



**JOINT MEETING  
JUNIOR OLYMPIC & TECHNICAL COMMITTEES  
Indianapolis, IN  
May 8, 2017**

**I. Meeting was called to order by Tom Koll (NJOCC) and Cheryl Hamilton (NTCC) at 8:00 am.**

Roll Call:	<u>Technical Committee</u>	<u>JO Committee</u>
Region 1	Neela Nelson	Shane McIntyre
Region 2	Linda Mulvihill	Laurie Reid
Region 3	Carole Bunge	Ashly Baker, Rich Villarreal
Region 4	Linda Thorberg	Bryon Hough
Region 5	Char Christensen	Kittia Carpenter
Region 6	Pat Panichas	Larry Goldsmith, Jamie Winkler
Region 7	Myra Efenbein	Linda Johnson
Region 8	Marian Dykes	Brad Harris
NACC	Cori Rizzo	
NXCC	Claudia Kretschmer	
JO Program Director	Annie Heffernon	
JO Technical Director	Connie Maloney	
SR VP – Women’s Program	Rhonda Faehn	
VP of Member Services	Cheryl Jarrett	
Guest – NCAA Coaches Rep	Sam Morreale	
Guest- NAWGJ President	Evelyn Chandler	
Guest- GK Elite representative	Wendy Martin	

On behalf of both committees, Tom Koll welcomed the committee members and introduced the officers, staff, and guests.

**II. GK Elite Sportswear report** – Wendy Martin expressed that GK continues to grow and is honored to be working with USA Gymnastics. She discussed the passion and commitment of their staff to the sport and to USA Gymnastics. The support and quality product that GK Elite Sportswear continues to provide and has provided for so many years is appreciated.

**III. NCAA Coaches report** – Sam Morreale discussed the new 2017 NCAA recruiting guidelines and emphasized the importance of USA Gymnastics and the NCAA working together to continue to grow both programs.

**IV. NAWGJ report** – NAWGJ President Evelyn Chandler distributed a report to the committees. Total NAWGJ membership has increased for the sixth year in a row, with active membership totaling 2246. Jan Eyman has been named the NAWGJ National Education Director. One of the main tasks for this individual will be to oversee the development of educational projects and acquire approval for all technical information. The NAWGJ Board Meeting and State Judging Directors’ workshop will be July 10-16, 2017 in Milwaukee, WI. The National Symposium will be conducted in July, 2019 in Fort Worth, TX.

**V. Xcel Report** – Claudia Kretschmer updated the committees on the progress of the Xcel National program. Participant numbers continue to grow. The Xcel Committee continues to maintain the original philosophy of inclusion that provides competitive opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

**VI. Member Services Report** – Cheryl Jarrett reported that the Junior Olympic Program continues to grow. The 2017-2018 season for registration opens the first week in June, 2017. USA Gymnastics Safe Sport initiatives will likely become effective in the next year. The free U110 Course, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) SafeSport Course, is now available and gives you actionable information to better protect athletes. A new app, eventmobi, is an event app that simplifies finding event information and will be used at various Regional Congresses this summer. 2017 National Congress is in Anaheim, CA, August 17-19.

**VII. Administrative Committee Report** - Cori Rizzo reviewed agenda items discussed at the AC meeting on Thursday. She welcomed the new Region 3 Administrative Chair, Kim Lauderdale-Stepanek, and announced the new KS State Chair, Morgan Kuchynka. A Women’s Program officers’ reception will be held at National Congress in Anaheim, CA on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Service awards will be presented at this time. The State Chair Workshop will be Saturday, August 19, 2017 in Anaheim, following the Hall of Fame Luncheon.



**VIII. Women's Program Report** – Rhonda Faehn thanked the committees for their leadership in the JO Program and for their passion surrounding the growth and longevity of the sport. She discussed the bright future of the Women's Program.

**IX. NEW ELEMENTS SUBMITTED AT 2017 JO NATIONALS**

It was clarified that only new skills, receiving "C" credit or higher, performed by gymnasts at Junior Olympic Nationals would be added to the *JO Code of Points*, and named after the gymnast who first performed it.

- A. Vault
  - 1. Front handspring onto the board,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  (90°-180°) on, back salto pike. #3.305 – Zuhlke – awarded a 9.60 Start Value for Level 10, 9.8 Start Value for Level 9.
- B. Bars
  - 1. Pike sole circle backward through handstand with 1/1 (360°) turn in flight to hang on high bar. #7.510 – Ramler "E".
- C. Beam – No new elements submitted.
- D. Floor
  - 1. Split leap forward with leg change and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to ring leap. #1.411 – Trevor "D".
- E. Recommendation to add new elements listed above to the *JO Code of Points*, effective August 1, 2017.  
Motion: Linda Johnson  
Second: Bryon Hough  
Passed Unanimously

