



**NATIONAL XCEL PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Marriott Phoenix Chandler – Chandler, AZ

Meeting was called to order by National Xcel Committee Chair at 8:30 am.

Roll Call:

Jill Preston	Region 1
Dianne Palmer	Region 2
Louise Janecky	Region 3
Megan Bankole	Region 4
Nancy Gibson	Region 5
Gail Caspare	Region 6
Jen Skorski (via Zoom)	Region 7
Pam Kitchen	Region 8
Claudia Kretschmer	National Xcel Committee Chair
Heather Ould	Women's Xcel Program Manager
Christy Naik	Women's Development Program Director

**Unless otherwise noted, the following clarifications and recommendations for change are effective August 1, 2022.**

1. All apparatus requirements for both the Xcel and Development Programs will be joined together in a new Women's Program Rules & Policies (R&P) chapter for the 2022-2023 season and beyond.
  
2. Recommendation to adopt the following joint Development Program/Technical Committee changes for the Xcel Program:
  - Video Review is allowed in the following instances:
    - Floor: Recommendation to require video review, if video is available, when submitting an inquiry for Floor Exercise overtime deductions.
    - Vault: Recommendation to allow immediate video review (if available and decisive) when the first vault is awarded a zero (0) for failure to land on any part of the bottom of the feet first. Review must be completed prior to attempting 2nd vault.
  - New Element: Beam - 1.301 – Whipple – C
  - Vault - Recommendation for **all sanctioned competitions** that the coach may display or verbally announce the number of the intended vault to be performed.
  - Fall Time: Clarification on fall timing: Fall time begins when the gymnast is on her feet: IF an injury occurs, fall time begins once medical assessment is complete.
  - Equipment Failure: If an athlete falls due to equipment failure, judging will resume at the point of interruption or the series / combination when equipment failure occurred.

Motion: Gail Caspare (R6)  
 Second: Nancy Gibson (R5)  
 PASSED

3. Recommendation to revise the Women's Program Rules & Policies (R&P) regarding spotting enhancements to coincide with the WDPC modifications.

Motion: Megan Bankole (R4)  
 Second: Jill Preston (R1)

PASSED

4. Recommendation to add the Women's Rules & Policies (R&P) regarding supplemental matting for balance beam and update the Code of Points (as applicable to clarify):
  - Beam matting: If available (not required): maximum of 9 inches using Sting mats, 4-inch throw and / or 8-inch skill cushions may be placed on top of allowable CLM's in **ALL** matted areas (under the Beam and / or dismount area.)

Motion: Jill Preston (R1)

Second: Gail Caspare (R6)

PASSED

5. Recommendation to revise the Women's Program Rules & Policies (R&P) regarding hand placement mat dimensions and clubs may not bring their own hand placement mat:  
MODIFY to new R&P chapter for Xcel: II. Vault – D. – 3. (Page 60 Current R&P PDF Document)

- **Proposed Language:** A hand placement mat may be placed on the runway (but not on the board) **ONLY** for vaults that require placing the hands on the runway in front of the board (Round-off or Front handspring entry.) The hand placement mat must be manufactured by a gymnastics equipment manufacturer **and must be a minimum of 39.4 x 51.2** in length and cannot exceed 5 cm (2 inches) in height. ~~No other type matting is allowed.~~
  - a. All Meet Directors of **Platinum** competitions **or above** MUST provide a minimum of one manufactured Round-off hand placement mat.
  - ~~b. If the Meet Director cannot supply the above mentioned Round-off hand placement mats, they may allow clubs to bring their own, provided the mat meets the criteria as stated above.~~ **REPLACE WITH: Clubs may not bring their own hand placement mat to be used by athletes during a competition.**
  - c. If a Round-off entry hand placement mat is used, it must be placed Velcro-side down on the runway.

Motion: Dianne Palmer (R2)

Second: Louise Janecky (R3)

PASSED

6. Recommendation to modify the Rules & Policies and related Code of Points sections regarding Entry Requirements:
  - To allow for entry into the Xcel program at the Gold Division:
    - R&P PDF Page 52 – XCEL AGE/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND MOBILITY SCORES OVERVIEW CHART
      - Current Language: Gold – Pre-Requisite Scores: 31.00 AA at Silver Division or 8.0 IES
      - New Language: Gold – Pre-Requisite Scores: None
    - R&P PDF Page 52 – C. Entry into Xcel Divisions- #1
      - Current Language: Gymnasts who have no previous competitive experience may enter at Bronze or Silver, at their coach's discretion. The Gold Division is NOT an entry division. The Mobility Score from Silver to Gold is 31.00 AA or 8.0 IES.
      - New Language: Gymnasts who have no previous competitive experience may enter at Bronze, Silver, or Gold Division, at their coach's discretion. ~~The Gold Division is NOT an entry division. The Mobility Score from Silver to Gold is 31.00 AA or 8.0 IES.~~

