

GIRLS GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 3, 2012

Members Present:

Steve Baker, Grand Ledge
Rick Dorn, Waterford
Nancy Gregory, Brighton
Courtney Hamidi, Grosse Pointe
Beth Hartlein, East Kentwood
Barry Hobrla, Lowell

Dan Hutcheson, Howell
Stacey Keim, Sturgis
John Thompson, MIAAA

Members Absent:

John Cunningham, MHSGCJA

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2012 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; and draw for 2012 Gymnastics Team 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. Presently there are 73 schools which offer gymnastics and a total of 52 gymnastics teams. In 2011-12, there were 72 schools which offered gymnastics and a total of 51 teams. There are currently 19 approved cooperative programs in gymnastics. In Michigan, there were 702 girls who participated in girls gymnastics during the 2011-12 school season.

Committee members expressed some concern about diminishing programs in girls gymnastics and the inability to find qualified coaches who are able to understand very specialized safety issues. There was a consensus that the promotion of gymnastics within the school had much to do with the coach. Although the number of teams and competitors has remained fairly consistent throughout the last few years, it continues to be reiterated that current gymnastics competitors, new gymnastics coaches and new judges be mentored to increase the pool of coaches and judges in the sport. 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 there was an increase in the number of gymnasts on their teams over the last few years.

2012-13 GYMNASTICS SEASON

Gymnastics tournament information was reviewed with the Committee. Monday, October 29, 2012 is the starting date for tryouts and practice and the first competition date is Saturday, November 17, 2012. The opt-out due date is Friday, February 22, 2013 at 4 p.m. Regional tournament sites on March 2, 2013 will be Rockford HS, Mason HS, Canton-Plymouth HS and Troy Athens HS. The 2013 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Tournament will be held at Canton-Plymouth High School with the 2013 tournament scheduled for March 8 and 9. The 2013 and 2014 tournaments are scheduled for Canton-Plymouth; the 2015 and 2016 tournaments at Rockford; the 2017 and 2018 tournaments are scheduled for Troy Athens; and the 2019 and 2020 tournaments are scheduled at Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills High School. The 2021 and 2022 tournaments return to Canton-Plymouth High School.

NFHS GIRLS GYMNASTICS RULES BOOK INFORMATION & RULES MEETINGS

Information was provided regarding the 2012-14 Girls Gymnastics Rules Book which included a re-codification of the girls gymnastics rules. The majority of the rule changes reflect the ongoing process of keeping with current trends and terminology of the sport and recognizing a variety of elements to better reflect today's high school gymnasts and their performances. The Girls Gymnastics Rules Book features new illustrations which depict more realistic figures to allow for a better understanding of the elements.

Points of emphasis include extra swings; tap swing, uncharacteristic elements on bars, bar changes, handstands on beam and floor and direction of specific elements on beam and floor.

In addition, online gymnastics rules meetings will be posted starting Monday, October 15 through Thursday, December 13, 2012. Head coaches are required to attend or take an online rules meeting (during the dates indicated) or they may not coach in the MHSAA Gymnastics Tournament. To qualify to officiate in the MHSAA Tournament, judges must attend or take an online rules meeting (during the dates indicated) and submit a schedule to the MHSAA. For those individuals who prefer to attend a face-to-face rules meeting, there are two available: 6 p.m. on Monday, November 12 at the MHSAA or 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 3 at Walled Lake Central (in conjunction with the MHSGCJA Judges Cup).

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATIONS

Committee members reviewed out-of-season and summer coaching controls. Information regarding the three (or four) player period, preseason down time and summer limitations was also reviewed. Specific attention was brought to the number of coaches who are currently running their own facility or practicing at an outside facility and not in the school in which they coach. Included in the conversation was the difficulty in oversight of these coaches in regard to the three player rule during the school year. The Gymnastics Committee requested that the out-of season limitations be given a special emphasis during the rules meeting as well as in the meeting minutes and that school administrators assist coaches to effectively regulate themselves in following the out of season coaching rules.

The limitations on coaches during the school year include that coaches are limited to providing coaching in their sport to three (or four) students in grades 7-12 of the school district in which they coach. The three (or four) player period runs from Monday of the week of August 15 through the Sunday after Memorial Day, exclusive of the actual high school season. Coaches can coach out-of-season up to three (or four) players (students in grades 7-12). If all students are enrolled in the coach's school (there are no others present), then the coach may work with four players.

2012-13 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION AND TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S MATERIALS

Both the PSTI and Tournament Manager's Materials were reviewed by the Committee and special notice was given to starting time and schedule for the Team Competition on Friday, March 8, 2013. Check-in will be at 12 noon and competition is scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m. Further discussion included the emphasis that a finals tournament qualifier cannot be replaced if that individual declines the opportunity or cannot for any reason compete at the Gymnastics Finals Tournament. Also, gymnasts who are entered into the MHSAA Team Finals must have participated in the MHSAA Regional Tournament or have previously achieved the four regional individual qualifying scores.

DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2 DECLARATION

Committee members discussed the current process to determine Division 1 and Division 2 status in gymnastics and agreed that there were two separate issues when coaches determined Divisional status. The first issue involves gymnasts who are scoring 36 and above all-around scores and are qualified to compete at Division 1 but have not necessarily competed in USAG 8/9 or above (as in the listed criteria) and therefore are competing in Division 2. The other issue identified was Division 2 gymnasts who are competing in the Division 1 Regional Tournament so they could qualify (due to less competitors at the Division 1 level) for the Finals Individual Meet. The Committee thoroughly discussed both issues and recommends that coaches make conscientious and principled decisions when placing gymnasts at their respective levels of competition. The Gymnastics Committee would like to see additional data following the 2012-13 MHSAA Gymnastics tournament to evaluate whether the tournament continues to be skewed due to coaches placing gymnasts in an incorrect Division. In addition, there was not a consensus as to how to allow for the distribution of medals in Division 1 and Division 2, the identifier on the medals, or whether there should be a divisional structure at all. The recommendation is to study the process and review the information at the end of the 2012-13 Gymnastics Finals and if the review solidifies the need to adjust how the current structure is determined, a recommendation would be made that in the 2013-14 school year, to allow for 16 gymnasts (whether they be Division 1 or 2) to advance out of Regionals in each event and permit the top 12 gymnasts advance from Regionals in All Around. These gymnasts would all be considered one division.

GYMNASTICS FINALS FORMAT

The MHSGCJA supported another proposal regarding the change of format for the MHSAA Gymnastics Finals. The Gymnastics Committee reviewed the request for one Finals individual meet (instead of two separate Divisional meets) to be held on Saturday, March 9 starting at 12 noon. Separate awards would still be given to each of the Divisional placements with both Division 1 and Division 2 competing together and warm-ups being done by Region. This would allow for greater time between events for gymnasts who compete in several events as well as single meet being held on Saturday rather than two separate meets. Through discussion, there were still questions that needed resolution regarding the possible need for fewer judges; changes in judging pay due to the format change to a single meet; and whether host schools had the capability of seating all spectators at a single event.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The 2007 through 2012 team and individual qualifying scores for regional entry were reviewed. The 2012 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 2012-13 qualifying scores. In addition, all-around scoring at each Regional was perused. The committee reviewed the 2012 summary of regional scoring and determined that the 2013 Regional qualifying scores would be changed in beam and floor exercise. These qualifying scores were changed due to the recent changes in the 2012-14 Girls Gymnastics Rules Book which includes more difficult event requirements in both floor and beam. The beam requirements include a minimum 360-degree turn on one foot; one acro flight element; acro series of difficulty; and a superior dismount. The floor exercise requirements include new elements in both acro and dance. The team scores would remain the same as has been for the last three years. The scores are as follows:

Vault – 7.9 Bars – 6.8 Beam – 7.4 Floor Exercise – 7.8 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 and confirmed the current 2013 Regional and Finals schedule. 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 2013 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. The 2013 Finals Gymnastics Draw for both a 13 and 12 team rotation is on mhsaa.com and attached to these meeting minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Recommend that starting this year (2012-13) that the Finals Individual Meet retains separate awards but that both Divisions compete together in one meet with a 12 noon start time. (9-0)
2. Recommend that starting in 2013-14 (and after review of the 2012-13 results in the MHSAA Gymnastics Regionals and Finals) allow 16 gymnasts in each event and 12 in the all-around event to advance from Regionals to Finals and dissolve the Divisional structure that currently exists. (9-0)

2013 MHSAA GYMNASTICS FINALS ROTATION DRAW

TEAM FINALS - FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

CANTON-PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

If 13 teams qualify:

ROTATION	WARM-UP	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	COMPETE
1	1:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	2:00 p.m.
2	2:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	2:20 p.m.
3	2:20 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	2:40 p.m.
4	2:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	3:00 p.m.
5	3:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	3:20 p.m.
6	3:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	3:40 p.m.
7	3:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	4:00 p.m.
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8	4:40 p.m.	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	5:00 p.m.
9	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	5:20 p.m.
10	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	5:40 p.m.
11	5:40 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	6:00 p.m.
12	6:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	6:20 p.m.
13	6:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	6:40 p.m.

If 12 teams qualify:

ROTATION	WARM-UP	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	COMPETE
1	1:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	2:00 p.m.
2	2:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	2:20 p.m.
3	2:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	2:40 p.m.
4	2:40 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	3:00 p.m.
5	3:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	3:20 p.m.
6	3:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	3:40 p.m.
-----BREAK-----						
7	4:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	4:40 p.m.
8	4:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	5:00 p.m.
9	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	5:20 p.m.
10	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	5:40 p.m.
11	5:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	6:00 p.m.
12	6:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	6:20 p.m.