**X. GENERAL**

- A. Recommendation that at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event, a gymnast may NOT participate in warm-up or competition while wearing a hard, non-removable cast.  
Motion: Brad Harris  
Second: Shane McIntyre  
Passed with one abstention
- B. Recommendation that for the safety of the athlete at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event, a coach (professional member) may NOT actively spot or assist an athlete on a skill during warm-up or competition while wearing a cast or medical device that limits mobility in any way.  
Motion: Neela Nelson  
Second: Shane McIntyre  
In Favor: 15  
Opposed: 1  
Passed
- C. Recommendation to add the variance +/- to all equipment specifications listed in the *Women's Rules and Policies*. All measurements for apparatus, and mats are measured from the floor. They are independent measurements, NOT cumulative.  
**Vault:** Top of Table to floor, Max Vault height 135cm., +/-1cm.  
**Uneven Bar:** Low Bar from top of Rail to floor 170cm., +/- 1cm. High Bar from the top of Rail to floor 250cm., +/- 1 cm. Width is measured from in-side of low rail to in-side of high rail, 180cm., +/- 1 cm.  
**Beam:** Top of Beam to the floor 125cm., +/- 1cm.  
**Landing Mats:** All Landing Mats have a +/- 1cm.  
Motion: Carole Bunge  
Second: Ashly Baker  
Passed
- D. Recommendation that when at all possible, the Meet Director at USA Gymnastics sanctioned invitationals assign teams that are split into two squads in the same flight and on "opposing" events. For example, if Team A is in two squads, Team A is assigned on Vault and Beam or Bars and Floor in the same flight, NOT Vault and Bars or Beam and Floor.  
Motion: Linda Mulvihill  
Second: Kittia Carpenter  
Passed
- E. Recommendation to amend the *Women's Rules and Policies*, page 104, c. 2]: At USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitions that use a draw for individual competitive order, the first athlete to compete MUST warm-up first,



whether she chooses to block or to take individual warm-up time. If the first athlete blocks warm-up time with additional athletes in the squad, those athletes will warm-up with the first competing athlete.

Motion: Carole Bunge

Second: Ashly Baker

Passed

- F. Recommendation to change the wording in the *Women's Rules and Policies*, page 106, G. 2. E. to "Not allowed at any compulsory meet." Also to add a definition of open scoring under the heading G. 2. to indicate "Open scoring is defined as either electronically flashing each judge's score or by writing each judge's score on each athlete's competitor card.

Motion: Char Christensen

Second: Carole Bunge

Passed

#### XI. VAULT

- A. For timed warm-up on vault, the time will begin when the gymnast stands on the table to do a skill/jump off the table. If the gymnast does not do a skill/jump off the table, the time will begin when the gymnast begins running toward the table and touches the spring board. Warm-up drills i.e. "Handstand hops" and a "run by" without touching the board is NOT included in the warm-up time and will be allowed as long as performing these drills does not delay the competition. Excessive delay of "warm-up drills" when the timer is ready could result in a deduction.

- B. Recommendation to accept a change from the 2016 Joint Technical and JO Committee minutes for vault #3.508 to read -  $\frac{1}{4}$  (90°) on -  $\frac{1}{4}$  (90°) off - front salto tucked with 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  twist: #3.508 - Carey (as currently described in the *JO Code of Points*).

Motion: Shane McIntyre

Second: Neela Nelson

Passed

- C. Recommendation that if an alternative springboard is used at a Level 3 or higher USA Gymnastics sanctioned event, the vault is considered VOID.

Motion: Brad Harris

Second: Laurie Reid

In Favor: 13

Opposed: 3

Passed

- D. Recommendation for State Meets and above for Levels 6-10 to add d. to the *Women's JO Code of Points*, page 26, E.2. to read: d. If there is a question whether the gymnast lands on the feet first on a vault, video review will be allowed if it is available and decisive. At invitationals, the score will be averaged, regardless of range.

Motion: Char Christensen

Second: Myra Elfenbein

Passed

#### XII. UNEVEN BARS

- A. There was discussion regarding the Level 6 Uneven Bar dismount special requirement. No action was taken at this time. Reminder that an up to 0.30 deduction is applicable to casts that are not within 10° of vertical prior to sole circle dismounts.

#### XIII. BALANCE BEAM

- A. Effective August 1, 2017, recommendation to accept the deductions for Levels 9 and 10 for "Choice of acro elements not up to the competitive level" presented by the Technical Committee. [Click here](#) for more information.

Motion: Larry Goldsmith

Second: Linda Mulvihill

Passed

- B. Effective August 1, 2017, recommendation to add balance beam element #2.401, from a side stand, split jump with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to end in side position, "D".

