



## SECTION I: USA GYMNASTICS OVERVIEW

### I. Purpose

The purpose of USA Gymnastics as defined under Article 2 of the USA Gymnastics By-Laws is to serve as the National Governing Body for the sports of Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Trampoline & Tumbling, and Acrobatic Gymnastics in the United States and to fulfill the other non-profit purposes stated in the Corporation's Certificate of Formation, as it may be amended or restated from time to time.

### II. Mission & Core Values

*To build a **community** and **culture of health, safety, and excellence**, where athletes can **thrive** in sport and in life.*

With all of our actions, we are guided by a collective and unwavering commitment to ethical conduct and our core values of:

- SAFETY – We promote a safe and inclusive environment for our athletes and our community.
- ACCOUNTABILITY – We hold ourselves responsible and accountable for all of our actions.
- INTEGRITY – We act with absolute integrity through values-based actions.
- TRANSPARENCY – We operate and communicate with transparency.
- LISTENING – We treat our community with the utmost respect, and listen to their challenges and perspectives.

### III. Code of Ethical Conduct

All members are required to adhere to both the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct, and the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy. It is the responsibility of each member to review these documents independently and to follow these policies. The USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy includes the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

The Code of Ethical Conduct and the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy are available online:

- Code of Ethical Conduct: [https://usagym.org/PDFs/About\\_USA\\_Gymnastics/code\\_ethical\\_conduct\\_071018.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/About_USA_Gymnastics/code_ethical_conduct_071018.pdf)

- USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy:  
[https://usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/safesportpolicy\\_032318.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/safesportpolicy_032318.pdf)

#### IV. USA Gymnastics Membership and Responsibilities

##### A. Athlete Memberships

Only a parent/guardian of a minor or the adult athlete may apply for membership with USA Gymnastics on behalf of an athlete. Athletes who wish to participate in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events MUST be affiliated with a current Member Club.

1. Athlete membership is effective once a USA Gymnastics Athlete member number has been assigned to the competitive athlete.
2. Membership registration must be completed prior to participating in any USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition event. The additional requirement of the Athlete membership is:
  - a. U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training for athletes 18 years of age or older.
  - b. If an Athlete member turns 18 during the competition season, they must complete the U110: SafeSport Core Training upon their 18th birthday.
3. All gymnasts must meet the level requirements, score and age requirements as designated in the Code of Points, in order to compete in each level and discipline.
4. Athlete member numbers are assigned only after:
  - a. Payment of the Athlete Membership fee ([click here](#) for membership overview) in full is received.
  - b. The Athlete membership online registration and/or membership application form is received fully completed with all required information and signature.
  - c. Member benefits are paid out upon receipt of application; therefore, memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
  - d. The Athlete membership is valid for one competitive year, from August 1st through the following July 31st.
  - e. Members joining at any time during the year will receive benefits for the remainder of the competitive year.
  - f. All Athlete memberships are automatically null and void each July 31.
  - g. Membership forms are available online at [usagym.org/forms](https://usagym.org/forms).
  - h. For more information regarding Athlete membership terms, conditions and registration, please contact Member Services at (800) 345-4719 or via email at [membership@usagym.org](mailto:membership@usagym.org).
  - i. In order for an athlete to compete they must be affiliated with a USA Gymnastics Member Club and must be accompanied by a Professional Member during competition and training at any sanctioned event.

## **B. Professional Memberships and Responsibilities**

1. Professional membership is open to any coach, judge or gymnastics professional that is a minimum of 18 years of age: The additional requirements of the Professional Membership are:
  - a. U101: Safety/Risk Management certification
  - b. NCSI Criminal Background Check
  - c. U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training
2. Membership forms are available online at [usagym.org/forms](http://usagym.org/forms). For more information regarding Professional Membership terms, conditions, and registration, please contact Member Services at (800) 345-4719 or via email at [membership@usagym.org](mailto:membership@usagym.org).
3. [Click here](#) for the Professional membership pricing.
4. USA Gymnastics Professional members must hold a Professional Membership for each and every discipline in which he or she is participating.
  - a. An additional fee will be applied for each discipline.
5. Membership is valid for one competitive year, from August 1 through the following July 31.
  - a. Members joining at any time during the year will receive benefits for the remainder of the competitive year.
  - b. Memberships are automatically null and void each July 31.
6. Member benefits are paid out upon receipt of application; therefore, memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
7. Competition floor access requirements: In order to be on the floor at a sanctioned event, Professional members must meet additional education requirements:
  - a. Coaches must complete:
    - i. U100 Fundamentals of Gymnastics Instruction
    - ii. T210 Annual Update
  - b. Judges must complete:
    - i. T210 Annual Update
8. Information about various certifications, programs, and accreditations for Professional Members is offered in the USA Gymnastics University available online at [www.usagymnasticsuniversity.org](http://www.usagymnasticsuniversity.org).

