

Dear NJ Pro Members,

As we are deep into the competitive season, it's been brought to my attention that I should review certain meet procedures.

1. Report Time – Athletes and judges **CAN** report prior to 8 a.m. Please remember judges are paid for the ½ hour of report time. Specific space should be provided for their meeting.

2. Open stretch begins at 8:00 a.m., **NOT** a minute before so please make sure this rule is followed.

3. Vaulting is a timed warm-up event. You are not guaranteed a “certain” number of turns. Depending on your efficient nature, determines how many attempts the athletes can have.

4. At sectional or state competitions, all questioning of scores **MUST** go through the meet referee. You cannot approach an official and question scores.

5. Judges and coaches must realize their perceptions that are being given off at all times. Please use professional judgement on your actions at competition. Please think before you react and think how others are perceiving you. On average, I receive 10-15 calls a week about perception at completion.

6. If the meet is a sectional or state championship ties are NOT broken. If two athletes tie for 3rd place the next award would then go to 5th place. Also, the draw order must be followed for competitive order.

7. After each session the judges must have a ½ hour break. Once the half an hour has passed, they go back on the clock. If you were to have a 4 session meet and after the 1st and 2nd session you gave the appropriate break-time, but, between the next sessions you didn't give enough time. Then they are paid from time they arrive until time they leave. This ruling is to ensure that judges are treated fairly and meets are run properly.

8. Declaration Date:

Here is an example of how this works:

The declaration date is Feb. 26th, 17 and you are a level 8 gymnast, that is what you have declared, but if on Feb. 27 till the state meet you try competing as a level 9 athlete, whether you qualify or not you are officially a level 9. Please make sure you understand this completely. The New Jersey declaration date for 2017 is February 26th (For Level 8) and March 5 for Level 9 and 10. For future reference the last day to qualify in New Jersey is also our declaration date. You **DO NOT** have to declare IES or all-around until you walk into your session of the state meet. This was a regional committee decision.

9. The Level 3 and 4 State meet will not be cancelled (if in climate weather) and it will start on time for each scheduled session. We moved this competition to a venue with hotel rooms for family safety in the winter time. As a parent, you have the choice to attend or not, but the event will run as scheduled.

10. All level 8 athletes that score a 34.0 at the State Competition advance to regionals. There are no longer limitations based on age-groups. This was approved by the regional committee in August of 2016.

11. We are in need of volunteers for the Nastia Cup and American Cup. Our biggest area of concern is equipment set-up. If you can help please contact Rachael Rosenthal at RAROSENT@yahoo.com. The more success we have the better chance we have of larger events coming to New Jersey. Please ask your team parents if they can help.

Regards,
Brant Lutska, NJSACC