



NATIONAL JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM / TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025

Hilton Downtown Salt Lake – Salt Lake City, UT

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Linda Thorberg (National Technical Committee Chair) and Tom Koll (National Development Program Committee Chair), who then presided over the meeting.

PRESENT

Region	Development (Dev) Program Committee	Technical (Tech) Committee	Voting status
National Committee Chair	Tom Koll	Linda Thorberg	Non-voting*
Region 1	JD Macdonald	Gigi Iavarone	Voting
Region 2	Tiffany Quincy	Laurie Reid	Voting
Region 3	Rich Villarreal	Marilyn Blilie	Voting
Region 4	Paige Roth	Windee Weiss	Voting
Region 5	Kittia Carpenter	Sue Kane	Voting
Region 6	Jamie Winkler	Pat Panichas	Voting
Region 7	Linda Johnson	Jane Caruso	Voting
Region 8	Brad Harris	Evelyn Chandler	Voting

*Casts a vote only in the case of a tie or acclamation.

- Vice President, Women's Program: Annie Heffernon (Non-voting)
- Women's Development Program Director: Christy Naik (Non-voting)
- Women's Technical Director: Nichole Otterson (Non-voting)
- National Xcel Committee Chair: Claudia Kretschmer (Non-voting)

GUESTS

- Women's Judges' Accreditation Coordinator: Connie Maloney (via Zoom)
- Xcel Program Manager: Heather Ould
- AAI representative: Andy Timm
- NAWGJ representative: Teresa Barnard
- NCAA representative: Liz Crandall-Howell

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE ARE EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUGUST 1, 2025.

- RULES AND POLICIES:** Recommendation for **State meets and above**, Verification sheets (heat sheets) are required to be used. At local or invitational meets, their use is left to the discretion of the Meet Director. If a verification sheet is not used, the Chief Judge must document both individual scores, the average score, and any neutral deductions.
MOTION: Evelyn Chandler (R8 - Tech)
SECOND: Linda Johnson (R7 - Dev)
PASSED
- RULES & POLICIES:** Recommendation to allow (if available on an event) an alternate skill cushion made of softer foam (minimum of 4 ft. x 6 ft. x 8 in.) to be used in warm-ups at all sanctioned competitions.
MOTION: Rich Villarreal (R3 - Dev)
SECOND: Gigi Iavarone (R1 - Tech)
PASSED



3. **RULES AND POLICIES:** Recommendation to update that the **placement of a springboard on the vaulting table is strictly prohibited at all times**, including during open stretch and warm-up periods. The Meet Director is responsible for enforcing this rule.
MOTION: Pat Panichas (R6 – Tech)
SECOND: Paige Roth (R4 – Dev)
PASSED
4. **RULES & POLICIES, CODE OF POINTS, COMPULSORY BOOK:** Recommendation to clarify procedure for all apparatuses: If an athlete requires medical assessment due to injury, they may complete the routine and resume competition within the same session once medically cleared. A 30-second touch warm-up may be allowed upon return.
MOTION: Brad Harris (R8 – Dev)
SECOND: Jane Caruso (R7 – Tech)
PASSED
5. **COMPULSORY BOOK, CODE OF POINTS – VAULT:** Recommendation to **add deduction** (Level 1 – 10): Gymnast fails to punch board simultaneously with two feet. – **0.20**
MOTION: Sue Kane (R5 – Tech)
SECOND: Linda Johnson (R7 – Dev)
PASSED
6. **RULES & POLICIES, CODE OF POINTS, COMPULSORY BOOK – UNEVEN BARS:** Recommendation to **add** to Chief Judge (CJ) deduction: A deduction will be applied if a coach applies water or chalk to the uneven bars while the athlete is actively competing on the equipment. No warning is required. **This does not apply if the athlete has fallen and is off the equipment.**
MOTION: Windee Weiss (R4 – Tech)
SECOND: Paige Roth (R4 – Dev)
PASSED
7. **COMPULSORY BOOK – UNEVEN BARS:** Recommendation to update the **Level 5 Uneven Bar dismount ONLY: WHEN COACH SPOTS / ASSISTS DURING AN ELEMENT** – eliminate the deduction of up to the value of the element of a Flyaway in tuck, pike, or layout position. Deduct **0.50** for the spot in addition to any applicable execution errors.
MOTION: Brad Harris (R8 – Dev)
SECOND: Windee Weiss (R4 – Tech)
PASSED
8. **CODE OF POINTS – UNEVEN BARS:** Recommendation to update for **equipment failure:** If the bar cable tension slips while an athlete is competing (after the coach has tightened the tension prior to the start of the routine), it is considered equipment failure. The **0.50** Fall deduction would not apply.
MOTION: Laurie Reid (R2 – Tech)
SECOND: Jamie Winkler (R6 – Dev)
PASSED
9. **CODE OF POINTS – UNEVEN BARS:** Recommendation to **increase value of BARS 6.301 “C” to 6.401 “D”** – Stalder forward to handstand with 1/1 (360°) turn on one arm after handstand phase (Healy) to L or mixed-L grip.
MOTION: Pat Panichas (R6 – Tech)
SECOND: Paige Roth (R4 – Dev)
PASSED

