

Volume 14 Issue #1
January, 2010

*MI-USAG Administrative
Committee*

State Chairman
Douglas Rowe

State JOC
Jim Comiskey

Education Coordinator
Dave Begin

Committee Secretary
Al Scharns

Level 9/10 Rep
Lori Koch

Level 8 Rep
Tami Jacobs

Level 7 Rep
Jason Bahleda

Level 6 Rep
Becky Burden-Cuddeback

Level 5 Rep
George Young

Level 4 Rep
Cassie Davis

Prep Opt Rep
Claudia Kretschmer

NAWGJ State Chairman
Georgette Dupke

Inside This Issue

From Doug

State Clinic /Congress

State Champions
Banquet

USAG Technical Update

SQM & State Meet Sites
2010

Dates
2010 Region 5 Congress

National Congress &
USA Championships

Fall Season State Meet
Results – Nov. 17 &18

MICHIGAN USA-Gymnastics

DOUG'S BULLETIN BOARD

The *Michigan USAG Committee "State Training Clinics"* were held on the October 16, 17 & 18 weekend at KidsSportsUSA Gymnastics in Kalamazoo. The Clinic was well attended by Level 4 & Pre-Team, L-5 & 6 with a coach's conference, highlighted by sessions for gymnasts and coaches with Dr. Allison Arnold. The Branch Kalamazoo facility was outstanding for this clinic as were the hosts, Al & Cindy Scharns.

"Michigan's USAG Committee's 1st Annual Champions Banquet"

The State Administrative Committee Members provided an outstanding effort in organizing, decorating, and providing a great experience for Michigan's gymnasts, parents and coaches! Dr. Allison Arnold (Doc Ali) again provided an outstanding presentation to the gymnasts & *parents*, as our main speaker. Michigan Coach(es) of the Year Awards were also presented!

2010 National Congress & USA Championships: Thursday, August 12 – Saturday, August 14, 2010, in Hartford, Connecticut. Early bird pricing is available until May 15, 2010.

2010 Region 5 Congress: September 10–12, 2010 in Itasca, Illinois. General information can be found on the Region 5 Web Site (Region5.com).

Fall Season State Meet Results: The Level 5 & 6 Fall State Meet was held at All American Lady Flames Gymnastics with 134 gymnasts competing. Ten clubs had gymnasts entered into the L-5 Fall State Meet. Only nine clubs had gymnasts entered into the L-6 Fall State Meet. This was 105 fewer gymnast than last year! I hope this is not an indication of what is coming for the Spring Season. Last year, 1,870 gymnasts competed in all of our Michigan USAG State Meets.

The Level 9 & 10 Regional Meet is being hosted by Twistars USA in Lansing.

The Level 8 Regional Meet is being held in Kalamazoo, with Branch Gymnastics of Kalamazoo being the host. The competition will be held at Western Michigan Univ.

State Administrative Committee Chairman Election will be conducted on-line at www.usa-gymnastics.org from April 1 – April 15. In order to ensure that your vote can be counted, each Professional Member should make sure of each of the following: ***pages 9-11 in this newsletter contains more information.***

1. That their address is current (specifically the State)
2. That they know their personal User ID (which is their Professional Member number)
3. That they know their password (a Professional Members password is their eight digit date of birth in a MMDDYYYY format unless they have otherwise instructed.)
4. Their Professional membership must be fully processed and current by February 28, safety certification and background check included.
5. If you have any questions regarding your voting privileges, please call Rachel Brazo, Women's Program Manager at 317/237-5050.

MICHIGAN USAG COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007-2008

STATE CHAIRMAN

Doug Rowe
5870 N. Hix Rd.
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 721-5594 - G
(734) 637-8238 Cell
(734) 721-6445 - FAX
E-Mail: douglasrowe@hotmail.com

STATE JOP REPRESENTATIVE

Jim Comiskey
1111 Wackerly Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
(989) 832-3045 - G
(989) 839-8599 - H
(989) 832-2278 - FAX
E-Mail: MGTC@sbcglobal.net

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Dave Begian
1813 Northfield Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 852-7950 - G
(248) 652-9362 - H
(248) 852-8494 - FAX
E-Mail: daveb4u@aol.com

