

NAIGC Competition and Eligibility Policy

Last Amended: 11/11/2019

I. Purpose

- A. To outline the competition structure and eligibility criteria that shall be followed for all NAIGC sanctioned gymnastics competitions, including the NAIGC National Championships. Within each level and discipline, the NAIGC will acknowledge top overall individuals and teams as well as within Award Categories specified in this policy. This structure facilitates open participation and achievement recognition, while also providing a fair environment for United States collegiate individuals and teams to compete against each other.

II. Definitions

- A. Discipline: A set of gymnastics events. The disciplines that can be offered at NAIGC sanctioned events include Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG), Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG), NAIGC Decathlon, and Trampoline and Tumbling.
- B. Level: A rules structure within a discipline (ex. Level 9, NAIGC Modified NCAA, etc.)
- C. Awards Category: A group of competitors within a discipline and level who are recognized separately for awards only (ex. Collegiate Awards Category, Community Awards Category).
 - 1. Eligibility criteria for each Awards Category is defined in Section VI.
- D. Club: A NAIGC member club as defined in the NAIGC Club Membership Policy. Usually defined at the school or community level (ex. University of Tennessee, Cambridge Community Gymnastics)
- E. Team: A group of individuals from a single club whose scores are combined for a single team score. A club can field multiple teams, although one per discipline per level per Award Category is eligible to advance to finals and/or receive a team award.
- F. Gender Category: Definitions of gender to facilitate restriction of finals qualification and awards for athletes who have a biological advantage over the majority of participants.
 - 1. Female: All gymnasts assigned female at birth or who have been on estrogen hormone therapy for at least 1 year (taken at the word of the gymnast).
 - 2. Male: All gymnasts assigned male at birth or who have been on testosterone hormone therapy for at least 1 year (taken at the word of the gymnast).
 - 3. Other: Any gymnast that does not fit into the above categories should reach out via email nationals@naigc.org to determine eligibility.

III. Competition Disciplines & Levels

- A. NAIGC Sanctioned Meets may offer multiple disciplines and levels of competition, including any combination outlined in the following rules documents:
 - 1. MAG Rules
 - 2. WAG Rules
 - 3. Trampoline & Tumbling Code of Points

- B. The competition rules pertaining to NAIGC National Championships are specified in the following documents:
 - 1. MAG National Championship Format
 - 2. WAG National Championship Format
 - 3. Decathlon National Championship Format
- C. Participation
 - 1. Participation in any discipline shall not be restricted on the basis of biological sex or gender identity.
 - 2. Each club that registers for a competition may enter one or more teams per level per discipline offered by that competition.
 - 3. Each individual may compete for at most one team. All individuals on a team will be judged at the level in which the team is registered.
 - 4. At Nationals 2020, individuals may register for both MAG and WAG disciplines with the following restrictions:
 - a) Male athletes cannot contribute to the team score on WAG vault in prelims or finals.
 - b) Male athletes are not eligible for individual event finals in WAG vault.
 - c) A single gymnast may only compete in all-around finals for one discipline. For any gymnast registered for all-around in both disciplines, they must select during registration in which discipline they would prefer to compete all-around if they were to make finals in both.
 - d) Athletes may qualify for any individual event finals, but may only participate in a maximum of six.
 - e) Male athletes cannot displace Female athletes from qualifying for WAG floor. If participation warrants, a separate awards category for Male participants on WAG floor will be created.

IV. Competitions with Finals Session(s)

A. Qualification

- 1. Within each level and discipline, the top scoring competitors overall in the individual all-around, individual events and team competition will advance to the finals session(s). See section IIIC4 for exceptions.
- 2. See NAIGC MAG and WAG Nationals Championship Format for finals qualification rules.
- 3. Competitions that offer a finals session(s) are not required to do so for all disciplines and levels being offered at that competition.

B. Mercy Rule

- 1. If a club does not have at least one gymnast qualify for Finals (individual event, individual all-around, or team finals) in a specific discipline across all levels, then the club may choose one member to participate in the individual event finals within that discipline on one event of their choice in their level of choice (amongst those offered in Finals).

2. Mercy Rule competitors must be registered by 11:59PM the night before the finals session(s) are scheduled to occur. Competitors will be judged but will not be eligible for awards.

C. Individual Competition

1. For each discipline and level, if over half (50%) of finals qualifiers for a single individual event or the individual all-around are from a single club, additional individuals will also qualify to individual finals.
 - a. The 50% rule will be calculated based on the initial list of finals qualifiers, and not recalculated once the additional individuals have been added to satisfy the rule.
 - b. No individuals from the majority club shall be skipped to meet this requirement.
 - c. No finals qualifiers shall be displaced from finals to satisfy the 50% rule, rather the extra individual(s) will be added as additional finals qualifiers.

