



ALL MEMBERS MEETING

AGGUSA SEASON 2024

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 9:30AM

MEETING PURPOSE

This meeting served as the annual membership meeting of AGGUSA to provide information about the upcoming competition season as well as collect feedback and suggestions. The meeting was attended by past, current and prospective members.

IN ATTENDANCE

Elena Baltovick, Nicole Azimioara, Iryna Gutnik, Oksana Krupienina, Sofia Krupienina, Arina Arshinina, BB Ignatova, Masha (Bloom Gymnastics), Fernanda Gutierrez, Katya Kuznetsova, Masha Weitz, Michelle Brouwer, Svetlana Savenkova, and Olga Bogdan

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Total Number of Gymnasts
- Judges
- Entry Fees
- Competition Calendar
- Membership Fees
- Travel Arrangements
- International Competitions
- Regional Directors
- Website

REPORTS

Total Number of Gymnasts (Count)

- Generally, there are around fifty gymnasts.

Judges

Recommendation to present to the Board: to amend general rules. Only three judges are required for national/semi-national competitions, but for nationals there will be an effort to have more judges, including a fully independent head judge. Also, the transport of judges will come at the expense of the competition organizer. When selecting judges for a national/semi-national competition, the organizer is encouraged to prioritize seeking out local judges first, and then independent/non-club affiliated judges second in order to make competitions as affordable and as fair as possible.

- There are currently three individuals signed up for the international judging course in Canada that will be taking place in February, and two signed up for one taking place in Mexico. Another individual has expressed interest in going to Canada as well. If these individuals pass the written exam, they will be permitted to judge competitions in the United States, and if they pass both the written exam and the practical exam then they will receive a Level 3 international IFAGG judging license.

Code of Conduct

- An AGGUSA Judges' Code of Conduct was drafted including all of the above information, all AGGUSA affiliated judges must sign this judges' code of conduct and submit it to AGGUSA prior to being on a judges panel.

Standard Practice for Sending a Judge to an International Competition

- If AGGUSA members wish to compete in an international competition and wish to send a judge to that competition, they will cover the cost to have that judge go. If multiple teams go then the cost is split amongst the teams, so the more teams that go the better!

Entry Fees

- At this time, it is unclear how much entry fees should cost for athletes, teams, and spectators. The Board of Directors will meet and discuss this topic.

Competition Calendar

- Initial Competition Calendar:
 - March 8-10 Tulip Cup, Ontario, Canada
 - March 16-17 Friendship Cup Merida, Mexico- for West Coast
 - April 18-21 Koop Cup, Toronto, Canada- for East Coast
 - May 11-12 Eastern AGGUSA Championship

- May 18-19 Western AGGUSA Championship
- "Hello Summer"- June 15-16
- June 15-16 AGGUSA National Championship
- October 13-20 World Cup Hong Kong
- November 17-24 World Championships Tartu, Estonia*

*These were all the recommended competitions as of the start of the meeting, but due to the fact that at this time we are unaware of competition costs, minus Hello Summer, the World Cup, and the World Championship, nothing is definitive.

Recommendation to present to the Board: to amend general rules. AGGUSA allows for two ways in which AGGUSA **competitions** may occur. Either we tag ourselves to a non-sanctioned rhythmic gymnastics competition, or we host our own competition. AGGUSA competitions can be in-person, hybrid, or online.

Membership Fees

- Membership fees will be decided at the next board meeting.
- As a reminder these AGGUSA Membership Fees cover the following:
 1. Allows teams to participate in national competitions, international competitions, and exhibitions.
 2. Covers the IFAGG membership fees for the country, which is \$1500.
 3. Covers the IFAGG membership fees for the athletes.
 4. Covers the maintenance of the website and media pages, which is \$2000 per year.
 5. Covers some of the President's trip to represent the USA at IFAGG meetings, assemblies, and the World Championships.
 6. Covers the necessary business expenses of AGGUSA: including bank fees, the preparation and submission of tax returns, and required reporting, etc.
 7. Covers some of the cost for the Head of the Delegation to travel to competitions.

