



Rhythmic Program Committee Meeting

By Email February 5 & 13, 2021

Roll Call:

Suzi DiTullio (Chair)	National Administrative Committee, Chair (non-voting)
Olga Kutuzova	National Judges Representative
Elena Savenkova	Member at Large
Natalya Kozitskaya	IEC Representative
Rebecca Sereda	Athlete Representative
Serena Lu	Athlete Representative
Caroline Hunt (non-voting)	Rhythmic Program Director
Jayne Vincent (non-voting)	Rhythmic Program Coordinator

Proposal #1, Regarding Level 9 Classic & Elite Qualifier

1. April date: Level 9 JR, 3 events—we had planned 3 events for 2020 (no ball)—and due to the participation numbers this will be more feasible.
2. For 2021 only, given the “lost” year and our numbers now---we would like to propose that all Level 9 Juniors who advance from the Level 9 Classic to the Elite Qualifier will become Level 10. This will allow the opportunity for more Level 9 Juniors to become Level 10 in the 2021 season, providing additional motivation coming out of a pandemic year and increasing the number of Level 10 Juniors in the country as there are currently only 12. According to survey results, there are 233 Level 9 Juniors. Taking 40 as new level 10s this year would be approximately 17% of the Junior L9 field.
3. Level 9 SR will all be able to compete in the Elite Qualifier which will be a combined Level 9 SR/Elite Qualifier---all Level 9 and Level 10 SR will compete together to advance the top 25 to Championships. Per the Rules & Policies, any Level 9 Seniors who place in the top 30, ranked with all Level 10 Seniors will advance to Level 10. Separate award categories for Level 9 Classic and Regional Team Championships will be awarded in addition to the Elite Qualifier awards.

Proposed by: Natalya Kozitskaya

Seconded by: Rebecca Sereda

Approved: All

Note: This update needs to be approved by the USOPC and USA Gymnastics Board of Directors because the Level 9 Classic is part of the pathway to the Olympic Games. We expect this to be approved shortly.

Proposal #2 Regarding Foreign Athletes:

All gymnasts who have an FIG license with another country be categorized as Level 10 gymnasts when competing in the US, including any gymnasts with dual citizenship. If a gymnast with dual citizenship competes at international competitions for another country but does not have an FIG License for that country, she would be categorized as Level 9 when competing in the US. Any gymnast with an FIG license for another country can compete at the US Elite Qualifier and would receive duplicate awards in a category together with non-citizen gymnasts and would not be eligible to advance to the US Elite Championships.

Proposed by: Elena Savenkova

Secoded by: Olga Kutuzova

Approved: All

Proposal #3 Level 6-8 Regional Championships Structure & Development Program National Championships Qualification

- To be eligible for qualification to the Development Program National Championships, all level 6-8 athletes in each region must compete under the same conditions – either fully in person or fully virtual
- To gain an understanding of what is best for athletes in each region and act on the needs/preferences of athletes/parents to create a fair playing field for qualification that accommodates as many athletes as possible, USA Gymnastics will conduct a survey for parents all of current level 6-8 athletes in each region. This will be a separate survey for each region.
- If at least 80% of level 6-8 parents in a region vote that they are willing to travel to the anticipated location for an in-person Regional Championships, the region will host a live, in-person Regional Championship.
- If fewer than 80% of level 6-8 parents in a region vote that they are willing to travel to the anticipated location for an in-person Regional Championships, the region will host a virtual Regional Championship. In this case all routines will be performed and judged live (no uploaded routines).
- USA Gymnastics will conduct these surveys and then inform the Regions of the result for their region – virtual or in-person.
- For regions with a live in-person Regional Championship, athletes who prefer to compete virtually may do so, but will not be eligible for qualification to the Development Program National Championships and will be awarded separately from the in-person athletes.
- For virtual Regional Championships, meet directors should have athletes of the same level compete in a session with others from their club when possible. Smaller clubs can be mixed with bigger clubs. All competitors of a level should compete before moving on to the next level.
 - For example
 - Club A level 6
 - Club B level 6
 - Club A Level 7
 - Club B Level 7
- For in-person Regional Championships, meet directors may choose the session structure that works best for their event (by age or by club) ensuring that athletes of the same level compete together.

Proposed by: Elena Savenkova

Seconded by: Rebecca Sereda

Approved: 4 in favor; 1 against

Proposal #4 2021 Session Structure for invitational/State Championships

For the 2021 season, meet directors may structure their competitive sessions by club (instead of by level and age group) if preferred as a COVID precaution.

Proposed by: Elena Savenkova

Seconded by: Olga Kutuzova

Approved: All