



GENERAL GYMNASTICS DEVELOPMENT MEETING MINUTES 7th August 2022 10.30AM

1. Welcome & Introduction.

Present

Lisa Davis – NLGA
Charlotte Barker – Aireborough
Kirstie Whittles – Phoenix
Rachel Revell – Brumby
Helen Monks - Rothwell
Rick Brady – Brumby
Gabby Welch – Allegro
Kate Storr – Grimsby & District
Bonnie – TK Gymfit
Sarah Shaw – Ecco
Pam – Rothwell
Kirsty Thornton – TK Gymfit
Christine Bowker - Greenhead

2. Approval of Minutes from Development Meeting 10th April 2022

Proposed – Charlotte Barker, Seconded – Kirstie Whittles
Approved by majority show of hands – no objections

3. Update from BOC

- BoC have been pulling together the bylaws and having issues looked at as a community.
- The role of Professional Standards Officer has also now been advertised and the region is looking for an individual with welfare training to take on the position. Any

clubs with a welfare officer who may be interested in learning more please do get in touch with YGA Ltd.

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Website

- Coaching – Job Vacancies, if you want to advertise for coaches, email the details through to the exec email address and it will be uploaded to our website.
- Helpful Information – details about our competitions and how they work have been added for those that are new to our competitions.
- FAQ and the results from the last competitions have been added to the website.
- We are always looking to enhance it even further with more information and details about what is happening within our community.

4. Treasurer's Report

- We are still catching up from the last competitions as we have been having some access issues with the bank.
- At last check, we ran at around a £5,000 profit and we are still waiting on further funds to clear, however we are still waiting on 4 invoices. (KW)

5. Education & Development

- Nothing to report
- There is an Intro to Judging course coming up at Manchester in September and October
- L1 & L2 F & V Judging Course – there may be one coming up in the region but is always worth looking outside of Yorkshire.
- L2 GG will be coming up in November at Astre in Bradford, keep a lookout on the BG website for more information.

6. Competition Feedback

- We handed out some feedback forms at the last competitions and have had some back. On the whole, it was positive feedback.
 - Barnsley – hospitality was excellent, and we were generally looked after well.
 - YGA Facebook Page with gym set ups prior to competitions? We do generally try to get this information out to clubs prior to competitions but have not managed this for the recent ones. We could add this information to our website under host venues and add to it as we include different host clubs.
 - Allegro April & June Comps – Good organisation, and really like the auto scoring at the June comp.
 - The entry requirements for the 3 & 4 PC comps – it looked like there were some entrants that were prepping for Grades. Wouldn't the Novice / Novice+ have been more appropriate for these gymnasts?
 - We do try to advise clubs which comps are appropriate for which level of gymnast. Let us know if it is noticed any further and we will try to direct them to competitions that are the correct level for their gymnasts. (LD)
 - Coaches and Judges were friendly & welcoming
 - More stretch/warm up time, there wasn't really enough time to stretch properly. (Could suggest that they have competition stretch practice in the run

up to comps to make sure they get the best use out of the general warm up time. (LD)

- We could ask the other clubs what they think? (HM)
- Is 15 mins. general warm up enough time? (LD)
- 15 mins. is standard although they did end up getting slightly longer at Allegro. (KT)
- 15 mins. is enough (KW)
- 10 – 15 mins. is enough time for general warm up at GG. (RB)
- Repeated Moves – there is not enough clarification in the criteria. It is acceptable to repeat moves to achieve the connection value but the repeated move would not be counted towards the number of moves necessary for the routine.
- We will update the handbook and add this to FAQs. Lots of positive feedback and points raised to discuss at development meetings.
- Inappropriate Attire has been noted but we will discuss this in AOB. (LD)
- How have you found the recent competitions? (LD)
- We enjoyed both the Allegro heat and final at Phoenix. The kids had a fab time. (RB)
- We really enjoy the competition and very much appreciated the participation medals. At the 3 & 4 PC we did struggle a little with apparatus warm up time depending on the size of the group. (Bonnie)
- We try to allow 60 seconds per gymnast on beam and 2 routines in bars. (LD)
- The American Style warm on beam didn't really work well. (Bonnie)
- The adjusting of the bars also reduced the amount of warm up time available to the gymnasts. (KW)
- We can look at making it more gymnast focused and be a little bit more flexible to allow gymnast to get sufficient apparatus warmup time. (LD)
- The American Style warmup worked well at the Novice & Novice+ competition where there was only one panel of Judges. It doesn't work well when there are two panels. (RR)
- We tried to allow everyone 2 vaults for warm up and then 2 competition vaults. We should try to allow for 2 routines for each gymnast on bars. We will review our timings for maximum efficiency while keeping the competitions moving. (LD)
- The vault set up at Barnsley didn't work well for the taller girls. (Pam)
- We usually have at least 2 safety mats to make the vault 6m long, but this is the downside to having a wider variety of vaults to choose from. (LD)
- We made it work but it was time consuming and a bit of a faff. (Pam)
- The mats were different sizes, some were deeper than others and didn't match up to the depth of the block . we had to improvise and manage with what was there and available. (KW)
- I think we need to make this a consideration for event management. (LD)

