbers as resident’s competitors.

D. FOREIGN/NON-CITIZEN/GUEST ATHLETES- see definitions, section IV.

E. Awards at State and Regional meets:

   Level 3 Award Procedure:
Gymnasts compete all together in one category and are awarded based on score
10.0-8.50 Blue Ribbon,
8.49-7.00 Red Ribbon,
6.99-5.50 White Ribbon,
5.49-4.00 Yellow Ribbon,
3.99 and below Purple or Rainbow Ribbon

No All Around Awards for Level 3

Level 4-10 Award Procedure
1. Individual event (ribbons are the minimum required for state and regional):
   a. Award 1st-3rd place regardless of the number of athletes in the age division.
   b. Meet directors will additionally award up to 12th place when the number of competitors in the age
      group/level is 12 or less. Meet Directors are encouraged to award all athletes.
2. All-around medals:
   a. Award 1st-3rd place regardless of the number of athletes in the age division.
   b. Meet directors will additionally award up to 12th place. Meet directors are encouraged to award
      all athletes.
3. If there are a large number of athletes in any of the age divisions, it is recommended to divide into
   smaller sub-divisions by birthdate (Ex: 1992, 1993, etc.)

F. Group Awards (State and Regional Competitions)
1. Event award: Each group member including one alternate (if designated) will receive a ribbon for each
   event based on placement. Meet Directors will award 50% up to 6th place in each level - Beginner,
   Intermediate, and Advanced.
2. All-Around Awards: determined by averaging the two designated event scores together. Meet Directors will award 1st-3rd place medals to each group member.

3. Awards are given in three levels- Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced regardless of age groups.

4. A group with 3 or more non-citizens who reside in the state or region, will be considered In-State or In-Region Guests. Any group who resides outside the state or region is considered an Out-of-State or Out-of-Region Guest group. The type of awards must be specified in the entry information and must be ribbons and/or rosettes (no medals).

G. Tie Breaking System for Determining Awards for State and Regional Events where only 1st-12th place awards are given. (Awards include- trophies, medals or ribbons)

1. In the case of a tie in the EVENT competition,
   - both athletes are named the Champions
   - the athlete with the highest AA score receives the placement award
   - the athlete with the next highest AA score receives the next placement award etc

2. In the case of a tie in ALL-AROUND competition
   - both athletes are named the Champions
   - the athlete with the highest event score receives the placement award
   - the athlete with the next highest event score receives the next placement award etc

H. Tie Breaking System for Determining Awards at National Championship events.
1. In the case of a tie in all-around or event competition, both athletes are named the Champions and both receive the same place award.

2. During the presentation of awards, the next place following a two-way tie is skipped. In the case of a three-way tie, the next two places are skipped; and so on.

3. If a tie occurs for 6th-12th place, all gymnasts receive awards.

4. If multiple awards are not available at the time of the award ceremony, the meet director is responsible for sending the correct place award within 4 to 6 weeks.

I. Award Presentation (see VI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Individual Event</td>
<td>1st-3rd place is awarded regardless of the number of athletes and up to 12th place</td>
<td>Flat Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State Or Out-of-Region Guests</td>
<td>Individual Event</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>Flat Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>All-around (by age category)</td>
<td>1st-3rd place is awarded regardless of the number of athletes in the age category. And</td>
<td>Rhythmic Medals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Age Groups may be subdivided to the benefit of the athletes allowing for more age groups and more awards.

No All Around Awards for Level 3

IX. AWARDS FOR LOCAL AND INVITATIONAL EVENTS

A. Awards for local and invitational events are at the discretion of the hosting organization. However, it is strongly suggested that the policies for State and Regional events with regard to distribution of awards be followed.

B. The award plan should be included with the meet information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Type</th>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Individual Event</td>
<td>All Achievement Awards (as per Award Procedure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Individual Event</td>
<td>1st-3rd place is awarded regardless of the number of athletes in the age category. And then up to 12th place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>All-around (by age category)</td>
<td>1st-3rd place is awarded regardless of the number of athletes in the age category. And then up to 12th place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X. INQUIRY REGULATIONS

A. All inquiries regarding an organizational or technical matter (music, line violation, etc.) must go through the Meet Referee via the Meet Director. Inquiries are not allowed after the Level 8 score forms have been returned to the coach and a request for a score change is also not allowed.

B. Inquiries are allowed with regard to judging concerns. Inquiries must be submitted to the Meet Director by the coach in writing on the official inquiry form. The Meet Director will then forward it to the Meet Referee.

