



President's Update

July 9, 2020

To All NGJA Members,

Here is an NGJA update for everyone effective the July 9, 2020.

1. **COVID 19** – This virus does not appear, at this time, to be going away. This presents us with a very complex situation and the NGJA is trying to determine the best steps moving forward. For now, we are preparing the content for the fall courses and trying to determine the best format to provide this to our members. A survey of all members will be conducted to understand your thoughts and the majority of our decisions, for the fall, will be addressed at the NGJA annual Governing Board meeting in August.
2. **NGJA Annual Governing Board Meeting** – The NGJA will hold its annual meeting on August 8, from 3 – 7pm ET. The NGJA will use a Zoom format. More information on how you can observe this meeting will be sent in the next few weeks.
3. **Governing Board Update meeting** – the Governing Board met for an informal update on July 8. The meeting covered a variety of subjects facing the NGJA right now and will follow below this newsletter. You can also find minutes from this meeting at NGJA.org.
4. **NGJA Survey** – in the next 2 weeks, you will be sent a survey from the NGJA. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback. This will be an informal, anonymous response survey asking for your input on several subjects and will help me with planning for the upcoming year. I will share the overall results with everyone.
5. **NGJA Website Update** – The NGJA website has launched. Please take the time to take a look at the site and update your membership information.

Obviously, this continues to be a very unusual and challenging time in our history!!! I hope you, your families and loved ones are all happy and healthy!

Mike Juszczuk
NGJA President



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Discussion items from the Governing Board call on July 8.:

1. NGJA Information

- New website (www.ngja.org) - Website is operational as of 7/8/20. The URL remains the same. Although the website is arranged in almost identical fashion, the *WordPress* format will allow for expansion and upgrades that were not possible in the past. Please contact Gerrit DeJonge at dejongegerrit@gmail.com if you notice any issues.
- Annual Governing Board meeting - The annual meeting will occur virtually on 8/8/20.
- Future of the NGJA - Bob Cass and Andy Zembower will be working together to analyze various areas of the organization to review for a possible revision of the by-laws. Together, they will be reaching out to many different segments of the organization to gain feedback that will help guide the process.
- Fall Certification Courses - Education committee has been discussing several items for upcoming courses. Many of the ideas will take more time to develop, but some of the topics being discussed and worked on include:
 - Ideas for running virtual courses
 - Building a "library" of educational content that can be accessed for Course Directors and judges throughout the year
 - Discussion around how to implement a practical exam as part of the certification process
 - Creating an avenue for Course Directors to open lines of communication with one another to share ideas and discuss best practices in terms of course delivery

2. USAG Information

- Winter Cup - Will be moved to last weekend of February (separate from the BlackJack Invitational the weekend before). The meet will be a combined event with the women and would likely be on a podium. The site for this competition is still to be determined.
- Olympic Trials - Will be combined with the women once again, with the number of men's judges possibly being reduced to 18 (from 24 judges in 2016).
- International Meets - Due to the uncertainty of what the future holds, the 2021 calendar at this point has no meets scheduled. This is all subject to change pending the status of COVID-19.
- Virtual Meets - USAG is exploring the possibilities of what virtual meets might look like for the 2020-2021 competition season. There are many questions being discussed to determine whether or not virtual meets can be a viable source of competition.

3. NCAA Information

- Virtual Competitions - At this point, virtual competitions are being discussed by several NCAA Rules committees. However, at this time, the NCAA (as a whole) does not recognize virtual competitions as being legitimate. Discussions will continue but it is likely that competition will either occur live and in person or not at all.
- NCAA Championships - The entire event is being reviewed and decisions will be made soon that will most likely see the entire weekend reduced in a way that represents the total number of remaining teams (i.e. possibility of a 1 day competition, a lesser number of teams and individuals qualified, a lesser number of total judges assigned, etc.)
- Dangers that lie ahead - Stanford University cut 11 varsity sports but gymnastics was saved due to high level results and even more importantly, a low operating budget. All Ivy League schools



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have cancelled their varsity sports for the upcoming fall seasons. What does this mean? No sport is safe right now. With the very real possibility of football (the primary stream of revenue) being cancelled if the COVID-19 situation worsens, that could spell danger for all sports, with gymnastics being of great concern, due to its already fragile state.

Minutes submitted by:

Dave Johnson
NGJA General Secretary