

NAWGJ-VERMONT MARCH UPDATE

WEATHER: I Never thought as a skier I would say enough, but shoveling over two feet today, yes, it is enough. There is plenty left on the mountains. With this let me update protocol for weather and meets. We really have not had to deal with this for a few years and this year has really kept all of us on our toes.

I would never expect a judge to risk life or limb to get to a meet with terrible conditions (not to mention a total frazzled brain with which to judge) however, the Meet Director and Meet Referee do need your assistance and help. So, let's make a check list:

1. Check weather forecast frequently: not only your part of the state but the area you are traveling too. Try to communicate with the Meet Referee at least 48 hours prior to meet if at all possible. This allows the Meet Ref and Meet Director to be working out possible session changes to accommodate athletes and available judges.

2. Call as many judges as you can to work on a replacement for yourself. This is a great assistance to the Meet Ref. so duplicate calls are not being made plus this is your requirement.(to do your best to replace yourself) If a replacement cannot be found, let the Meet Ref know who was called and again, she/he can make alternative plans with the Meet Director.

3. Contact the Meet Ref and Meet Director for possible hotel accommodations and I realize with work schedules, this may not be an option but early communication really helps.

4. In general, if something comes up and you need to replace yourself , keep in mind your replacement ie: will it cost the Meet director more money, can they carpool etc.

I think this will help all in situations and then we do the best we can especially when weather forecasts change within such a short period of time.

DIRECTORY:

I have noticed that I do need to update the judges and coaches directory. This directory is also on the Vermont gymnastics website but I will make a new directory as I often use some Mass., NH and NY judges for meets and we need to have that information if you need to get a replacement. I will do this so you have a nice copy to keep in your judges book and also have it so you can keep it in your online folders. I will have this available for the fall meeting as we may have some new judges coming on board. We also have had some clubs change hands so will have a club update also.

MEETS:

The last sectional is Sunday, the 13th at Le Studio. The following judges are assigned:

Vault: Gail and Jenna Bars: Allison and Michelle Beam: Nancy and Jobi Fx: Marylou and Alicia

Check weather and communicate early if it looks like travel problems. The Meet Ref. for this meet is Marylou Smith.

STATES:

States will be held the weekend of March 26th and 27th at Winooski High School. Marla will be timing on Saturday and Tammy will be timing on Sunday. Thanks to Marla and Tammy for your volunteer time (in lieu of Gr. Mt.) Marylou has sent out all assignments. After this last sectional, Jill will be forwarding all the times and I will send those out immediately.

CPE: Have these ready for Marylou at Winooski on March 26th.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Essex for winning the High School Championship on Feb. 19th
Congratulations to Kara Bissonnette on the birth of her son the evening prior (Feb. 18th) Kara was the head coach for Essex but the assistant coach this season.

CONCLUSION:

Overall, I think this season went remarkably well. I hope all those returning from the Hip Hop Classic this past weekend had safe travels. The Invitationals from Harvest, Royal, Groovin and Hip Hop were loads of fun and great meets so good job Meet directors and hosts and great job gymnasts and judges.

I will also be looking at topics and locations for our fall state clinic so come with ideas and we can discuss them during the break between sessions on Sunday, March 27th.

If you are not assigned to judge the state meet or qualify as a gymnast, I hope you will be able to come and support our sport. Let's hope March goes out like a lamb, it certainly came in like a lion.

SJD:

Gail McGann, Vermont