

Volume 13 Issue #3
April, 2009

*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

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MICHIGAN USA-Gymnastics News

DOUG'S BULLETIN BOARD

Hello Michigan,

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 39 & 40 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.

State Meet Deadlines

A \$25 "LATE FEE" per gymnast if the entry is not postmarked by the entry deadline date. Coaches – stay sharp! It is expensive.

State Committee Elections

USAG Michigan will begin accepting nominations for various positions beginning Wednesday, April 15, to Thursday, April 30, 2009. Thanks to those who took the time, in the past, to find the enthusiasm to volunteer for our committee. The Committee positions up for re-election are listed in this newsletter.

Regional Committee Elections 2009

The Regional JO Administrative Committee Chairman and Regional Technical Committee Chairman Election Procedures are listed on the Region 5 website. The Regional Nomination Election Form link is on the Region 5 home page. Each Region will be posted on the USA Gymnastics web-site and elections will be concluded by June, 2009. The Term of Office will begin July 1, 2009.

USAG MEMORANDUM – January 11, 2009

USAG has put all MEET DIRECTORS, NATIONAL CHAIRS, REGIONAL CHAIRS, STATE CHAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY SCORE SUPPLIERS on notice. The topic: Allowed information for posting meet results on-line.

L-5 Format Spring Season

2009 USAG-MI Level 5 State Meet Qualification Process:

- Gymnasts must compete (*all 4 events*) in at least two (2) MI SQM's
- Gymnast must score a minimum of 30.00 all-around in *one* (1) of the MI SQM's
- Team Awards will be for each division.

Level 6 SQM Award Guidelines (Spring)

- Medals awarded to 40 % of an age group & All Around. Team awards – 40% (1st to 3rd Place banners-**State Meets Only**) remainder 40% - trophies. (**page 51 in the USAG Women's Program Rules and Policies**)
- If there are 10 or fewer gymnasts in an age division the division will be combined with an age division as allowed by USAG guidelines. If there are more than 50 (*a meet host may divided a lower total number in half*) gymnasts in an age group the division must be split by age.

After all of the State and Regional Meets this season, I compiled a list of questions/comments from coaches, parents, and our committee. I will continue to answer all of the questions I can.

The USAG-Michigan State Administrative Committee requests that all coaches comply with the USA Gymnastics **“Coaches attire at State and above competitions” guidelines**.

They are as follows:

Shoes: closed toe athletic shoes

Pants: Athletic warm-ups or “Dockers-style” pants (no jeans)

Shorts: Athletic or tailored shorts that are a reasonable length (example-7” inseam)

No shorts with tears, holes or short-shorts.

Shirts: Collared shirts, business casual shirts, or T-shirts with gym logo.

No spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or midriff revealing shirts.

Hats: no hats or visors

The State Administrative Committees also *recommends* these **“coaches attire guidelines”** at meets below State Championships [Invitational Meets].

Level 8, Level 9 & Level 10 State Meet “TEAM” Results

Level 8 Teams

1. Stars & Stripes 113.325
2. Oakland Gymnastics – 112.950
3. Gym America – 112.250
4. Olympia Gymnastics – 112.175
5. Splitz Gymnastics – 112.100
6. US Airborne – 111.675
7. Geddert’s Twistars – 111.675
8. MEGA – 111.550
9. Cutting Edge – 110.675
10. All American Flames – 110.550
11. AGA Gymnastics – 109.925
12. Maple City Gymnastics – 108.30
13. Great Lakes Elite – 108.275
14. Gymnastics Training Center – 107.750
15. Grand Blanc Gymnastics – 107.275
16. Infinity Gymnastics – 107.175
17. Michigan Academy – 107.025
18. Farmington Gymnastics – 106.625
19. Champion USA – 106.125
20. Livonia Gymnastics – 105.950

Level 9 Teams

1. Geddert’s Twistars – 112.650
2. MEGA – 111.375
3. Oakland Gymnastics – 110.175
4. AGA-GTC – 109.825
5. Olympia Gymnastics – 109.225
6. Grand Blanc – 108.400
7. Splitz Gymnastics – 108.150
8. All American Flames – 107.450
9. GTC-Rochester – 106.575
10. Farmington Gymnastics – 104.650
11. Infinity Gymnastics – 103.650
12. Michigan Academy – 103.250
13. Branch Gymnastics – 70.225

