

Ohio USA Gymnastics
State Committee Agenda
June 10, 2011
Hilton Garden Inn – Polaris

I. Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 11:09 am

Present were: Nina Dent, Jill Skulich, Pam Halker, Gary Toussaint, Michelle Crane, Kittia Carpenter, Amy Nyman, Diane Renzi and Jamie Parsley (as acting secretary).

- Welcome to new committee member Amy Nyman who will be replacing Jamie who is stepping down.
- Not present, but also new to the committee will be Anne Vogel who will be replacing Becky Cox who has also stepped down.

II. Review Rolls

- Everyone was reminded that this is a volunteer position and that they, their family, and their jobs come first. Communicate to Nina if you are unable to do something you said you would/could. Do the best that you can with any job that you take on, but if you are over your head – state that you need help.
- Review of positions occurred to make sure everyone knew what their role was and expectations were clear.
- A few changes were made in that Anne would not be doing the mailings those will come from Nina.
- It was determined that someone needed to oversee the leotard sales and how those that are on the regional teams or awarded a leotard were confirmed. There was an issue last year with an athlete showing up to the regionals without a state leotard as she had no idea that she earned one. Luckily, Becky had one on hand for someone else and the gymnast got her leotard. Sue Kane would be the person who oversees the distribution of leotards, and verifies that all Level 8 regional team members have one.

III. Confidentiality Forms

- Forms were signed and everyone was reminded that they represent the state committee not their club or themselves as a judge. The committee was warned of a questionable breach of confidentiality over the past year and reminded that all state committee meetings are confidential.

IV. Update from Orlando

- Audience injuries – at the state chairman’s workshop in Orlando, Nina brought up that the national office lawyers are reminding everyone that one of the biggest increases in lawsuits being brought up are those that are injuries of audience members at meets.
 - Pam to add this to meet director handbook
 - Meet directors need to be reminded that all areas of a meet need to be covered under their insurance. I.e. awards in a theater might be too dark and someone could fall. Make sure that the insurance did not stop at the door of the gym.
 - Another is the parking lot of the site being used for the event. Often icy and dangerous.

- The state chairs were told a story about difibulators and how having one has saved more than one person's life. We are to encourage our club owners to investigate and consider purchasing the product.
- The state tax associated to sanctioned events can no longer be called a state tax, but rather now be called the operating fee.
- Open Championship – Prior to the state chairman's meeting the national office held the first-ever Open National Championship. The event was a resounding success and there are hopes that it will rise in numbers in the future.
 - Kittia spoke about the unique and fun atmosphere of the event and how it was a great experience not only for the athletes but families as well.
 - Levels 4-8 and Prep Opt.
 - Only gave out awards 1-3/event and 1-6/AA but awards were extremely nice with Mickey head and ESPN on them.
 - There is a push to get states to support sending athletes to the event so the committee discussed the options. Further discussion was tabled at this time.
- Judges Mileage – MapQuest will be required for state meets and above for a judge to be paid mileage.
- USA Gymnastics has revamped the Gymnastics University curriculum and a nice introduction of how it will work was presented to the state chairs. A very good program for new coaches to take.

V. Various Items

- Volunteer support for funds – frequently Ohio, like many states, are asked to support efforts in a monetary fashion. It has been the committee's stance that these requests, while important and needed are not something that we, as a committee, need to feel obligated to contribute towards. The feeling is we will submit the information and if individuals would like to participate that is up to them.
- Administrative fee for regional meets in Ohio - this past season Gymnastics World hosted the Level 9/10 regional meet solely for the purpose of keeping it close to the NCAA Nationals which was being hosted in downtown Cleveland by Kent State. Thus the question came up as to whether a meet director, who hosts a regional meet, must pay the Ohio state operating cost fee.

Any Ohio club that hosts a regional or national competition in Ohio does not need to pay the Ohio operating tax.

Motion – Pam Halker

Second – Diane Renzi

Motion – Passed unanimously

- State operating fees were discussed on whether or not to keep them the same or raise them. The discussion was tabled for a later date.
- A question had come about this past year as to whether or not Ohio hosting its own compulsory (and more importantly) optional camps were a direct conflict to the already established regional training camps.

