

GIRLS GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 6, 2010

Members Present:

John Cunningham, Plymouth
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Deanna Fakhouri, Troy
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Dan Hutcheson, Howell
Brenda McDonald, Grand Rapids
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Kendra Sharp, Jackson

Members Absent:

Jeff Bell, Freeland
Stacey Keim, Sturgis

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2010 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 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. Presently there are 73 schools which offer gymnastics and a total of 53 gymnastics teams. In 2009-10, there were 73 schools which offered gymnastics and a total of 51 teams. There are currently 17 approved cooperative programs in gymnastics.

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. Although the number of teams and competitors has remained fairly consistent throughout the last five 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.

2010-11 GYMNASTICS SEASON

Gymnastics tournament information was reviewed with the committee. Monday, November 1, 2010 is the starting date for tryouts and practice and the first competition date is Saturday, November 20, 2010. The opt-out due date is Friday, February 25, 2011. Regional tournament sites on March 5, 2011 will be Rockford HS, Haslett HS, Canton-Plymouth HS and Troy Athens High School. The 2011 and 2012 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Tournament will be held at Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills High School with the 2011 tournament scheduled for March 11 and 12. The 2013 and 2014 tournaments are scheduled for Troy Athens and the 2015 and 2016 tournaments at Plymouth Canton.

RULES BOOK AND RULES MEETING INFORMATION

Information was provided regarding the 2010-12 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.

In addition, online gymnastics rules meetings will be posted starting Monday, October 18 through December 14, 2010. 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. In addition, if school personnel fail to attend or take an online rules meeting two years in a row, the school team may not enter the MHSAA tournament. To qualify to officiate in the MHSAA Tournament, judges must attend or take an online rules meeting 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 15 at the MHSAA or 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 4 at Haslett HS (in conjunction with the MHSGCJA Judges Cup).

2009-10 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 competition limits was discussed. In addition, the MHSAA Handbook Supplement and Teaching Tool (Issue 7 – An Updated Eligibility Summary) was reviewed by Committee members.

2010-11 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 11, 2011. Check-in will be at 12 noon and competition is scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, March 12, Division 1 will compete at 12 noon and Division 2 will compete at 3:30 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. There was additional conversation regarding the establishment of base scores and video will be available at mhsaa.com for the establishment of base scoring.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The 2005 through 2010 team and individual qualifying scores for regional entry were reviewed. The 2010 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 2010-11 qualifying scores. The committee reviewed the 2010 summary of regional scoring and determined that the 2011 Regional qualifying scores would remain the same as had been determined for 2010. 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 and confirmed the 2011 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 2011 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 2011 Finals Gymnastics Draw for both a 13 and 12 team rotation is on mhsaa.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council.