



President's Update – March, 2024

To All NGJA Members,

We are now in the final half of the 2024 season with State, Regional and National Championships on the horizon. Below is an update on each program and upcoming events:

1. NGJA Business

- a. Following the news of a USAG regional restructuring, the NGJA Governing Board approved a recommendation to mirror future USAG structures. This recommendation will be provided to all members in the next week, followed by a review period and finally a general membership vote to approve/disapprove the change to the NGJA bylaws and structure. More information will be provided very soon.
- b. NGJA Hall of Fame – the NGJA Hall of Fame (HOF) committee will kick off this year's search for potential HOF candidates. Look for more information to come shortly.
- c. The NGJA will introduce the "Jerry Donahue Judges for Life" award. Look for information to come out soon on this prestigious award in memory of Jerry Donahue.
- d. 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.

2. **NCAA program** – preparing for NCAA competitions is critical. Please make sure you have review 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.org. Also, please see NCAA preparation reminders on the next page of this newsletter.



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3. **USAG Men's program** – with approximately 6 months until the Paris Olympic Games, here are the key events heading into the summer:
 - a. USA Championships will be held in Fort Worth, TX, May 30 – June 2, 2024.
 - b. 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**
 - a. The 2025 Code of Points has been approved by the FIG executive committee. The CoP will be published on the FIG website in a couple of weeks.

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

Mike Juszczyk
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.