

PART TWO JR. OLYMPIC PROGRAM

SECTION V INJURY OR ILLNESS PETITIONS

I. GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR PETITIONS FOR ALL USA GYMNASTICS JR. OLYMPIC COMPETITIONS

- A. Petitions may be considered for the following reasons:
 - 1. Injury
 - 2. Illness
 - 3. Family tragedy (e.g., death, natural disaster)
- B. If an athlete is injured prior to a qualifying meet, but is capable of competing in one, two or three events, she may compete in the qualifying meet without jeopardizing her right to petition to the next competition.
 - If a gymnast **COMPLETES** all four events in a qualifying meet, she is not eligible to petition and advance to the next competition.
- C. Entry fees for petitioned athletes should be submitted by the entry deadline. If the petition is denied, the Meet Director must refund the entry fee.
- D. The State Administrative Committee Chairman makes recommendations regarding petitions to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman for Regional Competitions.
- E. There are **NO** petitions to Jr. Olympic Eastern/Western Championships (Level 9), Jr. Olympic National Championships (Level 10) **or the JO National Invitational Tournament (Level 10)**.
 - Also, if the qualification to Level 8 Regional Championships is by a percentage or by specific number, petitions will not be allowed.

II. PETITIONS TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. If a gymnast was injured or ill at the time of the sectional meet (or pre-sectional qualifier, if no sectional meet is held), she may petition the State Administrative Committee Chairman to directly enter the State Meet, if the following requirements are met:
 - 1. A photocopy of the results of one sanctioned meet from the current season showing a score which is equal to or greater than the state qualifying score.
 - 2. Written request from the coach or parent.
 - 3. If the gymnast competed at the same level in the previous season and qualified to the state meet or above, she may petition with the score received at State or above meets in the previous year at the same level.
 - 4. Physician's written verification of the illness or injury and date of release for return to gymnastics activity.
- B. **DEADLINES** for Petitions: Injury/Illness petitions to State Meet must be sent to the State Administrative Committee Chairman by Express Mail or FAX and must be received no later than three (3) days (Wednesday) after the last qualifying meet is held.
 - 1. The petitioner will be notified of the approval or denial of the petition by the State Administrative Committee Chairman a minimum of one week prior to the competition.
 - 2. The State Administrative Committee Chairman will notify the Meet Director of the approval or denial of the petition by within a week.
 - 3. If a petition is accepted but the gymnast is unable to compete, the coach **MUST** notify the Meet Director and the State Administrative Committee Chairman.
- C. If the qualification to State Meet is by a percent of a percent or a designated number of each age division and not by score, there will be **NO** petitions.

III. PETITIONS TO REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - LEVELS 8, 9 & 10

- A. ***Coaches must notify their Regional Administrative Committee Chairman by FAX or e-mail by the Monday following the State Meet of any athletes they intend to petition to Regionals.***
- B. If a gymnast was injured or ill at the time of the State Meet, she may petition the Regional Technical Committee Chairman (or Regional Technical Assistant, if so designated) to directly enter the Regional Meet, if the following requirements are met:
 - 1. A photocopy of at least one pre-state, sanctioned meet results from the current season (at the level to which they are petitioning) showing a score at least one point (1.00) greater than the regional qualifying score.

- a. Level 8: If the gymnast competed in the previous year's Jr. Olympic Level 8 Regional Championships and her Optional AA score was at least one point (1.00) greater than the current Regional qualifying score, she may submit her last year's Regional score as her pre-state meet score.
 - If the qualification to Level 8 Regional Championships is by a percentage or by specific number, petitions will not be allowed.
 - b. Level 9: A Level 9 gymnast may submit her previous year's Regional or East/West score as her pre-state meet score if her Optional AA score was at least one point (1.00) greater than the current year's Level 9 Regional qualifying score
 - c. Level 10: A Level 10 gymnast may submit either her previous year's Regional or National score as her pre-state meet score if her Optional AA score was at least one point (1.00) greater than the current year's Level 10 Regional qualifying score
2. Physician's written verification of illness or injury and date of release for return to gymnastics activity.
 3. Written request from the coach or parent.
 4. The Regional Technical Committee Chairman (or her appointee) will handle the petition, in consultation with the RJOCC and the State Administrative Committee Chairman. If an agreement cannot be reached, the RTCC will make the decision.
- C. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PETITIONS TO STATE MEETS OR LEVEL 9/10 REGIONALS
1. STATE MEET PETITIONS: If an athlete who is unable to compete at any Sectional or local State-qualifying meets in the current season (or cannot compete AA at such events) due to injury or illness is also lacking scores from the previous season due to injuries but has previously qualified to and competed in State or above level competitions, an injury petition for the same level may be considered under special circumstances by the SACC. If necessary, the RTCC and the RJOCC will be consulted.
 - The scores from the previous State/Regional/National competition must be at least one point higher than the current State qualifying score.
 - The petition must include a current video that is sent to the SACC.
 2. REGIONAL MEET PETITIONS: If an athlete who is unable to compete at State meet (or cannot compete AA at State Meet) due to injury or illness is also lacking scores from both the current and previous season due to injuries but has previously qualified to and competed in either Level 9/10 Regionals, Level 9 East/West, or Level 10 JO Nationals, an injury petition for the same level may be considered under special circumstances by the RTCC and the RJOCC. If necessary, the SACC and the National Chairmen (JOC and TC) will be consulted.
 - The scores from the previous Regional/National competition must be at least one point higher than the current Regional qualifying score.
 - The petition must include a current video that is sent to both Regional officers.
 3. Any athlete who competed at or qualified to an Elite Challenge or Classic in the previous season, but has no JO scores from the current season due to injury, may petition to Level 10 Regionals by submitting her Elite scores from the previous season. The injury petition will be considered under special circumstances by the RTCC and RJOCC. If necessary, the SACC, as well as the National Chairmen (JOC and TC) may be consulted.
 - A current video must be sent to the two Regional officers.
- D. DEADLINES FOR PETITIONS: Injury/Illness petitions must be sent to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman (or Regional Technical Assistant, if so designated) by Express Mail, FAX or e-mail and must be received no later than three (3) days (Wednesday) after the state meet is held. (Send a copy to the State Administrative Committee Chairman). The Entry form and fees must be sent directly to the Meet Director, specifically marked as "Petition pending". If the petition is denied, the RTCC will contact the Meet Director, who will refund the entry fee. If the gymnast was injured at the State Championships, the entry fees and form should be given to the USA Gymnastics officer who is designated to collect Regional entries at the State meet. (Fees will be returned if the petition is not accepted.)
1. The petitioner will be notified of the approval or denial of the petition by the Regional Technical Committee Chairman a minimum of one week prior to the Regional meet.
 2. The RTCC will notify the Meet Director of the approval or denial of the petition.
 3. If a petition is accepted, but the gymnast is unable to compete, the coach must IMMEDIATELY notify both the Meet Director and the respective Regional Technical Committee Chairman.
- E. If the qualification to Level 8 Regional Championships is by a percentage or designated number of gymnasts per age division (and not by score), there will be NO petitions.

IV. AN INJURY PETITION FORM IS:

- A. Posted on the USA Gymnastics web site under Women's Program – Forms – Petition Forms
- B. Available from your State Administrative Committee Chairman.