

Minutes of
USA Gymnastics Region 8 Committee Meeting
June 7, 2018
Region 8 Congress
Winston-Salem, NC

Members present: RACC – Deb Kornegay RJOCC – Brad Harris
RTCC – Marian Dykes RXCC – Elaine Wulf
AL – Otis Reeves (outgoing) & NAWGJ RJD – Cookie Batsche
Mike Holdefer (incoming) MS – Cynthia Dedeaux
FL – Toni Rand SC – Joanne Child
GA – Michelle Pomerantz NC – Jennie Adams
LA – Jackie Latino TN – Larry Corrigan

Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC) Deb Kornegay called the meeting to order at 8:45. Jennie Adams was appointed secretary.

- Deb K welcomed Mike Holdefer, new SACC from Alabama, Jackie Latino, new SACC from Louisiana and Cookie Batsche, Regional Judging Director. Cookie thanked the Committee from the Regional Brevet Judges for the monetary gift to help with testing expenses.
- Regional Judging Contractor - annually selected by the Committee. Cookie B was asked to leave the room before discussions began.

Motion **Toni R** moved to approve NAWGJ as the contracting agent for Regional judging Assignments for 2018-2019.

2nd **Marian D** Passed unanimously Cookie came back into the room.

- **National Judging Selection** – 2019 Marian D presented the list of judges from qualified candidates from Region 8 to be assigned to JO Nationals in 2019. She explained the assignment/rotational criteria. Cookie B recused herself and left the room.

Motion **Toni R** moved to approve the judges presented for 2019 JO Nationals (Joan Gnat, Evelyn Chandler, Diane Thompson and Cookie Batsche)

2nd **Michelle P** Passed unanimously

- **National Judging Selection** – 2019 Level 9 Easterns – Marian presented the list of candidates who had qualified to judge at Easterns after explaining the traditional rotation. Each Region now sends 4 judges, so no extra judges from Region 8 will be added.

Motion **Marian D** moved to approve the judges presented for 2019 Level 9 Easterns (Mary Lou Dillard, Diane Thompson, Kerma Headrick and Sharyn Strickland)

2nd **Joanne C** Passed unanimously

- **Regional Judge Selection 2019** – Explanation and discussion about the proposed judges for Level 9/10 Regionals which will be held near Cartersville, GA in April 2019. The home state is assigned 4 judges. Florida receives more assignments because they have more Brevet judges. Larry C stated that he had been a SACC for 14 years and he still did not understand how the assignments worked. He would like for the process to be written down and included in the Region 8 Rules and Regulations.

After hearing the discussions Jennie A suggested that there were too many variables for a set assignment understanding. The variables are as follows: who is assigned to JO Nationals and Level 9 Easterns, who submits availability on time and correctly, where the Regional competition is held, whether state gives recommendations or calls for a rotational order, how many judges are in each state, how many Brevet judges are in each state and there are only 16 slots available for 9/10 Regionals.

- Above statement will be added to Region 8 Rules and Regulations.

Motion **Joanne C** moved that the judges on the amended list be assigned to judge the 2019 Level 9/10 Regionals meet. (AL – Mary Lou Dillard and Gayli Craver, FL – Cookie Batsche, Evelyn Chandler, Joan Gnat and Sharyn Strickland, GA – Sheila Ragle, Kim Joye, Cathy Campfield and Kathlyn Skeslock, LA – Kristi Aguilar,

