



President's Update – February, 2024

To All NGJA Members,

The 2024 season is now underway with the USA Gymnastics Jr. Development and NCAA competitions in full swing. This will be a very busy year culminating in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Below is a summary of each program and upcoming events:

1. NGJA Business

- a. Following a USAG regional restructuring, the NGJA will need to consider a realignment in its structure. Information will be shared in the next few weeks on the steps necessary to accomplish this task.
- b. 2024 is an election year for the NGJA.
 - i. ***As President, I am assigning Nate Dotson, Paul Evatt and Andy Zembower as designated election officials in accordance with the NGJA By-laws. This team will manage the election process. If you have any questions, please contact them directly at dotsonna@gmail.com, evattp@gmail.com, azembower@gmail.com.***
 - ii. All future communications regarding the elections, will come from the designated election officials above. This team will provide full communications of the election process moving forward so everyone can prepare for this quadrennial event.
 - iii. Attached to this newsletter is a simplified PowerPoint overview of the election process to help orient and/or educate all members regarding the election process.
 - iv. The NGJA will set up an "Election Information" page at NGJA.org so everyone can access the most current information. The election team will inform you when the page is ready.
 - v. The NGJA elections will be conducted electronically. "ElectionBuddy" is the system the NGJA will use as we have conducted several elections in the past 4 years using this system. If you would like to learn more about ElectionBuddy use this link: [ElectionBuddy](#)

Special Comment: All voting information will come from the NGJA.org website. Please make sure your profile is up to date. Double check your email and home address and all spellings! All future communication will come from the information you provide in your profile!



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2. **NCAA program** – preparing for NCAA competitions is critical. Please make sure you have reviewed the document below before you officiate and NCAA competition.
 - a. **NCAA Rules Modification document** - the 2023-2024 NCAA Rules Modification document has been published at ngja.com. See NCAA preparation reminders on the next page of this newsletter.

3. **USAG Men's program** – with a little over 6 months until the Paris Olympic Games, here are the key events heading into the summer:
 - a. Winter Cup is scheduled for February 22-25, 2024, in Louisville, KY. Good luck to all the athletes, coaches and judges participating in this event.
 - b. USA Championships will be held in Fort Worth, TX, May 30 – June 2, 2024.
 - c. USA Olympic Trials will be held in Minneapolis, MN, June 27 – 30, 2024.

4. **USAG Jr. Development program** – please make sure you review these documents as you prepare for JDP competitions.
 - a. JDP Newsletter #3 was released in January and is at NGJA.org
 - b. JDP Newsletter #4 will be released in the next few weeks. This will be the last update for this competitive year. A general communication will be sent and the document will be posted at NGJA.org once it is published.

5. **FIG Updates** – the FIG has not finalized plans for the next quadrennium. Here is latest information we have:
 - a. The FIG Executive Committee will meet in March. At this meeting they should:
 - i. Finalize the new COP
 - ii. Determine if the FIG will go back to “in-person” Continental courses in 2025. On-line testing does not appear to be in the preferred FIG education plan at this time.

Best of luck to everyone as we head into the final few months of the gymnastics season!

Mike Juszczuk

NGJA President



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NCAA Preparation Reminders – If you are judging an NCAA competition, please make sure to review the following items:

1. The NCAA Rules Modification Document at NGJA.org - <https://www.ngja.org/ncaa-news/2019-20-ncaa-rules-modification-document.html>
2. The NCAA Supplemental Mat update - <https://www.ngja.org/ncaa/ncaa-main-page.html>

Below is a high level summary of the NCAA rules modification document.

- **Stick bonus** – this is the most common item I hear about from the coaches. Make sure to review these rules before each competition!
- All judges should review the official score sheet at the end of an event or competition.
- **Only head judges** are required to sign the score sheet at the conclusion of a competition. Your signature indicates you have checked the scores for accuracy.
- There is NO “0” vault or “dark pants” rule in NCAA competition.
- Make sure to review substitution (lineup changes) and injury rules.
- Compression sleeves **are permitted** to be worn by participants during the competition. The sleeve should cover the joint but not extend more than ½ way up or down the appendage.
- Review the broken handgrip rule.
- Ring height in the Rules Modifications document is incorrect. The **correct Ring height is 290cm** not 280cm. This will also come out in the Rules Interpretations document.
- Matting requirements – this is the second most overlooked, and often abused rule, which can determine the outcome of a competition.
 - If an additional sting mat is used on Vault, the competing team must mark the landing zone and align it properly on the base mats. Failure to do so is a 1.0 deduction.
- Teams are not required to provide “pre-comp” forms. Also, “pre-comp” forms don’t always reflect the routines performed.