MI-USAG SECRETARY

Al Scharnes
393 N. Helmer Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269)963-4770 - G
(269)963-2225 - FAX
E-Mail: Branchgym1@aol.com

LEVEL 9/10 REPRESENTATIVE

Lori Koch
51676 Danview Tech Ct.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
Lori Koch
(586) 803-1333
(586) 803-1033 Fax
E-mail: olympia@comcast.net

LEVEL 8 REPRESENTATIVE

Tami Jacobs email:
2424 Van Ommen Drive
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 399-5608
(616) 399-4614
tamijacobs@sbcglobal.net

LEVEL 7 REPRESENTATIVE

Jason Bahleda
1288 Azalea
Waterford, MI 48327
(248)852-7950 - G
(248)568-0991 - cell
(248)852-8494 - FAX
E-mail: chief1216@comcast.net

LEVEL 6 REPRESENTATIVE

Beckey Burden-Cuddeback
971 Lynch Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 941-7751
(231) 941-7049 Fax
E-Mail: edgegymnastics@bignetnorth.net

LEVEL 5 REPRESENTATIVE

George Young
10275 Thor Dr.
Freeland, MI 48623
(989)692-0394 - G
(989)239-5364 - Cell
(989)692-0399 - Fax
E-Mail: midmigym@yahoo.com

Level 4 Representative

Cassie Davis
4630 White Lake Road
Clarkston, MI 48346
(248) 625-3547
(248) 625-3577 - Fax
Email: cassie@stargymnast.com

Prep Opt Rep

Claudia Kretschmer
4611 Platt Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 971-1667 - G
(734) 786-1401 - H
(734) 971-9631 - FAX
E-Mail: claudiakretschmer@mac.com

NAWGJ STATE CHAIRMAN

Georgette Dupke
36151 Waltham
Sterling Heights MI 48310
(586)268-1483 - H
E-Mail: getts@aol.com

OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

USAG Member Services (800)345-4719
USAG Merchandise (800)345-4719
NAWGJ National Library - Judy Dobransky (586)795-5346 Lib.

USAG-MI ASSIGNORS: Terry Zillich (586)294-9124
Alice Porter (517)694-5571
Karrie Brown (586)412-0549

Michigan TOPS Director (s)
Lynda Rourke coachlala@comcast.net
Ann Marie Walko amwalko@comcast.net

Updated Club Information:

Conrads Gymnastics Academy / Club# 026400
24501 Hallwood Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 / Phone: 248/474-7778 / Fax: 248/871-0244
Email: conradsgym@aol.com Contact Person: Jonathon Conrad

New Club Address: Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy / Club #444915
22475 Heslip Drive, Novi, MI 48375 / Phone: 248/344-9344 / Fax: 248/344-9344
Email: kimpodatc@aol.com Contact Person: Kim M. Tanskanen

Flip For A Cure at Mary's Meet

On December 6, 2009 the Midland Gymnastics Training Center in Midland Michigan, held a cancer fundraiser in memory of their former coach, Mary Steinke.

Mary lost her battle with lung cancer in September of 2009. Flip For A Cure at Mary's Meet was developed in Mary's memory with the goal to donate money to the Pardee Cancer Treatment Fund. This fund assists families in paying for their medical cost endured from cancer treatment.

The Midland Gymnastics Training Center coaching staff and their high school aged gymnast planned, organized and implemented the meet. The high school committee held many fundraisers such as: bake sale, prize raffles, used leotard sale, pop can drive and candy sales.

Flip For A Cure at Mary's Meet was able to give over \$5,000 to the Pardee Cancer Treatment Fund. We hope that we made Coach Mary proud! We need to send a huge thank you to Kim Riley and Pat Gunnis for volunteering their judging services for this great cause! We are so thankful for your sincere thoughtfulness.



Apparently there has been some confusion regarding several issues that the JO and Technical Committees would like to clarify.

