

Minutes of the  
Region 8 USA Gymnastics Committee Meeting  
June 22, 2017  
Atlanta Perimeter Crown Plaza Hotel

Members present: RACC – Deb Kornegay RJOCC – Brad Harris  
RTCC – Marian Dykes RXCC – Elaine Wulf  
AL – Otis Reeves MS – Cynthia Dedeaux  
FL – Toni Rand SC – Joanne Child  
GA – Michelle Pomerantz NC – Jennie Adams  
LA – Shelley Swanson Absent TN – Larry Corrigan

Also present: Cookie Batsche – NAWGJ RJD

Regional Administration Committee Chairperson Deb Kornegay called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Jennie Adams was appointed secretary.

Deb K distributed thank you notes that were received during the year for members to read.

Cookie Batsche was introduced as the Regional Judging Director for Region 8.

**Women’s Technical Committee – Marian Dykes**

- Marian distributed completed Regional Availability 2017-2018 lists for judges and the Level 9 and Level 10 Judge Rotation spreadsheets for 2018. The rotational history from 2014-2018 was included.
- Marian Dykes and Cookie Batsche applied the approved rules for proposing the assignment of Region 8 judges to National and Eastern JO competitions. Marian explained the rotations and presented the list of proposed judges for 2018.
  - Level 10 Nationals – Marian Dykes, Paul Padron, Mary Lou Dillard and Sheila Ragle
  - Level 9 Easterns – Evelyn Chandler, Portia Propst and Cookie Batsche

**Motion Joanne C moved to approve the four proposed judges from Region 8 for 2018 Level 10 Nationals.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Larry C Passed unanimously**

- Marian stated that if the Level 9 Eastern meet is held in Mobile, AL, Region 8 would receive additional judging slots.

**Motion Toni R moved to approve the three proposed judges from Region 8 for 2018 Level 9 Easterns.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle P Passed unanimously**

Marian distributed a list of proposed judges from Region 8 states who were eligible for assignments to the Level 9/10 Regionals, the Level 6/7/8 Regionals and Xcel Regionals. The proposed judges were either recommended specifically by the State Committees or approved as part of the rotational order of eligible judges from each state.

**Motion Joanne C moved to accept the proposed judges for the 2018 Level 9/10 Regional meet. (Note – Florida placed 4 judges because it was the home state)**

Mary Lou Dillard, Gayli Craver, Cookie Batsche, Evelyn Chandler, Denise Weaver, Amy Diuguid, Sheila Ragle, Gwyned Bius, Brenda Eberhardt, Kathy Kuhn, Diane Thompson, Portia Propst, Paul Padron, Mendi Knisley, Sibby Lane, Dawn Roy, and Marian Dykes MR Alternates are Kim Joye, Karen Pleasants, and Toni Rand

**2<sup>nd</sup> Toni R Passed unanimously**

**Motion Michelle P moved to approve the list of proposed judges for the 2018 Level 6/7/8 Regional meet.**

Mary Ann Wallace, Phyllis Thompson, Jaime Wallace, Wendy Seabrook, Nikki Spinelli, Carol Curley, Rose Casterline, Denise Weaver, Becky Oppenheimer, Helena Brizzi, Cathy Campfield, Kim Joye, Michelle Martin, Beth McKnight, Brenda Eberhardt, Sandra Carminati, Bobby Strickland, Laurie Moore, Mary Moore, Lise Hardin, Jennie Adams, Chris Fuller, Karen

Pleasants, Bertina Harris, Mendi Knisley, Pat Faulkner, Dana Browy, Karimah Thorne, Natalia Grosso, Cynthia Davis, Dawn Roy, Joyce Wallace, and Marina Dykes MR

**2<sup>nd</sup> Elaine W Passed unanimously**

**Motion Joanne C moved to accept the amended list of proposed judges for the 2018 Xcel Regional meet.**

Annette Burgin, Diane Peeks, Tammye Goehring, Jarrett Ezell, Nelena Beck, Susan Manahan, Susan Lomas, Sue Tonietto, Sheila Ragle, Kathlyn Skeslock, Chris Jackson, Jane Baesman, Brenda Eberhardt, Rose Marie Robertson, Beth McKnight, Carol Curley, Gynn Hankins, Laurie Moore, Mary Moore, Bobbye Strickland, Stephanie Phillips, Cindy Cotton, Mary Ann Smith, Mary Hoagland, Kim Boyd, Sue Doliner, Jackie Gifford, Davita Ivey, Natalia Grosso, Dawn Roy, Sibby Lane, Joyce Wallace, Toni Rand MR, and Marian Dykes MR

