



**JOINT MEETING  
JUNIOR OLYMPIC & TECHNICAL COMMITTEES  
Des Moines, IA.  
May 17-18, 2015**

**I. Meeting was called to order by Tom Koll (NJOCC) and Cheryl Hamilton (NTCC) at 6:00 pm.**

Roll Call:	<u>Technical Committee</u>	<u>JO Committee</u>
Region 1	Neela Nelson	Shane McIntyre
Region 2	Linda Mulvihill	Laurie Reid
Region 3	Carole Bunge	Mark Folger
Region 4	Linda Thorberg	Bryon Hough
Region 5	Char Christensen	Kittia Carpenter
Region 6	Pat Panichas	Larry Goldsmith
Region 7	Myra Elfenbein	Linda Johnson
Region 8	Marian Dykes	Brad Harris
NACC	Cori Rizzo	
NXCC	Claudia Kretschmer	
JO Program Director	Annie Heffernon	
JO Technical Director	Connie Maloney	
SR VP – Women’s Program	Rhonda Faehn	
VP of Member Services	Cheryl Jarrett	
Guest – NCAA Coaches Rep	Sam Morreale	
Guest- NAWGJ President	Evelyn Chandler	
Guest- GK Elite representative	Wendy Martin	
Guest – Region 5 RACC	Dave Stiles	
Guest – Region 7 RACC	Jen Bortz	

On behalf of both committees, Tom Koll welcomed the committee members and introduced the new officers, staff, and guests.

**II. GK Elite Sportswear report** – Wendy Martin expressed that GK is honored to be working with USA Gymnastics and explained the goals and the passion of their staff. She is open to suggestions and feedback on apparel supplied to our JO Program athletes. As always, USA Gymnastics is very appreciative of the support and quality product that GK Elite Sportswear has provided for so many years.

**III. NCAA Coaches report** – Sam Morealli shared some of the proposals to be discussed at the upcoming NCAA meeting. Several new recruiting proposals will be discussed. The committee members expressed their concern regarding the age at which our athletes are being recruited. There was discussion of how the clubs and college teams can support one another in an effort to provide opportunities for JO and NCAA gymnasts.

**IV. NAWGJ report** – NAWGJ President, Evelyn Chandler, distributed a report to the committees. She indicated that the increase in the number of new judges last year was the largest increase in ten years. The biggest challenge is to keep new judges motivated to move up in the program. NAWGJ membership renewal is online and has been changed to July 31 starting this year. This now coincides with USA Gymnastics’ renewal date for professional memberships and will simplify the tracking of eligibility to judge sanctioned competitions. NAWGJ and USA Gymnastics are looking forward to increased collaboration to benefit the judging population.

**V. Xcel Report** – Claudia Kretschmer updated the committees on the progress of the Xcel National program. Currently, there are 28,000 registered Xcel athlete members. The Xcel Committee has created a DVD for practice judging to help with consistency throughout the country.

**VI. Member Services Report** – Cheryl Jarrett reported that USA Gymnastics will provide Member Clubs with a legislative advocacy program that will allow them to be pro-active rather than reactive to legislative issues that would affect our sport and issues that arise in their local area.



**VII. Administrative Committee Report** - Cori Rizzo reviewed agenda items discussed at the AC meeting on Sunday. A women's program officers breakfast will be held at National Congress in Indianapolis in conjunction with the annual State Chair Workshop. Service awards will be presented at this time.

**VIII. NEW ELEMENTS SUBMITTED AT THE 2015 JO NATIONALS AND JO NIT**

It was clarified that only new skills performed by gymnasts at Junior Olympic Nationals or NIT would be added to the *JO Code of Points*, and named after the gymnast who first performed it.

A. Bars:

1. From a jump to clear support in reverse grip, clear-hip circle forward to handstand with ½ turn: Garner "D" #1.416 – Passed Unanimously
2. From high bar, swing down between the bars, swing forward to a double salto backward stretched with a ½ twist: Peele "E" #8.505 – Passed Unanimously
3. From high bar, swing down between the bars, swing forward to a double salto backward stretched with scissor split of legs to closing before landing: Rickett "E" #8.505 – Passed Unanimously

B. Beam:

1. Leap forward to land on one leg with a grasp of the rear leg prior to landing, free leg held in vertical (180 degree) split, with hand above head, free hand optional, 135 degree split during the leap required: Dillman "C" #2.301 – Passed Unanimously
2. From stand on one leg, swing free leg through to front aerial to land in kneel/sit: Stevens "D" #7.402 – Passed Unanimously