D. Team Competition

1. For each discipline, level and Award Category, only one team from an NAIGC member club may qualify to team finals.
2. The NAIGC Alumni Team shall not displace another team from qualifying to team finals within the same discipline and level.

E. Unified Gymnastics Competition

1. If a gymnast is participating for finals in both disciplines, it is the responsibility of the gymnast to be present when they are required to compete. No exceptions will be made for rotation schedules, and no judges will be delayed due to a gymnast competing in the other discipline. If the gymnast's rotation ends and they have not competed, they will receive a score of 0.0 for that event.

V. Competition Awards

- A. Results may be posted online in the individual event, individual all-around, and team competitions that include all individuals and teams who competed in the same discipline and level, regardless of Award Category eligibility.
- B. A subset of awards may be presented for individual events, individual all-around, and team competitions based on Awards Categories outlined in Section VI. Award Categories will be applied only when there are enough individuals or teams registered into that Award Category.
- C. Only one team per club will receive an award within an Award Category.
- D. Except as described in Section VI, individuals may not elect the Awards Categories in which they can receive recognition; they are prescribed based on eligibility.
 1. Example: An eligible Collegiate individual may not elect to receive individual awards in the Community Category or vice versa.
- E. In cases when the number of awards being recognized in an Awards Category exceeds the number of finals qualifiers for a specific individual event, individual all-around or team finals within each discipline and level, preliminary results will be used to award the remaining places.

1. In all cases, finals qualifiers will place higher than non-finals qualifiers. After awards have been given to finals qualifiers, the remaining finals awards will be given based on prelim scores. If preliminary sessions were held in multiple gyms (i.e., different equipment, different judges), multiple sets of remaining places may be given based on the preliminary gym.
 - a. Example: In the Community Category, 6 places may be recognized for a specific individual event. Only 4 individuals qualify to finals as outlined in Section IV.A.1. In the finals competition, these individuals are competing for places 1-4. During the awards ceremony, the next highest scoring individuals from preliminary competition (or from each preliminary gym) will be awarded 5th and 6th place on that individual event in the Community Category.
- F. Only competitors competing on all events within a discipline are eligible to receive individual all-around awards in that discipline.
- G. Any ties for scores in the team, individual all-around, or individual event competitions will be recorded as a tie. There is no tiebreaker.

VI. Eligibility for Award Categories

A. Collegiate Category

1. Eligible Collegiate Individual – An eligible collegiate individual is defined to be a competing NAIGC member who is enrolled full-time in either undergraduate or graduate courses for at least one semester (or at least 16 weeks) during the relevant NAIGC fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) at a college or university in the United States. The definition of full-time enrollment is determined by the student's college or university. An eligible collegiate individual's gender category must match the discipline for which they are competing.
2. Eligible Collegiate Team – An eligible collegiate team is defined to be a team comprised entirely of eligible collegiate individuals from a single college or university in the United States.

B. Community Category

1. Eligible Community Individual – An eligible community individual is defined to be a competing NAIGC member who is not enrolled full-time in undergraduate courses for at least one semester (or at least 16 weeks) during the relevant NAIGC fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The definition of full-time enrollment is determined by the student's college or university.
2. Eligible Community Team – An eligible community team is defined to be a team comprised of one or more eligible community individuals, two or more eligible collegiate individuals from different colleges or universities, or one or more collegiate individuals from a college or university outside of the United States.

- C. An NAIGC member enrolled full time in graduate or professional school may elect to be either an eligible collegiate individual or an eligible community individual. Whichever eligibility is elected will apply for individual event, individual all-around and team awards.

D. Restrictions

1. Within each Awards Category, each NAIGC member club may receive a team award for at most one team per discipline and level. This restriction does not apply to individual event or individual all-around awards.
2. Athletes in gender category Male may not receive awards for WAG vault.

E. Verification

1. Upon registering for an NAIGC sanctioned event, a club administrator from the sponsoring NAIGC club (i.e. someone with administrative privileges on the NAIGC website) must confirm whether each registered individual is an eligible collegiate individual or eligible community individual, by each Awards Category definition.
2. NAIGC reserves the right to call a university official, such as a registrar or a university director, pertaining to the department of clubs or sport clubs; request transcripts from individual registrants; or take other steps to confirm any eligibility criteria that was verified by the sponsoring NAIGC club's administrator.
3. It is a violation of the NAIGC Code of Conduct to misrepresent any eligibility criteria in the event registration software. Any violations will result in immediate loss of award eligibility, as well as any other consequences that might be deemed necessary, as stipulated in the NAIGC Code of Conduct.

VII. Amendments

- A. This document may be amended by the NAIGC Board of Directors.