**2<sup>nd</sup> Otis R Passed unanimously**

- Marian D reminded all members that the results of the assignments were confidential. Cookie B would send out contracts within the week. Until that time no information about the assignments were to be shared.
- Deb K stated that the Region 8 Judges Availability forms may be downloaded from the Region8gymnastics.org website. Marian D stated that the collection and collation process was much harder because the forms were not submitted in the same format. The Judges Availability form must be submitted as PDFs with judges' name in the file name and also in the subject line.

#### **Level 9 Eastern Apparel from Region 8**

- It was stated that some Regions allowed their gymnasts to wear Regional apparel at Level 9 Easterns. Apparently the apparel worn was purchased by the states and not the Region. Deb K asked what was Region 8's position on this matter. The consensus was that the budget for gifts to Level 9 Eastern qualifiers should remain the same. Brad H added that each Region worked out separately so there wasn't much incentive to "show off" apparel anyway.

#### **Fees for Judges who are either late or absent for a Regional meet because of unforeseen travel problems**

- Deb K asked for a discussion on the protocol for this situation. (Travel was disrupted for judges at both Level 9/10 and Xcel Regionals this year)
- Whose responsibility is it to pay the judges who have dutifully signed proper contracts? It was suggested that when a Meet Director submits a bid for a Regional meet then they are accepting financial responsibility for the whole meet, including unforeseen circumstances.

**Motion Marian D moved that if there are judging travel problems due to unforeseen circumstances at a Regional competition, Regional officers (RACC, RTCC and RJOCC) or (RACC, RTCC and RXCC) will make the decision on reimbursement to the judge(s) affected. The meet host is financially obligated to the decision.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia D Passed unanimously**

Deb K called for a 5 minute break. 10:30-10:35

**Motion Brad H moved to approve the NAWGJ'S Regional Judging Director as the Region 8 contractor for judges.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Marian D Passed unanimously**

- Marian D asked that each State Chairperson send the name of the CPE coordinator to her, even if the same person is being used again.
- She also reminded State Chairs that each state's optional state meet judge selections should be sent to her by November 1, 2017. (Only send names of judges who have accepted contracts)
- Marian informed the members that the minutes from the May 8<sup>th</sup> Tech Committee and Joint JO and Tech Committee meeting are posted. The links are as follows:

[https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NTC/ntc\\_050917.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NTC/ntc_050917.pdf) and  
[https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NJOC/njoc\\_ntc\\_050817.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NJOC/njoc_ntc_050817.pdf)

### **Regional Xcel Committee Chairperson Report Elaine Wulf**

- Elaine W began by saying that her committee had tried to change as little as possible.
- She highlighted one change, however, that would now allow Level 3 JO gymnasts to enter the Xcel Divisions at Silver or Gold without a petition process.
- Elaine highly suggested that Xcel gymnasts be tracked with scores earned through the season and which Divisions they were competing in.
- She also emphasized that the Xcel Program was not created to get around JO rules. The programs are two separate entities.
- The link to the May 8, 2017 Xcel/Tech Joint Committee meeting minutes is found at [https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NXC/nxc\\_ntc\\_050817.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NXC/nxc_ntc_050817.pdf)
- [https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NXC/nxc\\_ntc\\_050817.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/NXC/nxc_ntc_050817.pdf)

### **Regional JO Committee and Regional Tech Committee Report Marian Dykes and Brad Harris**

- Marian review several of the major changes that JO and Tech approved in their May 2017 meeting.
- One change that will impact many is the change in mobility score required of Level 4s moving to Level 5. Before August 1, 2017 the score remains a 31.00 AA. After August 1 the score is raised to a 34.00 AA. Brad H added that the JO discussion was to discourage the circumvention of the JO Compulsories by competing in the Xcel Divisions.
- Marian clarified that judge fees begin when the judge reports to the judging room before a meet begins. If 5 minutes late or more, the fees will begin from the march in time.
- Marian also clarified that this cycle's Optional tests for judges will only be administered through February 28<sup>th</sup>. March 1 through July 31<sup>st</sup> will be a dead period for optional testing. The first opportunity to take a Level 7-10 test will be at National Congress on August 7-10 in Providence, RI.
- Earned ratings for Levels 4 and 5 will be maintained until 2021 without additional testing.
- Brad stated that the rest of the May 2017 meeting and future JO meetings will be working on the new compulsories.
- The remainder of the topics discussed may be found in the JO and Tech Committee minutes listed above.

