

GIRLS GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 7, 2009

Members Present:

John Cunningham, Plymouth
Stephen Emert, Walled Lake
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Deanna Fakhouri, Troy
Walt Gawkowski, Muskegon
Stacey Keim, Sturgis
Brenda McDonald, Grand Rapids

Members Absent:

Kelly Fisher, East Lansing
Dennis Noe, Farmington
John Thompson, Brighton

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2009 Gymnastics Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review prior Representative Council action; examine current MHSAA gymnastics policy; determine Regional qualifying scores; review prior survey results; and draw for 2010 Gymnastics Finals order.

STATUS OF THE SPORT

Committee members viewed a list of the schools which offer gymnastics as well as the number of teams which are currently competing. Members of the committee also viewed a list of the cooperative programs that presently exist in gymnastics between schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 3500 students. Presently there are 73 schools which offer gymnastics and a total of 51 gymnastics teams. In 2008-09, there were 75 schools which offered gymnastics and a total of 54 teams.

Committee members expressed some concern about *MHSAA Regulation 241* which includes language regarding consideration of terminating sponsorship of tournament competition when fewer than 64 schools sponsor a sport for two consecutive years. Presently, there has been no indication from the Representative Council that gymnastics is under that type of review as there are 73 schools which are currently involved in the sponsorship of the sport, many through cooperative programs. However, committee members continue to be concerned regarding diminishing programs in girls gymnastics and the inability to find qualified coaches who are able to understand very specialized safety issues in gymnastics.

Some members of the Gymnastics Committee proposed that the MIAAA prepare a position statement regarding an analysis of moving gymnastics from the winter to the fall as a course of action. In addition, the Gymnastics Committee requested that gymnastics competitors who are currently a part of the program as well as existing gymnastics coaches and new judges, continue to be mentored to increase the pool of coaches and judges in the sport of gymnastics. Due to the philosophical divide that currently exists between school gymnastics and club gymnastics, it was also suggested that high school programs and club programs work collaboratively to promote gymnastics in the high schools. The Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association will work with clubs to promote high school gymnastics. Overall, the members of the Gymnastics Committee indicated that currently there was an increase in the number of gymnasts on their teams over the last few years.

2009-10 GYMNASTICS SEASON

Gymnastics tournament information was reviewed with the committee. Monday, October 26, 2009 is the starting date for tryouts and practice and the first competition date is Saturday, November 14, 2009. The Opt-out due date is Friday, February 26, 2010. Regional tournament sites on March 6, 2010 will be Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills HS, Haslett HS, Canton-Plymouth HS and Troy Athens High School. The 2010 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Tournament will be held at Rockford High School and the 2011 and 2012 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Tournament will be held at Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills High School.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

The committee reviewed a summary of Representative Council action which reviewed the practice requirements effective with the 2009-10 school year. It includes information that all sports will have minimum practice requirements for teams (not individuals) before the first contest. In girls gymnastics the language states, *"after 7 separate days of practice for team starting Monday, October 26, 2009, and not before 19 calendar days (Saturday, November 14, 2009)."*

2009-10 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATIONS

Committee members reviewed recent changes to out-of-season and summer coaching controls. Information regarding the Summer Dead Period and Preseason Down Time was discussed. In May 2009, the Representative Council enacted changes which take effect August 1, 2009. The Summer Dead Period and Preseason Down Time begins its third season and may impact school and non-school programs that involved students in grades 7-12 if member school coaches and athletic facilities are involved. Coaches and schools should continue to plan and communicate so activities, students, coaches and school facilities are all in full compliance. In addition, the MHSAA Handbook Supplement and Teaching Tool (Issue 7 – Academic Eligibility) was reviewed by Committee members.

2009-10 RULES BOOK INSERT CLARIFICATIONS/POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2009-10 rules book insert was received with special emphasis on contest start time; round-off entry vault; board safety mat; matting specifications; hand placement mat; padded pistons and pedestal as well as various other interpretations, situations and rule changes.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The 2004 through 2009 team and individual qualifying scores for regional entry were reviewed. The 2009 regional participation information and scoring distribution for events at each site was received and discussed in order to assist the committee's charge to establish 2009-10 qualifying scores. The committee reviewed the 2009 summary of regional scoring and determined that the 2010 Regional qualifying scores would remain the same as had been determined for 2009. These scores are as follows:

Vault – 7.9 Bars – 7.0 Beam – 7.5 Floor Exercise – 8.0 Team – 120

Verification of gymnasts qualifying scores must be signed by the coach and athletic director and the four dates on which the gymnast met or bettered the qualifying score must also be provided for each competitor for each event.

GYMNASTICS FINALS

The Gymnastics Committee reviewed the 2010 schedule for the Finals and revised some of the initial time schedule for the check-in, Grand March and National Anthem. This information will be reflected in the Participating School Tournament Information. Discussion also included a request by gymnastics judges that Division 1 and Division 2 Individual Competition not be reversed each year. The Gymnastics Committee concluded that they wished to have this practice of annually re-ordering the Divisions continued. In addition, the 2011 Gymnastics Tournament was reviewed with a motion for the Finals to start at 2:00 p.m. rather than 4:00 p.m. to adjust to the very late conclusion of the Gymnastics Finals as well as the early Saturday start.

Committee members verbalized the tasks, equipment and procedures that are necessary to conduct an efficient meet and participated in a draw for order of competition at the 2010 Finals. First, second and third place teams at each Regional were assigned a number by blind draw. The number the team received determined the order of competition on vault, bars, beam and floor exercise.

Further information was distributed regarding the number of judges registered in gymnastics. There were 83 registered judges in 2008-09.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Starting with the 2010-11 Finals Tournament, adjust the starting time from a 4:00 p.m. start to a 2:00 p.m. start due to the late conclusion of the Team Competition on Friday coupled with the early starting time on Saturday for many of the competitors. (7-0)