

Region 8 USA Gymnastics Committee Meeting

Hilton Downtown Tampa, FL

Region 8 Congress

June 19, 2014

Members present:

Debby Kornegay – RACC

Marian Dykes – RTCC

Brad Harris – RJOCC

Elaine Wulf – RXCC

Deb Walls – AL

Otis Reeves - AL

Toni Rand – FL

Michelle Pomerantz – GA

Shelley Weil - LA

Nancy Hawkins – MS

Jennie Adams – NC

Joanne Child – SC

Larry Corrigan – TN

- Chairperson Deb K called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. All phones were placed on silent. Jennie Adams was appointed secretary for the meeting. Thank you notes to the Committee were distributed for the members to read. Deb K welcomed Otis Reeves to the Committee and everyone thanked Deb Walls for her long service to the Region and to Alabama.

**NAWGJ Contract**

**Motion**        **Marian D**        moved to approve the services of NAWGJ as the Region 8 judging contractor for 2014-2015.

**2<sup>nd</sup>**                **Joanne C**        Passed unanimously

Sheila Ragle RJD joined the meeting.

**National and Regional Judges Selection**

- Marian explained the rotation selection procedure for Brevet and select National judges from Region 8 who were recommended to judge Level 10 Nationals and Level 9 Easterns. She asked that the Committee consider a policy for adjustment to the rotation if a judge declines the invitation to judge or if a judge is not active in the Junior Olympic program.
- Judges for 2015 JO Nationals – Marian Dykes, Evelyn Chandler, Diane Thompson and Cookie Batsche

**Motion**        **Toni R**            moved to accept the Region 8 judge rotations for Level 10 Nationals.

**2<sup>nd</sup>**                **Larry C**           Passed unanimously

Judges for 2015 Level 9 Easterns - Mary Lou Dillard, Sheila Ragle and Sharyn Strickland

**Motion**        **Michelle P**       moved to accept the Region 8 judge rotations for Level 9 Easterns.

**2<sup>nd</sup>**                **Shelley W**       Passed unanimously

- Marian distributed the recommended list of Judging Assignments for 2015 Level 9/10 Regionals which will be held in Palmetto, FL. She and Sheila R led a discussion about how many judges per state were assigned. Traditionally the state of the host club will have 4 judges. Some states might have 0 to 1 judge assigned. It depends upon the number of judges from each state who are available and/or have completed availability requirements. Sheila also distributed a stat sheet, for discussion, reflecting the number of gymnasts from each state over the last two years who had qualified to Regionals and then qualified to Nationals and Easterns.

The list for judges for Level 9 & 10 Regionals in Palmetto, FL was distributed.

Sheila R and Jennie A were excused from the room for discussion and vote.

Judges for 2015 Level 9 & 10 Regionals – Mary Lou Dillard, Joan Gnat, Evelyn Chandler, Cookie Batsche, Sharyn Stirckland, Sheila Ragle, Gwyned Bius, Cathy Campfield, Mary Ann Wallace, Brenda Eberhardt, Diane Thompson, Jennie Adams, Terri Costa, Janet Efland, Sibby Lane, Natalia Grosso, and Marian Dykes MR. First alternate Denise Weaver, Second alternate Karen Pleasants

**Motion**            **Deb W**            moved to accept the 2015 Level 9/10 Regional judge slate.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**                    **Joanne C**           Passed unanimously

The list for judges for Level 7 & 8 Regionals in Mobile, AL was distributed.

Judges for 2015 Level 7 & 8 Regionals are Wendy Seabrooks, Phyllis Thompson, Rose Casterline, Marci Kaplan, Sharon Doyle, Kathlyn Skeslock, Patricia Boudreaux, Michelle Martin, Mary Jane McDaniel, Mary Moore, Kim Stenson, Karen Pleasants, Paul Padron, Patricia Faulkner, Jenna Rogers, Shannon Osucha and Marian Dykes MR. No alternate listed due to two judges per state rule.

**Motion**            **Nancy L**            moved to accept the 2015 Level 7/8 Regional judge slate.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**                    **Shelley W**           Passed unanimously.