Novice & Novice+

- This one worked well and we were happy with the criteria etc. I feel that the judges have the best overall view of the standards of gymnasts. (KT)

- We have the addition of Crystal and Diamond criteria which will sit above the Novice & Novice+. We do need to hear back from the clubs to ensure that this progression is what they want following the requests from our Clubs to have additional 4 PC progressive comps for their gymnasts. The “Crystal/L2 ” level competition is our intermediate 4PC event and “Diamond / L3” more advanced comp (LD)

7. Competition Handbook

- This has been updated and all competition dates have been removed. The current handbook and events calendar are on the website to avoid confusion over which version we are using.
- Instead of using competition dates, could we use generic terms such as Easter/Spring Competitions in the handbook? (RR)
- The events calendar on the website has links to the correct criteria for that event. (CB)
- We’ve also updated the website to include the 3 & 4 PC and the Novice / Novice+. (LD)
- Is there any way to condense the criteria to fit onto just a couple of pages? (RB)
- We’re working on having it in the same format as WA. Other regions us this format for their criteria so it’s not stealing. (Christine)
- Is the format for F & V ok? (LD)
- F & V is fine (RB)
- GG list all permitted elements whereas as WA refer bac to CoP for skills. (KT)
- We know what forwards/backwards etc. moves are available, I don’t really see the need to list them all. (RB)
- I have a list of A & B Bars and Beam elements ready. (Christine)
- A & B moves may not be valid for GG. We’d need to cross reference this with WA and move away from the terms A & B (LD)
- We could highlight the GG moves? (Christine)
- We could highlight the skills that are not GG and therefore not suitable for GG competitions. We could set up a sub meeting to discuss this further. We have the moves listed as we do to help judges and less experienced coaches when putting routines together. (LD)
- Could we have it as one sheet per category? (RB)
- We’ve already put together a one-page format. (Christine)
- We’ll look at it. I don’t want to delay getting the information out to the clubs. (LD)
- We have a planning sheet for creating routines. I’m happy to send it on and share with the region. (KS)
- We could have a summary sheet with a full listing of permitted elements as an appendix. (KT)
- We could layout F & V as a one-page document. (Christine)
- The appendix on the back of criteria/required skills matrix? (LD)
- We’ve created a planning sheet for each competition and level based on the current criteria and it works well for us. It’ll be emailed over to the exec. email. F & V are all on one page, Bars and Beam are on separate pages. (KS)
- This could be very helpful as I think that given the criteria and deductions on the WA, you are going to get a lot more clubs doing the GG competitions. (RB)

- This could be very confusing and overwhelming for clubs that are unfamiliar with GG F & V. (LD)

