

All Around News



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The WTC Symposium's scheduled in Louisville, KY and Reno, NV will mark the beginning of an exciting change in the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Program. At these Master Workshops, a Junior Olympic Code of Points will be introduced. This rulebook developed by the Women's Technical Committee and the Junior Olympic Committee will be the ultimate reference for optionals in the Junior Olympic program in the United States. This will be the first time that all rules for the JO Program will be generated by the elected committees of the JO Program. It is our feeling that this will insure that the rules in the United States Junior Olympic program meet our needs for the next quadrennium. The Junior Olympic and FIG are definitely separate programs. The Age Group Committee and the Women's Technical Committee have worked hard to retain the best of the program that we have used in the past, while incorporating changes that we feel will make our J.O. Program stronger.

The only resource you will need to detail the Junior Olympic optional program is the *USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Code of Points*. This wonderful new book will cover all the requirements of each level of the Junior Olympic program in detail. In addition the JO Code will show value parts along with complete descriptions.

The entire Junior Olympic program puts an emphasis on technique of execution. Execution errors will be taken for deviation from the ultimate—“**Be familiar with ideal model.**” I think we are in for an exciting four years.

There will be many clinics offered to learn all of the rule changes. The two Master Workshops will cover both compulsory and optionals. In addition, each state will offer a state clinic. National staff will be at the NAWGJ National Symposium in Portland, Oregon in May as well as the USA Gymnastics National Congress in Indianapolis in August.

All judges must recertify this summer. Judges eligible for one of the courses by invitation (Level 10 Recertification, National Course, USA Brevet Course or FIG Brevet) should register only for the course that results in the rating they wish to achieve. You may not attend more than one course. If you have registered for a course with a rating lower than you hold, please contact USA Gymnastics and request a refund.

- **Levels 5-10** — the first test will be offered at the NAWGJ Symposium. Additional tests will be offered in each state and at Region 8 Congress in October in Auburn, AL. A judge may test each level a maximum of 4 times each year. The format of the test will not change from past years.
- Judges eligible for **Level 10 Recertification** must attend a course at one of the four designated sites: Master Workshop in Louisville, KY, Master Workshop in Reno, NV, NAWGJ Symposium in Portland, OR or USA Gymnastics Congress in Indianapolis, IN. Information is available at www.usa-gymnastics.org to register. In addition to designated sessions at the chosen workshop, extra closed sessions will be offered with practice judging, question and answers and a self test
- The two **National Courses** will be held in Indianapolis, IN in August. Information is available at www.usa-gymnastics.org to register. Both courses promise to be educational experiences with straightforward test on the relevant information with an emphasis on changes. Judges who currently hold a National rating will have a written test with an emphasis on changes. Judges at the course offered to achieve a new National rating will have both a practical exam and a written test.
- The **USA Brevet course** is still a work in progress. The tentative plans are to hold the course in September or October in Indianapolis, IN. Both the presentation and the test will be on Junior Olympic rules. Information will be available from USA Gymnastics as it is finalized.
- The **FIG Brevet Course** is not final. This course is the only course in the USA to cover the new FIG rules, with the challenging 20-point system. Current FIG Brevets and the athletes being added to this course will receive details from the USA Gymnastics office, as they are decided.

Both coaches and judges need to relax, stay calm and have faith in your coaching / judging abilities. You will be fine. Have a wonderful, educational summer.