- NC – Diane Thompson and Karen Pleasants, SC – Janet Efland and Pat Faulkner, TN – Kerma Headrick. Meet Director will be GA – Marian Dykes. Alternates – Beck Oppenheimer, Natalia Grosso and Portia Propst)
- 2nd** **Jackie L** Passed unanimously Cookie B recused herself and left the room.
- Motion** **Jackie L** moved to accept the amended list of judges assigned to the 2019 Level 6,7,8 Regional to be held in Chattanooga, TN. (AL– Annette Burgin, Phyllis Thompson, FL – Nikki Spinelli, Mark Lee Robbins, GA – Gwyned Bius, Helena Brizzi, LA – Kristi Aguilar, Michelle Martin, MS – Laurie Moore, Bobby Strickland, NC – Jennie Adams, Kim Stenson, SC – Dana Browy, Kim Boyd, TN – Natalia Grosso, Sibby Lane) (AL – Jaime Wallace, Wendy Seabrook, FL – Marci Kaplin, Serena Albauer, GA – Becky Oppenheimer, Cynthia Davis, LA – Kristen Byars, Beth McKnight, MS – Mary Phelps, Lisa Hardin, NC – Stephanie Phillips, Portia Propst, SC – Jackie Gifford, Davita Ivey, TN – Dawn Roy, Joyce Wallace and GA – Marian Dykes – MR)
- 2nd** **Otis R** Passed unanimously Jennie A recused herself from room.
- Motion** **Michelle P** moved to accept the amended list of judges for the 2019 Xcel Regional to be held in Hickory, NC. (AL – Stephanie Kulman, Karen Tilton, FL – Amy Duiguid, Sue Tonietto, GA – Arlene Glass, Mariel Mariney, LA- Brenda Eberhardt, Rose Marie Robertson, MS – Bobby Strickland, Lisa Hardin, NC – Cindy Cotten, Julie King, SC – Dana Browy, Mendi Knisley, TN – Mary Phelps, Dawn Roy and NC – Jennie Adams – MR). (AL – Sharon Griffon, Jarrett Ezell, FL – Carol Curley, Nelenia Beck, GA – Sheila Ragle, June Seymour, LA – Sandra Carminati, Kaitlyn Adams, MS – Glynn Hankins, Reg Sherden, NC – Bertina Harris, John O’Dell, SC – Sue Dolinar, Pat Faulkner, TN – Natalia Grosso, Sibby Lane and GA – Marian Dyes – MR)
- 2nd** **Cynthia D** Passed unanimously

- Marian D informed the Committee members that 2018 saw unusual and emergency judge replacements at all three Regionals, but that qualified and willing judges filled the voids in all cases.
- Marian D reminded each SACC to send the name of the approved CPE coordinator to her as soon as possible.
- While contracts for Regionals will be sent to accepted judges at the end of the week, SACC’s were reminded that 2019 was also a testing year and all contracts are dependent on updating ratings. By the Winter meeting the Committee should know if a judge needs to be replaced because of not renewing a rating. The criteria for assigning judges in a testing year are as follows:
 - Assign first the judges who pass both parts of the test.
 - Assign secondly the judges who have taken both parts but passed one.
 - Assign thirdly the judges who have taken the test, passed none, but had an old rating.
- Marian informed the SACC’s that the judging selections for state meets are due to her by December 31st this year.
- **Judge Availability Forms** – The format for filling out and sending in Judge Availability Forms is more important than in the past. All the required information must be submitted in a single PDF. It was noted that the total number of hours for in-gym time must be at the highest level of a Regional for which a judge is eligible to be assigned. (i.e. – if 9 hours are documented for Level 9 & 10 gymnasts, then the judge may be eligible for selection to all Regionals. However if a judge documents 6 hours at Level 8-10 and 3 hours at Xcel, he/she is only eligible to be assigned to Xcel Regionals.) More discussion followed in updating the criteria information on Availability Forms.
- **Single Rooms for Level 9/10 Regional Judges** – Toni R asked for consideration of a change in policy to require that meet directors of Level 9/10 Regionals provide single rooms for all 17 judges. Marian informed the members that an item was included in the minutes from the Tech Committee for the last two years recommending this policy change. The former USA Gymnastics CEO, Steve Penny, did not approve the action and the change was not implemented. It was stated that the men’s’ program provides single rooms for men judges and men judges in the women’s program normally have a room to themselves. There are distinct advantages to having a one person room after a judge has been on

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the floor for 12 hours during a Regional Competition. Tying the suggestion to a Safe Sport issue, it is not unusual for a judge to check into a shared room with someone who she has not met before. Various suggestions were made about the cost of this additional expense.

Motion **Toni R** moved that the Region 8 Committee recommends that Level 9/10 Regionals provide a single room for each judge. To offset the cost of single rooms for judges Region 8 will waive the \$10 per athlete competition fee Level 9/10 Meet Host pays to Region 8.

2nd **Otis R** Passed unanimously

Motion **Toni R** All Regional Meet Hosts are strongly encouraged to provide single rooms for judges. (6,7,8 and Xcel Regionals). Since these competition make a large profit, the competition Fee of \$10.00 per athlete was not waived.

2nd **Jennie** Passed - 9 For 2 Against

Deb K called for a 10 minute break. Back in Session at 10:30.

