

GIRLS GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 28, 2016

Members Present:

Alyssa Burke, Rockford
John Cunningham, MHSGCJA
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Tom Flynn, Birmingham (MIAAA)
Shannon Gohrmann, Highland
Nancy Gregory, Brighton
Jason Kasparian, Port Huron
John Thompson, Brighton

Members Absent:

Steven Baker, Grand Ledge
Debra Davis, St. Johns

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2016-17 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 the 2017 Gymnastics Team Finals order. In addition to this agenda, coaching requirements, MHSAA Regulations and Interpretations were 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 received a list of the cooperative programs that presently exist in gymnastics between schools. Presently there are 85 schools which offer gymnastics and a total of 50 gymnastics teams. In 2015-16, there were 76 schools which offered gymnastics and a total of 50 teams. There are currently 22 approved gymnastics cooperative programs.

Committee members spoke about current schools offering gymnastics and new possible schools that may offer gymnastics in the future. Since that time, one additional school added gymnastics for 2016-17 which is a cooperative program with Lake Linden-Hubbell as the primary school. There was a consensus that the promotion of gymnastics within the school had much to do with the coach and the availability of a practice facility or equipment. 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 must 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 and that several schools are pursuing ways to offer gymnastics through cooperative programs and/or by finding additional qualified coaches and facilities. At this time there are 60 registered gymnastics judges.

Additionally, per request by committee, an effort was made to contact schools who offered gymnastics in past years, to see if there was an interest to return to the sport. A request was also made of these schools as to whether they would return to gymnastics if it was in another season. The Gymnastics Committee received a verbal report regarding the requests of these schools with all respondents indicating that placing gymnastics in another season would not make a difference in a decision to offer gymnastics. Currently, there are twenty-five states which offer gymnastics. Three states offer gymnastics in the fall, 19 (including Michigan) offer gymnastics in the winter and three states offer gymnastics in the spring.

Both the PSTI and Tournament Manager's Materials were received by the Committee and special notice was given to the starting time and schedule for the Team Competition on Friday, March 10, 2017. 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 11, 2017 and for the fifth year, both Divisions will compete together.

Further conversation included the need for a host in Region 4 and schools within the Region have been notified of this need. Upcoming dates and times were reviewed with in-person rules meeting scheduled for Monday, November 7 at the MHSAA (6 p.m.) and Saturday, November 12 at Livonia Churchill (12 noon). The first day of tryouts and practice is Monday, October 31, 2016 with the first allowable competition on Saturday, November 19, 2016. Regional Tournaments are scheduled for Saturday, March 4 with Finals scheduled for

March 10 and 11 at Canton Plymouth High School. Added conversation included continuance of the cycle in having the tournament (when possible) remain on the west side of Michigan for two years and then the east side of Michigan for two years. The tournament will return to Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills High School in 2019 and 2020.

NFHS GIRLS GYMNASTICS RULES BOOK INFORMATION & RULES MEETINGS

Information was provided regarding the 2016-18 Girls Gymnastics Rules Book which includes some new language as well as consistent terminology in all events. The majority of the rule changes reflect the ongoing process of keeping with current trends and terminology and recognizing a variety of elements to better reflect today's high school gymnasts and their performances. The Girls Gymnastics Rules Book continues to feature new illustrations which depict more realistic figures to allow for a better understanding of the elements. Points of emphasis include artistry, evaluating acro passes, professionalism and host management responsibilities.

Online gymnastics rules/risk management meetings will be posted starting Monday, October 17 through Thursday, December 15, 2016. Head coaches are required to attend or take the online meeting (during the dates indicated) or they may not coach in the MHSAA Girls Gymnastics Tournament. To qualify to officiate in the MHSAA Tournament, judges must attend or take the online meeting (during the dates indicated) and submit a schedule to the MHSAA.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Committee members reviewed information regarding coaching requirements for 2016-17 and future years. The athletic director or principal of each high school must attest that all high school coaches (subvarsity or assistant coaches, paid or volunteer) have completed an MHSAA rules/risk management meeting in their sport or, in the alternative, one of several health and safety courses designated on mhsaa.com. High School athletic directors must also attest that all varsity head coaches have a valid current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate. This year, each head coach of a varsity high school team, hired for the first time at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) to coach in the MHSAA Tournament.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATIONS/MHSAA REGULATIONS

Committee members reviewed out-of-season and summer coaching controls. Information regarding the four player period, preseason down time and summer limitations was also reviewed. Specific attention was focused on 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. During the school year coaches are limited to providing coaching in their sport to four students in grades 7-12 of the school district in which they coach. The 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.

DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2 DECLARATION

Committee members discussed Division 1 and Division 2 declaration. Most of the issues that occurred in prior years in which competitors were placed in the wrong Division have been resolved. However, there will be continued discussion regarding whether additional gymnastics club and recreation programs should be added to the policy.

The current rule for Division 1 and 2 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, 2015.

Additional conversation occurred regarding the Xcel Program affiliated with USA Gymnastics. The consensus of the group was that gymnasts who compete in the Xcel Program currently do not equate to the standards of a USAG Option 7 or USAIGC Developmental Option Level or Level 7 equivalent Y Program. It was further opined that coaches are expected to make conscientious and principled decisions when placing gymnasts in the respective levels of competition.

HISTORY FOR CONSIDERATION OF SEASON OF COMPETITION

There was some additional discussion regarding the history of the season for high school girls gymnastics participation as well as the pros and cons of where the gymnastics season is currently placed. In October, 2005, the MHSAA surveyed girls gymnastics schools, athletes and judges regarding whether a change from the winter to fall season should occur. In 2007, the Michigan HS Gymnastics Coaches and Judges were surveyed and in 2008, schools were again surveyed.

GYMNASTICS FINALS FORMAT

The change of format to having one Finals Individual Meet held on Saturday, March 11 starting at 12 noon continues to be supported. Separate awards are given to each of the Divisional placements with both Division 1 and Division 2 competing together. 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. Entries from the Regionals must 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.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The 2011 through 2016 team and individual qualifying scores for regional entry were reviewed. The 2016 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 2016-17 qualifying scores. In addition, all-around scoring at each Regional was perused. The committee reviewed the 2016 summary of regional scoring and determined that the 2017 Regional qualifying scores were to remain unchanged. The team score would also remain the same as it has been for the last five years. The individual and team 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 2017 Regional and Finals schedule and sites. 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 2017 Finals. A draw was done for both a 13 and 12 team rotation and will be posted on mhsaa.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.