

All Around News



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JO INFORMATION UPDATE

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It is hard to believe that another compulsory season is over and we are in full swing with the optional season. Before you know it, summer will be here and it will be time for Congress, Mini-Congress and of course training camp. Information regarding training camps is included in this newsletter. Please register early, last year both the Level 8 & 9 in July as well as the Level 9-10 Elite camp in October filled up quickly. Optional level coaches please support your region by volunteering to work either or both of these camps. We encourage Brevet and National level judges to also volunteer for these camps. Please remember that these camps are the sole source of income for funding our National apparel and trip. Speaking of our national trip, we are awaiting news from the national office regarding final approval from NCAA. We have been working with the national office to ensure that our national trips will not interfere with NCAA regulations. As soon as details are worked out we will be publishing the information. It is our hope that this trip will finally be a reality this coming June or July.

Once again we are proud to be hosting Level 9 East Nationals in Region 8 and this year is especially exciting with the introduction of regional team competition at Easterns. With this in mind it is so important that we send the message to the rest of the country that we are a united region. This is the time that we must give up our club identity and demonstrate our solidarity so we can achieve our goal of

being number one. Last year several of us received comments at nationals about how our region did not appear united. Many coaches choose to wear their personal team apparel instead of the regional attire that was given to them. Please do not let this happen again this year. Our region spends a tremendous amount of money so that we can attire our athletes, judges and coaches that go to nationals. When coaches refuse to wear their national attire, it is a slap in the face to those that volunteer and donate their time and expertise as well as the countless athletes that fund the apparel through their participation in the training camps. We have expanded the amount of apparel that coaches receive so that more than one coach from each team can have a shirt to wear for warm-ups as well as each day of competition. Region 8 will ensure that all coaches are provided with quality and proper fitting apparel, so please do your part and wear the appropriate shirt each day. All Region 8 coaches are asked to wear black pants, shorts or warm-up pants for each day of nationals and or Easterns so that our athletes will know that they have the entire Region 8 Team behind them. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and support of our great region.

The JO Committee will meet at JO Nationals, should you have any questions, suggestions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be glad to bring it before the committee. I wish everyone a safe and successful optional season and I look forward to seeing you at the competitions.

Non-U.S. Citizens Who Want to Compete in Gymnastics in the United States

A gymnast who is living and training in the United States but is not a U.S. citizen must acquire written approval from the gymnastics federation from his/her respective native country (for which he/she holds a passport) before he/she may compete in competitions held in the United States. If a gymnast who is not a U.S. citizen competes without the written permission from his/her national federation, it is a violation of the International Gymnastics Federation's (FIG) regulations. Getting approval from that federation is the responsibility of the athlete, and this rule applies to all levels of competition in all five programs (men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, and acrobatic gymnastics.)

To make it easier, there is a link on USA Gymnastics web site to a draft letter that gymnasts may send to the appropriate national gymnastics federation, as well as a link to the FIG's directory of national gymnastics federations.