- Discussion was held and stated that there is no conflict and we will continue with our camps.
- Ohio has recently had a number of athletes who have won JO national events. Thus the committee discussed whether or not to purchase national banners to recognize these athletes.

All national champions at Level 9 or Level 10, will receive a national champion banner from the state committee.

Motion – Pam

Second – Jill

Motion – Passed unanimously

(Nina will work with A-1 on a design)

- Special Olympics – there was a discussion on how the state committee and clubs get more involved in Special Olympic events. This was tabled until next year to see what we can learn about involving more people from the gymnastics community. Nina will do some research and report back.
- Yearly mailings – the main reason for the mailing this year was for the state meet bid forms. Discussion was had about the pros/cons of a yearly mailing and it was determined that a yearly mailing was not something that would be mandatory.
- Personal expenses – Nina asked the committee to advise as to what are reasonable costs for her to deduct for her personal expenses as the state chair. She has not taken any money for things such as phone, internet, uses personal computers and printers.

The state committee will approve a budget of up to \$150/month for cell phone and internet services, as well as a one-time laptop and printer/scanner purchase as reimbursements from the state.

Motion – Gary

Second – Diane

Motion – Passed unanimously

- Regional Coach of the Year – should be a coach that has done well and will continue to do well at regionals can hold ground against some of the most highly regarded coaches within the Region. Ohio Coach of the Year does not have to be the same as the Regional Coach of the Year.
 - Committee votes on Regional Coach of the Year from Ohio.
 - Ohio membership votes on Ohio's Coach of the Year.
- Judges Meeting
 - Other state's state committee making decisions on who is judging state meets and what events they will be on.
 - Meeting in late September or earlier?
 - PIF deadline is September 1.

- Date decision was tabled.
 - Do we want a coach present like last year?
 - Discussion came to the conclusion that it is not necessary.
 - Will we include coach's opinions again via the membership vote?
 - Discussion was had and we came to the conclusion that we should work only with the state judging director and her board's recommendations.
 - Coaches who want to have an opinion need to communicate with a committee member to share his/her views.
 - Do we want to assign the events?
 - Discussion was a unanimous "yes" as some past assignments have created mixed results.
 - State committee will assign all events for all levels.
 - Will we consider PIFs and In-Gym cards?
 - Char commented on the importance of these "tools" and committee agreed.
 - Each committee member will submit their top 20 selections.
- Handbooks:
 - Cost of printing the copies was around \$800 for last year, plus shipping.
 - We brought in a little over \$5000 for advertising.
 - Purchasing an ad gets a link on the calendar/website that takes the browser to the meet website.
 - Committee decided not to offer half pages ads.
 - Full page \$200.
 - Full page color \$350.
 - Advertising deadline July 15.
 - Digital ads REQUIRED.
 - If not submitted in digital format, there will be a \$100 set up fee.
 - Handbook online by August 1.
 - Hard copies sent by August 15.
- 9/10 Emphasis next few years:
 - Get more athletes to Level 9 and Level 10 regionals/nationals.
 - Encourage judges to go into the gyms and help these clubs especially as it nears the state/regional/national meets.
 - The committee highly suggests any judge that wants to be considered for the 9/10 state meet have a minimum 3.0 hours of in-gym interaction with coaches and gymnasts.
 - Since it is late notice, this will not be mandatory this year, but only suggested at this time for consideration.
 - Judges need to have In-Gym form signed by the coach.

VI. Annual Activities

- Compulsory Camp
 - Last year's camp had 69 athletes up north and 130 in the central camp.
 - Will continue to do two camp sites.
 - Volunteers are scarce.
 - Each camp should have a coaches session to go over the compulsory text etc.