- **Regional Xcel Chairperson's Report** – Elaine Wulf stated that the Xcel National Committee met in May. Changes were passed for the Xcel Code that reflected some of the changes from the JO Code. She was not sure when the finished Xcel Code would be available because it was third in line to the JO Hardcopy Code and the Jo iCode.
- The changes are available online at usagym.org. A major change is the Silver Vault which will be a user-friendly vault over a mat stack placed sideways to the runway. Many of the past expectations and deductions have been tweaked. In a discussion scheduled for later in the meeting she proposed changes in the format of Region 8 Xcel Regionals.
- **Regional Technical Chairperson's Report** – Marian Dykes relayed information about both the Tech Committee meeting and the joint Tech/JO Committee meetings. Testing for Brevets and Nationals begins this first weekend at Region 8 Congress. Materials were shared online and judges will receive renewal credits for the hours that they've already studied as well as the course at Regional Congress. She reviewed the testing procedures. She noted that a question about Level 6/7 vault will also be included on the Brevet/National written test.
- There was a brief discussions about the need for a better way for chief judges to instruct timers, insuring that the signal in a large, loud arena is obvious enough. Otis R suggested the use of a raised flag could get the coaches and possibly the athlete's attention. 10:54
- **JO Committee Chairman's Report** – Brad Harris stated that the committee's minutes had not yet been approved but should be out shortly. He reviewed some equipment changes – i.e. EVO boards and pit pillows will be allowed, but are not required.
- Brad highlighted other changes. The former JO Club of the Year will now be called the JO Program of the Year. Timers will need to know that warm-up time on bars only has been extended to 2.5 minutes for Level 9/10's. The Level 6/7 vault has undergone a large change that is intended to help bridge the progression to more advanced vaults. He emphasized that how the vault is judged will have a large part in the progression success. It was suggested that the creation of precise deductions will be the vehicle for the judges to be able to discriminate between the vault timers and the traditional handsprings.
- **Regional Administrative Chairperson's Report** – Deb Kornegay reported that Kerry Perry spoke to the RACC's. When holding an election in your state, SACC's are reminded to pull down the active data base from the national USA Gymnastics website for votes. It was also mandated that all entries for state and regional championships use the USA Gymnastics Reservation System and the pre-printed Coaches sign in sheets must be sent in with the sanction.
- When discussing meet fees and deadlines Deb reminded meet directors that an athlete is not considered registered until a valid payment is received. There is an approved late fee of \$50/athlete in R&P. Michele P requested that Deb discuss an increase in late fee with National Administrative Committee, possibly \$150/gymnast.
- Verbal conversations are not permitted on cell phones on the competition floor. Videoing routines is permitted as long as it is not interfering with the competition.

- A rule was put in place not allowing drones over the competitive floor.
- A meet referee may receive a \$100 fine for failure to report a sanction violation on the sanction report form.
- **Regional Financial Statements –**
 - Level 9/10 Income - \$100,545.35 Expenses - \$79,069.53 Profit - \$21,475.82
 - Level 6,7,8 Income - \$155,063.57 Expenses - \$146,536.42 Profit - \$ 8,367.15
 - Xcel Income - \$371,668.14 Expenses - \$242,135.33 Profit - \$129,532.81
- Full copies of the Financial Statements can be referenced by requesting a Regional Competition Bid Packet from Deb Kornegay.
- **Regional Entry Fees** - Deb reviewed the following: \$125.00 for Levels 9/10 and \$100 for 6,7,8 & Xcel
- **Regional Board Concerns –** Deb stated that running a Club competition at Xcel Regionals caused complications in scheduling since the same judges were not always able to give judgments for all of the same division. She added that the scratch and replace procedure for gymnasts causes difficulties with session scheduling for Level 6/7/8 Regionals.

Motion **Larry C** moved to drop club team competition at 2019 Xcel Regionals.
2nd **Elaine W** Passed 9 For 2 Against

Motion **Larry C** moved to dispense with the scratch and replace procedure for 2019
2nd **Michelle P** Passed unanimously

- In order for the new procedure to work smoothly, a higher number of gymnasts will be allowed entry into Regionals. The larger number of initial gymnasts will not be replaced when inevitable scratches occur. It is important that State Chairs find out from their clubs whether or not each gymnast plans to enter or not enter Regionals if they qualify. When results of each state meet are sent to Deb K by midnight on the last day of the State Meet, Deb K will be able to create a viable schedule more quickly.
- **Xcel Regionals –** The members agreed that a four day meet was not desirable. In order to keep the meet to three days a definite number of gymnasts is needed, much like the numbers that make up the Level 6,7,8 Regionals. Raising the qualifying score would not work either. Elaine W worked with a scheduling program and was able to predict the number of gymnasts for 2019 from the percentages in 2018 at each Division that would fit in a three day meet. Without club competition the Divisions would not need to be judged by the same set of judges increasing flexibility in scheduling.
- Deb K set March 5th as the date that each State Chair should report the number of gymnasts that declare they are committed to going to Regionals if they qualify from states.

