

Region 3 Xcel Program Position Statement

Region 3 supports the Xcel Program. We see it as an avenue to reach our communities and an opportunity to offer the youth of our states a choice in competitive gymnastics regardless of their vast learning styles, levels of interest in gymnastics, commitment and economic situation.

It is our goal to grow this program from new athletes and to also offer a program that will entice athletes currently competing in other programs to join USA Gymnastics and enjoy the benefits of our national organization.

We are aware that there are opportunities to enter into USA Gymnastics for those athletes who have experience outside of our organization. However, we also know that that it is important to offer a program that will allow athletes who have experienced gymnastics outside of our national program an opportunity to enter or return to USA Gymnastics based on their current skill level other than by entry through the compulsory levels.

Many athletes have competed in other programs that promote optional gymnastics and if we limit entry to into our program to only compulsory level entry or having reached to age of 14 and being a freshman in high school it will diminish the goals of Xcel and USA Gymnastics, which is to promote gymnastics across our country at all levels. We would like to see entry opportunities that will meet the needs of any athlete who is considering joining our national organization. The skills do not change, and allowing flexibility to move from Xcel into equal optional levels will provide us another opportunity to grow our membership.

We believe that USA Gymnastics is the strongest gymnastics program in our country and allowing students to be coached by our professional members with their expertise is the pinnacle of opportunities for these young students to experience competitive gymnastics and yet be involved in other extracurricular activities.

Region 3 believes that issues such as insurance, sanctioning and age appropriate skills are the framework designated by the national governing board and are sound guidelines. We believe that the regions need to lay a foundation and the core rules for the program which will be clear, easily understood and will transferable into our local gymnastics communities.

These rules should be user friendly and easily adaptable into the established programs as well as new programs that we want to participate in this viable program. Deductions should be consistent with those used in the JO program to eliminate confusion. Rules need to be founded on strong skill progression and requirements, yet needs to be easily understood beside the JO program framework. We believe if the program is too complicated and that coaches will be required to learn a completely different set of rules, deductions etc, that the program will be difficult to nurture.

Make it simple, they will embrace it, make it complicated, they will pass it by.

With Great Respect,

Region 3 Committee Members