- Cost will be \$40 and a t-shirt.
- Each camp will have invitation to lunch/dinner with roundtable discussion at the conclusion of the camp.
- Camp dates will be December 18
 - Buckeye Gymnastics
 - Elite Gymnastics
- Optional Camp
 - Last year's camp had 70 athletes registered.
 - Cost will be \$45 plus a t-shirt.
 - Need to get more college coaches to the event, hooking it up with the golf outing.
 - Date will be June 8, 2012.
- Banquet
 - Jamie handed a folder off to Amy of all the banquet details from the past two years.
 - Name to remain "Ohio Awards Banquet".
 - Need to start thinking about a theme.
 - Specialists invited as regional qualifiers.
 - Last year approximately 490 people attended the event.
 - 185 athletes were given invitations.
 - Sue mentioned that in order to do the slide show, she needs pictures sooner than two weeks out.
 - Suggestion to take pictures of each AA winner.
 - Discussion was had about making the banquet planning process smoother.

We will increase dinner meals \$3/plate to help defray some of the costs for the banquet.

Motion – Sue

Second – Gary

Motion passed unanimously

 - Sites being considered are: OSU Union and Villa Milano in Westerville
 - Will not mail gifts to non-attendees.
 - Should we recognize TOPS kids that qualify to Regional or National TOPS testing?
 - Discussion held decision to invite these athletes concluded with it was not necessary.
- Golf Outing
 - 11 teams, 44 golfers were at last event.
 - Need to get the word out not only to the coaches but to families as well.
 - Include golf flyer with banquet information.
 - Continue to do putting contest and skins game.
 - Hoping for a \$3000 profit.
 - Free t-shirts for everyone who golfs.

VII. Mandated Items for State

- Entry fees for state meets – remain the same.
- Qualifying scores – remain the same.
- American/National – remain the same.
- Gate prices – remain the same.
- Team awards – remain the same but change colors of trophies.
- Gymnasts gifts

The host gym should receive \$2/gymnast for the motivational gift.

Motion – Kittia

Second – Pam

Motion passes unanimously

- Drop back deadline – remain the same
- Entry deadline – discussion took place about the number of teams that had to pay the late entry fee of \$25/gymnast and many had 20+ athletes on their teams.
 - Does not really affect the meet director.
 - DOES affect the age groups.
 - Leave a “padding to the age group”.
 - Do we put a limit to the amount of dollars charged to a club?
 - Decision to change/lower/alter the amount got tabled.
 - Refunds not easy to get back if you enter a gymnast early and need to scratch later.
 - Who manages the collection of fees both registration and late payment – the meet director, not the state committee or state chair.
- Communication with judges for state meets
 - State meet director’s handbook states that the meet director should send information to Carol. Obviously with Carol’s health items got dropped and information did not get out appropriately.
 - It is the state committee’s responsibility to give list of judges and their emails to the state meet director.

In order to assist the current state judging director, the state committee will take responsibility of sending out the contracts and information to the officials for all state meets for the 2011-2012 season.

Motion – Gary

Second – Michelle

Motion passed unanimously

- There will be a maximum of: 3 sessions/day for State meets.
- Meets might now be going Friday/Saturday/Sunday and must be indicated on the meet bids.

VIII. Prep Optional – Xcel

- Updates from Michelle:
 - Michelle has been asking the question of the national office as to whether or not an Xcel gymnast can compete in the Xcel state meet as well as a JO state meet in the same season.
 - Right now Ohio allows it based on the premise that Xcel is considered a “parallel” program to the JO program. But there is indication that the national office is saying “no they cannot compete in the two state meets in the same year”. Michelle is following up with Tom Koll, Connie Maloney, and Claudia Kretchmer.
 - Judge’s compensation has been a very hot topic this year for Prep Opt. However at this time, there is no change. Maybe after National Congress.
 - Bronze and Silver floor time has changed. Max is now 1:15; Gold and Platinum remain at 1:30.
 - Bronze beam – round-off dismount is now an “A” element.
 - Bonus for stuck dismounts will only apply on bars, beam and vault; no stuck bonus on floor allowed.
 - 2 second hold is defined as ANY hold, but will not get value part unless it is in the code.
 - Meet director will have a choice on running vault due to the flat back and handspring options for Bronze.
 - All flat backs can go....and then all handsprings can go.
 - Judges would have to hold their scores until the gymnast performs both vaults.
 - Air boards may be used for flat backs, but not table vaults.
 - Gymnast must use same vaulting board/apparatus for both attempts. (this needs further clarification as the belief is board only needs to be the same but that contradicts air board used only on flat backs.
 - Bars – all levels only have to have 6 elements.
 - Gold bars allowed to do tap swing and count as “A” and not be an extra swing
 - Gold cast is to horizontal
 - Beam:
 - Silver beam only requires 6 elements
 - Floor changes:
 - Silver floor only requires 6 elements
 - Platinum 1 forward acro element with flight is required
- Excel philosophy in Ohio current age limit is 8. Due to the change as we prepare for a national Excel level, do we alter the limits at each level?