11:28 Annie Heffernon and Erica Koven from the National Office joined the meeting.

Lunch was served at 11:44 and the meeting continue through the lunch.

- During lunch Annie Heffernon, Women's JO Program Director and Erica Koven, Managing Director of Membership Services spoke with the group about current topics.
- Erica explained the new U110, Safe Sport Program, testing requirement for all Professional Members, coaches and judges, over the age of 18. At some point in time during the season the course's completion will be required. She added that it would even be a good idea for volunteers and all staff in gyms to also take the free course online. The USOC has adopted policies surrounding safe sport that have also been adopted by swimming, track and field, etc.
- She informed the group that Deborah Daniels, a former federal prosecutor, has conducted interviews concerning safe sport with many different clubs and State Chairs in the past few months. She will present her report to the national Board of Directors within the next few weeks.
- Annie reminded the State Chairs to be vigilant concerning the drop back process for Elite gymnasts going back to compete JO at the end of the season. The petition process is on page 23 of Rules and Policies. Concerned coaches need to be educated about the procedure.
- Annie added that the search for a new USA Gymnastics' CEO is continuing. Ron Galimore, COO, is now the acting CEO.
- Deb K thanked Annie and Erica for their time with the Committee before the start of the Region 8 Congress.

### **Regional Administrative Committee Chair Report Deb Kornegay**

- Deb reported on some of the highlighted topics that were approved at the May 2017 Women's Administrative Committee meeting. She called attention to several dates in the 2018 Region 8 Planners

that she had distributed earlier in the meeting. She noted that the State Chairperson's workshop will be a National Congress in 2018, but there will be no P & G competition.

- The full report of the WAC meeting can be found at the following link:  
[https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/WAC/wac\\_050417.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Committee%20Minutes/WAC/wac_050417.pdf)

### 2017 Regional Financial Reports

- Deb called attention to the Financial Statements that were included in the packet. She asked for comments from the Committee members.
  - Multiple praises were given to the 9/10 meet director, Sarah Myers, for an efficient and quality meet.
- Regional Financial Statements
  - Level 9/10 Regionals in Greensboro, NC Sarah Myers, Meet Director.
    - Revenue - \$121,382.07 Expenses - \$73,522.03 Profit - \$47,860.04
  - Level 6/7/8 Regionals in Mobile, AL.. Joann Novikov, Meet Director
    - Revenue - \$146,709.34 Expenses - \$112,153.00 Profit - \$32,445.74
  - Xcel Regionals in Myrtle Beach, SC Sally Thomas, Meet Director.
    - Revenue - \$350,682.58 Expenses - \$288,756.16 Profit - \$61,926.42
- Detailed copies of the Financial Statements will be posted at Region8gymnastics.org.

**Motion Michelle P moved to increase the Xcel Regional Competition Fee from \$10/gymnast to \$15/gymnast to be paid by the Meet Director.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Elaine W Passed unanimously**

- After discussion it was determined that the entry fees for Regional competitions would remain at \$100/gymnast for Xcel and 6/7/8 Regionals and \$125/gymnast for 9/10 Regionals.
- Deb noted that all three 2018 Regionals will be held in April.

### Discussions on How to Set Up Regional Competitions for 2018

- Lots of discussion and solution suggestions: 1) concerns expressed about having two State Team competitions at the same time, 2) concerns expressed about having a smaller number of Level 6s in the competition and leaving good quality gymnasts at home for some states.