- Elaine W asked the Committee to consider using 2 judge panels for the Xcel Regionals instead of 4 judge panels. Discussion followed. The cost of the Regional meet could be reduced. The uncertainty of the meet size vs. the number of judges needed would be reduced. Using a larger judge pool caused more judges to be in a long, intense judging situation that should increase the level of experience for newer judges.
- It was determined that no changes in the Xcel Regional meet format should occur before the 2015 Regional in Savannah. Elaine requested that the topic be added to the 2014 Winter meeting.

The list for judges for Level Xcel Regionals in Savannah, GA was distributed.

Sheila R and Jennie A were excused from the room for discussion and vote

Judges for 2015 Xcel Regionals are Panel 1 – Diane Peeks, Amy Arnts, Kevn McNamara, Pam Sherwood, June Seymour, Helena Brizzi, Kristi Aguilar, Michelle Martin, Mary Moore, Glynn Hankins, Cindy Cotton, Bertina, Vicki Walker, Carol Olney, Kerma Headrick, Jessica Lane and Sheila Ragle MR. Panel 2 – Tammye Goehring, Jamie Wallace, Susan Monihan, Amy Diuguid, Arlene Glass, Marilyn Bishop, Marian Dykes, Brenda Eberhardt, Mary Jane McDaniel, Bobbye Strickland, Olga Bodrikova, Stephanie Phillips, Davita Ivey, Pat Faulkner, Mary Phelps and Sibby Lane

**Motion**            **Shelley W**            moved that the 2015 Xcel Regional slate of recommended judges be approved.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**                    **Deb W**                    Passed unanimously  
Sheila R and Marian D left the room for the vote.

- It was recommended to Sheila R that she immediately send out 2015 Regional contracts to the approved judges with a copy of contract sent to the meet director from the judge.

**Motion**            **Marian D**            moved that if a Brevet judge does not fulfill and submit documentation of fulfilling the Junior Olympic Judging Assignment criteria for 2 years in a row, then he/she would be removed from the rotation order for

Eastern/National eligibility. If he/she requests to be placed back in the rotation order, a written request must be submitted to the Region 8 Committee with availability and, if accepted, may be placed back in the rotation at the bottom of the order.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Jennie A** Passed unanimously

- Marian D asked that each State Committee Chair send the CPE coordinator's name to her by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Marian D led a discussion about continuing the Regional Availability criteria of submitting level-of-gymnast-judged tracking numbers from the previous season. Nancy L stated that she appreciated seeing who judges what levels. This criteria, in addition to the training camp criteria, gave her an indication of a judge's interaction with the JO program.

**Motion Marian D** moved that the level tracking numbers on the Judge Regional Availability form should include numbers from Invitationals and State Meets only. (No Regionals) The deadline date of May 15<sup>th</sup> would remain in place.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle P** Passed unanimously

- Marian D asked the State Chairs to send each state's Optional State Meet Judging selection to her by November 1<sup>st</sup>. (Only send judge names for levels of state meets that have a following Regional meet) Clarification: State Committees should have selected and contracted the judges before sending the exact names to Marian.
- When the Region 8 Committee determines Regional Judging selections the members were encouraged to use the following criteria:
  - Completed availability forms received on time
  - Geographic location of the Regional Meet
  - Recommendation of the State Committee by either judge rotation or State Committee selection
  - An awareness of the percentage of gymnasts from each state who qualify to Easterns and Nationals.

Break – 11:10 – 11:23

**Region Xcel Committee Report** Elaine Wulf

- The link to the minutes of the National Xcel Committee's meeting that was held in May. <https://usagym.org/pages/women/minutes/nxc.html>
- Elaine W informed the Committee that Region 8 had the second largest number of registered Xcel gymnasts in the country. Region 6 was first.
- Elaine announced that the i-version of the Xcel Code was proofed and ready for sale. She emphasized that the order for the "gospel according to Xcel" would be 1) paper copy of version #2 of the Code, 2) updated minutes from the RXCC, 3) written words as opposed to the pictures in the Xcel Code, and 4) all these take precedence over judging aids/study materials.
- Elaine informed the members that the RTC position (Marian D) would be the person to contact for Technical questions beginning in the 2014-2015 season.
- Elaine explained that there would be new avenues for mobility within Xcel and from JO to Xcel, but coaches would need to refer to the charts in the new minutes and Code.
- She indicated some of the impacting changes that were approved at the May meeting:
  - Bronze warm-up time changed to 30 seconds. All other Divisions remained the same.
  - Change in vault values for Handspring and Yamashita for Diamonds.
  - Also Added HS Front tuck, Tsuk layout and Yurchenko layout to Diamond vault table.
  - The cast-squat on and/or the cast-pike on would now be considered 1 skill.
  - Clarification on awarding a series for a cartwheel – cartwheel on floor.

