

Minutes of the Joint Jr. Olympic and Technical Committee Meeting
May 21, 2007 Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH

I. ROLL CALL

J. O. Administrative and Technical Committee Chairmen Tom Koll and Cheryl Hamilton, respectively, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

	J. O. Comm.	Technical Comm.
Region 1	Dan Witenstein	Neela Nelson
Region 2	Laurie Reid	Linda Mulvihill
Region 3	Cheryl Jarrett	Carole Bunge
Region 4	Don Houlton	Linda Thorberg
Region 5	John Geddert	Char Christensen
Region 6	Larry Goldsmith	Pat Panichas
Region 7	Linda Johnson	Myra Elfenbein
Region 8	Paul Padron	Marian Dykes
Asst. TC. Chair		Audrey Schweyer
NCAA liaison	Mark Cook	
NAWGJ	Carole Ide	
JO Program Manager	Connie Maloney	
Vice President-Program	Kathy Kelly	

II. GENERAL DEDUCTIONS & PROGRAM ISSUES

A. The wording for the deduction for “Insufficient exactness of tuck, pike and stretched position” which can be found in various pages in the *JO Code of Points*, will be changed as follows:

“Insufficient exactness of Body Position”

- Insufficient exactness of tuck or pike position Up to 0.20 (UB, BB, FX) Up to 0.30 (Vault)
- Insufficient exactness of stretch position
 - arch up to 0.20 (UB, BB, & FX) Up to 0.30 (Vault)
 - pike (135°- 179°) up to 0.20 (UB, BB & FX) Up to 0.30 (Vault)

B. A technique page with illustrations and deductions of specific dance elements will be added to the *JO Code*.

C. State Meet Injury Petitions

Recommendation to apply the same principle to State Meet petitions as found in the R & P on pages 49/50 in regards to Special considerations #1 - petitions for Regional meets:

Add II. D on page 49: If any Level 8/9/10 athlete is unable to compete at any Sectional or local State-qualifying meets in the current season (or cannot compete AA at such events) due to an injury or illness and is also lacking scores from the previous season due to injuries, but has previously qualified to and competed in either Level 8/9/10 Regionals, Level 9 East/West or Level 10 Nationals, an injury petition to State Championships for the same level may be considered under special circumstances by the RTCC and the RJOCC. If necessary, the SACC and the National Chairmen (JO & TC) will be consulted.

- **The scores from the previous Regional/National competition must be at least one point higher than the current State qualifying score.**
- **The petition must include a current video that is sent to both Regional officers.**

Motion: C. Christensen

Second: L. Thorberg

PASSED

D. Change of Score after submission by Judge

Recommendation to allow a Chief Judge to change a score after submission to the scoring system if a neutral deduction (such as out of bounds or overtime) was inadvertently not applied. This change must occur prior to the end of the rotation. The coach must be notified of the score change and if possible, the new score should be displayed to the public.

Motion: C. Christensen

Second: N. Nelson

PASSED

E. Flashing of Start Values

Recommendation that at all Level 7 and above competitions, the Start Values are required to be either flashed or written on the competitor’s card.

Motion: N. Nelson
Second: L. Reid.
PASSED

F. Open stretch warm-up period

The committee requested that an additional clarification be added to the R & P on page 41 in regards to what is allowed during the open stretch: Add "Line drills on Floor involving simple elements are allowed; however, tumbling on the diagonal is not allowed."

G. Attire deductions

Clarification: If underwear is visible due to the cut of the leotard, warn the coach of the athlete. If they do not correct it, take a deduction on the subsequent event. Underwear, including sports bras, should not be intentionally visible throughout the entire routine. However, if briefs or bra straps show due to activity, do not take the deduction. Judges need to use common sense.

H. Competitor numbers

Clarification: At Level 9 Eastern/Western and JO National Championships, competitors MUST wear their number unless performing a back spin on beam or floor, in which case the coach must show the number to the judges. If the gymnast refuses to wear the number, a warning would be issued to the coach of the gymnast. If the gymnast fails to wear the number at subsequent events, a deduction for inappropriate attire would be applied.

At any other meets at which numbers are provided, the numbers may be worn or displayed.

I. Equipment failure

Clarification: The Yurchenko hand placement mat and the safety zone mat are NOT considered part of the vault apparatus. If a Yurchenko hand placement mat slips on the runway, it is NOT considered apparatus or personal equipment failure. It is the coaches' responsibility to make sure the mat is placed properly and the Velcro is secure. The tape measure is also part of the coaches' responsibility.

