

Region 6 T&T Championship Coaches,

Thank you for registering for our 2021 Regional T&T Championships. This year we have 333 athletes from 25 clubs representing 7 of the 13 States comprising our Region. That's about 200 less athletes and 15 fewer clubs than our average over the last several pre-pandemic years. My thanks and my congratulations to all the clubs who overcame the difficulties and continued to serve our athletes. My understanding and sympathies to those who couldn't, I know full well how tough its been. Praying for a much better year to come.

This note is long and much of it already relayed in previous emails, but the information is important and in some cases essential for your athletes' success. Please read through these directives. There are some things we have to do differently and while I know its more work for you I want you to know what's expected. There will be compromises allowed with regulations and differences in equipment between gyms. Please be understanding and cooperative since we can't all meet at the same venue on the same day in this region. Know that we are doing all we can to provide the best and fairest experience for our athletes in this virtual championship.

A. CALENDAR

March 13 Registration Opened

April 3 Registration Closed

New athlete registrations pay double fees after April 3

April 17 Payment Due, postmarked by April 17.

Checks payable to USAG, mailed to
Region 6 T&T
20261 Darlington Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Until April 17 Level Changes w/o penalty, Scratch with Refund

After April 17, Level changes \$10 per athlete, Refunds with Doctors note only.

April 21-28 Video Submission Window, and Comp Cards for Levels 8 & up

May 1-2 Routines Judged beginning about 9:30a May 1st. Detailed schedule will be announced prior.

B. WEBSITE:

We have a dedicated Championships website!

<<https://sites.google.com/ignite-gymnastics.com/region-6-regional-championship>>

The website will be your portal for video submission, comp card submission, competition day links to view the videos and results. Instructions for naming and submitting video and comp cards are on the site. Window for video submission is April 21-28. This is the window for submitting your recorded videos, it is not when you must record your videos. **Uploading videos can be a time consuming process, don't wait until the last moment.**

C. VIDEOS:

See page 5 of USAG T&T's Virtual Sanction Playbook, those guidelines explained and expanded here.

It is vitally important that you follow instructions shooting and submitting your videos with care. There will be no do-overs for incorrectly shot videos discovered the day of the meet or incorrectly named video files that essentially prevent your athlete from appearing before the judge panel when they should.

Videos may be of any performance from anytime during this last month prior to the Championships but taped uniquely to and for this Regional Championships. May not use video of State Champs or other meets. May not use video from last year's competitions or practices. Videos must conform to the guidelines listed here.

If the video cannot be judged due to poor camera placement, angle, quality, if the wrong athlete appears under the video file name, if the athlete performs a level different than registered or named in the file name --all of which I have seen judging virtual meets this year-- the routine will receive a 0 (zero) score. While I'm generally opposed to penalizing children for coach/team administrator errors we may not have the luxury of time to remedy. If time allows and we can figure out what was intended we may try to fix but no guarantees with 900 athlete videos (300 athletes x 3 events) waiting to be judged.

Worried about your video set up? Between now and when the video submission window closes you may send me a sample video for approval to check on camera placement and quality.

Your camera should provide a minimum of 720 pixels at 30 frames per second and as closely as possible provide the judges' assigned point of view. The camera needs to show the athlete at all times, salute to salute, as much of the equipment as necessary to the performance and without obstructions like other pieces of equipment or spectators blocking the view.

1. TRAMPOLINE should be filmed from the side with an (at least slightly) elevated position so the bed is visible end to end, side to side. The athlete of course must be visible at all times without moving the camera to follow. Judges will not be judging Horizontal Displacement as a scoring component but will consider travel in execution deductions and interrupt or take landing deductions for touching, stepping, falling, landing off the bed.

Examples of unacceptable trampoline video seen while judging virtual meets this year: the athlete jumped higher than the video frame so position and kick out could not be seen; video cuts off before the athlete achieved 3 seconds of stability and saluting; the end of the trampoline or the sides were not visible and it could not be determined if the athlete touched anything off the bed. Videos with these kind of faults might be penalized or not be scored. No appeals because of poor video.

2. TUMBLING Camera should be placed within 15 feet of the floor and in the last 1/3rd of the floor to emphasize the view of the final skills as dismounting somersaults and landing stability are major components of the tumbling athlete's score. Camera needs to pan and follow the athlete's pass.

3. DOUBLE MINI Camera set up should be set within 15 feet from the side and favor the dismounting end of the Double Mini. Pan with the athlete as necessary to show at least the final part of the run up, the jumps across the Double Mini and the entire landing area with the A and B Landing Zones clearly marked and visible in the video. Rules and Policies, Section IV.H.4. g. detail landing zone dimensions. Landing zone deductions will be taken on all passes, maximum likely deductions may be taken for unmarked landing zones.

