



To: AAU Gymnastics Clubs and Coaches

From: Liz Nichols, National Chair

Date: March 2, 2015

Subject: Updates, Clarifications, Information 2015 Age Group Nationals

I hope that you are all doing well and your AAU gymnastics season is well on its way. I have been thinking about those of you who have been where all the bad weather seems to be relentless. I have a few reminders for you. And remember if I can help you with any clarifications, problems, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

UPDATE TO NEWS FLASH – This is to inform all of you that there will be a venue change for AGN in Vegas. The venue will be very close to the previous location and all existing room reservations will be intact and all rates honored that were secured at the Riviera through the AAU online link or telephone identifying yourself as a guest through the AAU Block. (You DO NOT need to cancel or remake your reservations if you made them as described above.

If you made reservations that were not through the AAU online link or called and did not identify yourself as a guest under the AAU block (example through another vendor such as HOTELROOMS.COM) your reservation will not be transferred and you will need to make new reservations once the facility and room block has been made available.

We ask for your patience while we update all of our information and set up new direct links to our venue once everything has been confirmed and in place. The new venue is much newer and really an incredible facility and we are excited about this new location. Please do not call the Riviera regarding any existing reservations or information as all call will be directed to us until we can set up new information, links and announce the name of the new venue. We will send everyone new venue information, contact information and confirmation of existing room reservations made through the AAU online link or made on the AAU block by phone very soon. Until then, I thank you for your patience in advance. This information should be available very soon.

If you have any questions on licensing (sanctioning) any of your invitationals or league events, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is also very important you verify memberships of your participants, athletes and coaches. This can be done with the event directors look up tool on the national web site, using the event number and the event directors AAU individual membership number.

Currently, there are no modifications to the Xcel program (National or District), except those with regards to deductions and or times and equipment exceptions, listed in the AAU National Handbook www.aaugymnastics.org.

Clarification – Vault Spotting Deductions All Levels - AAU vault will follow USA for all spotting deductions. All modification regarding position of coach during a routine without penalty, see AAU National Handbook. Level 4 spotting in the 1st flight, support or 2nd flight phase is a 2.0 deduction. For all other compulsory vaults, there will be no VOID Vault for spotting – judges should therefore take maximum execution deductions plus the spotting deduction as stated in USA rules and policies.

Clarification - Xcel Silver Vault - Per USA there are two options: Stretch jump from board onto vault table – kick to handstand, fall to flat back (SV 9.5); and Handspring onto the vault table, repulsion to flat back landing on mats stacked – (AAU modification) - at least two inches (2") above table with a maximum 10" above the table (SV 10.0). Both vaults may be performed at all national events.

Clarification AAU Vault – All Levels - Athletes may use an alternative springboard apparatus, for all AAU levels from compulsory to Xcel, as well as in levels 6, 7, 8, and the open division, provided the apparatus is manufactured by a gymnastics equipment company with no penalty (deduction). The apparatus should resemble the shape of a traditional vaulting board, with a maximum of 15 inches at the high end and a maximum of 4 inches at the low end. The mechanism producing the “spring” may be something other than the traditional coil springs, such as an air bladder or small trampoline bed. This vaulting board variation may not be used for any Yurchenko style vaults (vault group #4).


Clarifications – Allowable Skills All Optional Levels including Xcel – note the deduction for unallowable skill is .5 off the Start Value and no value part is awarded for the skill and the skill does not count for special requirements. The penalty will come off the start value of the routine.

2015 Age Group National Registration is now open. The host is working very hard to provide an incredible meet experience for girls and boys gymnasts. Everyone wants a definite schedule as soon as possible so mark your calendar now so that you do not miss the **deadline date for entry May 3, 2015.** There will be a late fee of \$5.00 per athlete and per coaches registered after the deadline, if room allows without changing the schedule. Discount packages for great entertainment opportunities will be available at www.aaugymnastics.org. Also any senior attending the event will receive special recognition, and scholarship recipients will be announced at the Athlete Celebration Ceremony. The scholarship application is posted at www.aaugymnastics.org. I ask your help in making the registration process successful by urging you to check **registration data and enter early.** The information that is in the AAU data base **is what is populated** into your online registration. **If your birthday information is incorrect, it will be incorrect in your entry information.** Incorrect birthdays and levels make for delays in scheduling and errors in age divisions. Please take the time to take extra diligence to insure that your information is correct. There is a direct link to hotel reservations at www.aaugymnastics.org. Everyone should make their reservations soon. The prices are exceptional and the blocks are selling quite quickly. Over 800 nights have already been booked. This is a message from the Event Host:



***Hello Gymnastics Friends** - We are excited to be hosting 2015 AAU Gymnastics National Age Group Championships. We along with your National Chair, Liz Nichols have been working hard to make this a fun, well organized competition. There are so many fun things for families to do in Las Vegas and you can't beat the affordable accommodations. We will have wonderful awards, great coaches' hospitality, t shirts for coaches and athletes and athlete gifts. We are also offering \$20 all day passes to the Adventure Dome inside theme park that is across the street from the Riviera. Las Vegas has many shows and a lot of free attractions so it is easy to make this a family vacation. Please help us by registering early and book your hotel rooms ASAP. Currently we have sold over 800 room nights. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are looking forward to seeing you in June. - Dean and Debbie Capelotti Dean Capelotti dcapelot@tfb.com 2015 Age Group Event Hosts*

As many of you know, many districts like to coordinate a district leotard for their participants attending Age Group Nationals and JO Games to show their district pride. This is fun and exciting for the gymnasts. We announce the participants by districts, not by individual clubs. You should check with your district chair to see if this is an option for your athletes. Also you should understand that wearing a district leotard is not required for participation. This is completely optional and has to be coordinated by someone in each district.

Don't forget the JO Games – Hampton Roads (Virginia Beach) **Aug 5-7 Have A Ball**  **in Virginia.** This will be a fun event, using all national rules with district team awards as well. More information will be available soon.