If the gymnast runs over or touches the hand placement mat (or the safety zone mat), with or without executing a vault, this should be considered one of the three vault approaches/attempts allowed. Do not void the vault.

J. INDIVIDUAL SPECIALISTS

Recommendation that for Levels 7 – 10, individual event specialist competition may be conducted up to and including regional meets, at the discretion of the respective state and regional administrative committees. Individual specialist competitors may compete amongst the all-around competitors and would receive duplicate awards.

Motion: J. Geddert

Second: L. Goldsmith

PASSED

K. RULES & POLICIES CHANGES/ADDITIONS

1. Change in wording on page 35 1, B, 2.

"Athletes who are limited in the number of events in which they can perform due to a *permanent* physical handicap (*verified by a physician*)..."

2. Number of judgments for Levels 1-3

Committees discussed the number of judgments for these levels and the following guidelines are suggested:

IN keeping with the philosophy that these young athletes should not be in the gym longer than 2½ hours, including warm-up time, the following examples are offered for competitions with or without timed-warm-ups:

60 gymnasts with a timed warm-up:

Open stretch & bar settings	20-30 minutes	=	20-30 min.
Timed warm-up	30 sec. per gymnast	=	30 min.
March-in	10 min.	=	10 min.
Competition	1 min. per gymnast	=	60 min.
Approximate total time			2 hr. – 2 hr. 10 min.

80 gymnasts – without a Timed Warm-up

Open stretch & bar settings	30 min.	=	30 min.
March-in	10 min.	=	10 min.
Competition	1 min. per gymnast	=	80 min.
Approximate total time		=	2 hrs.

3. Number of judgments at State and Regional meets

At any State or Regional meet to which the qualification is by score, the Meet Director must accommodate all entries, regardless of the number qualified. The committee discussed various methods of handling situations in which a few too many athletes qualify in a certain age group, thus exceeding the maximum number of judgments per session.

Recommendation to add to the format in R & P page 40, E. 2, c.

For State/Regional meets: the maximum number of gymnasts per session may be exceeded by a small percentage for special circumstances, with the approval of the RTCC, RJOCC and the RACC for State Meets and by the NTCC and the NJOCC for Regional meets. It is the Meet Director's responsibility to contact the appropriate officers (State Meet Directors contact SACC; Regional Meet Directors contact RTCC). The State or Regional officer(s) will then contact the appropriate individuals, as stated above, for final approval.

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: C. Jarrett

PASSED

4. Injury petitions

Recommendation to reword statement on page 49, I. B. to "If an athlete is injured prior to a qualifying meet, but is capable of competing in "one, two or three events," she may compete in the qualifying meet without jeopardizing her right to petition to the next competition.

Motion: D. Houlton

Second: M. Elfenbein

PASSED

Note: The Injury petition form will be revised to include only one score.

5. Level 7 Timed Warm-ups

Recommendation to reduce the timed warm-up period for all formats of Level 7 competition to 1.5 minutes per gymnast.

Motion: D. Houlton

Second: N. Nelson

PASSED

6. Clarification regarding injuries and falls off the apparatus

Take steps to stop the bleeding immediately and cover the wound as soon as possible. However, a bleeding wound (nor any other injury due to a fall) does not give the athlete the right to repeat her exercise or resume from where she left off. If the 30 or 45 second fall time (BB or UB respectively) is exceeded before the wound can be covered, then the routine is terminated. If there is blood on any equipment or mats after a gymnast finishes her exercise, the blood must be removed prior to the next athlete beginning her routine.

The coach and athlete have the right to determine if the athlete can continue the routine after a fall (within the fall time limitations); however, it is advised that any recommendation from medical personnel be heeded, in the best interest of the athlete's safety.

The meet hosts should consider providing a small first-aid kit including tape, gauze or band-aids at each event, especially if there is no trainer available, so that these items could be accessed quickly.

III. VAULT

A. COMPULSORY VAULT

1. Recommendation to change the height requirement for matting at Level 3 Vault to "waist high, plus or minus up to 8 inches of skill cushion".

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: P. Padron

PASSED unanimously

2. Clarification for Level 4 Vault: Although the run is evaluated, if the gymnast falls on the runway during the approach, it will be considered a balk (one of three approaches to complete two vaults). It will not be considered a fall or a void vault.

