

Illinois USAG Women's Gymnastics

State Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 1, 2007

A General Planning Meeting of the USAG Women's State Committee was held at the home of Cyndi Zimmerman, Naperville, Illinois. State Chairman, Norbert Bendixen, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. A quorum was present; those in attendance were:

Norbert Bendixen, State Chairman	Cyndi Zimmerman, Newly Elected J. O. Chairman	
Mary Joe Roehrig, Level 8 Chairman	Steve Cacchione, Newly Elected Level 7 Chairman	Sari Engle, Level 6 Chairman
Judy Redmond, Level 5 Chairman	Teresa Millmore, Level 4 Chairman	Wendy McGrath, Secretary
Don McPherson, Safety Chairman	Jeanne Johnson, NAWGJ Representative	Terry Theobald, Election Commissioner
Leonard Isaacs, Education Chairman		

Todd Gardiner, Elite Chairman and Randy Parrish Level 9 and 10 Chairman – Absent

Norbert welcomed Steve Cacchione, the newly elected Level 7 Chairman to the Committee and congratulated Cyndi Zimmerman for being elected J. O. Chair. Additionally, Norbert congratulated Don McPherson on his gymnast's outstanding accomplishments. Mackenzie Caquatto and Bridget Caquatto are now official International Elites. Both have qualified to Classics, which are to be held in Houston. As Mackenzie is age eligible, she will be entering the 1st Classics (both classics are held in Houston in the same week) to attempt to qualify for Pan Am selection and qualify to Championships of the USA in San Jose. Bridget will only be attempting to qualify for championships, as she is too young for Pan Am's. Both represented themselves and Illinois in fine fashion.

More, well-earned congratulations went to Teresa Millmore, whose gymnast, Taira Neal, posted the highest vault score at J. O. Nationals with a 9.85. This was the highest score on vault for all sessions.

AGENDA ITEMS

Regional Committee Meeting - Bobbie Montanari the New Regional Chairman has increased the Committee size and asked that all Pro Members review the JO minutes that are posted on the website and to read John Gedert's letter.

Judges Professional Qualification forms are currently due on August 1, 2007; however the Region may delay the deadline so that they can revise the form for on-line use.

Committee Reports:

J. O. – the Previous Chairman was absent

Level 9 and 10 – The current Chairman was absent

Level 8 May Joe Roehrig - Level 8 State was a huge success, with the exception of the Awards area; it was crowded and there was no Awards Stand. Because of this incident, it was suggested that the Meet Director's Handbook be updated to include the use of Awards Stands at all State or higher meets.

Level 7 Cyndi Zimmerman – 310 athletes at the State Meet, which went very well. According to Sari Engle, the Awards area was too small and presented the only negative feedback about the meet.

Level 6 Sari Engle – Well run meet with 320 athletes.

Level 5 Judy Redmond – A State record with 594 athletes at the meet. Meet Directors and Coaches were very professional and helped create a positive experience for everyone.

Level 4 Teresa Millmore – There were 287 athletes in the North and 242 in the South.

Safety Don McPherson – The most pertinent problem remains parents in the competition area and parents who confront Judges and Coaches. On the Pro Member side, bar settings are exceeding the FIG recommendations. On several occasions Don has noticed stretched out grips that are not safe.

Secretary Wendy McGrath – Reviewed the program for the Awards Banquet and the new plaque design. Also covered the results of the survey on advertising in other State Newsletters and/or on websites.

Elite – Chairman absent.

Education Leonard Isaacs – Covered clinicians for Congress. There is no one for beam on Saturday.

NAWGJ Jeanne Johnson – Expressed the recommendations of the NAWGJ Board with regard to Judges Selection for State and above meets.

Election Terry Theobald – the election had the *best return ever* with 182 total clicks, broken down as 163 tallied votes and 19 non-counting votes, which were: 16 invalid Pro Numbers and 3 repeat votes. This success was attributed to the availability of the online voting process.

Judges Selection Procedures

Judges Selection meeting will be held Sept 16, 2007 in a closed meeting, following the format listed below:

1. General Discussion Regarding procedure, philosophy, and parameters will proceed with all Illinois Committee members present. Also invited will be the 3 NAWGJ Assignors; the current North Assignor, the newly elected South Assignor, Billie Stone and the past South Assignor, Mary Krause.
2. IL State Judging Director & the Assignors will present the information on each judge that is eligible to judge any of the state meets and answer any questions that the Committee has on those judges. Then they will be asked to leave for the remainder of the meeting.
3. ALL Judges on the Committee that are on the list of eligible and available judges for level 9 and 10 will be dismissed.
4. Discussion between the remaining members of the Committee will then commence.
5. A Blind Vote will be conducted and the votes will then be tabulated; A Meet Referee will be selected from that list, then the remainder will subsequently posted and Alternates selected.

6. Level 8 The same procedure numbers 3, 4, 5, will be followed.
7. Level 7/4 The same procedure numbers 3, 4, 5, will be followed.
8. Level 6/4 The same procedure numbers 3, 4, 5, will be followed.
9. Level 5 The same procedure numbers 3, 4, 5, will be followed.

This procedure will be followed to hopefully produce a list of judges that will best reflect the:

- Experience and the Input the NAWGJ has provided in the selection process.
- Use of all information received during the competitive season of 2006-2007.
- Use of information garnered in previous years.
- Use of information presented on Professional Involvement forms.

Based upon the above-mentioned criteria, the Illinois Committee will then vote, using the information presented to make their best determination. No system is perfect, however given the tools at our disposal will make an impartial decision much easier.

Congress: Kris Eisenmann was not present for a report.