1. Inquiries must be submitted before the end of the session.

2. Inquiries are limited to questions regarding:
   a. Levels 3-6
      1. Body skills
2. Neutral deduction
   b. Optional Routes (Level 7, 8 and up)
      1. Difficulty
      2. Neutral deductions

C. If warranted, the Meet Referee will conduct a meeting with the panel in question. The decision of the Jury of Appeal is final and may not be appealed a second time.

D. Members of the Jury of Appeal:
   1. Meet Director
   2. Meet Referee (organizer of the judges)
   3. Head Judge of the event

E. All inquiries must be politely and clearly written. Discourteous inquiries will be refused.

F. Inquiries must be handed to the Meet Director who then forwards it to the Meet Referee before the session is concluded.

G. Methods of settling an inquiry by Jury:
   1. Discussion
   2. Voting on a decision
   3. Majority vote dictates the final decision

H. Justifications for changing a posted score
   1. If a mathematical, recording, flashing or any other error existed.
   2. If time and/or line violations were administered improperly.
   3. If the Jury of Appeal, by a majority of votes, decides to penalize a gymnast for improper attire, improper behavior or apparatus violations.

I. Justifications for allowing a gymnast to repeat a routine.
   1. If a technical problem occurred (tape machine, for example) that was out of the control of the athlete or coach.
   2. If an unplanned situation occurred that resulted in the athlete losing concentration.

J. Both the coach and the gymnast are required to accept the decision of the Jury of Appeal without criticism or comment.

K. If an apparatus breaks at the Rhythmic Challenge, National Championships or World Trials, the gymnast is automatically given the option to repeat the routine or keep the posted score.
   1. The coach must request the opportunity to repeat the routine to the meet director within five minutes of the incident.
   2. The gymnast will be fit into the rotation in an appropriate position.

XII. FLOOR/FACILITY REGULATIONS

A. Floor regulations
   1. For local and state competitions the competition arena may consist of a wooden floor, a rubber-covered or other sporting gym surface that is even and allows for safe, free movement. The competition area may consist of a carpet layer, needle-felt or similar material. (neutral color if possible). Spring floors are acceptable for Junior Olympic competitions up through the State Level, provided this information is included in the initial information.
   2. For regional and above competitions a regulation size carpet must be provided. For floors other than wood or a resilient athletic surface a foam pad must be used under the carpet.
   3. The FIG regulations for interior dimensions of the floor area are 13 x 13 meters for both group and individual competition, with a security zone of minimum 1 meter wide. If the competition takes place on a podium, the security zone width must be increased to at least 2 meters.
   4. The floor area must be clearly marked.
      a. The marking material (tape, Velcro, etc.) should mark the outer boundary of the floor so that the material itself is in-bounds. In other words, a gymnast must step over the line to receive an out of bounds deduction.
      b. For Level 3 competition, the floor must be marked perpendicular to Side 1 and divided into 4 sections, for 4 gymnasts to compete at one time. For Level 4 competition, the centerline of the floor must be marked perpendicular to Side 1 when two gymnasts are competing at a time. However, line judges are not used for Level 3 and 4 competition. The head judge only in the case of major errors will take line deductions.

B. Facility regulations
1. The Meet Director or Host Organization, in choosing a facility, must consider the safety and welfare of the gymnasts, coaches, meet officials, spectators and all other participants.

2. The facility provided must have the following:
   a. Adequate lighting and heating.
   b. Official ceiling height, unobstructed, minimum height of 8 meters. (26.2464 feet)
   c. Suitable space for the competitive area, non-competitive area, spectator area, eating areas, parking areas, etc.

1. The central part of the competition facility, approximately 50m x 30m, is reserved for the competition and must be delineated in a visible manner. This designated interior zone is banned to everyone except the following meet personnel: judges, meet director, necessary auxiliary personnel (line judges, timers, runners, flashers, scorers), competing gymnast and gymnasts on deck and their respective coaches. A visible physical barrier should be set up, with the recommended distance being at least 10 feet from the edge of the carpet.

2. Adequate bleachers, restrooms, dressing and storage areas.

   d. Adequate janitorial services.
   e. First Aid available and immediate access to phone for emergency calls.

C. Music Regulations

1. It is the responsibility of the meet director to provide a good sound system and a trained technician for training and competition.

2. Since recordings can be subject to alterations that can affect the length of the exercise and the quality of the music, it remains the responsibility of the coach to check the sound system prior to the competition.

3. It is the responsibility of the coach to turn in her athletes’ music appropriately cued. If the music is not properly set, the judges may take the appropriate deduction.