B. OPTIONAL VAULT

1. Recommendation to add the following vault to the Level 9/10 and Level 8 vault charts: #4.102 Round-off, flic-flac on -repulsion with ½ twist off

Level 9/10: 8.7 SV

Level 8: 9.1 SV

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: L. Thorberg

PASSED

2. Change in Vault values

Recommendation to lower the following non-salto vaults start values for Levels 9 & 10 only, effective August 1, 2007:

Group 1	Description	Current value	<i>New Value</i>
1.101	Handspring	8.8	8.6
1.102	Handspring – ½ off	8.9	8.7
1.103	Yamashita	8.8	8.6
1.104	Yamashita – ½ off	8.9	8.7
1.105	¼ or ½ on – ¾ or ½ off	8.9	8.7
1.106	¼ - ½ on – nothing off	7.0	6.8
1.201	Handspring – 1/1 twist off	9.2	9.0
1.204	Yamashita – 1/ twist off	9.2	9.0
1.205	¼-1/2 on – 1¼ - ½ off	9.1	8.9
1.207	1/1 twist on – Handspring/Yamashita	9.2	9.0
1.208	1/1 twist on – ½ twist off	9.4	9.3

Motion: P. Panichas

Second: P. Padron

PASSED

4. Safety Zone Mat

According to the *Women's Rules & Policies*, page 79, C, last sentence “The safety zone mat must fit snugly around the board so there is no space between the board and the safety zone.”

Recommendation to add the words “For Round-off entry vaults” at the beginning of the above sentence.

Motion: D. Houlton

Second: A. Schweyer

Note: If the safety zone is used for forward approach vaults, the safety zone may be present, but is not required to fit snugly around the board.

5. Level 7 vault proposal/issues

Discussion regarding adding a Round-off entry vault timer onto mats stacked as high as the vault table to be a competitive choice. The committee concurred that this was impractical, especially in a competitive environment. They concluded that Round-off entry vault training should occur over years and doing a handspring allows the coaches to be able to spend the time on Yurchenko drills without losing quality of the handspring. A motion was made with no second. No action was taken.

6. VAULT PROPOSAL

The committee discussed the possibility of changing the number of vaults for competition or the number of touch warm-up vaults. After much discussion, no action was taken.

IV. BARS

A. Compulsory Level 5 and 6 Counterswing deductions:

After a long discussion of the expectations of this element, the following recommendations were made to change the deductions:

1. Recommendation to change the wording in the Level 5 and 6 Compulsory Bars penalties (pages 88-89, 124-125, 169 & 171) to read:

Failure to show a straight line from hands to hips with chest in a hollow position Up to 0.20

(delete “with rounded hip angle”)

Motion: L. Reid

Second: C. Bunge

PASSED

2. Recommendation to add the following deduction to the Level 5 and 6 Counterswing:

Failure to show a rounded hip angle with the feet below the hips during the counterswing (upswing)

- **Hips extended in line with the feet at horizontal 0.20**
- **Body arched (flaired) with the feet higher than the hips 0.30**

Motion: L. Reid

Second: C. Bunge

PASSED

3. Failure to maintain hollow body position until feet pass the low bar in the downward-forward swing of the tap swing forward (early tap) Up to 0.2

Motion: J. Geddert

Second: D. Witenstein

PASSED

Note: The text will also be changed to reflect these deductions.

B. OPTIONAL BARS

1. NEW BAR ELEMENT FROM JO NATIONALS

Dismount: Underswing with ½ turn to salto backward tucked with ½ twist (Comaneci ½ dismount) (Hava) awarded “D value #8.402

2. Bar elements - Change in Value

Recommendation to raise the value of the following elements from D to E:

#3.401 2nd illustration Clear hip circle through handstand on LB with ½ turn in flight to hang on HB (Khorkina) to #3.501

#6.405 Back stalder on LB with flight and ½ turn to hang on HB to #7.505

#7.410 Pike sole circle backward through handstand with flight and ½ turn to hang on HB (Byhovsky) to #7.510

Motion: D. Witenstein

Second: L. Reid

PASSED

3. Technical requirements of the overshoot ½ turn and counterswing to straddle back (B version)

Clarification of the ideal position of these two skills:

4.204 Long swing forward with ½ turn and flight over LB to hang on LB – This element should catch in an extended body position (shoulders to feet) at horizontal or above for no amplitude deduction.