8. **AOB**

- Handspring Tariff – we are happy to leave this as it currently stands after the adjustments were made.
- Clarification on Entry Requirements
 - o as a general rule if gymnasts have previously competed at grades, then they can enter as a guest. The 3 & 4 PC competitions are intended as an extension of the F & V. It is up to the club to decide whether it is appropriate for the gymnast to follow GG or move away towards WA. The Novice & Novice+ can make it a progressive and developmental pathway for gymnasts to move across to WA.
 - o New grades will be introduced next year and if they are similar to the previous format, Club Grades and Regional 3 & 4 could enter our 4 PC and Gems(?) competitions. Should we rename the Novice & Novice+ to come into line with the two new levels? (Christine)
 - o In an effort not to create any confusion over which comps are which, the intention is to leave as is for now. We've previously said that gymnasts who have competed grades previously would be able to enter GG comps as a guest competitor, we now have the options of directing them to the Novice / Novice+ Crystal and Diamond comps. (LD)
 - o We have Club Grades gymnasts that struggle with the WA competitions, we give them the option of GG but tell them that can't compete at anything lower than Novice+. (KS)
 - o Vote – If a gymnast has previously competed at Grades, they can transfer to GG but can't compete anything less challenging than Novice+. Vote passed with majority show of hands.
- Performance Medals
 - o It has been suggested that from a welfare perspective, performance medals were a better option to rosettes. It has also been suggested that this is pandering to "millennials" and that the children need to learn to lose gracefully.
 - o Prefer the rosettes, it makes it feel a little bit special. (HM)
 - o RB, Christine, & KS agree with HM. The rosettes make GG just a little bit different and everyone comes away with something.
 - o Feel its part of learning that you can't win all the time and it's the parent's responsibility to teach this to their children. (HM)
 - o Don't think it make a great deal of difference whether you give them a participation medal or a rosette, it's how it's presented to them that makes a difference. You're not going to please everyone all the time. (AS)
 - o It's harder when it's only a small group of competitors in the category with only one or two not getting a medal. (LD)
 - o Could we try giving participation medals for those that have reached the final and stay with rosettes for the heats? (Christine)

- Could use Christine's suggestion either way. Coming away from a competition with not receiving a medal can be very emotionally challenging for some children. (LD)
- Can we look at why this has come up? Can we not stick with the rosettes but potentially extend the number of highly commended ribbons given out? (KW)
- The general feeling in the room is that we are leaning back towards rosettes.
Rosettes – 8
Medals /something else – 2
- Will update the handbook and would like to try giving out rosettes before the overall medals are presented. (LD)
- Inappropriate Attire Deductions
 - This was in our handbook but seems to have dropped off. It was previously a 0.3 deduction for shorts that didn't match the leotard.
 - The rule around shorts has been interpreted differently by some clubs with the gymnasts wearing sparkly shorts/leggings.
 - It's not been mentioned at BG level, however, it is accepted that shorts MUST match the leotard. (Christine)
 - Thought shorts/leggings was only permitted for the older gymnasts? (SS)
 - The BG policy that it is acceptable for gymnasts of all ages has been adopted so overrides the GG previous guidance. (LD)
 - We need to clarify in the handbook then, what is considered as appropriate. (KS)
 - We could attach the link to the BG website to our handbook? (KW)
 - By matching we mean the same colour and fabric, no sportswear branding (with the exception of the leotard brand e.g. Zone or Milano) What's the deduction at WA? (LD)
 - 0.3 (Christine)
 - Should be brought to the attention of the coach and left with them to speak to the gymnast. Should we bring back the deduction? Show of hands – Passed. Handbook & judges deductions will be update to include inappropriate attire. (LD)
 - There have also been some comments made on coaches and judges attire. Should there be a penalty for them? (LD)
 - I've noticed it more with judges than coaches. (RR)
 - Suggest giving them a nudge and to wear something more appropriate next time? Reserve penalties for repeat offenders? (LD)
 - Highlight to the clubs and ask them to speak to their judges. (RR)
 - Has any heard anything about hoodies being considered inappropriate attire? (RB)
 - No, but as long as they are not outlandish and garish. (Christine)
 - From a HSE perspective, they're not appropriate. It's considered an unwritten rule. (HM)
 - Been on courses where we've been told that hoodies are not considered appropriate. (KS)
 - It's in the WA handbook (KW)
 - Are you happy to allow the judges to wear black if they can't get navy? (Pam)
 - Black can be indistinguishable from dark navy. (Christine)

- Is there a maximum number of coaches allowed on the competition floor per gymnast? (SS)
- We have a minimum number of coach/gymnast ratio but not a max. We could set a maximum of 3 coaches per 8 gymnasts. (LD)

Meeting Closed 12.55pm. Next meeting will be the AGM. Date TBC

