

Regional Reorganization Meeting #1 (Region 6 and Region 7)

Meeting Objective:

This first meeting of the Region 6 and Region 7 board members will provide all members with an opportunity to meet each other, discuss the reorganization timeline put forth and approved by the MDPC / MPC / USA Gymnastics, and discuss important topics to be considered in a potential reorganization plan.

Meeting Minutes (called to order at 9:45pm)

Members Present: Craig Thibaudeau (R6 Chair), Dan Young (VT Chair), Tom Greet (CT Chair), Danilo Gattei (RI Chair), Darren Morace (MA Chair), Misha Kustin (NJ Chair), Bob Lundy (R7 Chair, MD Chair), Joe Zullo (ME Chair), Mike Ouellette (NH Chair)

Members NOT Present: Karl Jaanimagi (NY Chair), Jeffrey Zack (PA Chair)

1. Introductions of Region 6 and Region 7 Board Members

Region 6 Chair- Craig Thibaudeau

Maine- Joe Zullo

New Hampshire- Mike Ouellette

Vermont- Dan Young

Connecticut- Tom Greet

Rhode Island- Danilo Gattei

Massachusetts- Darren Morace

Region 7 Chair- Bob Lundy

Delaware- N/A

Maryland- Bob Lundy

Pennsylvania- Jeffrey Zack (not present)

New York- Karl Jaanimagi (not present)

New Jersey- Misha Kustin

2. Discussion of the Reorganization Timeline Document (dated 7-19-23)

a. Document (attached) was discussed. Important dates/events to pay attention to were discussed, including:

- Each region is tasked with creating their own reorganization plan (through March 2024)
- Calls for nominations of new regional chairs (bios due in national office by 2/12/24)
- Election of new regional chair at 2024 regional championships
- New region must elect a treasurer by committee vote by June 30th 2024
- New regional committee structure must be confirmed with USA Gymnastics by June 30th 2024

3. Nomination Process for selecting new regional chair (Regional Championships 2024)

a. Discussion of the addition of vice chair(s)

- Tom (CT) in favor of having a vice chair. He said that USA Gymnastics made a tough job (regional chair) harder by the increase in regional size. Regional chairs should deal with the national office and regional events. Vice chair(s) can deal with the everyday stuff (e.g., younger boys regionals, questions from community, etc.).
- Bob (Region 7 chair and MD state chair) stated that it is more about the name than anything else, like having a president and vice president. They can have shared responsibilities as well as separate ones.

- Dan (VT chair) asked the group to make sure with the national office that we are not allowed to have separate finances (for a north and south type set up). Craig will follow up on this and give an answer back to the group.
- Tom (CT chair) suggested that if the new regional chair is from the (old region 6) then a vice chair should be from (old region 7) or vice versa.
- Group members, in general, seemed very open to the idea of having a vice chair in addition to the regional chair. Both will be elected positions.

4. Discussion of new regional board breakdown

- a. Regional Chair per USAG guidelines (see document for timeline of nomination and election)
 - Vice Chair to sit under the regional chair (group members interest)
- b. State Chairs
 - State chairs will be the ones who are tasked with voting on all regional reorganization rules and guidelines set forth.
- c. Judges' involvement
 - Region 6 currently has 3 judges on the regional board, with 1 vote (Sean Monaco)
 - Region 7 does not have a formal board position for judges
- d. Junior National Coaching Staff Representatives
 - Region 6 currently has two JNCS reps
 - Region 7 does not currently have representation, formally
- e. Additional non-voting members to be included (e.g., athlete reps, coach reps, etc.)
 - Craig (Region 6 Chair) explained that there is a new working group formed (Craig Thibaudeau, Kevin White, Kevin Chope) tasked with looking at ideas for committee structure (state and regional levels). This will need to be approved by USA Gymnastics and will likely include athlete reps, non-voting members, and more.

5. Preliminary Discussion of Regional Events

- a. Regional Championships
 - Bob (Region 7 Chair and MD)- We should have a super regionals each season (optional athletes from all states in the new region) AND compulsory regionals in the north and south. However, compulsory athletes would combine with optional regionals depending on whether the championships are in north or south (alternating years).
 - Tom (CT)- Central area in the new region for super regionals each year would mean less travel for most athletes. Have your north and south compulsory championships, separately.
 - Misha (NJ)- Have one nationals qualifying judging panel that travels to and from the optional regionals (which could be held, separately).
 - Dan (VT)- Could you have a region 6 optional championships north and region 6 optional championships south and split the allotments? Bob said that, yes, the allotment can be split but there is one allotment for the new region.
 - Misha (NJ)- Addressed concern about selection of elite athletes and regional teams. He said that the top guys could be evaluated again after regionals for elite team selection and/or regional team. Could we do this just for the Level 10 athletes?
 - Dan (VT) asked the group to look into Penn State, Army, and Springfield as potential host sites for regional championships. This would bring the college programs money and be aesthetically pleasing for our event.
 - Danilo (RI) stated that the idea of finding the best guys to represent the region would require events where all the guys are present (e.g., one optional regional championships).

- b. List of Options the group is considering for Regional Championships:
- 1) 3 Regional meets: One regional championships for optional levels (levels who have regionals as a qualifying event to either eastern or development program nationals), one compulsory south, one compulsory north.
 - 2) 2 Regional meets #1: Two regional championships (one in the north and one in the south). Much like we are already doing. Split allotments based on total percentage. Compulsory championships could still be done in a local gym.
 - 3) 2 Regional meets #2: One regional championships for optional levels (levels who have regionals as a qualifying event to either eastern or development program nationals). The championships' location would alternate, yearly, from north to south. Compulsory regional championships would be separate in the opposing distinction but coincide with optional regionals in the same one (e.g., ONE regional championships held in the north (for all optional levels AND north compulsory athletes) and a separate south compulsory regional championships.
 - 4) 2 or 4 Regional meets: North and south separate for optional and/or compulsory and a judging panel that travels to both optional regional championships.
- c. Regional Clinic- did not discuss
- d. Regional Camps- did not discuss
- e. Regional Elite Team Program-
- Cursory discussion about how we would do this with a large region, from allotting a certain of spots in north and south to having one process with qualifying events to have remote events. Will revisit in a later meeting.

6. Discussion of dates for reorganization meeting #2

- Members settled on **Thursday, October 12th at 9:30pm** for our next meeting.
- Craig will send a meeting agenda and zoom link for reorganization meeting #2 to the group on 10/9/2023

Meeting adjourned at 10:51pm
Submitted by Craig R. Thibaudeau