

Region 9 -

I want to first apologize for the delay in communication, the last couple of days have been filled with phone calls and meetings while the world around us has changed by the hour. I have to admit even at this point the amount of information I have is very limited and could change by the time everyone reads this. However, I want to at least give you what I have at this time.

As most, if not all, of you are aware USA Gymnastics has pulled all sanctions through the end of March. This has caused three of the four States to have to cancel their State Championships at this time. It also has caused us to cancel our Regional championships that were schedule for the end of the month, we are looking at the possibility of rescheduling, but more on that below. Thursday morning, before USA Gymnastics made this announcement, I spent three hours on a conference call with the JOPC working on an alternative method of qualifying to the National Championships if Regionals were to be cancelled. Early this coming week the JOPC will put out a document that clarifies this process in detail. In the meantime I will try and give a basic layout of what that looks like. By no means is it a perfect solution, but under the circumstances it is the best that can be done.

All athletes that are in a level and age group that is eligible to qualify to JO Nationals will need to turn in a form that will be made available next week along with the top two AA scores from a USAG sanctioned event this season as well as the entry forms and fees for nationals. You must have a copy of the results, with your athlete highlighted. If your athlete does not qualify the entry fee check will not be deposited. These will need to be turned into your state chairman by March 31st at midnight in order to be considered. This will give the state chairman time to get all the information to me. The two scores for each athlete will be averaged and the top scores that fall within our given allotment for that group will qualify to the national championships. For those that are trying to qualify as JEs you automatically qualify if you competed as a JE at Nationals last year. For someone that is trying to make it for the first time your AA score must be in the top 50% of the allotment and have the recommendation of the Region. For anyone that has an athlete in this situation please let me know if you have specific questions. Everyone should start collecting the scores you want to use for you athletes now, if you can.

As far as Regionals go, the Regional Board is discussing a time and place to reschedule. This unexpected end to the season for our athletes is not our first choice, especially for our graduating seniors. I do not have the specifics yet, but I wanted to make everyone aware of our plans to reschedule. Since it will not be used as a qualifying meet for Nationals we can push it back to late April and maybe even early May, before Nationals. When we figure out the plan I will let everyone know. Again, things are changing fast and I will do my best to keep everyone update. Your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time is greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have any questions or thoughts on any of this, and I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner.

Sincerely,
Mark Bogoger
Region 9 Chairman