#2.205 Counterswing backward in straddle or pike with flight over LB to hang on LB - Look for flight (distance of hips from bar) and for the element to finish in an extended body position from shoulder to hips, but it is acceptable to maintain a pike in the hips.

4. Optional Bar Dismounts

a. Recommendation that if there is an intentional early termination to a bar exercise without executing a dismount element (gymnast swings and jumps off, for example), that the deductions be applied for failure to perform a dismount (0.30) and for failure to fulfill the dismount Special Requirement (0.50). Do not take 0.50 for a fall.

Motion: M. Elfenbein

Second: M. Dykes

PASSED

This will be added to the *JO Code of Points*, page 49, B:

Change # 3 to: If a gymnast performs a dismount element without a hecht or salto:

1. Deduct 0.50 for missing the dismount Special Requirement
2. Do NOT deduct 0.30 for no dismount.

Change #4 to: If the gymnast makes no attempt to perform a dismount or performs a dismount element of no value, deduct:

1. 0.50 for missing the dismount Special Requirement (due to no Value part awarded)
2. 0.30 for no dismount
3. Do not take 0.50 for a fall.

b. Dismounts from the feet

Recommendation to add the following to page 49, under Dismounts in the *JO Code of Points*: Dismounts from the feet are not allowed and will not receive Value-part credit.

Motion: C. Bunge

Second: A. Schweyer

5. Clarifications

a. Gymnast attempts a Squat on, falls backward, but stays on the bars and continues the exercise with a glide kip - do not consider it a fall. Use any applicable execution deductions, such as bent legs, arms, touch of floor with feet, etc.

b. After a fall from the bars, the routine resumes when the gymnast performs an element that is listed in the *JO Code of Points*. If a gymnast falls from the bar, re-mounts with a glide kip, stops in front support to crawl up to stand on LB - take 0.10 for uncharacteristic element, plus 0.10 for lack of continuity.

6. Level 7 Bars

Recommendation to replace the Level 7 Bars Special Requirement of “One Bar Change” with a requirement to perform an “A” level cast (21°-45°).

Motion: L. Johnson

Second: L. Goldsmith

PASSED

7. Compositional deduction clarification:

In regards to the deduction of 0.05 for “Failure to perform both forward and backward circle elements and/or release elements” at Levels 9 and 10:

To be considered a Forward Circle element or Forward release element:

- a. Both must move forward around an axis (either around the bar or the breadth axis of the body).
- b. When in doubt, check the symbols.
 1. Many forward circling elements have the small diagonal line at the beginning of the symbol to indicate “forward”; like the clear hip circle forward (Weiler kip), front stalder, pike sole circle forward, etc. Front giants & L-grip front giants have their own forward symbol-an upside-down U
 2. Forward release elements are symbolized with a “front salto” symbol, like the #5.505 Jaegers (on same bar or LB to HB), #5.404 mixed-grip Deltchev (although the downswing is a backward giant-the upswing is a forward swing and the salto is forward) and # 5.303 ¾ forward giant swing on HB to release and straddle flight backward with over LB to hang on LB
- c. Elements that **ARE NOT** considered forward:
 1. Gienger/ regular Deltchev -symbol & description indicates a backward salto
 2. Clear underswing on LB, release and counter-movement forward in flight to hang on HB and other variations (like toe-shoot, stalder shoot to HB) all stem from a BACKWARD circle and never complete a forward 360° BA turn
 3. Long swing forward with flight and ½ turn over low bar and straddle back to handstand type elements are all initiated with a backward swing or circle.

V. BALANCE BEAM

A. New elements from JO Nationals

1. 7.503 Switch-leg side aerial – E (Baudhuin) (takes off and lands on same leg)

2. New #8.304 - C Back salto stretched to swing down to cross straddle sit (Pearce)

(arms swing up above head to set for back salto stretched, then arms pull down to the front of the thighs and return again to high position to reach for the beam for the swing down phase.)

