

**Women's Program
Technical Committee Meeting
November 1-3, 2013
Indianapolis, IN**

I. Roll Call: Chairman Cheryl Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on Friday, Nov. 1st.

Region 1	Neela Nelson – Absent
Region 2	Linda Mulvihill
Region 3	Carole Bunge
Region 4	Linda Thorberg
Region 5	Char Christensen
Region 6	Pat Panichas
Region 7	Myra Elfenbein
Region 8	Marian Dykes
Asst. Tech. Comm. Chair	Audrey Schweyer- Absent
JO Program Director	Connie Maloney

II. Review of the USA Brevet and National Course

Committee reviewed the problems as well as the positive feedback. If you have any suggestions for future courses and have not already communicated them to the National office, please send your ideas to your Regional Technical Chairman.

The committee also recommended some changes to be made to the past USA Brevet/National Judges' course Eligibility Form and to post it as soon as possible.

III. Rules & Policies Issues

- A. Page 17, II. C. 4. B. Change: "Any local meet that directly qualifies a Level 6 gymnast to a State meet MUST be judged by a two-judge panel. Delete the 6 and replace with 5.
- B. Clarification: Only athletes competing in the current session, coaches of those athletes (Jr. Professional and Professional members) and the host club's meet personnel should be on the field of play. This means an athlete competing in a later session is not allowed to act as an assistant coach/equipment mover, etc., to aid the coach in an earlier session
- C. Page 8. VI. Add R. Bring all materials necessary to judge, such as paper, pen/pencil, and Start Value Flashers (optional meets only).
- D. Page 40, III. G. 3. c. 3) Add: Judges must provide their own Start Value flashers.

IV. Gymnasts going out of order

Clarification: There is no deduction for athletes competing out of order. At invitational meets that use a competitive start list, the coach may change the order if it would facilitate the use of equipment on the same setting. The Meet Director and the coaches within the squad must approve this. Please refer to *R & P*, page 28, J, 2, b & I, 1 & 2.

V. COMPULSORY QUESTIONS

Clarifications

- A. General Faults and Penalties:
Compulsory book. Page 159. Change last category heading from "Neutral deductions taken by each judge" to "Deductions taken by each judge for Assistance (spotting) from the coach".
Reminder about change in Spotting assistance during a major element: New this cycle- deduct "up to the value of the element" + 0.50 for the spotting assistance. This is a judgment call as to how much of the element was actually performed by the gymnast independently.

Example: In Level 2 or 3, when the gymnast performs the stride circle, the coach touches the gymnast as she approaches vertical with her upper body and her hands begin to shift to the top of the bar. Take a small deduction for not completing the entire element without assistance and deduct 0.50 for the spotting assistance.

- B. VAULT: Levels 2-5: Completely bent arms causing head to touch (includes deduction for bent arms).
Clarification: The maximum deduction is 2.00 for head contacting table (L4-5) or mat (L2-3) during the support phase (this includes the 0.50 deduction for extreme arm bend).
- C. BARS:
- Extra casts in Level 4 & 5 compulsory bars:** If a gymnast performs a very small cast and returns to front support, then does a second cast that meets the angle requirement, the first cast performed would be deducted for the appropriate insufficient amplitude and the second cast would be considered an extra swing and would receive a 0.30 deduction.
Extra casts in Level 1-3 compulsory bars: If a gymnast performs a very small cast and returns to front support, then does a second cast, the first cast performed counts as the major element and the second cast is considered an extra swing and receives a 0.30 deduction. Both are subject to execution deductions.
 - Leg cut and leg swing.** If a Level 2 or 3 gymnast performs a leg swing instead of a leg cut (or the reverse—a leg cut instead of a leg swing), it is considered changing the element and would receive a 0.20 deduction (the value of the element).
Level 2 Bars:
Add to pg 34 & 163 - #4 deduction box: (Value of element) 0.20 Performs a leg swing forward instead of a leg cut forward (changing element)
Add to pg 36 & 163 - #6 Deduction box: (Value of element) 0.20 Performs a leg cut backward instead of a leg swing backward (changing element)
- D. BEAM:
- Level 3 Beam: If gymnast performs a weight transfer $\frac{1}{2}$ turn instead of heel snap $\frac{1}{2}$ turn, deduct 0.30 (same principle as in Level 4 and 5 Beam for doing the wrong type of turn).
- E. FLOOR EXERCISE:
- Level 2 Floor
Gymnast performs the handstand, holds it for one second and then rolls out of it due to overbalancing. Is this changing an element or a fall? Answer: Consider it a FALL and deduct 0.50.
 - Level 4 & 5 Floor: The sissonne is not a major element and even though it is described with a specific degree of split, there is no specific deduction for insufficient split. Deductions for leg form and amplitude may be applied if appropriate.
- F. BEAM OR FLOOR
- To also be included in the Compulsory Q & A:
- Q: What is the deduction if a direct connection of two major elements is required and the gymnast performs the first element and falls?
- A: Take 0.20 for lack of continuity + 0.50 for fall. The gymnast has the option of repeating the first element to complete the direct connection. In this case, no deductions are taken on the repetition of the first element, but credit is given for the direct connection. The judge would then eliminate the 0.20 deduction for lack of continuity.
- Example: Level 5 Beam: Split jump; Sissonne
Gymnast completes the split jump; then falls. Take 0.20 for lack of continuity and 0.50 for the fall.
She begins again by repeating the split jump and directly connects it to the sissonne. No execution/amplitude deductions are taken on the repeated split jump. Delete the deduction previously taken for lack of continuity. Judging begins with the second element.

