**Texas Gymnastics Conference Constitution**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the “Texas Gymnastics Conference.”

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To perpetuate and improve the sport of gymnastics in the state of Texas. 2. To unify and coordinate the efforts of all people interested in furthering gymnastics. 3. To coordinate competition scheduling among conference members and other state conferences. 4. The establishment of an annually contested conference championship.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to all college, university, junior college gymnastic and private gymnastics clubs in the state of Texas that do not have scholarship gymnastic programs. Each member school with a team will have one vote on issues addressed at conference proceedings. Only open clubs which competed in any TGC meet the previous year may vote in the Organizational Meeting. After the Organizational Meeting, all schools with teams may vote. Members shall vote on only those proposals which affect them. Each open club will be allowed one vote on those items which pertain to them. They may request to be allowed to vote on other items under discussion and will be permitted to do so if such permission is granted by a majority vote of the schools. Only open clubs which were TGC members the previous year are allowed to vote in the first annual meeting. After this first meeting, all open teams may vote in TGC proceedings. The Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the conference members by the majority vote of the conference members. Individual athlete eligibility - see, “RULES, I. Eligibility”. Definition of team - see, “Reference”.

**ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

The officers of the Texas Gymnastics Conference shall be President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Director.

a) The President shall be responsible for: Presiding over all meetings. Calling special meetings of the Executive Committee whenever necessary. An agenda for each meeting which will be distributed by the President to member clubs at least one week in advance of meeting.

b) The Vice President shall be responsible for: In the absence of the President, taking his place and performing his duties. Working closely with the President to assist in the smooth running of conference meetings. Distribution of all awards of recognition for achievement. The Vice President shall send all required paperwork to awards committees and see to it that all awards are received. This includes GAT (Gymnastics Association of Texas) awards, for which results for both men’s and women’s national meets shall be sent immediately following each meet to the GAT awards committee.

c) The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for: The recording of meeting proceedings and their distribution to conference members. The recording of scores for all meets. In the event of conference moneys, the Secretary/Treasurer shall have charge of all funds and shall submit a detailed report to members of the Texas Gymnastics Conference.

d) The Executive Director shall be responsible for: Assisting with the operations of the TGC as directed by the Officers. While this is an elected position of the TGC, the intention is for this person to be a senior coach, judge, official, or mentor to the TGC to help provide continuity and efficiency in its operations and functions.

**ARTICLE V - Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. This committee may meet when necessary to ensure the efficient proceeding of conference business.

**ARTICLE VI - Election of Officers**

The officers shall be nominated by the members of the conference and elected by the majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the nomination will be determined by the Executive Committee of the previous year.

**ARTICLE VII - Length of Term of Officers**

Officers shall serve from the conference organizational meeting to the organizational meeting of the following year. If for any reason an officer does not serve out his or her term of office, a member that is elected to the position by the majority of votes shall replace him or her.

**RULES**

**I. ELIGIBILITY**

College athletes: Individuals competing in all meets must meet all of the following requirements.

a) A graduate of high school, G.E.D. equivalent or a Cooperative Education student at one at the TGC schools.

b) A student at the institution they represent. Division 2 and lower schools in the same geographical region can compete as one team for TGC meets if approved by the TGC Executive Committee.

c) Men must be enrolled for a minimum of six hours undergraduate credit or three hours graduate credit. Women must have a minimum of six hours undergraduate credit or three hours graduate credit each semester.

d) There are no maximum years of eligibility.

e) Any individual that does not meet these requirements may petition for eligibility. A favorable vote by two of the three members of the executive committee would be needed to gain eligibility. This would be done once each session provided conditions do not change.

Open athletes: Individuals competing in all meets must meet all of the following requirements.

a) Participate in club or open team workouts at the facility being represented for a minimum of four workouts in the month prior to any meet to be counted in the team score for that meet.

b) A high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent.

c) 18 years of age or older.

**II. MEET ORGANIZATION**

The host team must contact all visiting teams four weeks prior to the meet concerning meet organization. If the host team fails to do so, it is responsible for the total cost of team awards. Any exceptions or modifications to these rules may be permitted with the agreement of all teams concerned.

A. Scoring - men:

Each team may enter as many as eight athletes per event for the State Meet. For all other meets, there is no maximum number. An event score will consist of the top three scores per team. A minimum of one designated all-around per team must be declared. All competitors are eligible for all-around title, but they must at least mount the apparatus. NCAA rules will govern all TGC competitions, with the exception of Men’s Vault, which shall have a bonus vault and be scored based upon the Bonus table used by the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs (NAIGC). A second exception shall allow Men to raise the height of the Parallel Bars to the minimum height at which their knees do not touch the ground in a dead hang upon demonstration to the presiding event Judge (the “Chris Brooks rule”).