- 10. CODE OF POINTS – UNEVEN BARS:** Recommendation to **add** a fourth choice under **Specific Compositional Deductions: Choice of elements** – Failure to perform two elements that fulfill two out of ~~three~~ **four** of the following requirements (excluding dismounts):
1. One forward element (circle or release) (minimum of “B”)
 2. One element from Groups 3 / 6 / 7 (minimum of “B”)
 3. One element with a minimum of 180° LA turn, with or without flight (minimum of “C”)
 4. **One Single Bar release (minimum of “D”)**
- *A reminder, one element may only fulfill one Choice.
- MOTION:** Tiffany Quincy (R2 – Dev)
SECOND: Pat Panichas (R6 – Tech)
PASSED
- 11. COMPULSORY BOOK – BALANCE BEAM:** Recommendation to **add** to text description for **Level 1–5 Compulsory Beam Mounts:** Place both hands shoulder-width apart on the beam (left hand can be straight or sideways) and jump to a FRONT SUPPORT **to finish** with arms straight and body extended.
- MOTION:** Linda Johnson (R7 – Dev)
SECOND: Windee Weiss (R4 – Tech)
PASSED
- 12. CODE OF POINTS – BALANCE BEAM:** Recommendation to accept **new element #2.501– “E”** – From side stand Ring Jump (rear leg at head height) with ½ turn (180°) (Pennucci).
- MOTION:** Pat Panichas (R6 – Tech)
SECOND: Jamie Winkler (R6 – Dev)
PASSED
- 13. CODE OF POINTS – BALANCE BEAM:** Recommendation to update for **equipment failure:** If the Balance Beam end cap detaches while an athlete is **in the process of a dismount**, it is considered equipment failure. The 0.50 Fall deduction would not apply. *The end cap falling off during any other point in the athlete’s routine would not be considered equipment failure.*
- MOTION:** Pagie Roth (R4 – Dev)
SECOND: Evelyn Chandler (R8 – Tech)
PASSED
- 14. COMPULSORY BOOK – FLOOR:** Recommendation to decrease the Level 3 backward roll deduction: Performs a backward roll to handstand – from 0.40 to **0.20**
- MOTION:** Jamie Winkler (R6 Dev)
SECOND: Evelyn Chandler (R8 Tech)
PASSED
- 15. CODE OF POINTS – FLOOR:** Recommendation to **add** “or less than above” to **Choice of Acro Saltos:**
- Not Up to the level (UTL): Appendix 15 Floor Exercise** to read:
- Level 8–No “B” Saltos **or less than above**
 - Level 9–No “C” Saltos **or less than above**
 - Level 10–No “D/E” Saltos **or less than above**
- MOTION:** Pat Panichas (R6 – Tech)
SECOND: Jamie Winkler (R6 – Dev)
PASSED