1. **VAULT RUNWAY:** According to the *JO Code of Points*, page 25, I.E. Use of tape or excessive chalk is not permitted on the vault table or runway. A chalk line to mark the take-off spot is permitted.
The use of a Velcro strip to mark the take-off line is now being questioned since it is not mentioned specifically in the *JO Code of Points* or the *Rules and Policies*. **THE COMMITTEES HAVE VOTED TO ALLOW THE USE OF A VELCRO STRIP ON THE VAULT RUNWAY.** The Velcro strip **MUST** be removed after the gymnast has completed her two vaults.

2. **VAULTING WITHOUT A SIGNAL FROM CHIEF JUDGE:**

Clarifications on procedures:

- A. If, on her first or second vault the gymnast runs and vaults (or touches the springboard) without a signal from CJ, the vault (or vault attempt) will not be considered as a vault (or a vault attempt) and will not be scored.
- B. On the next vault the Chief Judge deducts 0.50 from the average.
- C. The 0.50 penalty for performing before the signal may or may not affect the gymnast's final vault score.

3 **BARS: LEVEL 7 AND 8:** The following three C elements may be performed by Level 7 or 8 athletes, but will received B value part credit:

- Cast to handstand with ½ turn;
- Clear hip circle to handstand; and
- Clear hip circle to handstand with ½ turn.

The *JO Code of Points* is very clear on this issue, as is the Optional Requirement Chart posted on the USAG web site. However, the Level 7/8 Score sheet (far right column) indicates that specific C elements are allowed-then with an asterisk indicated cast HS with ½ turn, clear hip circle and clear hip circle with ½ turn. The reference "to HS" is not included with the clear hips (although since it mentions "C" value, it is implied). Therefore, the **Level 7/8 Score sheet HAS BEEN REVISED** to include the "HS" with the descriptions of the clear hip "C's" to avoid further confusion and is now posted on the USAG website, under Women: Rules: Optionals.

4. **BEAM: ELEMENT #2.108 (A)** – Clarification on awarding "A" value part credit:

Stretched jump in place (like compulsory) = no VP

Stretched jump moving forward = "A"

Arch jump in place or moving forward = "A"

The 2nd and 3rd variations shown in the Code- Stretched jump with 180° turn and stretch jump change/beat of legs are not required to move forward to receive "A" credit.

5. **FLOOR EXERCISE:** Falls on dismount element (last salto performed as the last isolated salto or within the last salto connection): Use the same principle as for Bars and Beam:

- a. If the salto was initiated, but was not completed to land on the feet first, deduct 0.50 for not meeting the "The salto performed as the last isolated salto or within the last salto connection" Special Requirement, plus 0.5 for the Fall.
- b. If the salto was NOT initiated and a fall occurs, deduct 0.5 for missing the above Special Requirement as well as 0.30 for no dismount.

6. **FLOOR EXERCISE DANCE PASSAGE SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** The clarification regarding what constitutes a break in the dance passage that was printed in the November 2009 JO Committee meeting (and quoted below) failed to mention that Pivot Turns would also break the passage since they are stationary (this was printed in the JO Code of Points and is still in effect).

Revised Clarification regarding the breaking of a dance passage: **A dance passage on floor is considered broken ONLY when there is a pause, stop, pivot turn, 1/1 turn or more on one foot, or an acro element between the dance elements. Scooching or bouncing out of control between elements would be considered execution errors and deducted, but credit for the dance passage may still be given.**

In order to receive Connection Value bonus, the element must be directly connected

7. **2010 IRS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT** for judges has been announced as \$0.50 per mile. Judges will be reimbursed at that rate for all meets after January 1, 2010.
8. **CARPPOOL CLARIFICATION**, as stated in the current *Rules and Policies* book: All drivers must deduct 30 miles round trip UNLESS you are the DESIGNATED carpool driver, in which case you are reimbursed for all miles driven.
- Example A: Judge #1 and Judge #2 each drive (separately) 40 miles RT to meet a third judge who will drive 200 miles round-trip as the designated carpool driver. Judge #1 and #2 both are reimbursed for 10 miles (\$5 each) while the Judge #3 (the carpool driver) is reimbursed \$100.

Example B: Judge #1 drives 5 miles to meet Judge #2.

Judge #2 drives herself and judge #1 for 40 miles RT to meet Judge #3, the designated carpool driver who will drive 200 miles RT.