Motion **Michelle P** moved to change the format for qualifying to Xcel Regionals. (Use one similar to
2nd **Jackie L** Passed unanimously

- Deb K added that three scores count for team at Diamond Division. Every other Division uses four counting scores.

Motion **Jennie A** moved that Xcel Regionals state's team be made up of 8 gymnasts with 4
counting scores.
2nd **Jackie L** Passed 10 For AL abstained

- Elaine W emphasized the need to ask each club, "If your gymnasts have qualified to Xcel Regionals, would your team go?" The clubs must understand that the commitment is necessary.

Motion **Elaine W** moved that a Regional qualifying score of 34.00 AA from Xcel committed clubs
2nd **Toni R** Passed unanimously

Motion **Jennie A** moved that a qualifying score of 33.00 AA for Level 6,7,8 Regionals be reported
2nd **Otis R** Passed unanimously

- 2020 JO Nationals and Easterns dates were moved, so there was an option to move the 2020 Xcel Regionals date could be moved from the third weekend in May to the first weekend, May 1-3, 2020. Due to State Meets calendars having already been set 2020 Xcel Regionals will stay May 15-17.
- May 8-10, 2020 – Level 9 Easterns May 15-17, 2020 – Level 10 JO Nationals
- **Individual Event Specialist** – Last year an IES needed a 9.30 from States to go to Regionals. If an IES were to petition to go to Regionals the +1.0 criteria applied to All Around gymnasts would not be attainable. Deb K suggested that the 1.0 be divided by 4 and require a score of 9.55 for the IES.

Motion **Brad H** moved that and individual event specialist would be allowed to petition to only Level 10 Regionals if she had attained a score of 9.55 from a meet earlier in the season.

2nd **Larry C** Passed unanimously

- **2019 Level 6,7,8 Regionals** – Since the Regional meet will be held in Tennessee but run by a Georgia club/business, Deb K asked who would provide the volunteers, gift cards for judges, etc. This will need to be resolved.
- **Late Fees** – Deb K noted that the same teams chronically pay fees for late registration to Regionals. She cited one team had paid 38 late fees to their state meet. Toni R said that clubs in Florida who are late registering pay the individual gymnast fee of \$50/athlete but also pay a club fine. Deb K said that State Committee could charge club fines for \$100 for a first offense and \$500 for a second offense.
- Because the RACC does all the work in setting up Regional meets and dealing with late entries, Larry C recommended that Region 8 should receive the late fees and not the meet host. Deb K said that it was possible that a former meet host had returned late fees to a friend club owner. Larry C also believed that the Regional Committee should be the approving body for refunds.
- **State Team Competition at 6,7,8 and Xcel Regionals** – After discussions it was decided that state team competitions will be held wherever they best fit at Xcel Regionals. State Team competition at Level 6/7/8 Regionals will stay the same as last year, Level 7 last session Friday, Level 8 last session Saturday, and Level 6 last session Sunday.
- The deadline for Regional meet entries into Meetmaker.com continues to be at midnight on the Monday after each state's state meet.
- There was a brief discussion about initiating open scoring at Xcel Regionals but there will be no change in policy. No Open scoring at Xcel Regionals.
- **Athlete Induction to Hall of Fame** – Deb K asked that each State Committee consider criteria for inducting athletes into the Region 8 Hall of Fame Including the number additions that would be appropriate. She requested that each state bring 2 recommendations from their own state back to the Winter Region 8 Committee meeting, prioritizing criteria.
- **Alpha Factor Apparel Presentation** – Yvonne Evans-Wynn met with the Committee at 2:15 and presented a variety of apparel packages for the Regional gymnasts. Their Uniform package consisted of a jacket, capri, tank leo and Swarovski earring studs for a total cost of \$99.99. Variations in styles would be up to the apparel committee. Deb K thanked Alpha Factor for their bid.
- Eastern Qualifier Apparel – Deb K stated that it was announced at her RACC Committee meeting that there was a change in what each Region could provide for qualified Level 9's going to Easterns. Brad stated that previously the Committee had provided flip flops, a t-shirt (paid for by the Region) and a bag (paid for by TBT) for each girl. The addition could be a workout leotard.

Motion **Brad H** moved that the Level 9 Eastern apparel package include a tank leotard for the qualifying gymnasts.