Level 10 Teams

1. Geddert’s Twistars 115.275
2. Oakland Gymnastics 113.875
3. Michigan Elite Gymnastics 112.525
4. Olympia Gymnastics Academy 111.125

Michigan Coaches,

My team recently won 4 one week sessions at Lake Owen Gymnastics Camp in Wisconsin. I normally sell these to a club but that club is not attending this year. I can not attend due to the elite season being in the summer. I would like to sell these at a discounted rate... \$600 (a normal week is \$760) so could be significant savings for someone in your program that might be going there anyway.

Contact me if interested at USATwistar@aol.com or via phone at 517-927-7870

Thanks,
John Geddert, Twistars USA

MICHIGAN USAG COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007-2009

STATE CHAIRMAN

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NAWGJ STATE CHAIRMAN

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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 Directors: Lynda Rourke coachlala@comcast.net Ann Marie Walko amwalko@comcast.net

2008 -2009 Individual Event Specialist Guidelines

The guidelines to enter the Level 8, Level 9 or Level 10 State Meet as an Individual Event Specialist are as follows:

1. They must have one (1) qualifying score as an Individual Event Specialist to qualify to the state meet. The gymnast **MUST** be entered into the qualifying meet as an Individual Event Specialist. They may **NOT** compete in a qualifying meet in the all-around, and then enter the State Meet as an Individual Event Specialist.
2. All Individual Event Specialist's scores can count for team scores just as an injured gymnast can.
3. The gymnasts will have to be designated at State Meet as an Individual Event Specialist, on the State Meet Entry Form.
4. The State Meet Entry Fees are the same for both All Around entries and Individual Event Specialists.
5. Qualifying Scores:
 - a. Level 8 all-around state qualifying score is a 31.00 AA
 - b. Individual Event Specialist qualifying is 7.75 for a single event
 - c. Level 8 Regional Qualifying Score is a 34.50 AA and a 9.0 for the Individual Event Specialist.
 - d. Level 9 & 10 all-around state qualifying score is a 32.00 AA
 - e. Individual Event Specialist qualifying is 8.00 for a single event.
 - f. Level 9 & 10 Regional Meet Qualifying Score is a 34.00 AA and a 9.0 for an Individual Event Specialist.
6. If an athlete competes in the AA at State meet for example and does not score the qualifying score to Regional's, she **MAY NOT** compete as an Individual Event specialist-she would have to have designated herself at State meet as an Ind. Event specialist. This is not a "fall back" system for kids who don't "cut the mustard" at State meet. It is a totally separate thing, although the awards are based upon comparing them to the AA athletes and giving duplicate awards. (Connie Maloney)
7. ***No Individual Event Specialists for Level 7 or below.***
8. Copies of scores **MUST** BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL REP!

Douglas A. Rowe, State Administrative Committee Chairman
USAG-Michigan
November 25, 2008



MEMORANDUM

TO: MEET DIRECTORS, NATIONAL CHAIRS, REGIONAL CHAIRS, STATE CHAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY SCORE SUPPLIERS

FROM: Kathy Feldmann, Vice President – Member Services
Kathy Kelly, Vice President – Program

DATE: January 11, 2009

RE: Allowed information for posting meet results on-line.
No Athlete birth dates, addresses, club address or personal contact information is allowed.

As of this notice, it is no longer permissible to list any athlete's date of birth, age or personal contact information on public access pages for online meet results. The Age Group of the competitors may be part of the results. We also request the meet director lists only the club's name and state and does not publish the address of the club.

Meet Directors must state on their entry form that the results of the competition will be posted online on their club site or state/regional site. Club owners/directors /coach must state to the parents that meet results will be posted on line at club/state/regional/national websites

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 6501-6506) allows parents to control what information is collected about their child (younger than 13 years old) online. Operators of websites that either target children or knowingly collect personal information from children are required to post privacy policies, obtain parental consent before collecting information from children, allow parents to determine how such information is used, and provide the option to parents to opt-out of future collection from their child.