Judge #1 receives NO mileage reimbursement since she must deduct 30 miles RT. Judge #2, since she is driving a "carpool" is reimbursed \$20 for the 40 miles RT. Judge #3, as the designated carpool driver, is also reimbursed \$100 for the 200 miles RT.

Connie Maloney
Women's Jr. Olympic Program Director

Individual Event Specialist Information

ENTRY REGULATIONS: PAGE 35 in the USAG Women's Rules & Policies

USAG Michigan allows event specialists, at Levels 7-10. They may compete among all-arounders, may be counted in the Team Scores, and would receive duplicate awards for event placement.

Procedures from the 2009 remain in effect for the 2010 season.

ENTRY DEADLINE DATES FOR 2009-2010 MICHIGAN STATE QUALIFIER AND STATE MEETS

All state qualifier and state meets are listed below. USPS POSTMARK ENTRY DEADLINE DATES are listed for each meet. *Please be aware of your post office policies.* If you mail your entry on the deadline date but the post office does not postmark it until the next day, **you will be charged the \$10.00 late fee per gymnast for state qualifiers or \$25.00 late fee per gymnast for state meets.** Please keep these dates easily accessible and refer to them often.

***Plan ahead and fill out your entry form early.**

***Payment MUST accompany all entries.**

<u>Meet Date</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>Entry Deadline Date</u>
Jan. 16-17	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Splitz Gymnastics	Mon., Dec. 28 (3 wks)
	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Bounce Gymnastics –Hartland	Mon., Dec. 28 (3 wks)

Feb. 6 - 7	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Michigan Academy of Gym.	Mon., Jan. 18 (3 wks)
	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Gtr Kalamazoo World of Gym.	Mon., Jan. 18 (3 wks)

Mar. 20-21	Level 8, 9, 10 State Meet – Twistars	Mon., Feb. 22 (4 wks)
Mar. 27-28	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Michigan Elite Gym	Mon., Mar. 1 (4 wks)
	Level 5/6 State Qualifier – Hartland Gym	Mon., Mar. 1 (4 wks)

Apr. 10- 11	Level 5 State Qualifier – Olympia Gym	Mon., Mar. 22 (3 wks)
	Level 9/10 Regional Meet – Twistars (Diamondale)	Sun. Mar. 28 (at State Meet)
Apr. 16, 17, 18	Level 8 Regional Meet – Branch – (Western Michigan Univ.)	Sun. Mar. 28 (at State Meet)
Apr. 23, 24, 25	Level 7 & Prep-Opt State Meet – Midland GTC	Mon. Mar 29 (4 wks)
	Level 9 Jr. & Sr. Nationals – Charleston, W. Virginia	Sun., Apr. 11 (at Reg'l Meet)

Apr. 30/May 2	Level 4 & Level 6 State Meet – Champion USA	Mon., Apr. 5 (4 wks)
May 7, 8, 9	Level 5 State Meet – Waters Edge - Traverse City	Mon., Apr. 12 (4 wks)
	Level 10 JO Jr. & Sr. Nationals (Dallas, TX)	Sun., Apr. 11 (at Reg'l Meet)
May 14, 15, 16	Pre Team Fun State Invitational Branch (KSUSA-Kalamazoo)	Mon. Apr. 20 (4 wks)

State Meets

Meet Directors; please follow your check list for hosting the State Meets. First, send out the Pre-Meet Info regarding what type of equipment is being used.

Michigan follows the draw for State Meets on pages 40 & 41 of the USAG R&P pink book. First, age divisions must be determined. Michigan attempts to create an equal number in each age group, the same type of format used to determine the age groups for Level 8, Level 9, & Level 10 Regional meets.

