

# All Around News



Brad Harris  
RJOCC

## JO INFORMATION UPDATE



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Dear Region 8 Professional Members:

I am extremely proud and honored to follow the great work of Paul Padron and to be Region 8's new JO Chairman. I believe that with the numerous relationships I have created regionally and nationally over the past 18 years, I am highly qualified for this position. My extensive working knowledge of the entire Junior Olympic program should serve Region 8 well.

One of the first things that I want to take care of in my new role is to appoint a Region 8 Junior Olympic Committee. This volunteer committee will serve as a "sounding board" to each individual State in order to insure that all questions, concerns and suggestions are fielded properly and given the attention they deserve. If at any time a question should arise, please feel free to contact your particular State's representative, or myself, and we will do whatever we can to answer it. The new R 8 J.O. Committee includes one judge and one coach from each of Region 8's States and includes the following people:

### Alabama

J- Mary Lou Dillard - [Dillard1640@aol.com](mailto:Dillard1640@aol.com)

C- Meg Henry - [coaches@unitedgymstars.com](mailto:coaches@unitedgymstars.com)

### Florida

J- Rene Niccolai - [JCIRene@aol.com](mailto:JCIRene@aol.com)

C - Laura Parraga - [misslauraashley@hotmail.com](mailto:misslauraashley@hotmail.com)

### Georgia

J- Michelle Donovan - [md-riley@mindspring.com](mailto:md-riley@mindspring.com)

C - Elena Piskun - [elena@northwindgymnastics.com](mailto:elena@northwindgymnastics.com)

### Louisiana

J- Brenda Eberhardt - [BLEGYM@aol.com](mailto:BLEGYM@aol.com)

C - Bryan Neal - [bryangymcoach@yahoo.com](mailto:bryangymcoach@yahoo.com)

### Mississippi

J- Mary Moore - [msmiiwii@aol.com](mailto:msmiiwii@aol.com)

C - Emily Lay - [Emily@starkvillegymnastics.com](mailto:Emily@starkvillegymnastics.com)

### North Carolina

J- Kristie Phillips - [kpacgym@yahoo.com](mailto:kpacgym@yahoo.com)

C - Kenny Morphis - [kennymorphis@aol.com](mailto:kennymorphis@aol.com)

### South Carolina

J- Mendy Knisley - [mendi-gary@juno.com](mailto:mendi-gary@juno.com)

C - Louie Liguori - [gymandmore@aol.com](mailto:gymandmore@aol.com)

### Tennessee

J- Jeanna Lane - [jlane@premierathletics.com](mailto:jlane@premierathletics.com)

C - Adam Byrd - [Gccgym04@aol.com](mailto:Gccgym04@aol.com)

In addition to the implementation of the new J.O. Committee, you can look for the following changes in the Regional Junior Olympic landscape:

## New Training Camp System

After much communication and question asking, I proposed a new three camp system to the Regional Board in December and it was adopted. The new camp system will begin in July and include the following camp experiences:

1 = "Regional Team" Training Camp - July 25-27, 2008 at Gymnastics Inc. - SC

Qualifiers:

Level 8 State "Regional" Team athletes (up to 64)

Level 8 Regional athletes that placed 1-3 at Regional Championships in non state team sessions.

TOP's National Qualifiers that competed L 7 and above in the previous year.

2 = “R 8 National Team” Training Camp – September 12-14, 2008 at GAA in Atlanta

Qualifiers:

All L 9 and 10 athletes that qualified to the previous year's Eastern/National Meet

All active elite athletes

This camp will serve as host for NAWGJ Symposium

3 = “L 8, 9, 10 Regional Training Camp” - October 3-5 at ACE in Florida

Qualifiers:

All L 8, 9 and 10 athletes that qualified to the previous year's Regional Championship meet or above.

I am confident that the new camp system we have put in place will provide the ultimate training and learning opportunities for our athletes, coaches and judges alike and help take Region 8 to the next level. With that said, however, the training camps cannot be a success without the support of our clubs. I would ask every club that qualifies athletes to Level 8-10 Regional Championships be a part of at least one of the three camps, as all of the funds raised go directly back to our athletes and coaches for apparel and our “All-Star” trip. Please do your part.

Another item that is very important to me and the Region 8 J.O. Committee is improved camaraderie and **team building** at our Championship meets. Below are my ideas on how to maximize Region 8's sense of team and oneness.

First of all, I am going to book a block of rooms at a local hotel at both Easterns and Nationals to be used as the Region 8 “Host” hotel. Detailed information will be distributed to our Eastern and National qualifiers, their families, and their coaches at Regionals. We are going to recommend that every R 8 parent and coach book their reservations in this particular hotel. I really feel that this is going to be a great step in team building and a feeling of togetherness.

I am also going to have a couple of meetings at the championship events to introduce the athletes to their teammates, hand out apparel, and to go over workout and march-in procedures. I hope that everyone will make a concerted attempt to attend. I really want to see everyone on the same page at these championships so that we can provide the ultimate feeling of camaraderie for the athletes of Region 8.

Finally, I want to give specifics on how the **Regional “All-Star” team** was selected in 2007 and will be selected in 2008. The top six – L 9's (plus ties) and the top six – L 10's (plus ties) from Eastern/National Championships will make up the team. The team is chosen as follows:

Any athlete(s) that place(s) first in the AA get first priority.

Any athlete(s) that place(s) second in the AA fill any remaining spots.

Any athlete(s) that place(s) third in the AA fill any remaining spots.

If there are still spots available the athlete(s) with the highest AA score, regardless of age group, will make up the remainder of the team.

Due to NCAA regulations, graduating seniors are ineligible for the trip.

Details on location, dates, and times will be available shortly following JO Nationals.

I really hope that everyone will be receptive to my ideas and will be supportive in this time of change. I really want to see Region 8 be all that it can be.

Thanks a lot and **GO Region 8!**

Brad Harris

Region 8 Junior Olympic Committee Chairman