Although the meet director is not getting the information directly from the child, it is in the best interest of our members to respect their privacy in the areas of specific information such as birthdates, addresses, social security number and phone numbers.

The intent of the memo is to state that athlete's birth dates are not to be posted online at a public access website. It is because of the federal law. This includes pre-roster information, club listing of athletes and meet results. There are exceptions for approval avenues to the federal law with regards to age of the athlete, parent permission, athlete permission etc. but it is not in the best practice of this organization to try to interpret or define a federal law. It is the best practice for our meet directors not to show the date of birth.

Please note USA Gymnastics is reviewing its policies with regards to publishing birth dates of the national team members. I hope this helps clarify. I want to thank you all for paying attention to this. Although there have been a tremendous amount of questions, the good news is that people are paying attention and our communication channels are open and working. Thank you!

Kathy Feldmann

A brief look at USA Gymnastics' handling professional member misconduct involving athletes

USA Gymnastics expects its professional members and clubs to provide a positive and healthy environment for youngsters who participate in gymnastics. USA Gymnastics provides an education program, has a strong code of ethics and requires completion of a safety-certification program for professional members. The organization has also added a requirement for background checks as a condition of professional membership, with renewal background checks every two years.

USA Gymnastics takes seriously any allegation of professional member misconduct or inappropriate behavior involving athletes. The organization's bylaws include provisions for processing allegations and spell out the types of discipline, including termination of membership, which may be administered by the organization.

When USA Gymnastics terminates the membership of a coach or other professional member, that individual is permanently ineligible for membership in USA Gymnastics. This lifetime ban means the individual does not have any of the rights or privileges associated with membership in USA Gymnastics, including but not limited to participation in any event conducted or sanctioned by USA Gymnastics. In addition, USA Gymnastics makes such terminations public by posting a complete list of terminated members on USA Gymnastics' Web site. The list of terminated members also is published in official publications at least once a year and when someone is added to the list.

USA Gymnastics is a national membership organization with approximately 90,000 athlete members and 17,000 instructor and professional members.

Links to referenced documents

USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics (<http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/publications/technique/1996/9/ethics.html>)

USA Gymnastics Bylaws, Articles 9-10 (<http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/organization/2007/usag-bylaws.pdf>)

USA Gymnastics list of terminated members (<http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/membership/memship-noticeto.html>)

Procedures for filing a problem or grievance against a MI USAG Professional Member

The following is what you need to do in order to file a complaint or grievance against a Michigan professional member (including coaches and judges). You will file a detailed, signed letter within 3 days of the infraction to the State Administrative Committee Chairman in regards to the problem. A copy of this letter will be sent to the individual (s) accused. After receiving a rebuttal from the accused within 10 days, the State Administrative Committee will meet to discuss any possible sanctions. Any and all complaints must be made in writing for action to be taken. If a problem occurs during a meet, it must reported to the meet director and the meet referee at that meet. The meet officials will receive a copy of the grievance and will be consulted by the State Administrative Committee Chairman. The State Administrative Committee Chairman will send a response to all parties regarding the conclusion of the State Administrative Committee's investigation.

The USAG National Office and the Region 5 Administrative Committee Chairman will be notified if the infractions violate the Women's Operating Code or USAG Women's Rules and Policies.

2008 – 2009	Michigan	USAG	Calendar
Dates / Year	Meet Type	Level	Host Club
April 24, 25, 26 2009	Level 8 Regional Meet Gym Jester Bravo Fun Meet / AAU District State Championship / Special Olympics Spring Fling & Fun Meet All-American Grand Slam Challenge Flower Power Spring Fun Meet -	8 L-2-5 & PO L-2-8 & PO L-1 to 4 L-2 to 5 & PO	TBD Saginaw Gtr. Kalamazoo Hudsonville Gym Unlim Kids Gym-Portage
May 1, 2, 3 2009	Level 6 & Level 7 State Meet	6/7	GTC-Rochester
May 7, 8, 9, 10	Level 9 E/W National Championships Prep Opt & Level 4 State Meets	L-9 Prep Opt / L-4	East-Tupelo, Mississippi Midland GTC
May 14, 15, 16, 17	Level 10 National Meet Level 5 State Meet - Branch	10 5	Auburn, Washington KidSportsUSA- Kalamazoo
May 22, 23, 24, 2009	<i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>		
May 29, 30, 31	Michigan Pre Team State Invitational Meet	L-2,3,4,5	Gym America

