

# Texas USA Gymnastics State Committee Meeting

March 19, 2006  
Spring, Texas

## **Members Present:**

Juergen Achtermann – State Chair  
Diane Callison – Administrative Assistant  
Marilyn Blilie – North Judges Education  
Scott Crouse- North Competition Chair  
Larry McDonough – North Coaches Education Chair  
Deana Parish – South Coaches Education Chair  
Al Gamboa – District 1 Representative  
Scott Taylor – District 2 Representative  
Carol Robuck – District 4 Representative  
Oni Twilley – District 5 Representative  
Barbara Hughes – District 6 Representative  
Judges Representative - Leslie Patterson (ex-officio)

## Absent:

Martin Parsley – District 3 Representative  
Pat Ethredge – South Judges Education

Meeting Called to Order: 7:30pm

## **Topic: Operating Code**

Juergen distributed and discussed the responsibility of the SAC to be aware and familiar with the Operating code (*available on line to the entire Pro membership*) as well as the National Rules and Policies.

## **Topic: State Chair Election**

The 2006 State Chair Election will be held through the National office. All Pro members will be eligible to vote under the USA Gymnastics guidelines. Beginning April 1, and ending April 15, 2006, pro members may log onto the USAG website and enter their pro number and their password to cast their vote.

## **Topic: State Committee Member Elections**

Since there will be a new State Chair for Texas effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and State Chair have the option to design SAC positions in ways they see fit to serve during their office, the spring elections for committee members other than the state chair election will be postponed until the position of state chair is filled. This was in part a decision of our Regional Chair, Cori Rizzo, with approval of Kathy Kelly at the national office.

## **Topic: Election Procedures**

Juergen went through the history of past election errors. The first election he held he used a special type of paper to eliminate copies. Someone (*he does not recall specifically who*) told him he could not prevent a pro member from voting) so he allowed copies. This past spring election, there was a protest to the election count, so he re-ran the election this winter. He was then told that in the Operating Code that copies and faxed ballots are not allowed. He apologized for these errors.

**Topic: Ethics of Committee Members**

At the National Elite statewide qualifier held in February, Oni Twilley distributed copies of ballots to pro members encouraging them to vote. He collected those votes for mailing. He discussed this situation with the SAC, stating that he had called Juergen and asked about copies of ballots and based on faulty information Juergen said that pro members could use copies of ballots. Distribution of copies of ballots is in violation of the Operating Code. After a very lengthy in depth discussion of what occurred Oni apologized to the entire SAC for his conduct. Cori Rizzo stated that an official letter of reprimand addressing their behavior and/or copying of ballots will be sent to Oni as well as to Pat Ethredge. Cori stated that an individual pro member as well as the SAC as a whole can send letters of complaint concerning ethics. The SAC can send a letter of reprimand as well.

Several SAC members shared concerns about the Pat Ethredge's behavior concerning election procedures and specific issues with issues that have been brought to their attention during the past season. A correlation of the NAWGJ lawsuit that addressed election procedures and incidents in this USAG election were addressed. Since Pat Ethredge was not present at this meeting, the SAC will meet with her to discuss specifics of the election procedures at their next meeting.

Scott Crouse does not believe that Pat should remain on the SAC due to ethical behavior during this past USAG election. He would like for her to resign.

Motion: Scott Crouse

The SAC discussed the Ethical behavior of SAC members. The SAC members want to go on record and state to the general pro membership that unethical behavior should not and will not be tolerated.

Second: Larry McDonough

Vote: Passed Unanimous

**Topic: Ethical Issues**

Motion: Carol Robuck

Unethical Issues should be addressed with each person individually.

Second: Marilyn Blilie

Vote: Passed Unanimous

**Topic: Action of the SAC concerning Oni Twilley**

That a letter of apology from Oni Twilley be accepted and published in the next Newsletter.

Second: Lisa England

Vote: Passed  
For: Crouse, England, Blilie, McDonough, Parish, Gamboa, Taylor, Robuck, Hughes  
Abstain: Twilley

**Topic: Summer Meeting**

The schedule of event for summer meeting and the awards banquet will be included in the next newsletter. We will have our next SAC meeting, a training camp, an educational clinic and the awards banquet the first weekend of June 2006. We would like to recognize some of the "unsung heroes" in our coaching community and will look into specific categories for those honors.

