

Region 8 Committee Meeting Agenda 9:00 A.M. June 18, 2015
Hilton New Orleans Riverside Region 8 Congress New Orleans, LA

Deb Kornegay, RACC for Region 8, opened the meeting at 9:04.

Members present:

Debby Kornegay – RACC
Marian Dykes – RTCC
Brad Harris – RJOCC
Elaine Wulf – RXCC
Otis Reeves - AL
Toni Rand – FL

Michelle Pomerantz – GA
Shelley Weil - LA
Nancy Hawkins – MS
Jennie Adams – NC
Joanne Child – SC
Larry Corrigan – TN
Sheila Ragle – RJD (Guest)

Jennie Adams was appointed secretary for the meeting.

Thank you notes received from award winning Regional gymnasts and honorees were distributed for members to read.

Motion Marian Dykes moved to award the contract for Regional judging assignments to NAWGJ.
2nd Toni Rand Motion passed unanimously. Sheila Ragle left the meeting for discussion and vote.

National Judging Selection 2016

Discussion: Marian D requested that the Committee consider allowing a waiver for Mary Lou Dillard's eligibility to judge Nationals and Regionals for 2016 because of very unusual medical circumstances. She stated that the criteria for a waiver has always been available in the rules on a case-by-case basis. Mary Lou would have an opportunity to complete her CPE requirement before the end of the summer.

Motion Brad Harris moved to grant full allowance of judging assignments to Nationals, even if Mary Lou Dillard were unable to fulfill the national criteria.
2nd Michelle P Passed 3 Against

Motion Brad Harris moved to allow a waiver for criteria to judge 2016 Regionals for Mary Lou Dillard.
2nd Michelle P Passed unanimously

Marian and Sheila distributed the Level 9/10 rotational schedules for Easterns and Nationals.

Motion Marian D moved to accept the judging assignment rotations as proposed for 2016 Level 10 Nationals. Kathy Kuhn, Sheila Ragle, Joan Gnat and Mary Lou Dillard.
2nd Otis R Alternate - Marian Dykes
Passed unanimously

Motion Nancy L moved to accept the judging assignment rotations as proposed for the 2016 Level 9 Easterns. Cookie Batsche, Diane Thompson and Kim Joye
2nd Elaine W Passed unanimously

Discussion: Marian D and Sheila R led a discussion concerning the criteria used for assigning the number of judges per state to a Regional competition. Sheila distributed a spreadsheet documenting the percent of gymnasts from each state who qualified to Regionals and Nationals. Traditionally a home state for the Level 9 & 10 Regional competition has been given the opportunity of having more judges assigned. Additionally more judges from a state could be used if the specific state has had more gymnasts qualify in previous years. At Regionals with Team Competitions, each state has 2 judges assigned. Assignments at other Regionals have been using the percentage criteria.

Motion Michelle P moved to accept the panel for Level 9/10 Regionals as amended.
2nd Joanne C Passed unanimously Sheila R left the room for the discussion and vote.
Mary Lou Dillard, Joan Gnat, Evelyn Chandler, Cookie Batsche, Denise Weaver, Sheila Ragle, Kathlyn Skeslock, Kim Joye, Kathy Kuhn, Diane Thompson, Karen Pleasants, Portia Propst, Pat Faulkner, Sibby Lane, Kerma Headrick and Marian Dykes MR.
Alternates: Sharyn Strickland and Mary Ann Wallace

Motion Jennie A moved to accept the panel for Level 7/8 Regionals as amended.
2nd Brad H Passed unanimously Nancy L and Marian D left the room for discussion and vote.
Panel 1 – Level 8's = Gayli Craver, Wendy Seabrook, Nelena Beck, Marci Kaplan, Helena Brizzi, Chris Jackson, Brenda Eberhardt, Michelle Martin, Bobbye Strickland, Mary Jane McDaniel, Kim Stenson, Mary (Hoagland) Wilkerson, Sue Dolinar, Mendi Knisley, Emily Lay, Natalia Grosso and Marian Dykes MR
Panel 2 – Level 6 & 7's – Mary Ann Wallace, Jamie Wallace, Pam Sherwood, Sue Tonietto, Becky Oppenheimer, Cathy Campfield, Kathy Kuhn, Stephanie Phillips, Nancy