2010	Michigan	USAG	Calendar
Dates / Year	Meet Type	Level	Host Club
Meets 2010	Spring Season		
Jan. 15, 16,17	Level 5 & 6 SQM - 2 Sites Gym-Jesters Fun Meet	5 & 6 L-2 to L-5	Bounce-Hartland & Splitz Gym - Canton Saginaw
Jan. 22, 23, 24	Cereal City Classic - Battle Creek	All levels	Branch / Battle Creek
Jan. 29, 30, 31	Winterfest Inv & Fun Meet Tulip City Inv. Champion USA	L-2 to L-10 All Levels	Farmington Gym Club Holland
February 5, 6, 7	Level 5 & 6 SQM - 2 sites Totally Rad Gym-Jesters Fire Up Fun Meet	5 & 6 All Levels Fun Meet	Michigan Academy – WL & Gtr. Kalamazoo Saginaw
Feb. 12, 13 14	IGI – Navy Pier	All Levels	Chicago
Feb. 19, 20, 21	Circle of Stars Snowflake City Fun Meet - Kids Gym	All Levels & Prep Opt	Indianapolis Portage
Feb. 26, 27, 28	Spartan Showcase – Red Cedar Gym Wolverine Classic	All Levels All Levels	MSU – E. Lansing Saline H.S.
March 5, 6, 7	Motown Madness Tuumblefest Fun Meet Born To Fly Inv & Fun Meet & PO	L-4 to L-10 Level 1-5 All Levels	GTC-Rochester Farmington Grand Rapids Gymnastics
March 12, 13, 14	Bounce March Magic Fun & Prep Opt Inv Gym-jester Star Fun Meet Zoomania Fun Meet & Prep Opt Girl Power Inv. – Gym America Magic In March Fun Meet - Freeland	L-2-5 & PO L-4/10 & PO Fun Meet & P.O Fun Meet & P.O Level 2 - 4	Bounce-Hrtlnd Sports Ctr Saginaw All Around Gym Jackson Gym America @ EMU Mid Michigan Gymnastics
March 19, 20, 21	Level 8,9,10 State Meet Big 10's & MAC's	8, 9, & 10	Grand Ledge H.S.
March 26, 27, 28	SQM – 2 Sites & Hartland Gym Inv. Mills Sundae Meet & & Prep Opt (27 th) Fun Meet (28 th) Big Ten-Ohio State / MAC's-Bowling Green	5 & 6 All levels L-4/5/6 Inv. (Sanctioned)	MEGA –Farmington Hills Hartland Gym Club Mills Gym - Southgate
April 2, 3, 4	Easter Weekend		
April 9, 10, 11	Level 9 & 10 Regional Meet College Regional Meets L-5 SQM - 1 Site Gym-Jester Festival in Motion & Fun Meet Flower Power Fun Meet – Kids Gym	9 & 10 Collegiate 5 L-4 & PO & Prep Opt	Twistars - Diamondale TBD Olympia – Shelby Twsp. Saginaw Portage
April 16, 17, 18	Level 8 Regional Meet Spring Spectacular 2010 Fun Meet	8 L-2 to Pre-L-5	Western Mich Univ – Branch Gym Eurostars
April 23, 24, 25	L-7 & Prep Opt State Meet Collegiate Nationals Gym Jester Bravo Fun Meet	L-7 & PO College L-2-5 & PO	Midland GTC TBD Saginaw
April 30 / May 1, 2	Level 4 & Level 6 State Meet Champion USA Level 9 Eastern National Championships	4/6 9	Holland Charleston, W. Virginia
May 14, 15, 16	Michigan Pre Team State Invitational Meet - Branch	L-2,3,4,5	KidsSportsUSA Kalamazoo

May 21, 22, 23			
May 28, 29, 30	Memorial Day Weekend		
June 5, 6			
June 12, 13			
June 19, 20			
June 26, 27			
July 23, 24 & 25	NAWGJ-MI Summer Judging Clinic		
August 12 - 15	National Congress – Hartford, CT		
September 10 - 12	Region 5 Congress – Itasca, Illinois		

FALL 2009 LEVEL 5 STATE MEET TEAM RESULTS

1.	Twistars USA	111.625
2.	All American Lady Flames	110.225
3.	Olympia	110.000
4.	Alpine	109.650
5.	Gymnastiks Unlimited	107.975
6.	Michigan Academy	106.200
7.	Cutting Edge	105.975
8.	Gym Jesters	104.575
9.	Mills Gymnastics	101.625
10.	Greater Kalamazoo World	100.800

FALL 2009 LEVEL 6 STATE MEET TEAM RESULTS

1.	Twistars USA	110.475
2.	All American Lady Flames	110.025
3.	Michigan Academy	110.000
4.	Gymnastiks Unlimited	109.600
5.	Olympia	108.900
6.	Farmington	108.425
7.	Greater Kalamazoo	101.675



State Administration Committee Chairman Elections Coming Soon!