Travel Arrangements

- It is AGGUSA's recommendation that any international travel for athletes does not involve more than two layovers and that layover times themselves are not excessive in length, just for the benefit of the athletes to avoid excessive fatigue.
- Travel Arrangements do not have to be approved by AGGUSA but should be sent after booking in order to keep a record. This is largely so that the information can be sent to the host organization, if need be, and is also on record in case of any unforeseen circumstances (mishaps such as flight delays, cancellations, hotel/accommodation issues, etc.)

International Competitions

- Sky Gymnastics brought up the issue that they feel that the federation is actively seeking to hinder them from participating in an exhibition at the Miss Valentine competition in Estonia¹.
- AGGUSA requests that teams send a video of routines that are bound for international events so that they may be viewed by the technical committee. This is done, not with

¹ AGGUSA disagrees with this characterization.

an intent to stop teams from going internationally, but to evaluate routines and provide suggestions for the purpose of improvement.

- Prior to travel, the team must sign and agree to comply with the AGGUSA Code of Conduct.
- Many of the teams agree with Masha Weitz that parents are hesitant to join AGG wholeheartedly due to the large amount of international competitions and the high costs associated with them. With this a primary goal was established: to make national competitions easier to hold and to try and have as many competitions as possible within the United States
- For international competitions all teams must be made aware that only the two highest scoring teams per country and per age category are permitted to compete in the finals, however there is no such limit for the preliminaries. If three or more AGGUSA teams belonging to the same age category wish to compete at the same international competition they are free to do so.
- Teams traveling to international competitions and exhibitions are requested to fill out a competition report form made by AGGUSA. The purpose of this form is to give a proper channel for travelling teams to express everything they experienced traveling to a certain international location. Not only will this allow the traveling team to express any concerns, grievances, and benefits of a certain location, by making the filled form available to current and future AGG members we can all learn what changes should be made in order to have the most optimal experiences traveling abroad.

Regional Directors

- AGGUSA brought up the idea of having regional directors for California, Nebraska, New Jersey, and South Carolina.
- Idea rejected and no recommendation was made.

Website

- At this time nothing has been updated on the website; once clear regulations are decided upon, expenditures are released, and membership fees are both decided upon and paid, the website will be updated with all the new, agreed upon information.

Camps

- The topics of potential camps held within the United States came up.
- Masha Weitz brought up the idea of hybrid/zoom options when it comes to camps, masterclasses, and competitions which could make it easier for everyone to participate in national events, and even making it easier to have events.
- The day after national this season there will be a hybrid masterclass open for all AGGUSA members, specifics to be determined later.

ELEMENTS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

- AGGUSA is asked to reconfigure national-level competition requirements so that competitions can occur with as few costs as possible (example base requirements for now: a 13-meter x 13-meter carpet, three judges to make up the judges panel, medals, and a gym)
- AGGUSA is asked to outline a detailed expenditure list that can be viewed publicly by all members.
- AGG clubs are asked to identify possible non-sanctioned rhythmic gymnastics competitions in which AGG could perform in (preferably in locations equidistant from the east and west coasts, such as Chicago or Texas)
- AGG clubs are asked to provide a rough number of gymnasts and teams that could be interested in membership, so that the most optimal cost can be estimated (preferably one that covers fees AGGUSA has to pay to IFAGG while remaining affordable for athletes and their families)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- A new Code of Conduct for the 2024 Season has been written and all members of AGGUSA must sign it.
- A new Judges' Code of Conduct for the 2024 Season has been written and all AGGUSA judges will have to sign it.
- When we have meetings again in the future, if you are going to leave the meeting, please make sure that everyone is aware that you are leaving the meeting, either out loud or in the chat, just so that the group is aware there is a voice and a vote missing for any further decisions made in the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED 11:30 AM