2nd **Marian D** Passed unanimously

- **Louisiana SACC resignation**- Deb K explained to the members the circumstances upon which she had accepted Shelley Weil's resignation as Louisiana's SACC before the end of her term. She thanked Shelley from everyone on the Committee for her service, hard work and contributions to Region 8 Gymnastics as a whole.
- **GK Apparel Presentation** – At 2:41 Wendy Martin, Kylie Small Rogers and Cory Fritzing presented a selection of apparel choices for Region 8 state team qualifiers. 5 gymnasts wore the leotards, jackets and leggings/capris for the SC's to see how the apparel fit. They reminded the group of last year's

pricing and said that they'd work with each state if SC's would tell them what they wanted. Deb K thanked GK for their bid.

- **Apparel Selection** – Deb K asked the group for their thoughts on the two apparel presentations. Discussion followed. The group appreciated that two apparel companies took the time to prepare good quality bids. The consensus of the group chose GK for this year's selection. Deb encourage each SACC to consider both companies which selecting the rest of the state's apparel needs. She appointed Michelle P, Joanne C, Jackie L and Jennie A to work as the apparel selection sub-committee to work with GK on the Region's choices.
- **Send Deb the link State Calendar to the Region 8 website by 8-1-18.** – Deb K reminded the SACC's to send her the link.
- **Information to be found at region8gymnastics.org:**
 - **Dates for 2019 Optional State Meets for each state in Region 8.**
 - **Region 8 Financial Report** – Deb K shared a copy of the financial statement. The Region is in good shape. A copy of the statement may be found at region8gymnastics.org.
 - **Sophomore/Junior Form** – This is a source of information about all gymnasts in Region 8 who are 8th grade and up who wish to have their information accessible by colleges with gymnastics programs. The club coach and gymnast must actively submit the information to Deb K before publication. Deadline for submission is November 1st.
- **2019 Region 8 Hall of Fame** – Deb K updated the members on the Hall of Fame banquet and inductions to be held on Friday night at this year's Regional Congress. Melody LaFleur was unable to attend and sent her regrets. Darlene Rose and the family of Tim Lucas will be in attendance and are prepared to speak to the gathering after their slide shows. She also told the Committee that there would be no National Hall of Fame inductions at National Congress in Providence.
- **2019 Region 8 Congress location** – Deb stated that the next Region 8 Congress would be at the Ravinia Crown Plaza in the Perimeter area of Atlanta in June of next year. Preference in dates are 1st - June 14/16 weekend, 2nd – June 21/23 weekend, and then 3rd – June 28/30 weekend. Brad would not be available to be a clinician on the June 21-23 weekend.
- **2020 Region 8 Congress location** – Deb K polled the Committee for location preferences for the 2020 Region 8 Congress. Nashville was the first choice followed by New Orleans.
- **2019 Regional Judging Event Assignments** will be completed and released by February 15th.
- **Declaration Dates** must be published and may be no less than two weeks before a state meet.
- **Upcoming duties and dates to be remembered:**
 - Deb K explained all the administrative and supervisory duties that the State Chairs were responsible for this weekend.
 - National Gymnastics Day is set for September 15, 2018.
 - State Chairs are expected to help at 8,9,10 Training Camp and at Level 9/10 Regionals. Any other help at Regionals or other Training Camps is greatly appreciated.
 - The Inventory Report for equipment purchased with USA Gymnastics State Funds is due on August 5, 2018.
 - Deb K firmly requested that correspondence and announcements sent to each state's pro members should also be sent to Deb and Marian.
 - The State Chairmen's meeting in Providence is on Wednesday of Congress week.

Motion **Brad H** moved to change the All Star Policy as follows: Due to the current climate and statements about travel made by USA Gymnastics, the 2018 Region 8 All Star Trip and future Region 8 All Star Trips will be cancelled until policies can be clarified.

2nd **Toni R** Passed unanimously

This motion and vote were taken in a called meeting on February 27, 2018 in Indianapolis at the Airport Holiday Inn Express. The motion had not been previously entered into minutes. All members of Region 8 Committee were present.

- Otis R, outgoing AL State Chairperson, announced that it was his pleasure to serve on this Committee. He said that it still amazed him that USA Gymnastics is run by volunteers who go above and beyond for

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the good of the athletes. He wished everyone the best of luck. He also said that Region 8 has the best Regional Chairperson and the Best Apparel Committee in the country.

Motion	Larry C	moved to adjourn.	
2nd	Jennie A	Passed unanimously	3:52

Respectfully submitted,	
Deb Kornegay	Region 8 Administrative Chairperson
Jennie Kennel Adams	Secretary