**Motion Toni R moved to change the meet structure for the 6/7/8 Regionals in 2018 as follows:**

**Friday 3 sessions of Level 8 All Stars, 2 sessions of Level 7 All Stars and Level 7 Team competition**  
**Saturday 3 sessions of Level 7 All Stars, 2 sessions of Level 8 All Stars, and Level 8 Team competition**  
**Sunday 2 sessions of Level 6 All Stars, 2 sessions of Level 6 All Stars and Level 6 Team competition**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle P Passed unanimously**

- Xcel Regionals has grown so large that the numbers are unwieldy for a single weekend meet.
- Lots of discussion and solution suggestions: 1) plan on beginning on Thursdays, 2) plan on a two weekend Regional, 3) move to a percentage requirement for qualifying, 4) eliminate the Bronze division

**Motion Michelle P moved to eliminate the Bronze Division from the 2019 Xcel Regionals.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Larry C Passed For 6 Against 4**

**Motion Elaine W moved to require a qualifying score for 2018 Xcel Regionals to be a 37.00 AA for Bronze, a 36.50 AA for Silver, a 36.00 AA for Gold, a 35.50 AA for Platinum and a 35.00 AA for Diamond with the provision to use 2 judge panels if the numbers of qualifiers are too large for a single weekend.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Otis R Passed 9 For 2 Against**

Inclusion in official minutes of a Motion for Xcel and 6/7/8 State Teams that was passed by email vote in March 2017.

**Motion Brad H moved to allow Xcel and 6/7/8 State teams to be filled even if athletes score is below the qualification score for that Division. Once a team is filled all additional athletes must achieve the qualification score to attend Regionals.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle P Passed unanimously**

The Region 8 Committee liked the new format for the 9/10 Regional that placed Level 10 competition on the first day. Raising the qualifying score also made the meet more manageable.

Discussion for the "In Good Standing" policy for receiving apparel from Regionals to Easterns and Nationals

- Brad suggested that if a team were not in "good standing" (having a coach volunteer at Regional Training Camp, sending a gymnast to Training Camp, or hosting a Training Camp) then the fee for coach apparel needed to be raised. The package fee would depend on which and how many days the team's gymnasts would be in competition at Easterns or Nationals (1,2,or 3 days of competition)

**Motion Brad H moved that in order to receive coaching Regional apparel for Easterns and Nationals, a team must be "in good standing" by either hosting a Training camp, donation \$1,000.00, sending a gymnast or volunteer coach to Training Camp every 2 years or by paying \$200 (1 day of competition), \$250 (2 days of competition), or \$300 (3 days of competition) per coach for the appropriate apparel.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Otis R Passed unanimously**

- It was suggested that if Training Camps became too large for one gym site, it would be possible to find two gyms in the same city and split the staff's schedule with a host hotel located in between.

Discussion of the Gate Fees at Regional Competition

**Motion Brad H moved to allow the Regional Meet Director the option of incorporating a weekend pass into the gate fee structure but may not charge over \$25 for a 2 day pass, \$40 for a 3 day pass and/or \$50 for a 4 day pass.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Otis R Passed unanimously**

**Presentation by Ozone for a bid on Regional apparel for 6,7,8 State Team competition 1:15**

- Lea Wampler presented the options for sublimated leotards, jackets, leggings etc. that Ozone had prepared. Local gymnasts served as models. They also presented an Xcel option. Ozone would distribute all the packages at the Regional meet or mail to the individual gyms. The cost would be \$169.95 or less if needed. Deb thanked Ozone and the gymnast for their presentation.

Deb called for a break from 2:10-2:17.

#### **Additional reminders and statements**

- The deadline for Regional entries for any Level/Division will be at midnight on the Monday following the state's State Meet.
- The decision to not use Open Scoring at Xcel Regionals was reemphasized because the level of knowledge, assignment of newer judges to Regionals, and negatives outweigh the positives. Coaches have the ability to go to the head table with questions.
- Each State Chairperson confirmed their normal contact and emergency information.
- Deb asked that each State Chairperson send a link to the 2017-18 State Calendar page before 8-1-17.
- Deb distributed the invoices for 2017-2018 Planners and Address books that had been ordered by the State Chairperson and asked that the payments be made by ACH with the National office account.
- State Chairperson informed Deb of their 2018 optional state meet dates.
- For planning purposes Deb informed the SACCs of the 2020 dates for season ending competitions. The weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup> is the last date for 9/10 State Meets. 9/10 Regionals are scheduled for the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup>. Easterns will be on the weekend of May 1<sup>st</sup>. The date for JO Nationals has not been released.
- Deb presented the Regional Financial Report for the twelve months ending Friday, June 30, 2017.
- The Sophomore/ Junior forms for aspiring collegiate gymnasts have been mailed and blank forms are available at Region8gymnastics.org.