ENTRY DEADLINE DATES FOR 2009 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>
Apr. 18- 19	Level 5 State Qualifier – Olympia Gym	Mon., Mar. 30 (3 wks)
	Level 9/10 Regional Meet – DeVeaue’s - Indy	Sun. Mar. 29 (at State Meet)
Apr. 24, 25, 26	Level 8 Regional Meet – Findly, OH (Halker’s Gold)	Sun. Mar. 29 (at State Meet)
May 1, 2, 3	Level 6 & Level 7 State Meet – GTC-Rochester Gym	Mon., Apr. 6 (4 wks)
May 8, 9, 10	Prep Opt & Level 4 State Meet – Midland Gym TC	Mon., Apr. 13 (4 wks)
	Level 9 Jr. & Sr. Nationals – East-Tupelow, MS	Sun., Apr. 19 (at Reg’l Meet)
May 15, 16, 17	Level 5 State Meet Branch (KSUSA @ Kalamazoo)	Mon. Apr. 20 (4 wks)
	Level 10 JO Jr. & Sr. Nationals – Auburn, Washington	Sun., Apr. 19 (at Reg’l Meet)
May 29-30	Pre Team Fun State Invitational – Gym America	Mon., Apr. 23 (4 wks)

LEVEL 5 “SPRING SEASON” QUALIFYING GUIDELINES

2008-2009 Rules & Policies has incorrect information

Corrected Guidelines The 2009 Guidelines are the same as the 2008 “Spring Season” Guidelines.

2009 USAG-MI Level 5 State Meet Qualification Process:

- Gymnasts must compete (*all 4 events*) *in at least two (2)* MI SQM’s
- Gymnast must score a minimum of 30.00 all-around in *one (1)* of the MI SQM’s

2009 State Meet Competition Division Determination

- MI USAG Level 5 is made up of (3) competition divisions.
- The MI USAG Level 5 Rep. will track all Level 5 SQM scores.
- The MI USAG Level 5 Rep. and MI-USAG SCC will average the two highest scores to determine your State Meet Competition Division.
- Scores will be sorted from high to low.
- Scores will then be divided by all state meet entries to determine the (3) equal competition divisions
 - Top 33.3% – **National Division**
 - Middle 33.3% – **American Division**
 - Bottom 33.3% - **U.S. Division**

Competition Format - Capital Cup Format – (equal numbers each session/ day)

- Compete two (2) U.S. divisions on Saturday morning and afternoon
- Compete two (2) American divisions on Saturday evening and Sunday morning
- Compete two (2) National divisions on Sunday afternoon and evening

Age Groups Divisions – Each competition division National, American or U.S., will be split into a senior division session and a junior division session.

LEVEL 5 SPRING STATE MEET AWARD GUIDELINES

- **Individual Event Achievement Ribbons** – Achievement ribbons will be awarded to each athlete on each event according to the National R&P guidelines.
- **Individual Event Placement Medals** - A minimum of 40% of each age division will receive placement medals for each event.
- **All Around Placement** - A minimum of 40% of each age division will receive placement medals for All Around competition. Athletes not in the top 40% will receive achievement ribbons according to the National R&P
- **Team awards** – Each division National, American and U.S., will compete for team titles respectively. The top (3) scores on each individual event for each competition division count for team awards. Trophies will be awarded to a minimum of 40 % of teams entered into each division according to USAG Michigan guidelines.

2009-20011 MI-USAG COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

It is time once again to ask for volunteers to be on the Michigan State USAG Committee. Committee member positions are for a two-year term. The basic requirements for all committee members are as follows:

Be involved in 5 meetings per year, early summer (June) meeting (calendar), late summer (July) meeting (State & Sectional meet bids and Michigan Congress organization), a meeting at the Michigan Congress or its equivalent (October) for State and Sectional judging assignments, and at the Level 9/10 State Meet (organize summer clinics, State Congress, etc.)