Lay, Mary Moore, Jennie Adams, Terri Costa, Pat Faulkner, Carol Olney, Joyce Wallace and Pam Hannan

- Motion
2nd Shelley S
Elaine W moved to utilize two meet referees at Xcel Regionals if two gyms are needed.
Passed unanimously
- Motion
2nd Toni R
Joanne C moved that the first 2016 Xcel Regional meet referee be from the home state and that the second meet referee be Marian Dykes.
Passed unanimously
- Motion
2nd Elaine W
Otis R moved to accept the panels for the 2016 Xcel Regionals as amended.
Passed unanimously
Clarification: if the Xcel Regionals requires 2 panels of judges, then there shall be representation from each state on each set of panels.
Panel 1 - Amy Arnts, Carol Smitherman, Nikki Spimeli, Kevn McNamara, June Seymour, Jane Baesman, Michelle Martin, Brenda Eberhardt, Glynn Hankins, Nancy Lay, Terri Costa, Cindy Cotton, Davita Ivey, Carol Olney, Pam Hannan, Mary Phelps and Sibby Lane MR
Panel 2 – Tammye Goehring, Diane Peeks, Susan Monahan, Jen Boval, Cynthia Davis, Gwyned Bius, Natalia Grosso, Emily Lay, Mary Moore, Laurie Moore, Bertina Harris, Karen Pleasants, Mendi Knisley, Sue Doliner, Joyce Wallace, Dawn Roy and Marian Dykes MR.

Discussion: Sheila R requested that the Judges Tracking Process be discontinued. She questioned whether the amount of data was making a difference. If not discontinued, the form needs to be updated to reflect that the number of judgments per level are documented only through State Meets and that number of judgments in the five Xcel divisions be combined for just one Xcel number. The deadline for the Availability and Experience Report was set at April 27, 2016. After discussion it was decided that the tracking form would remain but be amended to consolidate the Xcel divisions into one total number, numbers documented only through State Meets and deadline date changed to April 27, 2016.

Items due to Marian D: a) name of approved CPE coordinator for each state b) names of approved judging panels for optional State Meets are due by November 1, 2015.

10:38-10:50 Break

Reports from National Committee Meetings

Elaine Wulf, RXCC, reported on the Xcel National Committee meeting held in May.

Minutes may be found at https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NXC/nxc_052015.pdf

Highlights of changes:

- Major changes to the program will be made only on the new quadrennium.
- Each state should set an Xcel Declaration Date.
- In order to judge the Platinum and Diamond Divisions a Level 7/8 rating is needed.
- Individual states may choose to have Open Scoring at the State Meet. Each Region shall decide to use or not use Open Scoring at its Regional Competition.
- Ruby will not be a division in the Xcel program in 2015-16. The USA Gymnastics office is working on developing that area of competition and where it is best incorporated in the USA Gymnastics structure.

Marian Dykes, RTCC, reported on the National Technical Committee meeting held in May.

Minutes may be found at https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NTC/ntc_051815.pdf.

Highlights of changes:

- Floor music with questionable voice sections shall be sent to the RTCC (Marian) who will send to the National Office for a clarification and ruling.
- There was a clarification of the CPE hours earned by State, Regional, and National officers.
- The fee package for judges was reviewed but no changes were made. The definition of break time was clarified.
- A new fee schedule was approved for judges at Easterns and Nationals.
- A clarification of the Video Review procedure was discussed and updated.
- Definition of break time was clarified and a penalty or overtime was added that if breaks were not given then the judges would receive pay from march in until end of competition

Brad Harris, RJOCC, reported on the JO Committee/ Technical Committee Joint meeting held in May.