Nominations Requested

Nominations for State Administrative Committee Chairman need to be postmarked by February 26, 2010. Form below:

Criterion for nominations:

Nominees must be USAG Women's Program professional members in good standing for a minimum of two years in the state program in which they seek election

- Nominees must be at least 21 years old and be members in good standing.
- Current elected officials seeking nomination for SACC must be compliant with all current duties and responsibilities.
- It is strongly recommended that the State Committee Chairman candidates have financial skills, organizational skills, communication skills, a working knowledge of the program and the willingness to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position.

A member in good standing is defined as a person who has complied with all aspects of the program as outlined in the *Rules and Policies*.

Prior to being placed on the ballot, all nominees must sign a document that verifies that they have read and understand the duties and responsibilities of the office for which they have been nominated and submit their resumes to the appropriate USA Gymnastics officer.

Duties and responsibilities of the SACC:

The State Administrative Committee Chairman (SACC) is responsible for the overall organization of all designated qualifying events and programs within their State. The State Administrative Committee Chairman (SACC) shall work in close cooperation with the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC), Regional Junior Olympic Committee Chairman (RJOCC) and the Regional Technical Committee Chairman (RTCC) to effectuate State programs. Any problems that cannot be solved by the State Administrative Committee Chairman (SACC) should be submitted to the appropriate regional personnel.

- A. Be directly responsible to their Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC).
- B. Serve as a voting member of the Regional Administrative Committee (RAC).
- C. Must submit all committee meeting agendas and subsequent minutes to their respective Regional Administrative Committee Chairman prior to distribution.
- D. Serve as the USA Gymnastics Women's Program consultant for that State and answer any correspondence directed to that office.
- E. Send copies of correspondence to the appropriate regional personnel.
- F. Be responsible for overseeing the Junior Olympic Sectional and State Championships in their state, at least once per year.

- G. Conduct the annual state meeting of Women's Program Professional members.
- H. Determine the site and event director for Jr. Olympic Qualifying Meets, Sectional and State Championships. This may be done by bids or solicitations.
- I. Assure that these competitions follow USA Gymnastics *Rules and Policies*.
- J. Attend the State Championships as the USA Gymnastics representative.
- K. Provide State Administrative Committee (SAC) representation at all sectional meets and above.
- L. Make recommendations to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman (RTCC) and the Regional Junior Olympic Committee Chairman (RJOCC) concerning petitions into the Regional Competitions.
- M. Establish procedures to raise operating funds for the state, if necessary. The State Administrative Committee Chairman (SACC) may, with the approval of the State Administrative Committee (SAC), determine and/or collect competition and/or club fees for the purpose of raising operating funds for the state. All fees will be retained in the State account for use as determined by the State Administrative Committee (SAC).
- N. Maintain a state checking account and file quarterly financial reports with the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC), as required in the "Financial Reporting Procedures" document.
- O. Publish minutes of all State Administrative Committee Meetings.
- P. Shall be accountable for all state funds and publish each year the financial statement reflecting activity as of July 1 - June 30.
- Q. Provide for a State Administrative Committee, the number and type of positions to be determined by each state, in order to best serve the needs of the program in the state.
- R. Inform the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC) and other appropriate Regional Administrative Committee members of any actions contrary to the Rules and Policies of USA Gymnastics. The Regional office shall inform the appropriate National Chairman of any problems. After due investigation, corrective measures shall be recommended by the National Administrative Committee Chairman (NACC).
- S. Publish a newsletter as necessary (or as directed by the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC)). This newsletter shall include new information related to the USA Gymnastics program, results of competitions, dates of events, official bulletins from committees.
- T. Send state newsletters to the membership of the state, and to the Jr. Olympic Program Director and the National Junior Olympic Committee Chairman (NJOCC), the National Administrative Committee Chairman (NACC), and the National Technical Committee Chairman (NTCC).
- U. The SACC or a designated proxy will attend National and Regional Congresses and all designated meetings, with travel and expenses funded by the state account.