Motion: Dianne Palmer (R2)

Second: Pam Kitchen (R8)

PASSED

- To clarify the entry requirements from the Development Program: Must have completed all-around at a minimum of one (1) sanctioned meet at the specified Development Program level to enter in the appropriate Xcel Division.

Motion: Megan Bankole (R4)

Second: Jen Skorski (R7)

PASSED

7. Motion to Approve Code of Point modifications/clarifications presented by the Xcel Program Manager.

- Modification of Terminology from Stride Leap to Split Leap
- Clarification of Split Requirement of 150° (Platinum/Diamond on Floor; Diamond on Beam). Splits of this degree would receive value part as listed in the code (as any split within 135° or more would). Therefore, they would not necessarily be "A" skills for any split at that angle since they are existing elements within the Table of Elements which may have a higher value part.
  - Split angle of 150° or more would receive:
    - The VP listed within the Table of Elements
    - Special Requirement
    - No deduction for insufficient split
  - Split angle of 135° - 149° would receive:
    - The VP listed within the Table of Elements
    - Special Requirement
    - Deduction of up to 0.20 for insufficient split
  - Split angle of 130° - 134° would receive:
    - "A" VP
    - Special Requirement
    - Deduction of up to 0.20 for insufficient split
- Additional items approved were formally voted on in the Joint Xcel Technical Committee meeting, refer to those minutes for action items.

Motion: Louise Janecky (R3)

Second: Jen Skorski (R7)

PASSED

8. Approve the following Sapphire Pilot competition Procedures:

- Hosting Competitions
  - Only Pilot Regions 3, 6, 7, and 8 may host Sapphire Competitions.
  - Competitions in Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 may not host a Sapphire Competition.
- Athlete Participation:
  - Athletes from Participating Regions:
    - Athletes from participating Regions can compete in Sapphire Division in a Pilot Region (Regions 3,6,7,8)
    - Athletes from participating Regions cannot compete in a Sapphire Division in a non-Pilot Region competition (Regions 1,2,4,5). They may compete in another Division or Level at that competition.
  - Athletes from Non-Participating Regions: Athletes from non-participating Regions can compete in the Sapphire Division in a Pilot Region Competition (3,6,7,8).
  - Declaration Date: All athletes are required to follow their state's specific declaration date related to competition. All athletes (Both Sapphire Division and non-Sapphire Division) need to honor the declaration dates related to the Division/Level of Competition.
- Judges:
  - Judges must have a Level 9 Rating to Judge Sapphire Athletes in the Pilot Region Competitions (Regions 3,6,7,8).

- Follow all USA Gymnastics Guidelines:
  - The Pilot Program Division follows all USA Gymnastics guidelines.
  - Athletes must have a valid athlete membership.
  - The athlete would be designated in the Sapphire Division within the meet reservation system.
- Meet Software Designation – Recommend meet software utilize XA to designate Sapphire (XS-is already utilized for Xcel Silver).

Motion: Louise Janecky (R3)

Second: Gayle Caspare

PASSED

## **DISCUSSION**

The committee discussed the following topics, no action was taken:

1. Service Awards: Please send nomination into Christy Naik.
2. Region Chair Reports: Summary provided by each Region Chair.
3. USA Gymnastics Report: Update on national information for the Women's Development Program and Women's Xcel Program – Christy Naik, Heather Ould
4. Chairman provided summary of items from the administrative committee and joint development program/technical committee meeting.
5. Discussion regarding resource materials including Online Quiz, Judging Course, and Judges Exam. The Xcel Committee and Xcel Program Manager will begin work to update the resource materials. (Further Information provided within Action Items)
6. Xcel Philosophy – Review of Xcel Philosophy.
7. Discussion on new elements, and updates to be presented in the joint meeting with the Technical Committee for consideration.
8. Congress Presentations: Discussion related priorities to highlight within presentations.
9. Sapphire Pilot Program: In addition to items voted upon, further discussion related to questions received and next steps for the program including formal rules development and Frequently Asked Questions Document (FAQ).

Recommendation to adjourn at 8:03 pm.