

NEBRASKA GYMNASTICS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2004/2005

NEBRASKA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS JUDGES SELECTION PROCEDURE

Written by: Danelle Catlett, Member of the State Administrative Committee

The Nebraska State Administrative Committee feels it is important that you, the Nebraska USAG Professional Members and Judges, know the process the committee currently uses to select our state meet judges. As you know, the State Administrative Committee Chairman, Jody Newman, sent out a judges survey prior to both the compulsory and optional state meets. With a lot of effort, he was able to get every gym with participating athletes to respond. On the survey, each gym was asked to rank the judges with a numbering system from most desirable (1) to least desirable (14). The results were then assembled into a spread sheet by Jody, validated by Danelle Catlett. The survey was entirely con-

fidential and no judge on the Administrative Committee was able to see an individual clubs' ranking of them. The 8 judges with the lowest 8 scores were selected to judge the state meet. Throughout this process, the State Administrative Committee had several lengthy discussions regarding the use of this process and the results it produced. As with any selection process, there are downfalls. This selection process is based on the honesty and integrity of those voting. The numbering system is only effective if voting clubs rank the judges accordingly and do not manipulate the numbers to effect the outcome. Due to these concerns, we even used another system to see if the results would differ. We tried a YES/NO system. If the judge was ranked an 8 or better by a club, they were given a YES. If ranked

9 or worse they were given a NO. THIS SYSTEM SELECTED THE SAME 8 JUDGES. Therefore, the State Administrative Committee has selected the judges that you, the coaches, have selected and asked for. While some committee members may not have selected the exact same 8 judges, we felt it was our position and responsibility to represent those that have elected us onto this committee. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or any suggestions on a better selection procedure, please feel free call me at (420) 476-4774 or email me at jcatlett@neb.rr.com. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and Nebraska USAG.

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Special points of interest:

- Optional State Meet, Saturday, April 2, 2005. Devaney Center, Lincoln, NE
- Thank you Premier Gymnastics for a successful Compulsory State Meet
- New State Website: www.region4gymnastics.com/nebraska (still under construction)

Financial Report

INCOME:

Rebates (Pro):	_____
Rebates (Athletes):	531.26
Competition Fees:	3,160.00
Awards:	1,321.59
Competitions:	_____
Clinics:	_____
Donations/Fundraisers:	_____
Testings (specify):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Promotional Items:	_____
Newsletter:	_____
Travel:	_____
Education:	_____
Loan (specify):	_____
_____	_____
Interest:	_____
Other: Credit Allowance	13.81

TOTAL INCOME: \$5,026.66

EXPENSES:

Phone:	_____
Postage:	_____
Office:	58.39
Competitions:	_____
Awards:	1134.29
Program Support:	_____
Testing	_____
Clinic	_____
Promotional Items: (State Pins)	564.43
Newsletter (printing & Postage):	_____
Travel:	_____
Board Meeting:	_____
Education:	_____
Loan (specify)	_____
_____	_____
Bank Charges:	23.80
Membership fees:	_____
Other:	_____

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,780.91

Beginning of Quarter Balance: \$2,040.83

Total Income: \$5,026.66

Total Expenses: \$1,780.91

End of Quarter Balance: \$5,286.58

JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM POLICY ON MOBILITY

The 2004-2005 Women's Program Rules and Policies contains a section on mobility in Part Two – Section 1, *Requirements for Level Eligibility and Advancement* (pages 19-21). We have highlighted some of the more common topics that are described in this section:

Entry Requirements and Mobility Scores Overview

Chart with Level/Age Requirements (see page 19).

General Policies and Procedures for Entry/Mobility in the JO Program

Entry Regulations and Advancement

An athlete must be a registered USA Gymnastics Athlete Member.

New gymnasts must enter at Level 1.

Athletes may not skip any level. They must advance one level at a time by scoring the minimum mobility score at any USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition (Exception: Levels 1-4).

