

# All Around News



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## Updates for Elite, Pre Elite and TOPs Athletes and Coaches

### **TOPS PROGRAM:**

In the 2004 season, Region 8 tested an additional 168 athletes from the 2003 season. In 2003, 393 athletes tested and in 2004, 561 athletes tested. We had the 2nd highest number of TOPS athletes tested from the 8 Regions. I am very pleased with the growth of the program and adding test sites in every state was a major factor in the growth. In fact, the Elite committee voted to bring the TOPS testing to the state level and beginning this year, the State TOPS coordinators will handle TOPS testing in each state.

A **TOPS coordinator** for each state will be appointed by the Elite Chairman with approval from *Gary Warren*. The State TOPS coordinator will work with the Elite Chairman to set up and run all TOPS events in their state. The State TOPS coordinator will be required to attend all events for TOPS in their state. Since we will be expanding the responsibilities of the State TOPS coordinator, we will be reviewing all current State TOPS coordinators as well as other people who are very active in the TOPS program. After a final decision has been made, everyone will be informed of our appointments of State TOPS coordinators. There will not be a Regional TOPS coordinator.

### **TOPS TESTING DATES AND SITES FOR SUMMER OF 2005**

Below are **TENTATIVE DATES** for TOPS testing for the summer of 2005. After we appoint the State TOPS coordinators we will review these dates and make changes as needed. Athletes may attend as many TOPS testing sites as they wish and may attend testing sites out of their home state. Registrations for TOPS testing will be sent to the State TOPS coordinator of the state that you attending and all checks will be made payable to Region 8. State Tops coordinators will be sending out information to clubs on testing sites in their state in the spring. For information on a testing not in your state, contact the State TOPS coordinator in that state or Toni Rand.

Dates/States for TOPS testing for 2005 State is indicated but not actual site

- June 18th Florida and Georgia
- June 25th North Carolina and Alabama
- July 9th Florida and South Carolina (with Future Star Camps)
- July 16th Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia
- July 23 Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina
- July 29 Florida (with Level 8/9 camp)

Sites will be announced in the spring - additional sites may be added.

### **TOPS clinics:**

Each state will be allowed to host a TOPS clinic with the TOPs testing. The State TOPS coordinators will determine if a clinic is needed and work with the Elite Chairman on clinicians, fees and schedule.

A Regional TOPS clinic will be held with the Elite/PreElite/TOPS clinic in December or January. Date and site to be announced.

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## Elite Update

### **2005 Code of Points:**

The FIG has put together a new code of points for elite athletes however, the code was put on hold by the FIG in order to address the possibility of starting over and developing a whole new code for elite athletes. As of this date, the Brevet judges courses have been postponed and the new 2005 code has not been released. Elite athletes will continue to use the 2004 code until we receive notice that a new code has been accepted and is now in effect. As of this date we do not know when a new code will become official there is a possibility that we will use the 2004 code through Worlds of 2005 however that could change at any time.

### **Elite Qualifying Competitions in 2005**

The Elite National qualifiers will still be held as planned and athletes may use these meets to qualify to Challenge or Classic. A list of all qualifiers is available in this Regional newsletter. Our region will have one of the National qualifiers on February 18-20 in Coral Springs, Florida hosted by American Twisters Gymnastics. Athletes must register early for all National qualifiers as they will fill on a first come basis and many of the competitions have deadlines in November and December.

In May of 2005, there will be a National qualifier in Houston on May 20-22nd - Our region will host an international and pre elite qualifier on June 24 - 26 weekend.

### **Classic and Challenge**

There will be **NO** American Classic this season in March. The Elites will all compete at the US Classic in Virginia Beach on July 22-24 for qualification to USA Championships. There will be a Pre Elite Challenge in March and July. The March Challenge will be held in San Antonio, Texas on March 4-6th. The July Challenge will be held with the US Classic.

\*\* Elites may attend the American Challenge in March and compete in an international session however it will not be used for qualification to Championships.

### **Elite Athletes:**

An Athlete is considered elite when they compete in a Classic competition.

### **Drop back to JO**

Elite athletes may drop back to JO by petitioning to **Marian Dykes, RTC** before the State Level 10 meet. If an elite drops back to JO, they may not enter a classic competition during that same year.

Athletes that only competed in elite qualifiers or challenge are considered JO athletes.

As soon as we have information on the new code we will email notices to coaches/judges involved with the elite program.

If you have any questions about the elite or tops program please email me at [AmTwist@aol.com](mailto:AmTwist@aol.com)— I prefer to answer all questions by email thank you.

### **Elite Schedule**

Jan. 21-23	Nat. Qualifier	US Coaches Cup	Cincinnati, OH
Jan. 21-23	Nat. Qualifier	Pikes Peak Cup,	Colorado Springs, CO
Jan. 28-29	Nat. Qualifier	Parkette Invitational,	Allentown, PA
Feb. 12	Nat. Qualifier	Surf City Classic,	Huntington Beach, CA
Feb. 18-20	Nat. Qualifier	American Twisters Invitational,	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
March 4-6		American Challenge with an International Elite Division (NOTE: there will <b>NOT</b> be an American Classic Meet!)	San Antonio, TX
May 21-23	Nat. Qualifier	at National Training Center	Houston, TX
June 25	Reg qualifier		
July 22-24		US Classic/Challenge	Virginia Beach, VA
Aug. 10-13		USA Championships	Indianapolis, IN