Organize and work with the entire committee at the Michigan State Congress. Work the State Congress the entire weekend.

Be accessible to coaches and judges in the State for questions and suggestions, etc.

When making committee decisions, keep an open mind on how those decisions will affect ALL athletes, coaches, and judges in our State. Keep a broad perspective in mind at all times.

INDIVIDUAL JOB DESCRIPTIONS

LEVEL 5 REP

LEVEL 7 REP

LEVEL 9/10 REP

Must be active in the level in which you are volunteering.
Agree to oversee respective levels during the competitive season.
Agree to organize scores throughout the season that are mailed to you from State Qualifier Meet Directors, compile and have a list of qualifiers ready for the State Meet Director of your level.
Level 9/10 Rep to compile graduating Seniors list and assist with the State Gift Distribution.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC
CHAIRMAN

Agree to oversee that all competitions throughout the State are conducted according to R & P.
Agree to assist the State Chairman in the organization of Meet Director Guidelines for Michigan.
Agree to construct a yearly competition calendar, for all levels, to be presented to the State Committee for approval.

SECRETARY

Take minutes at each committee meeting and promptly email them to each committee member.
To work with the Educational Coordinator in compiling registrations for each year's Michigan Coaches & Gymnast Clinic/Congress.

The positions of Education Chairman, Level 8 Rep, Level 6 Rep, Level 4 Rep and the Prep Opt Rep will be open for election in April, 2010. There will be five (5) positions open for re-election *annually* on the State Administrative Committee.

MICHIGAN STATE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER FORM

Please fill out completely and return postmarked by April 28, 2009 to:

Douglas A. Rowe, State Chairman
5870 North Hix Rd.
Westland, Michigan 48185

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (WK.) _____ (HM.) _____

E-MAIL _____

POSITION APPLYING FOR: _____

Second Choice: _____

REASONS WHY I SHOULD REPRESENT MICHIGAN GYMNASTICS IN THIS

POSITION: _____

I understand all the responsibilities that are required by my volunteering for the State Committee position. I agree to participate in all committee decisions or meetings and State Congress. I will keep an open mind and look for the large point of view as to what is best for the overall State, when discussing and voting on committee issues. I will do my best to help the sport of Gymnastics in Michigan improve during the next two years, should I be elected to the above position.

Signature of Volunteer



FOR JUDGES, COACHES, GYMNASTS AND ALL INTERESTED!

Mark Your Calendars!!

Date: July 24th 2009.

Site: To be determined

- ◆ The clinic will feature level 5/6 compulsories with the new floor music! The most up to date information will be available.
- ◆ The clinicians who will be teaching the sessions will be highly informative and entertaining. Including Tom Koll ... National JO Committee Chairman, Women's Program Committee Chairman, Vice Chair for Women on the Executive Committee for USA Gymnastics and Brevet Judge, Connie Maloney... JO Program Director and Brevet Judge, along with our own Judy Dobransky and Donna Trevethan, etc.
- ◆ Each team will be allowed to bring as many level 5 gymnasts with a coach, and as many level 6 gymnasts with a coach as they would like. Please keep the ratio of five gymnasts to one coach for safety. The registration will be first come first serve, but since space is limited, you will need to register early.

Cost For Registration:

Gymnasts: \$60.00

Coaches: \$60.00

Look for your registration form to follow soon!!

Each gymnast and coach will be required to have a current USA number.

Dates: July 24th, 25th, and 26th 2009.

Site: Hartland High School (NEW) (for July 25th and 26th)

10635 Dunham Road

Howell, MI 48353

- ◆ The clinic will feature the compulsories and JO rules for optional levels 7 -10 including deductions and policies for the new cycle. The most up to date information will be available.
- ◆ The NAWGJ library will be at the clinic with all the new and up to date educational material available to purchase.
- ◆ For more information contact Debbie Campbell at dsccampbell@comcast.net



Cost For Registration

Before June 15th:

3 Days - \$150.00

2 Days - \$120.00

1 Day - \$80.00

Cost For Late

Registration:

3 Days - \$180.00

2 Days - \$150.00

1 Day - \$100.00

Look for your registration form to follow soon!!





MI-USAG NEWSLETTER
MI-USAG State Chairman

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

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