- A tumble strip may be used for Bronze and Silver Floor Competition if announced in the pre-meet information.
- At Bronze Division – Beam – legs are not required to be together for the partial handstand.
- New “A” skills have been added in the Xcel Code.
- At State Meet competitions, State Committees may create sub-Divisions, i.e. Novice, First Year, etc.
- Clarifications and changes to the Bronze and Silver vaults. (Values and Requirements)
- Check the May minutes for the specifics for these and more changes.

### **Regional Technical Committee Report**

Marian Dykes

11:50

- The link to the minutes of the joint National Technical Committee and Junior Olympic Committee meeting that was held in May. <https://usagym.org/pages/women/minutes/ntc.html>
- Marian announced that a Region 8 gymnast from Orlando Metro has a skill named after her on Beam – the Marinez – “D” value.
- Marian informed the Committee that there were changes in
  - additional matting regulations on Floor and
  - landing deductions with clarifications on foot positions and movements
- Marian explained that a change in the Judges Fee structure had been approved (A new table will be provided in the 2014-2015 Rules and Policies) as well as a clarification for compensated judging time.

### **Regional Junior Olympic Committee Report**

Brad Harris

- Brad referred the Committee to the joint meeting minute link listed above for specific.
- Brad targeted changes in
  - Nationals/NIT format for qualifying and competition at Level 10 Nationals
  - Level 6 deductions to be more consistent with progressions from Level 5 skills

### **Presentation of Regional Apparel – Leotards and Warm-ups**

12:44

- Representatives from Ozone gymnastics apparel presented sample designs of leotards and warm-ups for 7/8 Regional team wear along with price package explanations.

### **Regional Administrative Committee Report**

Deb Kornegay

1:16

- The link to the minutes of the National Administrative Committee meeting that was held in May
  - [https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/WAC/wac\\_051114.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/WAC/wac_051114.pdf)
  - Deb reported to the Committee that a question was raised at her May meeting about whether a Region could impose a more restrictive dress code at competitions than Rules and Policies. The answer was no.
  - Members were reminded that all sanction forms Must be sent to the National office for sanction to be complete and closed out. This includes any Training Camps.
  - Each state’s new USA Gymnastics logo needs to be implemented now on website, flyers, and emails. This will be a topic emphasized at the State Chairs Workshop at National Congress in Pittsburgh. Financial reports and procedures will also be discussed.
- GA Chair, Michelle P, asked a question concerning the ability of different gyms to combine gymnasts to form a conglomerate team at State Meet. **The R&P States:** If two different clubs (different names/owners) are coached by the same person, the State Administrative Committee may decide if the clubs may compete as one combined team in USA Gymnastics qualifying meets and State Championships. Therefore if the teams are not coached by same coach the USA Gymnastics State Committee still must approve teams combining for team competition at State Meets.

Break 1:26 – 1:40

**Regional Board Concerns**

Deb Kornegay

- Deb K asked for discussion on how Region 8 should best set up Regional Competitions for Xcel, and Levels 6,7,8,9,& 10 for 2015. The focused discussion was on whether or not to host a Level 6 Regional. Points made:
  - Level 6 is the only optional level to not provide a Regional experience.
  - Level 6 is not a required competitive level. A gymnast may advance from Level 5 to Level 7.
  - With the desire to have more potential competitors at Level 7 Regionals, it is not feasible to include Level 6 gymnasts...not enough time in the already crowded weekends.
- The consensus of the members concluded that the Region 8 Committee did not feel that a Level 6 Regional competition was appropriate at this time.

**Presentation of Regional Apparel – Leotards and Warm-ups**

2:00

- Representatives from the Dream Team of GymKin gymnastics apparel presented sample designs of leotards and warm-ups for 7/8 Regional team wear along with price package explanations.

Annie Heffernon, Women’s JO Program Director was welcomed to the meeting. When asked a question about the new logo, Annie clarified that the State Committees and the Regional Committees must use the official logo without any modifications.