Minutes may be found at https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NJOC/njoc_ntc_051715.pdf.

Highlights of changes:

- Because of safety concerns on Level 8 Vaults, new competition procedures have been approved. A coach-based decision has been implemented – if a gymnast and her coach choose to do a second vault at Level 8, the score of the second vault will be counting score. The change has been approved to encourage gymnasts to not compete a skill until it's ready to be performed safely.

- In addition, only at Level 8 Vault, spotting the gymnast in the post flight will result in a 1.0 deduction rather than a void vault.
- Non-salto vaults at Level 6-10 have two additional deductions added: up to 1.0 for angle of repulsion and up to 0.5 for too long in support. This deduction is **not** implemented at Xcel Divisions non-salto vaults.
- A process has been approved for allowing exceptions to proper gymnast attire for medical or religious reasons by the Regional Tech, JO, or Xcel Chairpersons.

Deb Kornegay, RACC, reported on the National Administrative Committee meeting held in May.

Minutes may be found at https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/WAC/wac_051715.pdf.

Highlights of changes:

- 2015 National Gymnastics Day will be celebrated on September 19th.
- Elections for State Administrative Committee members can be conducted electronically. Additional procedures and guidelines were approved and will be changed in the Operations Code.
- The State Chairperson's workshop at 2015 National Congress will be held on Sunday, August 18th, from 8-3:00.

Break 12:15-12:25

Regional Board Concerns

Discussion: Deb K reported that much interest was expressed by members to be able to include Level 6's in a Regional competition as well as increase the number of Level 7's able to qualify to Regionals. Multiple frameworks to increase the number of gymnasts for a Regional meet without adding additional weekends were discussed.

Motion Joanne C moved to add Level 6's to the 2016 7/8 Regional competition and increase the number of Level 7 competitors.

2nd Jennie A Tied - 5 For and 5 Against. Elaine W abstained. Deb K broke tie with a For vote. Motion passed.

Deb K asked that Sheila R be called in order to create a second panel of judges from the Regional Availability List for the new Level 6,7,8 Regional meet. She asked that Sheila present the list later in the afternoon. The tentative structure for the meet would be two competitions at same time. Level 6 and Level 8 competition on Friday. Saturday and Sunday – competing both Level 7's and Level 8's. Level 6 State Team Friday night, Level 7 State Team middle session Saturday, and Level 8 State Team Saturday night.

Break 1:01 – 1:11

Regional leotard presentation by Ozone, led by Lea Wampler

Regional Qualifications for Xcel

Discussion – There was a consensus that the qualification score 35.5 for Bronze and Silver Divisions and 35.00 for Gold, Platinum and Diamond Divisions should be maintained for 2016. However because of the numbers of qualifiers (1612 gymnasts in 2015) Elaine W suggested that the Regional Meet Director be notified that the meet might need to begin on Thursday.

Regional Qualifications for Level 9 and 10

Discussion – Brad Harris informed the members that the number of Level 9 gymnasts in 2015 at Regionals was 334 and the number of Level 10 gymnasts was 292. Because of the size of the meet he had considered raising qualifying scores. After discussions Brad suggested that this possibility be pulled from consideration due to the additional Level 10 age groups that JO committee added.

Regional Competition Entry Deadline

Deb informed the members that the entry deadline for each Level/Division's Regionals would be at midnight on the Monday after each state's State Meet.

Individual Event Specialist at Xcel Regionals

Deb K let the members know that this issued needed to be addressed, but not at this time. Tabled until later meeting.

Open Scoring at Xcel Regionals

Motion Elaine W moved to initiate Open Scoring at the 2016 Xcel Regionals.

