

WOMEN'S JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
May 19 & 20, 2008 Kissimmee, FL

I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Tom Koll called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM on May 19th.

Region 1	Dan Witenstein
Region 2	Laurie Reid
Region 3	Cheryl Jarrett
Region 4	Don Houlton
Region 5	Kittia Carpenter (Regional rep for John Geddert)
Region 6	Larry Goldsmith
Region 7	John Wojtczuk (Regional rep for Linda Johnson)
Region 8	Brad Harris
Junior Olympic Program Director	Connie Maloney
Vice President Program	Kathy Kelly

II. JR. OLYMPIC NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (JO-NIT)

Connie Maloney presented the concept of a National Invitational Tournament for Level 10's to be held the day following JO Nationals. She requested the committee's support and suggestions for qualifications.

Recommendation that a National Invitational Tournament be conducted at JO Nationals, effective 2009. The format and qualification procedures for this individual competition is to be determined after analyzing the 2008 data.

Motion: D. Witenstein

Second: B. Harris

PASSED

Note: Don Houlton volunteered to analyze the data and proposed formats for the competition. Formats for the inclusion of the Individual Event specialists will be presented as well.

III. JR. OLYMPIC NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

Presently the JO National Team (top 4 All-Around athletes per age division at JO Nationals) is invited (all expenses paid) to a training camp at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center. In the effort to provide additional opportunities for more high level JO athletes to experience a training camp, Connie proposed that the committee consider supporting the office's idea to conduct another training camp (for additional JO athletes at their own expense). This camp would be held annually in late October/early November at the National Training Center in Houston. The proposed dates for 2008 are: arrival on Thurs. October 30th and departure on Monday, November 3rd. The committee was requested to determine the qualifications for this training camp.

Recommendation that the following 40 athletes be invited at their own expense to attend the Fall Jr. Olympic Training Camp:

- Level 10 athletes ranked #5th, 6th, 7th & 8th All-Around at JO Nationals in the Junior A, B, C, D and Senior A & B age divisions.
- Level 9 All-Around champions in each of the eight age divisions from both Eastern and Western Championships.
- In the case that an athlete declines, the next ranked gymnast in that age division will be invited to attend.

Motion: B. Harris

Second: D. Houlton

PASSED

IV. VAULT RUNWAY

Recommendation to increase the maximum runway length for Levels 8-10 from 80 feet to 82 feet, as per FIG specifications. The minimum of 76 feet remains unchanged.

Motion: D. Houlton

Second: D. Witenstein

PASSED

The committee also discussed the height of the vault table, FIG specs, and the thicker (3/4 inch) runway but did not take any action.

V. R&P UPDATE

Recommendation to delete the statement from the Rules and Policies on page 43, G. regarding the recommendation for coaches to stand in front or behind the vault table to “spot” Round-off entry vaults.

Motion: C. Jarrett

Second: L. Reid

PASSED

VI. MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE TO EAST/WEST AND JO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The committee discussed raising the minimum qualifying score for East/West and JO Nationals. It was decided not to make any change at this time. It will be revisited at the end of next season.

VII. INDIVIDUAL SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

This is a States' rights issue. It is on the agenda for the State Chairmen workshop in June to brainstorm ideas.

VIII. FORMAT FOR EASTERN/WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The committee discussed changing the format of the Eastern/Western Championships to eliminate the individual competitors and create a format that would be comprised totally of Regional Teams.

Recommendation to change the format of the Level 9 Eastern/Western Championships as follows:

Increase the number of age groups from 8 to 16, with six (6) athletes per region per age division qualifying.

Each session will include two age divisions of twenty-four (24) gymnasts.

Motion: B. Harris

Second: L. Reid

PASSED

~~**Recommendation that the Regional Team scores for each age division at Easterns and Westerns are to be determined by the top three (3) scores per event.**~~

Motion: D. Houlton

Second: L. Goldsmith

DEFEATED

Note: The top four scores per event will continue to determine the Regional Team Score.

