

In an effort to strengthen our policies to ensure the safety of the athletes both in the gym and at competitions, USA Gymnastics has instituted a new policy regarding unaffiliated athletes.

As the policy went into effect Monday, September 15, 2014, the online version of the *Women's Rules and Policies* has been updated. Chapters 1 and 3 reflect these changes. The printed versions you have already received do not reflect these changes as the book went to print before the policy was activated. I plan to put together a list of R&P changes for posting sometime tomorrow.

Please pass on the following message to your committee members and your membership:

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 2, 2014 – As part of the organization's ongoing efforts to promote a safe environment for athletes, USA Gymnastics has strengthened its policy regarding athlete participation in USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events. Effective Sept. 15, 2014, all athlete members must be affiliated with a USA Gymnastics member club to participate in USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events.

As of Sept. 15, 2014, unaffiliated athletes may no longer compete in USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events. All athletes participating in USA Gymnastics-sanctioned events must be affiliated with a USA Gymnastics member club. Only member clubs may apply for membership in USA Gymnastics on behalf of an athlete and/or register a team of athletes into sanctioned events. All member clubs agree to follow a number of registration requirements, including implementing recommendations from the Participant Welfare Policy; certifying that no persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership – which includes convicted sex offenders and/or persons on the permanently ineligible for membership list – are or will be associated with the club or its activities in any way during the club's membership period; and employing at least one staff member who holds a current, certified professional membership (or a certified instructor for a recreational facility).