2nd Jennie A Motion failed. 3 For 4 Against 3 Abstained 1 not in the meeting room

Eligibility of Xcel athletes to compete in State and Regional Championships

After discussion it was determined that the previous Region 8 policy would remain in place: an athlete may compete in JO championships and Xcel championships, but not in the same season. (i.e. a gymnast may compete in a JO Compulsory State Meet in the Fall and may also compete in an Xcel State or Regional Championship in the Spring.)

Clarification of Regional Competition Registration for Coaches

Deb K explained the 2016 policy for a coach receiving food vouchers at Regional Competitions simply as "If a coach was not entered into the MeetMaker Registration he/she did not receive a voucher for food." The policy will continue.

Regional Meet Host's Responsibilities for Providing Food for Coaches

Discussion: Brad H commented on the reason for and the cost of food at a Regional venue. He felt that providing food at an Invitational was a draw for teams to choose that meet. He does not believe that a Regional Competition should provide meals for coaches. Most clubs already provide per diems for coaches. The problem has become larger because some coaches continue to abuse the hospitality and either feed their personal children or team gymnasts from the meals provided. The voucher system seems to work more prudently than providing a full spread. Deb K will refine the wording about the Regional Meet Director's responsibilities and include in the Meet Director's packet.

Due to the expense of food in outside facility and the fact that coaches receive per diem from their gym, no meals will be provided to coaches at Regional Competitions. Meet directors may provide, but are not required to provide, vouchers for meals or a green room with snacks.

Region 8 Committee plans to have future discussion at December Region 8 Committee Meeting.

JO Nationals First Alternates in 2016 and Beyond

Discussion: Brad H noted that beginning in 2016 the 1st alternate gymnasts who would have attended Nationals because of their involvement in the NIT competitions will probably not be on site for last minute insertion into the JO competition. Realizing the commitment involved, he suggested that the alternates be encouraged to travel to Nationals anyway, because there is always a good chance that they'll be able to compete.

St Jude as the Regional Charity

Deb K informed the Committee that the Regional charity is maintained for two years. She reported that \$.89 of every \$1.00 goes toward the care for children at St Jude making it a very commendable charity for our Regional competitions.

Legislative Advocacy Program

Deb K informed the members that past legislation in California and Texas affected gymnastics clubs in those states because of language that was originally intended to impact trampoline facilities. She will appoint a Club Advocacy Representative to help inform Region 8 clubs about avenues of help if that type of legislation appears in our state legislatures. The National office will provide Webinars on the topic to help educate.

Punitive Procedures for Coaches Not Wearing Region 8 Apparel at Nationals

Deb K reminded the group that the USA Gymnastics State Accounts will pay a fine of \$100.00 for the first occurrence if one of its coaches/clubs does not wear the Regional apparel at Easterns or Nationals. The fine will be increased for subsequent occurrences. (6/20/13)

Administrative Activities

Deb K completed the following administrative tasks with State Chairs:

1. Checked addresses and emergency information for accuracy
2. Were reminded that State Calendars needed to be linked to the Regional website by 8-1-15.
3. Received 2015-2016 Planner Calendars and Region 8 Address books
4. Verified State Meet dates with Deb K
5. Reviewed the 2015 Regional Financial reports (available from Deb K on request)
6. Were apprised of the state of the Region 8 Travel Fund for the trip with National champions to Panama
7. Were informed about the Sophomore/Junior Form online for coaches to submit their gymnast information
8. Were reminded of the particulars of the 2015 Hall of Fame Ceremony in which Colleen Barger, Louie Liguori, Han Qi and Chen Yiwen would be inducted
9. Prioritized the choices for dates and sites for the 2017 Region 8 Congress
10. Were informed that the 2016 Region 8 Congress would be held in Charlotte, NC
11. Were reminded that the Gate Price for Regionals were set in 2008 at the following rates: Maximum fee for Adults - \$15, Students and Seniors - \$10, 5 and Under are FREE, Adult weekend pass - \$25, Student and Senior weekend pass - \$20. Gate entry fees must be included in pre-meet information.
12. Were informed that Hall of Fame table seats were available at Congress for Committee members who wished to go – Toni, Marian, and Deb asked for tickets.
13. Set meet dates for 2018 Regionals as follows:

April 12-15, 2018	Lv 9/10 Regionals
April 20-22, 2018	Level 6,7,8 Regionals
April 26-29, 2018	Xcel Regionals
May 3-6, 2018	Level 9 Easterns
May 10-13, 2018	JO Nationals

Regional JO Program

Deb K presented the Financial Statements from the three 2015 Regional competitions. The abbreviated form follows:

- Level 9/10 Tampa Bay Turners Deposits - \$93,331.00 Expenses - \$66,057.43
- Level 7/8 Mobile, AL Deposits - \$86,677.35 Expenses - \$62,851.56
- Xcel Rockdale Gymnastics Deposits - \$231,431.01 Expenses - \$217,511.83

Discussion followed. It was suggested that future Region meet directors use the same Financial Report form for better comparisons. Contact Deb K to obtain the full reports.

There were no recommendations to change the Regional Entry fees.

Break 2:50-3:00

Regional Leotard Presentation by GymKin. Wendy, Kylee and Erica presented.

A closed ballot vote was taken after the presentation and Gym-Kin was awarded the bid to supply the state team leotards at the 2016 7/8 Regional team competitions.

State Chairmen Concerns

Deb K reminded the SACCs of the following:

- Published Declaration Dates are needed for each level/division in each state
- Designation as an event specialist must be declared before a State/Regional meet begins. Event specialist gymnasts are allowed to enter as many as 3 events.
- Work assignments for the Region 8 Congress were presented in a chart. Deb also reminded SACCs of expected duties at Regional Events.
- A National Gymnastics Day information sheet was included in the meeting packet outlining a State Chair planning guide for September 17, 2015. Statewide events must be registered at usagym.org/NGD.
- Each State Committee should be mindful that awarding State Meet bids should vary between clubs/sites in the state. Do not always award to members of the State Committee.
- All states in Region 8 will be hosting all Division of Xcel in their Xcel State Meets in 2016.
- Inventory reports are due to Deb K on 8/15/15.
- The USA Gymnastics Competitive information report is due on 8/31/15 to both Deb K and Marian D.
- Add Deb K and Marian to each state's membership email group.

Winter Region 8 Committee Meeting

Deb K set the date for the next Committee meeting...Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in Atlanta. Site and Time TBD.

National Congress Information for SACCs

There will be a tentative USA Gymnastics office tour on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 2:30. More information will come.

An Awards Breakfast will be served on Sunday, August 16th from 7:30 – 8:00. The State Chairperson's Workshop will be held from 8:00 – 3:00.

Other Business

Shelley thanked the Region for purchasing the second alternates' apparel from Regionals. A lot of good will resulted.

Adding Level 6 to 7/8 Regionals

Discussion: Multiple suggestions were made to incorporate the Level 6's into the 2016 Regional meet with the 7 and 8's. It was determined that the Level 6 competitors would compete in three sessions on Friday with State Team competition in the evening. The Level 7 State Team Competition would be at noon on Saturday with the Level 8 Team Competition scheduled for the last session on Saturday evening. Two full panels of judges would be used (i.e. two completely separate meets). Two meet referees will be used. The meet site in Asheville is large enough to accommodate the 2 meet format.

Discussion: Recommendations for judging panels from Sheila and Marian were presented and discussed.

Motion Shelley W moved to accept the judging panels for 2016 Level 6,7,8 Regionals as amended during the 4:30 discussion.

2nd Nancy L Passed unanimously Jennie Adams was not in the room for discussion or vote.

Motion Nancy L moved to adjourn.

2nd Joanne C Passed unanimously 4:34

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kornegay RACC Region 8

Jennie Kennel Adams Acting Secretary