Clarification for adding athletes at Eastern or Western Championships to regional teams that cannot field six athletes per age division:

- a. The top six AA gymnasts in each of the 16 age divisions from each of the four regions will compete as a Regional Team member, provided that they achieve a minimum of 34.00 AA at the Regional Championships.
 - Note: Any gymnasts who tie for 6th place AA will attend the Eastern or Western Championships and will be outfitted as the other competitors. The tie-breaking procedures will be used to determine which gymnast's scores will count for Regional Team score and which will compete as an Individual.
- b. If any region is unable to field a team of six gymnasts per age division, the open slots will be filled based upon the Regional Team results from the previous year. Since there are more age divisions in 2009, the winning team of an age division from 2008 will be considered the first place replacement for two of the 2009 age divisions (Example, the winner of the 2008 Junior A division will be considered first to fill an empty slot in both the Junior 1 and Junior 2 divisions in 2009).
 1. If one spot needs to be filled, the 7th place athlete from the region whose regional team won that respective division the previous year will fill the spot. All athletes from the 1st place region who might be involved in a tie for 7th place will be used to fill the empty spots before any other region's athletes are assigned.
 2. If more than one spot needs to be filled in an age division and there were no ties in the 1st place region, the next individual added is the 7th place athlete from the region whose regional team placed second in the previous year.
 3. Only athletes from the regions that placed 1st and 2nd in the specific age division the previous year may fill the incomplete squads.

IX. JO COACH OF THE YEAR

The committee discussed the JO Coach of the Year and made the selection. The JO Coach of the Year will be presented at the Visa National Championships and again at the Women's Program Appreciation Luncheon. The following individuals were nominated from their regions:

- Region 1 Justin Howell – Airborne
- Region 2 John and Tammy Carney – Gymnastics East
- Region 3 Jason Baits, Jaycee Phelps, Kathy Vigil – Colorado Aerials
- Region 4 Mike Hunger and Sammy Wozeny – Twin City Twisters
- Region 5 Ruth Miller – Oakland Gymnastics
- Region 6 Jamie Winkler, Sergie and Galina Petrouniak - Galaxy
- Region 7 Tony Gehman – Northstars-NJ
- Region 8 Johnny Morale – Elite Gymnastics

X. MUSIC

Recommendation that all Floor Exercise music be in the form of CD or MP3 and that Meet Directors of all sanctioned meets have the necessary equipment.

Motion: C. Jarrett
Second: L. Goldsmith
PASSED

XI. EQUIPMENT AT REGIONALS OR EASTERN/WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Recommendation that if the equipment provided at Regionals or Eastern/Western Championships is unfamiliar to the coaches, the USA Gymnastics representative will determine if the timed warm-up procedures need to be altered.

Motion: D. Witenstein
Second: L. Reid
PASSED

XII. SCORES AT JO NATIONAL

Recommendation that the Regional Team scores for each age division at J.O. Nationals be determined by adding the top four (4) scores on each event.

Motion: L. Goldsmith
Second: B. Harris
PASSED

XII. CODE OF ETHICS

JO Committee seeks information on our authority over coach behavior at sanctioned competitions. The office will seek advisement from our attorney to determine if the use of alcohol, tobacco products, carrying guns, etc. at USAG-sanctioned events can be banned.

XIII. CALENDAR

Sites listed are pending final contracts.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
9/10 State Meets	March 28-29	March 20-21	March 26-27	March 24-25
9/10 Regionals	April 17-19	April 9-11	April 9-10 Level 9 only	April 20-22
Level 10 only Regionals	April 25-26	April 17-18	April 15-17 Level 9/10	April 28-29
Level 9 East/West	May 7-10 East: Tupelo, MS West: Bartlesville, OK	April 29-May 2 East: Region 7 West: Des Moines, IA	May 5-8 East: Region 6 West: TBD	May 10-13 East: TBD West: TBD
JO Nationals	May 14-17 Auburn (Seattle), WA	May 6-9 Long Beach, CA	May 12-15 Dallas, TX	May 17-20 Landover, MD

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm on May 20th.