B. Scoring - women:

Each team may enter as many as eight athletes per event for the State Championship Meet. For all other meets there is no maximum number. An event score will consist of the top four scores. There is no designated all-around requirement. All competitors are eligible for all-around title, but they must at least mount all apparatus for eligibility. Level 9 rules will govern all TGC meets with no penalties for D’s and E’s. Bonuses, though, are granted for D’s and E’s. Schools may enter up to 2 teams per school and be eligible for all awards.

C. ENTRY FEES

1. For all TGC meets except state meet, there will be an entry fee of $10.00 per individual competitor and an additional $10.00 team fee. Participants’ rosters will be sent to the host team two weeks prior to the competition, and entry fees will be charged based on this roster. To be eligible for team awards, team fees must be paid no later than two weeks prior. Individual entry fees may be paid at the meet.

2. For the State Meet, $15.00 per individual competitor will be charged by the host school. An additional $20.00 per team will be charged for those clubs entering team competition. All entry fees will be paid to the host team unless otherwise directed by the meet director. The TGC will charge an additional $5 per gymnast based on the rosters submitted two weeks prior to the competition.

3. Dual meet, no shows: If they will not be able to attend, any team which has arranged a dual meet at another team’s site must notify the host team no later than one week prior to the meet. If they fail to do so, they will be liable for all official expenses incurred as a result of the arranged meet.

4. No shows, all meets: If a visiting team will not be able to attend any meet for which they are scheduled, they must notify the host team no later than one week prior to the meet. If they fail to do so, they will be liable for that portion of the official expenses which can be reasonably connected to their absence.

D. RELEASE FORMS

The meet director must furnish release forms for all open competitors. Forms must include requirements that the athlete has sufficient health insurance to provide adequate coverage for all mishaps and accidents. This shall apply to all TGC meets and activities.

E. JUDGES

Women - All events including State Championship finals: Judges will have a minimum rating of level 8,9,10 optional. State Championship finals: There will be one judge per each of the four events.

Men - All events including State Championship finals: There will be a minimum of one judge per event. Judges shall have a national rating. Exception: Any judge not meeting the minimum standards stated herein may be accepted by a majority of a panel consisting of one representative from each TGC team.

F. EVENT SPECIFICATIONS:

The TGC will follow the apparatus standards and matting specifications adopted by the National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches (NACGC).

G. ORDER OF COMPETITION:

The Olympic Order of rotation will be used whenever possible. The order of events for men is as follows: Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Long Horse Vault, Parallel Bars and Horizontal Bar. The order of events for women is as follows: Vault, Uneven Parallel Bars Balance Beam and Floor Exercise.

**IV. TEAM LINE-UP: SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions may be made prior to the start of the competition. If possible, once the competition has started no further substitutions should be made.

**V. CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The TGC State Championship will be held annually in the Spring of the school year on some date mutually agreeable to the TGC and the gymnastics community. An attempt will be made to have this meet the last weekend in the month of March. The host of the TGC Championships will be determined by a vote at the organizational meetings held annually, early each season. The organization of the TGC Championships has traditionally been left to the host school, although the following recommendations are made:

1. Awards will be given to the top three teams.

2. Awards will be given to the top six all-around gymnasts.

3. Awards will be given to the top six gymnasts in each event.

**VI. AWARDS**

A. Tie score: In the case of a tie, both competitors will receive the same place. Reception of the award for that place will be determined by the higher total score. Awards will only be duplicated for the last place given.

**VII. HEALTH INSURANCE:**

In order to protect the health and safety of the athletes, all men and women must carry sufficient health insurance to provide adequate coverage for all mishaps and accidents.

A. College athletes: It is the responsibility of the club to review the insurance carried by its members. Entry of its athletes into any TGC meet or activity acknowledges that all entries are insured.

B. Open athletes: See; “RULES, II. MEET ORGANIZATION, RELEASE FORMS”. REFERENCE: In this document, the following definitions will apply:

1. Texas Gymnastics Conference (TGC): The organization consisting of Junior College, University and private gymnastics club teams in the State of Texas.

2. TGC competitor: Any individual who is eligible to represent a Texas Gymnastics Conference school or private club under current rules of eligibility.

3. Open competitor: Any individual participating in TGC competition who is not a representative of a TGC team.

4. Team: Programs which are recognized as student organizations by the school which they are representing.

2015 additions highlighted in blue