- Deb informed the members that there were no extra tickets for the 2017 Region 8 Hall of Fame banquet. Anyone may come into the hall for the actual awards ceremony. The six inductees represent a range of experience and background.
- The 2018 Region 8 Congress will again be held in Atlanta on June 22-24, 2018. This will also be one of the first judge testing sites for the country for USA Gymnastic Brevet and National judges.
- The National office has asked for potential Region 8 Congress dates and sites for 2019. The members chose June 20-23, 2019 as the first choice and June 14-16, 2019 as the second choice. The choices for sites would be Nashville, Asheville and Charlotte.
- State Chairman Workshop will be on Saturday at 3:00.
- Deb asked that the Regional judge panel assignments be available by the middle of February. Marian stated that it would be done.

### **State Chairperson's Concerns**

- Deb reminded State Chairpersons that declaration dates for each season needed to be set and published.
- Deb reminded the SACCs of their "work" responsibilities for the weekend Region 8 Congress. She asked that the room monitoring assignments be reviewed.

### **Presentation by GK Elite Sportswear for a bid on Regional apparel for 6,7,8 State Team competition 2:57**

- Kylee Rogers, Wendy Martin and Cory Fritzing, along with local gymnast volunteers, described and modeled the leotards, jackets, leggings and bags that presented as GK Elite Sportswear's bid package. All of the costs would be between \$130-\$150. GK Elite Sportswear would distribute the apparel at Regionals. The sizes used at State Meets would be tank sizes in the chosen fabric. If different colors were used for the different states there would be no extra costs. Deb thanked GK Elite Sportswear and gymnasts for the presentation.
- Deb distributed blank sheets of paper and asked the members to vote for the Regional state team leotard selection of their choice for 2018.
- Of the 10 ballots cast GK Elite Sportswear received the most votes.
- Deb asked for volunteers to be on the Apparel Committee (leotard and accessories). Jennie A, Joanne C and Michelle P volunteered.

### **State Chairperson's Concerns cont.**

- Deb asked that all State Committee agendas and minutes be sent to her. She reminded some of the SACCs that their State Committee elections needed to be began by July 1.
- Deb informed the SACCs of changes in their responsibilities at Regional competitions. Because Colleen Barger of Tampa Bay Turners has such a handle on the distribution of Eastern and National apparel, there is not as much need for SACC help at 9/10 Regionals as in the past. Especially since 2018 9/10 Regionals will be hosted by Tampa Bay Turners. She asked that SACCs alternate years in which they attend Xcel, 6/7/8 and/or 9/10 Regionals.
- National Gymnastics Day is on September 16<sup>th</sup> which will be the same weekend of the LSU National Training Camp.
- Deb received information from the State Chairs of what divisions each state would have State Teams at Xcel at Regionals in 2018.
- The 2017-2018 USA Gymnastics Competition Form is due to Deb by August 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a comprehensively organized chart of pertinent information for all levels and divisions of competition in each state.

### **Winter Region 8 Committee Meeting**

- Deb set the date of Tuesday, December 5, 2017 for the Winter Region 8 Committee meeting. Atlanta will be the place. Plan for the Committee to meet from 10:00-4:00. Site to be determined.

### **Final Business**

- Deb reviewed the revised Region 8 Regional Bid Form with the members. The form is available on the Region8gymnastics.org website.

- National Congress reminders
  - Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00-6:00 Business Forum
  - Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00-10:00 State Chairperson's Workshop
    - 7:00 Wine & Cheese Reception Women's Program Awards

Women's Competition is on Friday at 1:00 and 7:00 and on Sunday at 11:00 and 3:00.

- Deb informed the members that a letter was received from Kristie Phillips Bannister thanking the Region 8 Committee for its consideration in a matter concerning one of her gymnasts.
- Discussion: It was the consensus of the members that when an error is made if a gymnast is entered into the wrong level, the coach needs to be the entity receiving a penalty and not the gymnast. All rules must be followed and financial penalties or warnings are applied to the coach. It is the coaching responsibility to be on top of the rules.
- Additional discussion: Instances of non-civil coaching behavior at competitions has been increasing. Each state needs to remind coaches that a higher standard is expected. Children are always present.

**Motion**            **Jennie A**            **moved to adjourn**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**                **Michelle P**           **Passed unanimously**                            **4:11**  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jennie Kennel Adams