C. No New elements were submitted on Vault or Floor.

**IX. FLOOR EXERCISE**

- A. Compulsory Floor (Levels 4 and 5) clarification: If the gymnast does a step punch (assemblé) or scooch prior to the straddle jump, it is considered a text error.
- B. Recommendation for awarding value part credit to a switch leg leap: If the minimum of the 45 degree swing of the first leg requirement is met, but the final split position is less than 135 degrees, award "A" value. Because the split position is less than 180 degrees, this will NOT fulfill the Special Requirement for the leap element in the dance passage.  
Motion: Carole Bunge  
Second: Linda Johnson  
Passed
- C. Switch-side leap clarification: Whenever this element is performed with an early ¼ turn, apply the "lack of precision in dance elements" deduction of "up to 0.10".
- D. Clarification - amend page 248, M. in the *JO Code*: For an isolated salto or the last salto element in an acro series, there is no penalty for landing with the feet a maximum of hip-width apart, provided that the gymnast either slides the heels together or takes a CONTROLLED step forward out of a forward acro element or backward to a lunge out of a backward acro element. Do not deduct unless the landing position appears out of control.
- E. Clarification at the top of page 244 of the *JO Code*: Example – The gymnast runs down the diagonal for her last acro pass and fails to perform the salto element. Deduct 0.50 for not fulfilling the Special Requirement of the last salto plus 0.30 for no attempt to perform the last salto.
- F. Re-word 243 of the *JO Code* on FX, 4.a.bullet "If more than one restricted element is performed at Level 8 or 9 and one of these was the last isolated salto or within the last salto connection, an additional deduction of 0.30..."



- G. Recommendation to add the following element to the JO Code of Points: #2.105 (A) 1/1 illusion turn (360°) with brief touching of the floor with one hand. This would fulfill the Level 6 and 7 full turn Special Requirement.  
JO Committee – please respond in favor or opposed.

Motion: N. Nelson

Second: C. Christensen

Passed

## X. BALANCE BEAM

- A. Recommendation to re-word the description of the following beam mounts:

1. #1.211 – Jump to side planche (clear front support above horizontal) (2 sec.)
2. #1.311 - ...lower to planche (clear front support at horizontal) or clear pike support (2 sec.)

Motion: Larry Goldsmith

Second: Pat Panichas

Passed

- B. #5.206 – change description to read: From a side front support, cast to handstand or kick-up to handstand with large arch span in cross or side position, also piked with one leg vertical and one leg bent (2 sec.)
- C. Recommendation to add the following to the description of forward scale elements #5.101 and #5.201: (Also with hand holding free leg).  
Motion: Pat Panichas  
Second: Kittia Carpenter  
Passed
- D. Recommendation that for the back hip pullover mount #1.109: Mounting the beam from a sitting or kneeling position on the mat or the board is not allowed. In order to receive value part credit, the pullover must be performed from a side stand frontways with take off from one or two feet.  
Motion: Laurie Reid  
Second: Linda Mulvihill  
Passed
- E. Clarification: If when mounting the beam, a gymnast's foot remains on the mat or the board, deduct 0.30 for supplemental support. This is also applied when feet make contact with the mat in cross straddle sit during the exercise.
- F. Excessive use of magnesia. Reminder to coaches that according to the *JO Code*, only small markings may be placed on the beam. Abuse of this directive will result in a deduction of 0.20 for excessive use of magnesia taken from the average score without a warning.

## XI. UNEVEN BARS

- A. Add the following to *the JO Code of Points*: page 70 l.13. Shaposhnikova type elements (#3.401, #6.405, #7.410):  
An up to 0.10 deduction is applied if the backward swing does not achieve a minimum of horizontal.
- ~~B. Recommendation to allow an exception that if a back giant with ½ turn to immediate front giant is performed, the gymnast will not receive a penalty for performing the additional restricted "C" element at Level 8.  
Motion: Carole Bunge  
Second: Mark Folger  
In Favor: 5 Opposed: 11  
Defeated~~
- C. Clarification on consecutive sole circles: This is not an extra swing. Execution and rhythm deductions may be applied if the gymnast performs the sole circle three or more times consecutively.



- D. Clarification regarding Level 6 non-salto bar dismounts: The Level 4 dismount (tap swing forward; ½ turn) is not listed in the *JO Code* and therefore cannot be used as a dismount in Level 6. Apply amplitude deductions for the cast into all “underswing-type” dismounts (straddle-on, pike-on, and clear).
- E. Clarification on Pak salto: If full support on the feet occurs on the mat BETWEEN the bars after the gymnast catches the low bar, award value part credit for the Pak salto. However, it is considered a fall, therefore, it is not eligible for bonus. If the gymnast demonstrates full support on the feet on the mat IN FRONT of the low bar (past the vertical line of the low bar), the fall is considered on the glide, not the Pak salto.
- F. Level 8 Bars flight elements: page 75 in *JO Code of Points*: under Level 8 Special Requirements: #2&3 a. 2) delete: “Exceptions-The following elements listed in the *JO Code* do not fulfill the requirements of the above description of flight elements for Level 8” but will be considered flight elements for the *JO Program*” and replace it with “Examples”: listing a), b) and c)  
Add to examples: d) #3.203 Underswing or #4.204 long swing with ½ turn and flight over LB to hang on LB, straddle (or pike) back over LB #3.301 or #7.310 Underswing (clear or toe-on) or #6.305 staldler shoot to HB