VI. OPTIONAL CONCERNS

A. VAULT

Level 9 Vault Value changes:

3.306 ½ on – ½ off, Front tuck change from 9.9 to 10.0

4.307 RO, FF on – ½ off, Front tuck change from 9.9 to 10.0

PASSED unanimously by e-mail vote by Technical and JO Committee.

B. OPTIONAL BARS

1. *JO Code* correction, page 133: Dismounts 8.101 Change description - delete "Clear front support". Now reads "From HB, underswing (also clear) to stand. "

2. *JO Code* correction, page 75, SR box Level 8 Bars Special Requirements -
2/3 Two "B" elements, same or different:

First bullet – Change to "One an element with flight, excluding the dismount, OR an element with a minimum of 180° LA (long axis) turn, excluding the "mount and/or" dismount. The same change needs to be made on the Level 6-8 Score sheets and the Cheat sheets in the Appendix, as well as in the Flipbook SR box.

C. OPTIONAL BEAM

1. Dismount Regulations for Beam

Page 145, B-Dismounts, 4. C.: change wording to be the same as Bars "Deduct 0.50 for the fall from apparatus, with or without an actual fall onto the mat."

2. Series clarification:

Refer to page 162. III. A. Reminder - **ONLY a BACKWARD ACRO FLIGHT** series would be considered broken when the arms move as low as the thighs or further back after the landing of the first element in the connection. It does not apply to series of non-flight acro, acro flight with forward and/or sideward elements, counter acro flights, and dance or mixed elements.

3. If a leg swing on the step between two acro elements goes higher than 45°, it breaks the series connection, regardless of the value of the element.

D. FALLS for compulsory and optionals:

Reminder that incomplete elements due to fall are handled differently for compulsory and optional exercises.

Compulsory: consider the value of the major element and determine how much of the element was performed before the fall occurred. Give partial credit for the element and deduct 0.50 for the fall. The gymnast also has the option of repeating the element without penalty to attempt to complete it. If they are successful at completing the element on the second try, the original "incomplete" deduction would be eliminated. After a fall in compulsories, the judging resumes from the point of interruption.

Optional: If the element is incomplete (no touch of bars on a release or not landing on bottoms of feet for acro elements and dismounts), no value part credit is given plus the 0.50 for the fall. After a fall in Optionals, the judging resumes with the performance of the first element listed in the *JO Code*.

E. OPTIONAL FLOOR CLARIFICATIONS

1. #2.203 1/1 turn on one leg to scale forward (2 sec.) The turn should be completed in relevé, but the heel is allowed to lower to the floor for the 2-sec. hold in scale.

2. Failure to put a cell phone in airplane mode when used for Floor Exercise music is not considered a technical failure; it is considered a coaching error. If the music is stopped due to a phone call, the gymnast must continue her routine without the music and has no option to repeat the routine. In this case, there is no deduction for absence of music.

3. Correction to the following Appendix items, Level 6 Floor exercise: Level 6-8 scoresheet, Cheat sheet and Optional Requirement chart and also in the FlipBook L6 FX SR box.

Special Requirement #1. One Acro series (min. 3 directly connected (delete "flight") elements (add "flight or non-flight"), with or without hand support.

VII. JUDGING FEES

The committee discussed the hourly judges' fee and, as reflected in the May 2013 minutes, again requested the National Office to review the recommendation to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually for adjustments to the fees. *Since there has been no increase in the hourly fee rate for judges since 2009, the committee recommends a 3% increase to the hourly fee, to be effective ~~January 1, 2014~~ (see note below). In addition, the committee recommends to the National office that the hourly fees be reviewed annually and any adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index becomes effective every August 1.*

Motion: L. Thorberg

Second: M. Dykes

PASSED unanimously

The National Office approved the above motion with an amendment of the effective date to be August 1, 2014 in order for Meet Directors to plan budgets accordingly.

VIII. XCEL

Any Xcel administrative/program questions should be sent to the Regional Xcel Chair. Any Xcel technical questions should be directed to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman.

IX. 2014 NATIONAL/REGIONAL CONGRESS TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Committee discussed topics for the Core sessions. Cheryl and Connie will finalize the assignments for National congress.

X. NEW BUSINESS – NEW ELEMENTS PERFORMED IN THE PAST

Several inquiries have been made to the National Office in regards to athletes who have, at past JO National Championships, performed new elements and have not had their name entered in the *J.O. Code of Points*. We will add these names and post replacement pages.

XI. TECHNICAL PROJECTS

The committee spent the rest of the meeting evaluating videos to be used for Compulsory and Optional Base Score and the Practice Judging at the 2014 Congresses.

XII. Meeting adjourned November 3 at 3:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for May 11-13, 2014 following JO Nationals in Jackson, Mississippi.