**Regional Board Concerns cont.**

- Deb K presented her request to have all State Committees use Meetmaker.com as the Optional State Meet registration vehicle. By doing so, the task of the Regional Chairperson in setting up Regional meets in such a small window of time would be greatly facilitated. The Meetmaker fee structure was discussed. Deb was asked to negotiated a reduced fee if all 8 states came on board with the proposal.

**Motion**

**Brad H**

moved that If athletes reside in a state that does not offer all divisions of Xcel at a State Championship, then Xcel athletes in any division in that state may qualify to Xcel Regional Championships by scoring 1.00 higher than the regional qualifying score for their division in 2 sanctioned meets using a 2 judge panel. Documentation must be sent to the SACC.

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Jennie A**

Passed unanimously

Elaine W reminded the Committee that official Xcel medals from A-1 must be used for State Competitions by 2015. Because of the narrow time frame for all the Regionals in April, Deb K asked Elaine to take the Xcel Regional entries from MeetMaker and set up the competition format, confirming all the entries. Deb reminded the members that if the Xcel State Meet entry fee was more than \$65 they needed to ask for a waiver from her.

Because of the different State Team/All Star format that is used at Xcel Regionals Deb asked for a discussion on continuing to allow a gymnast to compete on state team and then compete a second time as an All Star for her gym club team award.

**Motion**

**Jennie A**

moved that beginning at the 2015 Xcel Regional Championships an athlete will only be able to compete once. The score achieved by an Xcel State Team gymnast may count for her Club Team score.

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Elaine W**

Passed unanimously

- A change in policy was suggested to keep the same Regional Team leotard selection in place for 2 years, rather than just 1 year. It was decided to remain with the one year commitment.

- Motion**      **Elaine W**      moved to adjust the Xcel Regional qualifying scores as follows:  
Bronze and Silver Divisions      35.50 AA  
Gold, Platinum, Diamond Divisions      35.00 AA
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**              **Michelle P**      Passed unanimously

Discussion on whether a Diamond State Team session will be held in 2015. Discussion was tabled to the Winter meeting so that State Chairman can gather numbers.

- Deb K asked the State Chairs to send her the number of potential Diamond athletes in each state by the December Region 8 Committee meeting.

- Motion**      **Brad H**      moved to adjust the 2015 Level 9 Regional qualifying score to 34.50 AA while the Level 10 Regional qualifying score would remain a 34.00 AA.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**              **Larry C**      Passed unanimously

- Deb K reminded the State Chairs that Region 8 provides all coaches who qualify athletes to Level 9 Easterns and JO Nationals with apparel to wear at these National competitions. Failure to wear this apparel will result in a \$100 fine to the State account. The State Chairperson will collect the fine.
- Deb K asked the State Chairs to link their JO and Xcel competitive calendars to the Region 8 website by August 1<sup>st</sup>. She collected all the 2015 State Meet dates from each state.
- Deb K called attention to three early bids for 2016 Regional competitions from Cabarrus County Gymnastics in North Carolina. It was determined that the decision for awarding the bids would be added to the Winter 2014 meeting agenda.
- Deb K thanked Meet Integrity for producing and printing the Region 8 Address Books.
- Deb K reported the balances in the Region 8 Fund and the Travel Fund.
- Dates and sites for the **2015** Region 8 Regional Meets
  - April 16-19              Level 9/10 Regionals at Bradenton Area Convention Center, Palmetto FL
  - April 24-26              Level 7/8 Regionals at Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, AL
  - April 30-May 3              Xcel Regionals at Savannah Civic Center, Savannah, GA
- Dates for the **2016** Region 8 Regional Meets
  - April 7-10              Level 9/10 Regionals
  - April 21-24              Level 7/8 Regionals

- Motion**      **Joanne C**      moved that the 2016 date for Xcel Regionals be changed to May 13-15, 2016.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**              **Shelley W**      **Passed** 8 For    Opposed – 2 (AL & GA)

- Bids are needed for the following Region 8 Regional events:
  - 2015 Level 7/8 Training Camp              July 24-26
  - 2015 National Team Training Camp              September 11-13
  - 2015 Level 8,9,10 Training Camp              October 2-4
  - 2016 Level 9/10 Regionals              April 7-10
  - 2016 Level 7/8 Regionals              April 22-24
  - 2016 Xcel Regionals              May 13-15