To be in line with the pending changes Bronze athletes need to meet the age of 5, Silver need to be 6, Gold need to be 7, and Platinum need to be 8.

Motion – Gary

Second – Michelle

Motion passed unanimously

(Rational is that many clubs are using Xcel for various reasons such as preparation for TOPS kids and this is a good avenue for them)

- Drop backs in Xcel are not currently monitored. No one paying attention to who tried Gold and then competes Silver at State. Committee will try to find a good solution but feels that the level is so new, and there are small numbers of athletes using this program at this time that it was a low priority to monitor.
- State Meet entry for Xcel is \$60, and invitationals can charge whatever they want.
- Qualifying Score

For the pending 2011-2012 season, there will be no qualifying score to enter the Xcel State Meet.

Motion – Sue

Second – Michelle

Motion passed unanimously

- A-1 awards will be used due to it now being a state meet.

IX. State Meets and State Meet Bids

- Discussion for Level 3 Invitational
 - 49 athletes competed in it last year
 - Decision to still keep it as an Invitational
- We had an issue with two dates being posted for the deadline for the state meet bids this year. Committee decided to accept any bids received by the later of the two dates as “in on time”.
- At this time Pam distributed a sheet which listed all bids received for all meets. Committee considered the fact that very few bids were received and those that did bid on several meets. There were not many to choose from. Silent votes were taken.
 - Level 4-6 Fall and Level 3 Invitational
 - December 2-4, 2011
 - Awarded to Olympic Dreams @ Ralph Infante Wellness Center
 - Level 6,9,10, Excel
 - March 23-25, 2012
 - Awarded to Olympic Dreams @ Ralph Infante Wellness Center
 - Level 7-8
 - March 30-April 1, 2012
 - Awarded to Olympic Academy @ Heath High School
 - Level 4-5 Spring
 - April 20-22, 2012
 - Awarded to Halker’s Gold @ Perry Fieldhouse – Bowling Green
- Issues from state meets last year:
 - At 9,10 with a 4 judge panel, the meet director will need to supply a judge’s secretary.
 - Important to have proper judge’s slips.
 - On score sheet specialist need to be indicated that they are different.
 - Their number might need to start or end with an “S”.
 - MUST report to all events as a “scratch”.
 - Judges need to know which rotation has specialists in it.

- Issue was one kid went first twice because specialist did not compete certain events.
- Levels with 4 session meets
 - Level 7s had four sessions
 - Level 8s had four sessions

X. Petition submission from GymXtreme was withdrawn this morning.

XI. State Clinic

- To be held on August 27.
- Location pending at this time.
- Lunch will be catered.
- Possible games associated to the event such as cornhole.
- Sessions to include a coach/judge perspective of a routine.
- “Beginning Optional Gymnastics, Coach It, Spot It, Judge It”
- Program to be directed to Xcel and Levels 7 & 8 gymnastics.
- All-Starz a possible location.

XII. Miscellaneous

- Future Competition Dates
 - April 8, 2012 Easter
 - April 13-15, 2012 Level 9/10 Regionals
 - April 27-19, 2012 Level 8 Regionals
 - May 3-6, 2012 Level 9 Easterns
 - May 10-13, 2012 Level 10 Nationals
- Kittia reminded everyone about the mentor program and stated that one club has definitely been taking advantage of the opportunity.

XIII. Meeting adjourned 10:33 pm.