Nomination form for State Administrative Committee Chairman

Duplicate as needed

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Return completed form to your RACC

Region 5 - Bobbi Montanari

r5bobbi@aol.com

www.region5.com

Universal Gymnasts; 2881 Scioto-Darby Exec. Ct., Hilliard, OH 43026

Mailed form must be postmarked no later than February 26, 2010, any nominations post marked after this date will not be accepted.

Emailed nominations also due February 26, 2010.

Criteria for Voting

Elections will be conducted online at www.usa-gymnastics.org from April 1 - April 15. In order to ensure that your vote can be counted, each Professional Members should make sure of each of the following:

1. That their address is current (**specifically the State - you can only vote for officials in the state in which you live**)
2. That they know their personal User ID (which is their Professional Member number)
3. That they know their password (a Professional Member's password is their eight-digit date of birth in a MMDDYYYY format unless they have otherwise instructed.)
4. That their Professional membership, safety certification and background check must be fully processed and current by February 28.
5. If you have any questions regarding your voting privileges, please call the Women's Program Manager at 317/829-5661.

MEMBER SERVICES UPDATES

USA Gymnastics Background Checks

USA Gymnastics is proud to announce a working partnership with National Center for Safety Initiatives through which we will engage in a comprehensive background screening program.

USA Gymnastics is requiring background searches on all USA Gymnastics Professional Members to ensure a safe and secure environment for participants and its members.

- [USA Gymnastics Background Check Policy](#)
- [Why background screening?](#)
- [USA Gymnastics Background Check Q&A](#)
- **The live online link to the Background Check Screening will be available on November 12.**
- **Questions - please call NCSI at 866-833-7100 ext. 109**

Dear Chair:

For now it is important for you to know the following: Screening will be required for all December professional members. The requirement will then continue month by month.

- Ø Beginning November 12, 2007 all new members will have to complete the background screening prior to receiving a professional membership. Members whose membership expires in December must complete the screening prior to December 31, 2007. Once background is complete and the safety is current, they will receive the renewal of the professional memberships.
- Ø Every following month the same rule will apply. That is Members who expire in January must have the screening completed by January 31 and so on until we go through the roll-out of all 12 months.
- Ø Any member may go through the screening process at any time prior to their membership expiration. If a member wishes, or their employer wishes, that they get the screening done in advance, they may do so.
- Ø The anniversary date of the background screening will be 2 years from the initial screening. This date does not have to be tied into the membership renewal date. However safety and screening must always be completed prior to the membership expiration.
- Ø The screening process will be made available to all clubs, for their employees, within the very near future.

I will be contacting you again next week. Thank you for your kind understanding and patience with this most important matter.

Kind regards,

Kathy Feldmann

USA Gymnastics Vice President - Member Services National Congress & Trade Show Director

317-829-5625 - Direct Line 317-237-5050 - Main Office 1-800-345-4719 - Member Services

317-692-5212 – Fax USA GYMNASTICS - Begin Here...Go Anywhere

10-31-07

Why background screening?

USA Gymnastics is a youth sports organization, and gymnastics is one of the country's most popular sports, especially for girls and young women. Providing a safe, clean, and fun environment is important for the sport to continue to grow and thrive. Parents must have the highest degree of confidence that their children are not only receiving good care and proper instruction, but also are safe from negative and improper conduct. These basic tenets are crucial to maintaining a positive image in the community and a good reputation, both in local communities and as an activity nationwide, especially since 98 percent of our athlete members are under 18 years of age.

Professional membership in USA Gymnastics should be the gold standard, an indicator that the person or organization has committed the time, interest and hard work into being the best they can be. This membership should be a distinction that parents look for and depend upon to know that they are placing their children into well-trained and professional hands.