- 16. CODE OF POINTS – FLOOR:** Recommendation to **decrease the CJ deduction** “Absence of music or music with words or song / speech” from - “1.00 to 0.50.”
MOTION: Kittia Carpenter (R5 Dev)
SECOND: Evelyn Chandler (R8 Tech)
PASSED
- 17. CODE OF POINTS – FLOOR:** Recommendation to **establish a music approval subcommittee** of national committee members who will define a **music approval process to begin August 1, 2026.**
MOTION: Windee Weiss (R4 Tech)
SECOND: JD MacDonald (R1 Dev)
PASSED
- 18. CODE OF POINTS – FLOOR:** Recommendation to **add:** A 0.50 deduction will be applied **if a gymnast leaves the floor during the routine.** *This deduction should not be taken in addition to a fall out of bounds or a fall immediately preceding the gymnast leaving the floor for medical evaluation.*
MOTION: Windee Weiss (R4 Tech)
SECOND: Kittia Carpenter (R5 Dev)
PASSED
- 19. CODE OF POINTS – FLOOR:** Recommendation to update **placement of additional matting allowed on Floor Exercise:** All matting must be in place PRIOR to the start of the routine and cannot be added once the routine has started. A 0.30 unauthorized use of matting deduction will be applied if matting is added after the exercise has begun. *Mats may be removed during a routine only if taken from the nearest boundary line. The person removing the matting should stay outside the floor area as much as possible. Briefly stepping inside the border marking to remove mats will not result in a deduction.*
MOTION: Paige Roth (R4 Dev)
SECOND: Kittia Carpenter (R5 Dev)
PASSED

RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE JOINT XCEL/TECH MEETING:

- 20. RULES AND POLICIES:** Recommendation to clarify the video review process to address judges’ affiliation with an event: At all sanctioned competitions, a coach may request a video review by the Meet Referee and highest rated **judge unaffiliated with that event** (if video is available) following an inquiry.
 - If the Meet Referee or highest rated judge is affiliated with the athlete in question, the video review will be conducted by the next two (2) highest rated judges **unaffiliated with the athlete**, or the highest rated unaffiliated judge and a USA Gymnastics officer.**MOTION:** Evelyn Chandler (R8 – Tech)
SECOND: Linda Johnson (R7– Dev)
PASSED
- 21. CODE OF POINTS – BEAM:** Recommendation to add a shoulder stand variation to BEAM #1.108 Chest or Head Stand mount.
MOTION: Paige Roth (R4 – Dev)
SECOND: Marilyn Blilie (R3 – Tech)
PASSED
- 22. CODE OF POINTS – DEDUCTIONS:** Recommendation to remove the 0.30 deduction (Level 6–10) for no dismount (Bars, Beam, Floor) from the Code of Points.
MOTION: Linda Johnson (R7 – Dev)
SECOND: Jane Caruso (R7 – Tech)
PASSED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Format Transition – 2026

Beginning in 2026 with the Development Program Code of Points, USA Gymnastics will transition the *Development Program Code of Points*, *Xcel Code of Points*, and *Compulsory Book* to a digital-only format.

This change addresses annual committee meeting updates, corrections, and version control issues that made printed materials quickly outdated and hard to maintain. The digital format ensures access to the most current version in one place, with no shipping delays or costs. This transition also resolves ongoing production challenges and allows for faster release of finalized materials without back orders.

Users desiring a printed copy will still have the ability to download a PDF from the digital version to print at home.

DISCUSSION – The committee discussed the following topics, but **NO ACTION** was taken:

1. Updating regulations regarding event participants walking onto the floor during competition and removing mats, no allowable cheering.
2. Observing warm-up time on bump touch.
3. Warm-up Time Level 6
4. Discussion regarding current FX Acro UTL deductions, deferred to 2026 *Development Program Code of Points*.
5. A run out glide kip would receive a 0.30 deduction for hit on the mat with foot / feet in addition to any applicable execution errors.

Meeting adjourned – 5:00 pm.