**Topic: Region 3 Congress and Compulsory Training Camp**

Mini Congress will be held in Colorado the week of June 22-24.

**Topic: Hall of Fame**

Vladimir Artemov, of Brown's in San Antonio will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. Texas would like to send a team of Level 7 competitors to the Hall of Fame meet held at Bart Conner's this year the last weekend of April. The team slots will be offered to the top 12 scoring athletes from the Level 7 State Championships. If any of those athletes decline. The next top scoring athlete will be offered a spot of the team. Coaches of the athletes may accompany their athletes at their own expense.

Motion: Marilyn Blilie

To ask the top 12 athletes to represent Texas at the Hall of Fame meet.

Second: Deana Parish

Passed Unanimous

**Topic: Team competition**

The SAC discussed the number of athletes that comprise team competition. Cindy Dove sent a very well written presentation of a possible change to the number of athletes that comprise small man team verses large man team. She proposed that small team could include clubs with 7 or less members to allow for unexpected scratches and the dropping of scores. The SAC wants to thank Cindy for her letter. Based on lack of information about the number of clubs that might fall into this category and the number of clubs that would have 8 or more athletes the SAC will not make any change in team size at this time.

**Topic: Level 7 State Meet Format**

The SAC discussed the possibilities available to allow a different format that would allow all of the Gold, silver and Bronze athletes to compete in their respective division in one session. They also addressed the possibility of allowing teams to compete together instead of drawing for competitive order by age group.

Motion: Scott Crouse

Allow Competition for Level 7 state championships to be drawn for squads by team instead of age groups in a session consisting of all gold, Silver and Bronze athletes respectfully on a trial basis for the 2006 season only.

Second: Larry McDonough

Passed Unanimous

**Topic: State Meet format for Level 5 & 6**

Level 5 state championships will continue to end at the championships for North Texas and South Texas. Level 6 will remain a statewide championship.

**Topic: Banners for State Championships**

A decision on whether to continue the State Championships Banner program and the contract with the present vender is tabled until the SAC meets in June.

**Topic: Qualification Procedures for Optional Athletes**

The requirement for optional athletes to enter at least one statewide qualifier was addressed. A petition was submitted by Bryan Streeter with approximately 49 clubs and coaches requesting that athletes be allowed to qualify at any competition without entering a statewide qualifier.

Motion: Scott Crouse

To contact those persons that signed the petition to see if they are clear on the reasoning behind the decision to require entry into a qualifier.

Second: Scott Taylor

Passed

**Topic: Calendar**

The Calendar will be presented to the SAC members via email.

**Topic: Alternates for Level 7 State Championships**

Beginning 2007 Optional Season, we will take alternates to the Level 7 State Championships only at Level 7 North and Level 7 South Championships. Alternates will not be called up after the conclusion of these 2 meets.

Motion: Scott Crouse

At Level 7 North and Level 7 South respectively,

In each age group,

The Top 8 scoring All Around athletes will be placed in the gold division

The next 8 All Around athletes will be placed in the Silver Division

The next 8 All Around athletes will be placed in the bronze division

Second: Scott Taylor

Passed Unanimous

**Topic: SAC Proxy representatives**

The decision of whether to allow proxy representation at SAC meetings was tabled until the next SAC meeting.

**Topic: Email updates**

Larry McDonough updated his email address: **Larry McDonough:** [larrymcdonough@verizon.net](mailto:larrymcdonough@verizon.net),

**Deana Parish:** [gymtexans@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gymtexans@sbcglobal.net), **Scott Taylor:** [Scottrtaylor70@yahoo.com](mailto:Scottrtaylor70@yahoo.com).

**Topic: A Fond Farwell**

Juergen shared his decision to not run for State Chair again and expressed his appreciation for all the support and work the SAC members have done during the past 4 years. He looks forward to playing daddy but he also would like to remain active in the service of Texas in some capacity and offered his service to the new state chair. The SAC expressed their appreciation of Juergen and all he has done for the state for Texas.

**Topic Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: Al Gamboa

Second: Lisa England

Meeting Adjourned at 10:59 pm