State Calendar

Motion No. 1: To move the late deadline to Wednesday at 11:59 p.m., 2 ½ weeks prior to the meet date for ALL State meets, thereby adding 2 extra days.

This motion was suspended for further consideration. After adding:

No Late Entries after the deadline – NO EXCEPTIONS

The motion was passed unanimously.

Proposed by: Teresa Millmore
Opposed: 1
Passed

Seconded by: Sari Engle

Motion No. 2: To set the weekend of April 5 and 6, 2008, for the Level 9 and 10 State Meet.

Proposed by: Sari Engle
Passed: unanimous

Seconded by: Mary Joe Roehrig

Motion No. 3: To have the Level 8 State Meet be combined with the Level 9 and 10 State Meet, with Level 8 being held on Friday, April the 4th, 2008.

Proposed by: Mary Joe Roehrig
Passed: unanimous

Seconded by: Cyndi Zimmerman

Motion No. 4: To keep the structure the same as last season, for Level 4 to 7.

Motion: Sari Engle
Abstained: 1
Passed

Seconded by: Steve Cacchione

Motion No. 5: Even though Level 4 State is separated into North and South, they will have different *Last Day to Qualify*, according to the current structure.

Motion: Cyndi Zimmerman
Passed: unanimous

Seconded by: Judy Redmond

Motion No. 6: Level 4 and Level 7 State be combined on March 14 through 16, 2008*
Level 4 and Level 6 State be combined on March 28 through 30, 2008*
Level 5 State to stand-alone on April 11 through 13, 2008.

Motion: Teresa Millmore
Passed: unanimous

Seconded: Mary Joe Roehrig

*** In an on-line vote, completed July 25, 2007, the Committee voted to switch the Level 6 and Level 7 weekend dates to help avoid a conflict with Level 8-9-10 last qualifying meet, which is March 14 through 16th. This change will also make it more equitable to the Southern portion of the State, by not having them compete early for two years in a row. There was no change to Level 5.**

Motion No. 7: Based on the results from the on-line questionnaire, the Committee will not consider a dual season this year.

Motion: Leonard Isaacs
Abstained: 1
Passed

Seconded by: Sari Engle

Motion No. 8: To have a Dual Season (Fall and Spring) for Levels 5 and 6 for the 2008-2009 Season.

Motion: Judy Redmond
Opposed

Seconded by: Don McPherson

Motion No. 9: The last qualifying date for each level, will also be the last date for out of State scores. Scores are to be submitted, via FAX or email, to the Level Chairs and the State Score Tracker, the Monday following the last qualifying date. NO OUT OF STATE SCORE will be accepted after this time.

Motion: Judy Redmond
Abstained: 1
Passed

Seconded: Sari Engle

Motion No. 10: All Entry Fees MUST BE PAID and in the hands of the Meet Director, the Monday PRIOR to the State Meet for all Levels. A LATE FEE of \$25.00 per gymnast, will be added and will only be accepted by Cashiers check in order for the gym to be eligible to compete in the meet.

Motion: Sari Engle
Abstained: 1
Passed

Seconded: Steve Cacchione

Banquet Information

The Awards and Recognition Banquet is Sunday, July 29, 2007 at the Esplanade Lakes by DoubleTree in Downers Grove, IL. The banquet will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Among the honorees will be Lifetime Achievement inductees Cindy Kwik Morano and Larry and Louise Moehn. In order to adequately honor all individuals, please send all videos and photos to Fred Cooper.

Training Camp

It was agreed upon to have an Illinois Training Camp the weekend of August 11 and 12, 2007 for Levels 4 through 7. Judy Redmond will look for a site and Wendy McGrath volunteered to help in other areas, where needed. Don McPherson and Leonard Isaacs both generously agreed to coach at the Training Camp.

National J. O. Coach of the Year Guidelines

Recommendations for choosing Illinois' nominee would be based on the performance of that coach's gymnasts for that particular year.

Prep-Optional

Tabled until next Committee meeting.

Individual Event Specialists

Tabled until next Committee meeting.

USA Gymnastics "State Team" National Championships for Levels 5, 6 and 7

USAG has proposed this new format in competition and in order to be able to participate this year, we would have to adhere to an entry deadline of July 25, 2007. In the essence of time, it was agreed, that Steve Cacchione would contact all clubs by phone and email, which placed in the top spots in Team competition at the State Meets, to see who would be interested in participating.

The Committee agreed to pay the Team entry fee and for a State leotard for participating clubs. Sari Engle will check into prices and styles of leotards.

In an email from Connie Maloney dated July 27, 2007 it was stated, "As of July 25, we have received the responses from the states regarding their intent to participate in this November event. It is with regret that we inform you that we had 10 or fewer states signed up to participate in each of the levels. It was my opinion, and also the opinion of Steve Penny, that this did not represent the country very well and to run a National event with only 1/5th of the potential teams would be meaningless... We will discuss this again at the State Chair workshop in San Jose to determine if this event is something you would like added to the calendar. Many [states] expressed that if {the event} had been scheduled in late May/early June, they would have participated."

Summary Update Postcard With All Changes

Wendy will work on a postcard that will review all changes for this year. This card will be mailed to all Professional Members and all Clubs.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at the home of Teresa Millmore in Bloomington, IL at 9:00 a.m. on September 16, 2007. As a reminder, the Judges Selection portion of this meeting will be closed, with the exception of those expressly invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m. CST

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:
Wendy R. McGrath, Secretary
ILLINOIS STATE USAG WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Wendy R. McGrath, Secretary

Norbert Bendixen, State Chairman