## **C. Junior Professional Membership**

1. Junior Professional membership is available only for coaches and judges who are 16-17 years of age and are coaching/judging USA Gymnastics sanctioned events. The additional requirement of the Jr. Professional membership is:
  - a. U101: Safety/Risk Management certification
  - b. If a Jr. Professional member turns 18 during the competition season, they must complete the U110: SafeSport Core Training upon their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. A Professional member must accompany Jr. Professional members in order to be on the field of play (competition area) as a coach.
3. In order to be on the floor at a sanctioned event, Junior Professional members must complete:

- a. Coaches:
  - i. U100 Fundamentals of Gymnastics Instruction
  - ii. T210 Annual Update
- 4. [Click Here](#) for Jr. Professional membership pricing.
- 5. Jr. Professional members who turn 18 will remain with the Jr. Professional status until July 31<sup>st</sup> of that year. They can make application for Professional status if they so desire.

#### **D. Residency**

- 1. U.S. Citizens
  - a. The location of the club or team that the athlete is registered with determines the state and region in which the gymnast competes. If a gymnast lives in one state but competes for a club or team located in another state, the following regulations apply:
    - i. A gymnast must compete in the State Championships based in the state in which his/her club is located. He/she may, based on special circumstances, petition the Program Director for permission to compete in the State Championships for the state in which he/she lives.
    - ii. The gymnast must compete in the Regional Championships based on the State Championships in which he/she competed. He/she may, under special circumstances, petition the Program Director for permission to compete in the Regional Championships for the region in which he/she lives.

#### **E. Foreign Athletes**

- 1. USA Gymnastics recognizes the positive benefits of having foreign athletes who reside in the United States participate in its sanctioned competitive events. However, USA Gymnastics has an obligation to observe all rules & regulations regarding the participation of foreign athletes as set forth by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).
  - a. 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.
  - b. In order to fulfill the FIG requirements foreign athletes must acquire written approval from the gymnastics federation from their respective native country (for which he/she holds a passport) before he/she may compete in competitions held in the United States. If a gymnast who is not a U.S. citizen competes without the written permission from his/her national federation, it is a violation of the International Gymnastics Federation's (FIG) regulations. Getting approval from that federation is the responsibility of the athlete, and this rule applies to all levels of competition in all five programs (men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline & tumbling, and acrobatic gymnastics).

To make it easier, a draft letter that the gymnast may send to the appropriate national gymnastics federation is available on the Forms page of the USA Gymnastics website (usagym.org). A copy of the letter of approval from the appropriate national gymnastics federation must be provided to the gymnast's club.

- c. Non-citizen USA Gymnastics athlete members who are residents, living and training in this country are allowed to compete/participate in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events with full privilege and receive awards up to and including **National Championships for the Development Program**.
- d. Only athletes who are eligible to become members of the Junior or Senior National Team may participate in the following events:
  - USA Gymnastics Championships
  - World and/or Olympic Team camps
  - World, Pan American Games, Youth Olympic Games or Olympic Team Trials (events run in partnership between USA Gym and the USOPC)
- e. Foreign athletes may be accepted to participate in Elite Challenge and selection events on a case-by-case basis by the USA Gymnastics Program Director.
- f. Resident non-citizen athletes at Elite Challenge and selection events will not be eligible for podium places. Inclusion in finals will be on a case-by-case basis and if granted, will be in addition to the 8 spots provided to U.S. athletes.
- g. Non-citizen athletes may not become members of the Junior National Team or Senior National Team.

## **F. Foreign Participants**

The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee recognizes USA Gymnastics as the governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States. As such, USA Gymnastics has authority over all gymnastics competitions, exhibitions, and training exchanges hosted in the United States.

USA Gymnastics is a member of the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG), the International governing body for gymnastics. As such, USA Gymnastics and all its members are subject to the FIG rules and regulations governing gymnastics exchanges between countries. All exchanges involving foreign athletes are under the jurisdiction of the FIG and the host Federation.

With the increased opportunities for participation in events involving foreign athletes, both in the United States and abroad, USA Gymnastics has the responsibility to inform its Professional members of the FIG regulations governing these activities. The FIG and its member federations have jurisdiction over international events (events involving more than one country's athletes). Violations of the FIG regulations can result in the restrictions of the member federation and/or its athletes. While USA Gymnastics realizes the cultural enrichment that these types of events provide to our members, strict compliance to the FIG Regulations must be followed.

The USA Gymnastics national office must be notified of any competitions in the U.S. involving athletes, coaches, and/or judges who are non-citizens and also reside in and/or represent a foreign country.

**G. Foreign Memberships**

1. Athletes, coaches, and/or judges from countries other than the United States.
2. If they wish to participate in a USA sanctioned event, they must be USA Gymnastics registered members.
3. USA Gymnastics provides a discounted, insurance-only membership at the rate of \$50.00 per person strictly for foreign athletes and coaches competing in USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitions.
4. Foreign memberships do NOT receive benefits of membership other than the required insurance coverage at the sanctioned event(s).
5. [Click here](#) for the Foreign Participant Membership form.