

YMCA Competitive Gymnastics Parents,

It is very hard to believe that we are already half way through the 2017-2018 competitive gymnastics season and the YMCA State Meet is right around the corner. Competitive gymnastics registration is at another all-time high with over 1170 gymnasts registered for the 2017-2018 season. This is approximately a 10% increase over last year's registration. We love that our sport of gymnastics continues to have an increased interest, giving us an opportunity to provide a safe, healthy and friendly competition atmosphere for even more of today's youth. While the increase in participants is great and exciting news, it also comes along with more challenges, especially when hosting our annual YMCA State Gymnastics Meet.

Your YMCA State Gymnastics Executive Committee reviews the best possible way to make the competitive experience great for all participants, parents and spectators involved while tackling challenges as they arise.

We are expecting our Levels 3 & 4 state qualifying participants to be high. Changes to this year's state competition format will help alleviate undue stress centered around the award ceremonies; making them more enjoyable for all. The recognition the gymnasts will receive for their competitive success will remain the same; awards will still be given by age and level at the same percentage as previously determined by our YMCA competitive gymnastics rules; we are just altering the format in which we compete and recognize the gymnasts.

Starting with the 2018 YMCA State Gymnastics Meet all Level 3 and Level 4 gymnasts will be competing by age groups versus individual teams. There will still be multiple sessions for both levels but instead of one's entire team competing in one session versus another session, all sessions of Level 3 and Level 4 gymnasts throughout the state will be split by age. For example, all Level 3 10 year olds in the state will compete in the same session together, but will still rotate through events with other 10 year olds from their own team. As each specific age group for both level 3 and level 4 is completed, the individual award ceremonies will be held shortly after based on the competition schedule that will be provided by the hosting meet.

Team award recognition will be conducted as it has been throughout the season thus far, taking the same number of scores from each team to calculate the total team score. All team award recognition will be given at the final award ceremony for that level. All gymnasts that participate in the early sessions of their level are encouraged to attend the last award ceremony in support of all gymnasts and teams that have competed during our YMCA State Meet.

Gymnasts are encouraged to come early or stay for other sessions in support of their teammates that will be competing in different sessions. Gymnasts that are not competing in the current session will need to cheer from the stands, and will not be allowed on the competitive floor with the rest of their team, due to space constrictions during the meet.

Once again, we are very excited about the increasing interest and number of participants we have in our competitive program each year, and are excited about this change to allow for a better meet experience for our gymnasts, parents, families and other spectators. This meet format for Level 3 and Level 4 gymnasts will help ease and eliminate the multiple hour award recognition ceremonies and make for a smoother running State Gymnastics Meet.

The actual state competition schedule will be provided as more qualifying numbers are finalized during these next two months.

Thank You for your positive support in the format change during our YMCA State Gymnastics Meet. We look forward to another great event in March.

YMCA State Gymnastics Executive Committee