Motion: Linda Johnson

Second: Myra Elfenbein

Passed



- C. Effective August 1, 2017, recommendation for Level 5 Compulsory Balance Beam to eliminate the word “stops” on page 126 of the *Women’s JO Compulsory Book* in the gray box under the deduction, “Failure to show continuous leg lift into the walkover”, and on the faults and penalties page 176 of the *Women’s JO Compulsory Book*. The gymnast will be allowed an up to one second pause/stop with the leg lifted on the entrance of the Back Walkover for no deduction.  
Motion: Larry Goldsmith  
Second: Pat Panichas  
Passed
- D. Clarification: A kick above 45° will break a connection of two acro elements on Beam, such as cartwheel-cartwheel, as stated in the *Women’s JO Code of Points*. When evaluating the continuity of a dance connection or a mixed connection of dance to acro, the height of the free leg at the finish of the first element (such as a cat leap or hitch-kick) will not be the sole cause for breaking the dance or mixed series; however, if the free leg position drops and lifts again or if the trunk stops forward movement, the series would be considered broken.

#### XIV. FLOOR EXERCISE

- A. Recommendation regarding warming up between routines: For Compulsory Levels 1-5, in a modified non-traditional format, athletes may warm-up between floor routines as a group, corresponding with the squad numbers dictated by the *Women’s Rules and Policies*. The group is not limited to six athletes, as required by Levels 6-10. If the coach feels not enough warm-up time has been given, he/she may ask the Chief Judge for a reasonable amount of additional time.  
Motion: Linda Thorberg  
Second: Larry Goldsmith  
Passed
- B. Recommendation to amend page 104 A.2.e. 3) b) of the *Women’s Rules and Policies*:  
b) A gymnast is allowed to start warming up when there are only six more competitors ahead of her.  
c) Example with 8 gymnasts per squad: When the first squad in Flight A warms up on Floor, the first six athletes will warm-up together (6 x 2 minutes = 12 min.). Once competition begins, the 7<sup>th</sup> athlete will warm-up while judges evaluate #1 gymnast; after each subsequent routine, another athlete will be added to warm-up. Reminder: When using this option, the Meet Director must assign an adult monitor to regulate the number of athletes warming up at any one point in time and to keep track of the competitive order. It is not a responsibility of the judges.  
Motion: Kittia Carpenter  
Second: Carole Bunge  
Passed
- C. Recommendation that at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition, if a gymnast lands a Floor Exercise acro element or an Uneven Bar/Balance Beam dismount element on a solid-foam or loose-foam pit, the following deductions will occur:
- a. No Value Part credit will be awarded.
    - i. Missing Special Requirement (Uneven Bar/Balance Beam dismount) and acro Special Requirement on Floor Exercise (if applicable).
    - ii. No connective value bonus (if applicable).
  - b. All execution deductions will apply.
  - c. The Chief Judge applies the following neutral deductions from the average score:
    - i. -0.10 for out of bounds (Floor Exercise)
    - ii. -0.30 for use of unauthorized (additional) matting
- Motion: Pat Panichas  
Second: Laurie Reid  
Passed
- D. Recommendation for the placement of a sting mat, to add the words “on top of or under” to page 96, E.2. and E.2.a. of the *Women’s Rules and Policies*.  
Motion: Linda Johnson  
Second: Ashly Baker  
Passed



- E. Effective August 1, 2017, recommendation to accept the deductions for Levels 9 and 10 for “Choice of acro elements not up to the competitive level” presented by the Technical Committee. Please [click here](#) for more information.  
Motion: Larry Goldsmith  
Second: Linda Mulvihill  
Passed
- F. Recommendation to remove the words “inadvertently” and “the corner area of” on page 231, V.A. in the *JO Code of Points* to read: “For Levels 6-10, no deduction is applied if a coach steps onto the Floor Exercise mat when placing, adjusting the placement of, or removing a mat.”  
Motion: Char Christensen  
Second: Marian Dykes  
In Favor: 14  
Opposed: 1  
Abstention: 1  
Passed

#### **XV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation to remove the following on page 16, B.9.d. in the *Women’s Rules and Policies*: “For medical or religious reasons, reasonable and accommodating exceptions to proper attire can be reviewed by the Regional Technical Committee Chairman and Regional JO or Xcel Committee Chairman. Requests must be submitted to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman a minimum of 48 hours prior to the athlete’s first competition. The Regional Technical Committee Chairman will provide permission in writing to the coach who then can present the documentation to the Meet Referee at each competition.”  
Motion: Marian Dykes  
Second: Char Christensen  
Passed
- B. Discussion regarding amplitude of Yurchenko full twist-on salto off vaults. No action was taken at this time. Considerations will be brought to the table for review in the future.
- C. Discussion regarding inconsistencies surrounding bar composition deductions, other than those published in the addendum at the end of these minutes. No action was taken at this time. Considerations will be brought to the table for review in the future.
- D. The remainder of the meeting was spent developing the 2018 Code of Points.

Meeting adjourned.