Discussion of possible dates for 2016 Region 8 Congress.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice      June 17-19, 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice      June 10-12, 2016
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice      July 22-24, 2016

Sophomore/Junior forms name will change to College form. It is open at <http://region8gymnastics.org/SoJr/new>

- Motion**      **Brad H**      moved that if an athlete for Xcel, Level 7 or Level 8 State Team is unable to compete in the State Team session at Regionals due to religious or valid unforeseen reasons, they must declare to the State Chairperson by the State Meet entry deadline their intent to not compete as a member of the State Team. The athlete may compete as an All Star if she qualifies within the state's percentage.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**      **Joanne C**      Passed unanimously

If an invitational is a qualifying meet, the SAC can set the gate and awards

Lack of gymnasts signed up for Xcel Training Camp. Camp canceled.

- Nancy Lay, MS State Chairperson, reported to the Committee that hosting the Level 10 Nationals was a once in a lifetime experience. She believes that the Region was well served from all the feedback that she had received. Annie H concurred. If anyone in Region 8 is thinking about submitting a bid, she would be more than happy to share talking points with them. She is working on a detailed outline for future meet directors. She was most surprised to discover that more than \$100.00 in the budget was needed for safety pins. Nancy L thanked Shelley W and Jennie A for volunteering the whole weekend. All volunteers were greatly appreciated and Nancy understood their needed impact on the meet's success.
- Deb K reminded Committee members, meet directors, and all coaches of their shared responsibilities for a fulfilling a valid sanction experience. There were coaches at the Level 9/10 Regionals who signed in who were not professional members. There were coaches at 9 Easterns and 10 Nationals who had gymnasts on the floor warming up who were teammates only, and not valid competitors. Deb stated that there was no room for this type of unprofessional behavior. Even if fines are levied, it is not respectful to every other competitor or coach.
- In response to a question about the relationship with AAU's use of USA Gymnastics materials, Deb K stated that the national office had notified her that use fees had been paid. Committee members asked that official specific restrictions concerning skill/routine modifications be available to USA Gymnastics administrators.

### Regional JO Program

- Deb K presented the Financial Reports from 2014 Region 8 Regionals. Lv 9/10 Regionals reported a profit of \$38,203.44. Lv 7/8 Regionals reported a profit of \$27,413.58. Xcel Regionals reported a profit of \$76,733.00. Deb K requested that all Regional Meet Directors use the standard financial forms acquired from the USA Gymnastics website.
- Regional entry fees will remain the same for 2015 at \$100.00/gymnast.

**State Chairperson Concerns**

- Deb K reminded State Chairs of their duties for the Region 8 Congress this weekend. She also asked that each state provide someone to help with duties at any of the Region 8 Regional events, even if the State Chair would not be able to attend.
- Cookie Batsche, Randy Fox, and Louise Peck were to be the 2014 Inductees at Congress' Region 8 Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday night.
- Deb K suggested to the State Chairs that State Meet host site selections were often viewed as preferential to members of the State's Committee. She asked that the bid process be transparent. She also asked that if a bid were denied, share with the meet director reasons why it was not selected.
- Deb K asked that any scratches for Level 7/8 Regionals should go through her office and not the State Chair's position. Any decline/accept information should be in writing and sent by email.
- Deb K asked that each state's voting procedure for Coach/Athlete/Judge/Club of the Year be clarified, transparent, and available to all professional members.
- Deb K requested that all states send her confirmation of the Xcel Divisions that would be held at their 2015 State Meets.
- State Chairs should send their Inventory Report and USA Gymnastics Competitive Information Report to Deb K by 8-31-14.
- Deb K ([debgk@me.com](mailto:debgk@me.com)) and Marian D ([mariandykes@aol.com](mailto:mariandykes@aol.com)) should be added to each State Chair's professional email list for all communications.
- The Winter 2014 Region 8 Committee meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, site to be determined.

**Other Business**

- The Committee members cast their votes for Regional Apparel provider for 2015.
  - Ozone – 6 votes      Gym Kin – 4 votes      1 recusal
- Ozone will work with State Committees to provide Regional Level 7/8 State Team apparel.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Jennie A</b>	moved to adjourn.	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Joanne C</b>	Passed unanimously	5:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennie Kennel Adams  
Appointed Secretary