B. Element Value Changes

1. **Recommendation to raise #8.304 Back salto stretched with step-out and #8305 gainer back salto stretched with step-out from C to D value (new numbers #8.404 and 8.405 respectively), making them eligible to receive +0.1 bonus for difficulty value at Level 10.**

Motion: C. Jarrett

Second: P. Padron

PASSED

In favor: 12

Opposed: 4

2. **~~Recommendation to allow Level 8's to perform the Back salto stretched with step-out and gainer back salto stretched with step-out (now D value) on beam.~~**

Motion: L. Johnson

Second: M. Elfenbein

5 in favor

11 opposed

DEFEATED

3. **Recommendation that the Back salto stretched with step-out and gainer back salto stretched with step-out will be considered as “C” value when awarding Connection Value at Level 10. “D” Difficulty Value bonus of +0.1 will still be given.**

Motion: L. Mulvihill

Second: L. Reid

PASSED

4. **Recommendation to raise the value of a # 9.407 double back dismount from D to E, new #9.507.**

Motion: P. Padron

Second: J. Geddert

PASSED

C. **Level 10 Special Requirement for an Acro Series**

Recommendation to award Special Requirement credit for any E-acro flight element in direct connection with an “A” acro-element (non-flight) from Group 7 (Walkover/Cartwheels).

Motion: L. Johnson

Second: P. Padron

PASSED

D. **OPTIONAL BEAM ACRO SERIES CLARIFICATION:**

Connecting elements in an Acro series: The landing leg or the free leg must be the take-off leg for the next element. If both feet land at the same time, the take-off must be a jump from two feet.

The following is an example of an acro series that is considered **NON-CONNECTABLE**, regardless of how quickly they are performed:

Back Walkover (or back handspring step-out) to Round-off (or cartwheel):

In this example, the first element lands on one foot, then the second foot is placed on the beam behind in a lunge; the gymnast then leans forward to initiate a Round-off (or cartwheel).

Note: The only way these two elements could connect legitimately is by landing the first element on one leg and swinging the other leg forward to step into the Round-off (or cartwheel); that would mean performing the two skills on opposite legs. Of course, the gymnast could do a Right BWO and switch legs to land on the Left foot so that she could then step forward on the Right leg to initiate a Right Round-off (or cartwheel).

E. Use of a Handstand element in Level 7 Acro series

Recommendation that in order to allow a handstand step-down to be used as the first element in an acro series at Level 7, the following criteria must be met: the handstand must achieve vertical and must be held for 2 seconds in order to receive “A” value part. If one or both of the criteria are not fulfilled, no Value Part credit and no series credit is awarded.

Motion: C. Christensen

Second: N. Nelson

PASSED

F. Level 7 Beam

Recommendation to allow Level 7s to perform a Switch-leg leap (# 2.305 - C) on Beam for B value-part credit.

Motion: L. Goldsmith

Second: L. Johnson

PASSED

G. Warm-up following a fall from the beam

Clarification: If an element is performed on the mat after a fall before remounting, a deduction for additional warm-up should be applied. No warning is required.

H. Change in Dismount Value

Recommendation to change the value of #9.106 Back salto with ½ twist dismount from A to B. The new number is 9.206.

Motion: M. Elfenbein

Second: M. Dykes

PASSED

I. Level 8, 9 or 10 Acro Series Special Requirement

Clarification that the flight element may be from the Roll category (example: dive forward roll).

J. Compulsory Beam Time

Recommendation to increase the time for Level 4-6 Beam routines by 5 seconds:

Level 4: from :50 to :55

Level 5: from 1:05 to 1:10

Level 6: from 1:10 to 1:15

Motion: P. Panichas

Second: M. Dykes

PASSED

K. Compulsory Beam Heel-Snap turns

If the heel-snap turn is performed on the correct foot but turns in the wrong direction, apply the deduction for reversing a major element. This element is a 0.40 element, so deduct 0.20.

VI. FLOOR EX

A. A Double stag jump with 1/1 turn was discussed as it is not in the *JO Code*, but since this element was not performed at Nationals as a new element, it must be submitted to the RTCC for evaluation.

B Clarification: See *JO Code*, page 238, b. 2: Kickover front salto to sit is not considered a salto, and if performed at the end of the exercise, would not affect the awarding of the Dismount Special Requirement.

C. New business: Discussion regarding adjustments to the routines/music for the new cycle. No action was taken at this time.

D. Level 7 Floor

Clarification: The Special Requirement of Two forward acro elements directly connected indicates FORWARD acro elements only (side aerials or side saltos may not be considered).

E. It was suggested to present the agenda in reverse Olympic order next year.

The JO and Technical meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.