## XII. VAULT

- A. Recommendation for all levels: If a gymnast touches the board and/or table without going over the table, then this counts as one of the three attempts and is considered a balk. If two balks are performed in the three attempts, the gymnast receives the score for the one vault performed.  
Motion: Linda Johnson  
Second: Myra Elfenbein  
Passed
- B. Recommendation that for Level 8 Vault only: If the coach spots the gymnast during the post flight, a 1.00 deduction is applied rather than voiding the vault. The current 0.50 deduction for spotting assistance upon the landing is still in effect.  
Motion: Larry Goldsmith  
Second: Linda Mulvihill  
Passed
- C. Recommendation that for Level 8 Vault only: The athlete may choose to attempt one or two vaults. If she decides to perform the second vault, she is declaring the score of the second vault as her final and official score, regardless of the result.  
Motion: Brad Harris  
Second: Linda Thorberg  
In Favor: 13  
Opposed: 3  
Passed
- D. Recommendation for Levels 6-10 to add the following deductions to any non-salto vault from any group:
- Angle of repulsion, up to 1.00
  - Too long in support, up to 0.50
- Motion: Char Christensen  
Second: Brad Harris  
Passed
- E. Recommendation to add an up to 0.20 deduction for bent legs in support on vaults with saltos.  
Motion: Carole Bunge  
Second: Marian Dykes  
Passed



### XIII. GENERAL

- A. Clarification: It is not considered exceeding warm-up if:
- Vault – A gymnast waiting to compete on vault runs or jumps on the vault runway following previous competitors' final vault. The gymnast may not run or jump in front of the vault judges' table. A warning would be given in this instance for exceeding the warm-up time.
  - Floor – A gymnast may jump within the boundaries of the floor exercise mat to warm-up her legs while waiting to compete on floor.
- B. Recommendation that when using Non-Traditional (Capitol Cup) or Modified Non-Traditional (Modified Capitol Cup), the total number of athletes assigned to the corresponding Flight A and B squads cannot exceed 16 for Levels 8-10, 20 for combined Levels 6 and 7 only, and 24 for Levels 1-5. If there are 9 or more (Levels 8-10), 11 or more (Levels 6-7 combined only), or 13 or more (Levels 1-5) in one of the squads, they are not allowed to split timed warm-up within their squad.  
Motion: Brad Harris  
Second: Neela Nelson  
Passed
- C. Recommendation to add/change the following to page 103 H.5. of the *R&P* regarding video review: The *JO Code* and the *JO iCode* will be updated as well.
- 5. No video review is allowed at any Junior Olympic competition during the processing of an inquiry unless the following criteria are met:
    - a. At state meets and above, a coach can request video review by the Meet Referee and the highest rated unaffiliated judge (if video is available) in the event that the inquiry involves possibility that the judges missed an element that would affect the Start Value. The video review process may NOT be used to appeal a judgment of degree assessment, i.e degree of casts, handstands, incomplete turns, direct connection of elements, or leg separation in leaps as well as other like skills.
      - 1) If the Meet Referee or highest rated judge is affiliated with the athlete in question, the video review will be conducted by the two highest rated unaffiliated judges, or the highest rated unaffiliated judge and a USA Gymnastics officer.
      - 2) The Meet Referee must inform the judging panel that a video review will be initiated as well as the final decision.
- Motion: Marian Dykes  
Second: Brad Harris  
Passed
- D. Clarification: When submitting a new skill for evaluation, the form and the video must be submitted to the RJOCC and the RTCC for evaluation.
- E. Clarification: Switch the order on page 78 11.f.1) 2) of the *R&P*: Change 2) to 1) and 1) to 2). In the new order, 2) will read, "Coaches must notify their Regional Administrative Committee Chairman AND their Regional Technical Committee Chairman by FAX or e-mail..."
- F. Exceptions to proper gymnast's attire for USA Gymnastics competitions [page 16 8.d. of the *R&P*].  
Recommendation that for medical or religious reasons, reasonable and accommodating exceptions to proper attire can be reviewed by the Regional Technical Committee Chairman and Regional JO or Xcel Committee Chairman. Requests must be submitted to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman a minimum of 48 hours prior to the athlete's first competition. The Regional Technical Committee Chairman will provide permission in writing to the coach who then can present the documentation to the Meet Referee at each competition.  
Motion: Marian Dykes  
Second: Mark Folger  
Passed



#### **XIV. COMPULSORY CONCERNS**

- A. Recommendation that for Level 3 Floor Exercise, if the bridge kickover and the handstand forward roll are reversed in the order of appearance, apply a 0.50 deduction.

Motion: Linda Johnson

Second: Larry Goldsmith

Passed

The next meeting is scheduled to follow the 2016 JO National Championships in Fort Worth, Texas.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.