



March 11, 2016

To: Men's Junior Olympic Community
From: Dusty Ritter, Junior Olympic Program Coordinator
Re: Procedure for Qualification to the 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships
approved by Junior Olympic Program Committee

I. Qualification to the 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships

A. Junior Olympic Division qualification to the Junior Olympic National Championship is based on the following criteria:

State Championships: Must compete optional routines.

1. Meet Regional Qualifying score or qualification requirements
2. Approved petitions – must meet requirements to petition

Regional Championships: Must compete optional routines.

Qualification to the Junior Olympic National Championships is determined by:

1. Must fall within the Region's total allotment or,
2. Top 5 scores at Regional Championships in Individual Events qualify to JO Nationals as an event specialist - Level 10 only. (Will compete only on qualified event at the Junior Olympic National Championships) or,
3. Approved petitions – must meet requirements to petition.

B. Junior Elite Division: To remain eligible for advancement to the Junior Elite Division at the JO National Championship athletes must meet the following criteria:

State Championships: Must compete the Technical Sequences

1. Must compete on six events – no minimum qualifying score to the Regional Championships
2. Approved petitions - must meet requirements to petition

Regional Championships: Must compete both the Technical Sequences and Optional Routines.

1. Must compete Technical Sequences on six events.
2. Must qualify within the allotment.
3. The following combined score must be achieved to advance to the Junior Elite Division at the 2016 JO National Championship:
 - a. Level 8 – 126.00 AA
 - b. Level 9 – 128.00 AA
 - c. Level 10 Jr. & Sr. – 128.00 AA
4. Approved petitions – must meet requirements to petition
5. Athletes must declare upon submission of entry their intent to advance to the Junior Elite Division or they will be placed in the Junior Olympic Division.

C. General Information regarding qualification

Regional Allotment:

1. Regional allotment will be determined by the JOPC based on national participant numbers at the state championships. Regional percentage is based on the number of a region's participants as a percentage of the national numbers to achieve the target number of athletes qualified to the Junior Olympic National Championships
2. The allotment will be announced on or before April 1.

Qualification for the Junior Elite Division:

1. Advancement to the JO Nationals will be determined by the published allotment numbers based upon ranking within the region by optional score in each age division.
2. Junior Elite athletes must also achieve the combined optional and technical routine score published in Section I.B.
3. Athletes who do not fall within a region's published allotment according to the AA score, but do achieve the required JE combined score will automatically have their scores reviewed by the men's program for potential inclusion in the Junior Olympic National Championships.
4. At Level 8 & 9 a minimum of 60 athletes in each level will be approved to compete in the Junior Elite Division by rank order combined AA score from regional championships results. Should less than 60 athletes qualify by score in Level 8 or 9 the field will be adjusted to reach a minimum of 60 athletes by this process. Approved petitions will be added to the field in addition to the qualified athletes.

Petitions: An athlete must meet the stated criteria in order to petition:

1. Junior Olympic Division: Petition criteria as published in the Men's Rules and Policies
2. Junior Elite Division: Petition criteria as published in the Men's Rules and Policies plus must have performed Technical Sequence score at a USA Gymnastics Sanctioned event within the competitive season.
3. Athletes who fall within the allotment but do not meet the approved JE qualification score may petition to be placed in the JE division. Petitions will be reviewed by the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator and placement will be based on merit. Scores from previously competed Technical Sequence and Optional competition will be considered as well as past championship level competition performance which indicate that the athlete would be very competitive within the qualified field of athletes. Supporting materials must be included in the petition.

II. Format for the JO National Championships

A. Format for Junior Olympic Division Finals:

1. From the pool of Junior Olympic eligible athletes, 24 All-Around athletes will advance in rank order from each single age year to the finals session.
2. 12 athletes on each individual event in rank order from the remaining pool will advance from each single age year.
3. Alternating Capitol Cup format will be used with 2-judge panels. One panel will judge (i.e., 11-12 year olds or 15-16 year olds), one panel will judge (i.e., 13-14 year olds or 17-18 year olds).
4. Each Flight (A & B) will be composed of 6 squads of 12 athletes. Athletes from the same club will be placed in the same squad and flight wherever possible. One flight will compete while the other flight warms up. Squad assignments for finals qualifiers

will be published and posted on the day following the preliminary optional session for each age division.

5. Junior Olympic athletes will compete in Session 2 according to the session schedule published on the JO National web site for Level 10 on Saturday & Levels 8 & 9 on Sunday.
6. JO Division athletes will be eligible to receive awards in single age years.

B. JO National Championships – Junior Elite Division:

1. Junior Elite Division athletes will perform Optional routines in the 3rd session on the 1st day of competition.
2. Junior Elite Division athletes will perform Technical Sequences in the finals session on their 2nd day of competition.
3. All Junior Elite Division athletes will advance to the Finals session on the 2nd day of competition.
4. Junior Elite Division athletes will be eligible to receive awards in single age year categories in each age division.

C. Format for Junior Elite Division Finals:

1. Format for the Junior Elite Division will be based upon the number of athletes qualified to participate at the JO Nationals in each level.
2. Final ranking will be determined by combined scores of 1st and 2nd day for both the All-Around and Individual Events.
3. Junior Elite Division athletes will compete in Session 1 on their second day of competition and perform Technical Sequences to achieve their combined score and ranking.

III. Qualification for Junior National Team selection

- A. Athletes will be selected to the Jr. National Team in both Level 8 & Level 9 at the conclusion of the Junior Elite Finals Technical Sequence session on Sunday based upon their combined All Around score from Day #1 (Opt) and Day #2 (TS) as follows:
 1. Level 8 – 6 athletes
 2. Level 9 – 10 athletes
 3. Athletes in both Level 10 (15-16 & 17-18*) age groups will advance to the US Championships. All Around scores for the Junior Elite Division will be the combined totals from Day #1 (Opt) and Day #2 (TS) competition. Athletes will advance based upon rank order AA score as follows:
 - Level 10 Jr. – 24 athletes
 - Level 10 Sr. – 12 athletes
- B. Athletes in both Level 10 (15-16 & 17-18*) age groups will be selected to the Junior Elite National Team based upon their combined 2-day result at the U.S. Championships. Athletes will be selected to the Jr. Elite National Team based upon the following age groups:
 - Level 10 Jr. – 10 athletes
 - Level 10 Sr. – 3 athletes

***Special Note: Athletes who were 18 years old on September 1, 2015 are eligible to compete in the 17-18 Level 10 Sr. age division at both the 2015 Junior Olympic Nationals Championships and at the 2015 U.S. Championships and eligible for selection to the Junior Elite National Team based on the Junior Elite qualification requirements noted in this document.**