The responsibilities of an organization that provides activities for children and young adults include protecting the safety and welfare of its athletes and participants. USA Gymnastics has already mandated a safety certification program, which provides professional members with a working knowledge of how to conduct gymnastics activities in a safe environment. Also, USA Gymnastics has a zero-tolerance policy on abuse and other inappropriate behavior with an athlete. USA Gymnastics is now requiring background screening of professional members to support this policy and in response to inquires for this service from gym club owners. Background checks are becoming commonplace with many youth organizations and institutions and are endorsed by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

In fact, USA Gymnastics will begin requiring mandatory background checks for all professional members, as well as staff and Board members, in December 2007. As a pilot program, the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors and staff already have completed background checks with our partner, the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI). Through NCSI, all professional members will have the endorsement of completing a successful background check for previous criminal behavior which may be inappropriate for contact with children. Screening covers criminal background, sex offender registry and identity verification.

USA Gymnastics has worked hard with NCSI to develop a program that is affordable, and the fees cover the costs for this service. This is not a profit center for USA Gymnastics. The monies go to and remain with NCSI.

This is going to be a major undertaking for USA Gymnastics, but this initiative is an important part of providing a safe environment for our athletes, which is the responsibility of every member.

Last year the question came up with regards to posting the birthdates of athletes on the websites. It was stated at that time not to post birth dates. Please read below the clarification which was sent to us from one of the legal offices. I believe at this time you are all following the guidelines from last year with regards to not posting birth dates. However, I wanted you to see the message below with regards to the law and its intent. This is not a change, just clarification.

Thank you for referring this interesting question from USA Gymnastics. Here are my thoughts:

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) would not apply to this situation. The law applies to the online collection of personal information from children under age 13, without verified parental consent. In this situation, as I understand it, children under age 13 would enroll in gymnastics programs and participate in events with the consent of their parent or guardian. (The enrollment can take place through a secure online site, or offline.) Of course, the consent form should contain a notice that the parent signs, indicating how the child's information will be collected, used and shared.

The posting of scores (and the ages of the winners) from gymnastics competitions is based on information already collected/events that transpired, and does not involve a solicitation of minors to provide personal information about themselves through the USA Gymnastics site.

As an example of how COPPA applies (which is much different than the USA Gymnastics context), please note that earlier this week, the FTC entered into a settlement agreement with Iconix Group Brands, which manufactures and sells a number of children's brands such as Candie's, OP and Bongo. Iconix was knowingly collecting all sorts of information through its websites from children under age 13, including their names, addresses, email address, and even full dates of birth—all without any type of parental consent. The company's website privacy policy specifically noted that the company does not seek to collect any information from children under age 13. Iconix must pay a fine of \$275,000, destroy all of the information collected, and adhere to many other requirements contained in an 20 year FTC consent decree.

If USA Gymnastics were to sell products or services online, or solicit minors to sign up for sweepstakes or similar programs, they would fall under COPPA. Posting scores from competitions is not the same thing.

Although the posting of gymnastics scores and dates of birth would not violate COPPA under the circumstances involved here, it is nevertheless very important to protect the information of minors. I would never post the dates of birth of minors on a public website, and agree that age ranges are a much better approach. They could also consider abbreviating names of children, such as Janie M, Katie L, etc. I would also be careful about posting pictures of minors, especially if the consent forms don't address this.

Joan A.

Partner

2010 SENIOR GYMNAST PROFILE & GYMNAST OF THE YEAR

NAME _____

CLUB AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

NUMBER OF YEARS IN GYMNASTICS _____

Present level of competition _____ # of years at that level _____

Strongest Event _____

GYMNASTICS ACHIEVEMENTS _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION:

High School _____

City _____

GPA _____ Extra Curricular Activities _____

Honors _____

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS _____

POST HIGH SCHOOL ASPIRATIONS _____

* Please return L-9/10 Senior Profiles to Lori Koch, 51676 Danview Ct., Shelby Twsp., MI 48315

* Please return L-8 Senior Profiles to Tami Jacobs, 2424 Van Ommen Drive, Holland, MI 49424

Please return this form postmarked by March 1st. Voting will take place on line after L-10 Nationals.



MI-USAG NEWSLETTER
MI-USAG State Chairman

Douglas A. Rowe
5870 North Hix Road
Westland, MI 48185

Inside This Issue

Fall wrap up from your SAC
Competition Calendar - Michigan
USAG Technical Update
State & SQM Meet Sites
2010 USAG-MI
Entry Deadline Dates
Fall State Meet Results
Background Screening
National Congress Info
Region 5 Congress Info