Any athlete who has previously completed in the JO Program, but has been inactive for one or more years, must contact the State Chairman for proper entry regulations. The options are:

Remain at the level at which they last competed

Move-up one level if they achieved the minimum mobility score during their last competitive season

Move down one numerical level, without petitioning

Athletes whose competitive experience has been outside of the USA Gymnastics structure may petition to the State Chairman for entry into Level 6 or below and must prove their proficiency at that level.

Any gymnast who has had previous competitive experience in any system (including USA) and who is a minimum of 14 years of age (and is also at least a freshman in High School) is eligible to petition to the State Chairman for entry into Level 7. The petition must be accompanied by a video that demonstrates her skill level.

T.O.P.s may enter at Level 8 or above.

There are no minimum scores to advance to Level 5, only the Level 4 proficiency requirements,

No mandate scores are permitted at any levels. The JO Program's purpose is to provide competitive opportunities to all athletes regardless of age, ability, or training commitment.

States may incorporate sub-divisions within levels to provide a team competition that is conducted separately from the state individual competition.

If an individual event specialist competition is conducted (up to and including State) the mobility score for advancement to the next level remains as an All-Around score.

A. Gymnast may compete in a maximum of two (2) State Meets per competitive year (one per season), either at the same or higher level.

B. Age Determination

1. through 6. reference the procedures for minimum age for the competitive level and age divisions for Levels 2-10 for Invitationals, State and Regional Meets.

Level 8 age division is determined by the date of the last day of the Regional Meet.

Levels 9 and 10 age divisions are determined by the State Board Committee.

- a. The specified age divisions may be subdivided; however, they may not be combined unless the number of athletes is small.
- b. If any of the Level 9 or 10 age groups are combined, the printed results must indicate the birth date of the athlete, so the number of competitors per age division at Regionals can be accurately projected.

Age divisions for Level 9 and 10 Regional, Level 9 East/West and Level 10 JO National Championships will be determined by the National Office.

C. Dropping Back through the Levels:

1. Once a gymnast has competed in a Sectional meet, she may NOT drop back to a lower level in the same competitive season. (If no Sectional meet is held, then the State Committee must determine prior to the beginning of the competitive year, a designated "declaration" date for each level for such purpose.
2. If a gymnast does not qualify to the State Championships, she may petition to drop back one Level at the beginning of the next competitive season.

Level 7 and below - petition is sent to the State Chairman.

Levels 8, 9 & 10 - petition is sent to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman.

3. Once an athlete completes in the State Championships, she is not allowed to drop back. (Valid reasons for Level 7 and below would be considered by the State Chairman; Level 8, 9 & 10 would be considered by the Regional Technical Committee Chairman "RTCC").
4. An Elite gymnast may petition to the RTCC to drop back to Level 10 provided that she has not competed in the American Classic in the same calendar year in which she wishes to complete as a Level 10.
5. Any gymnast who competed at the National or Pre-Elite level in the 2003 or 2005 season may chose to compete as a Level 10 in the 2004-2005 season. No petition is necessary.

COMPULSORY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 11-12, 2004
Hosted by Premier Gymnastics
Omaha, Nebraska

Premier Gymnastics hosted the Nebraska State Meet for 221 compulsory gymnasts competing at Levels 4, 5 and 6 on December 11 and 12, 2004.

The number of competitors at each

level is listed below:

Level 4 – 75 competitors -
Age Groups ranging from age
6 to 13 years of age

Level 5 – 81 competitors -
Age Groups ranging from age
8 to 14 years of age

Level 6 – 65 competitors -
Age Groups ranging from age
9 to 16 years of age

The qualifying scores for competitors in Nebraska to be eligible to compete in the State Compulsory Meet for the 2004-2005 season were:

Level 4 – 26.00

Level 5 – 28.00

Level 6 – 28.00

Level 4 Team Champions:

1st Place Cahoy's
2nd Place Premier
3rd Place Solid Rock

Level 5 Team Champions:

1st Place Solid Rock
2nd Place Premier
3rd Place Pioneer

Level 6 Team Champions:

1st Place Cahoy's
2nd Place NE Gold
3rd Place Premier

Individual results for the State Meet:

Level 4 (Ages 6-7)

1st Hannah McCue Cahoy's
2nd Sanya Tuncan Cahoy's
3rd Elyssa Gray Premier

Level 4 (Ages 9)

1st Teagan Connor Cahoy's
2nd Kylie Kirshenbaum Premier
3rd Mikayla Tremain Pioneer

Level 4 (Ages 12+)

1st Johanna Kennedy Pioneer
2nd Amy Herman Capitol City
3rd Ivy Stejskal Capitol City

Level 4 (Ages 8)

1st Karen Avery Premier
2nd Kendra Peck Solid Rock
3rd Gabi Armendariz Premier

Level 4 (Ages 10-11)

1st Erin Bartlett Solid Rock
2nd Elizabeth Duffy Kearney/Hastings
3rd Nicole Pearson Capitol City

Level 5 (All Ages)

1st Kelsee Richardson Pioneer
2nd Anna Maudlin Premier
3rd Emily Spicka Solid Rock

Level 6 (Ages 7-9)

1st Sara Heldenbrand Premier
2nd Sierra Weber Cahoy's
3rd Elizabeth Howorth NE Gold

Level 6 (Ages 11)

1st Michelle Toukan NE Twisters
2nd Stephanie Sander NE Twisters
3rd Jenna Leigh Peterson Cahoy's

Level 6 (Ages 14+)

1st Ashley Schmidt Capitol City
2nd Cassie Shemek Pioneer
3rd Shelby Hageman Capitol City

Level 6 (Ages 10)

1st Montana Whittle Solid Rock
2nd Laura Harris Capitol City
3rd Breanna Boecker NE Gold

Level 6 (Ages 12-13)

1st Kayla Hamilton NE Gold
2nd C.J. Peterson Cahoy's
3rd Cassie Nelson Solid Rock

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LOCAL COMPULSORY CLINICS

In addition to the 2 the Master Compulsory Workshops scheduled this summer, there will be chances to learn the new compulsories and stay closer to home.

Iowa USA/NAWGJ will be sponsoring a compulsory clinic on **June 24-26, 2005** at Siouxland Gymnastics Club, Sioux City, Iowa.

Premier Gymnastics will be hosting a

compulsory clinic on **July 15-17, 2005** in Omaha.

Mark your calendars now, more information will be coming later.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who ran for a position on the State Administrative Committee.

The following are all the members of the committee: Cyndi Atchison, Carol Balerud, Barb Bottieri, Danelle Cattlet, and Connie Tomes.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the voting process. We

have 69 professional members in our state and 45% gave their vote.

Now I'm going to get on my soap box . Committee members, throughout the year, get a number of comments/suggestions. Sometimes they are positive and sometimes they are negative. We need to hear both. I do hope though, for those giving suggestions/

comments, you are also participating in the whole process. Unfortunately, 55% of our member base is not participating.

Next summer Cyndi Atchison and Barb Bottieri's terms will be ending. As you go through this season keep this in mind and be thinking about who you would like to nominate

EMAIL/WEB DOCUMENTS

After a couple of people said they couldn't open certain files, I approached the State Committee about purchasing a PDF Writer. The committee approved the purchase, but was not to exceed \$200. After a little research, I found it was going to cost \$300.

Thanks to Don Houlton, he has found a FREE PDF writer. I have since

downloaded the software and it seems to work just fine. I was under the assumption that we would have to also download the free PDF Reader to read any of the PDF files created with this program. I clicked on a document created with the free writer and Adobe reader opened it up automatically.

As mentioned at the State Meeting, I

would like to try to do most of my correspondence through email. Therefore, PLEASE visit www.CutePDF.com and download both the writer and reader.

For those pro-members that do not have email addresses, I will still be using 'snailmail'

Thanks!