

GIRLS GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 2, 2013

Members Present:

Steve Baker, Grand Ledge
John Cunningham, Canton (MHSGCJA)
Rick Dorn, Waterford
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Nancy Gregory, Brighton
Courtney Hamidi, Grosse Pointe

Beth Hartlein, East Kentwood
Dan Hutcheson, Howell
Kimberly Nichols, Coldwater

Members Absent:

Stacy Punzal, Farmington Hills
John Thompson, MIAAA

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2013 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 2013 Gymnastics Team Finals order. In addition to this agenda, the inclusion of health and safety issues was also reviewed and discussed.

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 reviewed a list of the cooperative programs that presently exist in gymnastics between schools. Presently there are 74 schools which offer gymnastics and a total of 52 gymnastics teams. In 2012-13, there were 73 schools which offered gymnastics and a total of 52 teams. There are currently 19 approved cooperative programs in gymnastics. In Michigan, there were 675 girls who participated in girls gymnastics during the 2012-13 school season.

Committee members expressed some concern about diminishing programs in girls gymnastics and the inability to find qualified coaches. 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. 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.

2013-14 GYMNASTICS SEASON

Gymnastics tournament information was reviewed with the Committee. Monday, October 28, 2013 is the starting date for tryouts and practice and the first competition date is Saturday, November 16, 2013. The opt-out due date is Friday, February 21, 2014 at 4 p.m. Regional tournament sites on March 1, 2014 will be Rockford HS, Mason HS, Canton-Plymouth HS and Walled Lake Central HS. The 2014 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Tournament will be held at Canton-Plymouth High School with the 2014 tournament scheduled for March 7 and 8. The 2013 and 2014 tournaments have been scheduled at 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 21 through Thursday, December 19, 2013. 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 11 at the MHSAA or 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 7 at Walled Lake Central (in conjunction with the MHSGCJA Judges Cup).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Committee members reviewed information on health and safety which included additional comment on the "MHSAA Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity" which was adopted in March, 2013. Equipment compliance, inclusive of gymnastics matting requirements, was also evaluated with the acknowledgement that Michigan schools have done a satisfactory job remaining in compliance with equipment standards. The NFHS statistics on the epidemiology of gymnastics which indicated that most injury in gymnastics occurred in practice was also received by the committee. Additionally, concussion protocol was reviewed, which was the health and safety focus of the 2012-13 rules meeting in all sports.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

Declining MHSAA middle school membership was also discussed and members of the committee were polled as to middle school gymnastics programs in Michigan. Discussion included the declining number of birth rates in Michigan as well as the economic conditions which forced many parents and students from Michigan schools to relocate for employment. Most middle schools do not have adequate equipment for gymnastics practice and competitions to be held at their schools.

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 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.

2013-14 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 7, 2014. Check-in will be at 12 noon and competition is scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m. The Individual Competition has a starting time of 12 noon on Saturday, March 8, 2014 with both Divisions competing together. 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.

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.

In addition, the Gymnastics Committee reviewed the results of a questionnaire provided to coaches and judges at the MHSAA 2013 Finals where it was surveyed whether the Divisional structure be dissolved and 16 gymnasts in each event and 12 in the all-around event advance from Regionals to Finals. The Gymnastics Committee also reviewed additional data compiled at the conclusion of the 2012-13 MHSAA Gymnastics

tournament to evaluate whether the tournament continues to be skewed due to coaches placing gymnasts in an incorrect Division. Committee members perused a listing of the 2012-13 Gymnastics Finals scores in each event as to score, division, placement and team.

After review of all of the information received and because new level skills in USAG have been re-evaluated in USAG and new Level 6 and above skills are meeting more difficult requirements, a new proposal was considered. The proposal that was advanced as the criteria for determining the category in which a gymnast will compete is: A Division 1 gymnast is one who has ever competed in a non-school competition at the USAG Level 8 or above, USAIGC – Intermediate Optional Level or the USAIGC Open Optional Level, or Y Program at Level 8 or competed in the AAU-Michigan qualifying meet judges at Level 8 or a gymnast who has competed in USAG Option 7 or USAIGC Developmental Optional Level or Level 7 equivalent Y Program since January 1, 2012. In essence, this adjusts the criteria for all Level 9 and above gymnasts to Level 8 and above; and USAG Level 8 equivalent programs to Level 7.

GYMNASTICS FINALS FORMAT

The change of format in the MHSAA 2013 Gymnastics Finals with one Finals Individual Meet to be held on Saturday, March 8 starting at 12 noon was supported. Separate awards were given to each of the Divisional placements with both Division 1 and Division 2 competing together and warm-ups being done by Region. This allowed for greater time between events for gymnasts who compete in several events as well as a single meet being held on Saturday rather than two separate meets. The Finals discussion also included the necessity that entries from the Regionals be carefully reviewed by the host schools so the top eight in each Division are those who are listed to move on to the Individual Finals. In the 2012-13 Finals, there were 76 gymnastics that competed on vault, 71 on bars, 75 on beam and 74 on floor exercise.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The 2008 through 2013 team and individual qualifying scores for regional entry were reviewed. The 2013 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 2013-14 qualifying scores. In addition, all-around scoring at each Regional was perused. The committee reviewed the 2013 summary of regional scoring and determined that the 2014 Regional qualifying scores were to remain unchanged. The team scores would also 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 2014 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 2014 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 2014 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 the criteria for determining the Division (1 or 2) in which a gymnast will compete is as follows:

A gymnast who has ever competed in a non-school competition at the USAG Level 8 or above, USAIGC – Intermediate Optional Level or the USAIGC Open Optional Level, or Y Program at Level 8 or competed in the AAU-Michigan qualifying meet judged at Level 8 or a gymnast who has competed in USAG Optional 7 or USAIGC Developmental Optional Level or Level 7 equivalent Y Program. (9-0)

In essence, this adjusts the criteria for all Level 9 and above gymnasts to Level 8 and above; and USAG Level 8 equivalent programs to Level 7.

2014 MHSAA GYMNASTICS FINALS ROTATION DRAW

TEAM FINALS - FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

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	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	2:00 p.m.
2	2:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	2:20 p.m.
3	2:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	2:40 p.m.
4	2:40 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	3:00 p.m.
5	3:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	3:20 p.m.
6	3:20 p.m.	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	3:40 p.m.
7	3:40 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	4:00 p.m.
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8	4:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	5:00 p.m.
9	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	5:20 p.m.
10	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	5:40 p.m.
11	5:40 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	6:00 p.m.
12	6:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Extra Qual.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	6:20 p.m.
13	6:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	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. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	2:00 p.m.
2	2:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	2:20 p.m.
3	2:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	2:40 p.m.
4	2:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	3:00 p.m.
5	3:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	3:20 p.m.
6	3:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	3:40 p.m.
-----BREAK-----						
7	4:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 1 st	4:40 p.m.
8	4:40 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	5:00 p.m.
9	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	5:20 p.m.
10	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 1 st	Reg. 3 – 3 rd	Reg. 4 – 2 nd	5:40 p.m.
11	5:40 p.m.	Reg. 1 – 3 rd	Reg. 3 – 1 st	Reg. 1 – 2 nd	Reg. 3 – 2 nd	6:00 p.m.
12	6:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 – 2 nd	Reg. 2 – 3 rd	Reg. 2 – 1 st	Reg. 4 – 3 rd	6:20 p.m.