If your landing area is smaller than regulation, the chair will have some discretion about deductions. Sting mats, normally not allowed in competition will be allowed here but must conform in size and location to the landing zone or the landing zone must be marked across the top of the sting mat. Athlete assumes all risk when using a sting mat.

D. TUMBLING PASS MODIFICATIONS:

We all know that most gyms in our region do not have complete regulation tumbling floors with full run up and landing areas. There will be compromise, judge discretion and allowances. Athlete safety first, scoring fairness second.

Email Bob <bobhallwig@cs.com> before April 21 with the list of your athletes who will be performing modified, shortened tumbling passes due to equipment limits in your facility.

Some of our clubs have complete floors or can arrange access to one for their filming. Those who do not have and cannot get to a complete floor may have to shorten their passes to fit the floor they have.

Athletes on short floors who drop one or two back hand springs so they can perform all their required somersaults will be scored out of 10 with average deductions for the hand springs performed inserted for the ones imagined but not performed. This will allow the possibility of attaining a national qualifying score but I don't think its fair when compared to complete passes as regards awards for our meet.

In order to award separately those who have done complete 8 skill passes from those who performed shortened modified passes I will note and designate to separate flights. Modified passes must contain all required somersaults or the pass will be judged out of the number of skills performed with normal and appropriate deductions taken.

Before April 21, and sooner is better, email Bob <bobhallwig@cs.com> with the list of your athletes who will be performing modified, shortened tumbling passes due to equipment limits in your facility.

E. NON REGULATION TUMBLING EQUIPMENT:

The Tumbling floor should have side line markers for the 5' wide Tumbling Zone and a center line marked for off axis and out of bounds calls. Landing Zones are not essential but the Tumbling Zone is. If lower levels are tumbling on a non regulation floor such as basic carpet bonded foam or an artistic spring floor, then velcro, tape or chalk, anything clearly seen and easily removed after filming are OK for temporary markings. Performance deductions related to deviation from the center line on unmarked floors will be at judge discretion.

While landing zones are not essential the landing area should be firm enough to allow stable landings. There are some gyms whose rod floors dismount into loose foam block pits. A single landing mat directly on the foam might not allow your athlete to stand up their dismount. Try plywood between the foam blocks and the mat. Think about a temporary deck standing on legs reaching the bottom of the pit. Make it safe. Every gym is different. You aren't expected to re-design your gym for this one meet but please do your best to provide a stable landing area. Athletes might not get hurt if they fall into the foam pit but if the athlete stumbles and/or falls because landing is like surfing on a storming sea, there will be landing deductions taken and no appeals.

F. VIDEO AT OTHER VENUES

You do not have to video at your own gym. If you have the opportunity to safely and legally visit another facility where the equipment is better, closer to regulation or preferred please feel free to do so. I cannot recommend you violate any State or Municipal pandemic guidelines and I don't know what the guidelines are for your area. Please follow all your local health and safety directives. That aside, gyms, even multiple gyms could theoretically schedule a "Regionals Filming Day" at a host venue to provide regulation equipment for gyms lacking same. Teams/Gyms/Clubs please help others if you can.

G. AWARDS

Awards will be our normal provision with USAG Regional Medals 1st - 3rd, Custom Ribbons 4-10. Mailed to the gyms after the event. Age groups are mostly 2 year increments, some large 2 year groups split to single years. There are a small number of split, single year flights with greater than 10 athletes on one side of the split.

H. ATTIRE

Typical Athlete Dress Code to be enforced. Examples: Pony tails, loose long hair, jewelry, non-white foot covering, pants with decorations, stripes or designs other than the allowed 1 square inch manufactures logo will be deducted if noticed. Support tape, bandages and devices must be White, Tan, or Black. There was an announcement earlier this year about the "under garment showing" deduction no longer being enforced, but that was the only change to our athlete attire rules for this year.

I. IGNITE-GYMNASTICS SCORING:

We will be using a new meet management and scoring software system, designed this year by trampoline people with virtual meets in mind. On May 1st, the first day of judging, there will be links posted on our dedicated page

<<https://sites.google.com/ignite-gymnastics.com/region-6-regional-championship>>

so anyone, coach, athlete, parent, spectator may view score results for judged routines, updated as routine scores are completed and view any of the submitted videos. Feel free to share this link with your parents. Judges will have specialized links to the videos organized in competition order for each judge panel and tied to scoring templates for them to record and report their scores.

J. CONTACT INFO: Questions? Problems? Don't wait.

Meet Director Bob Hallwig bobhallwig@cs.com (301) 461 - 0704
email is preferred