

PART THREE P.R.E.P. OPTIONAL PROGRAM

**CONTACT YOUR USA GYMNASTICS STATE OR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM.**

I. PURPOSE

The P.R.E.P. Optional Program is designed to offer a broad-based, affordable competitive experience outside the traditional Jr. Olympic Program to attract and retain a diverse group of athletes. The program gives an opportunity for:

- A. Class students to participate in organized gymnastics events.
- B. Those athletes who have competed in the USA Gymnastics Jr. Olympic Program and have qualified to Level 7 or above but need a more basic introduction to optional competition.
- C. Those athletes who have competed in the USA Gymnastics Jr. Olympic Program at the Compulsory level and would like to experience a basic optional program during their "off" season.
- D. Those athletes who have either "retired" from the Jr. Olympic Program or do not wish to train or compete at Level 7 or 8.
- E. Athletes not previously involved with USA Gymnastics to enter the program.

II. GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. Membership Requirements

- 1. A MINIMUM of an Introductory Coach membership is required in order to coach on the floor of a USA Gymnastics sanctioned P.R.E.P. Optional competition.
- 2. Athletes participating in sanctioned competitions must be registered as a USA Gymnastics Athlete or Introductory Athlete member.
 - a. If a gymnast has never competed in the USA Gymnastics Jr. Olympic Program (Levels 1-10) but wishes to compete in the P.R.E.P. Optional Program, she must register as an Introductory Athlete Member.
 - If at a later time in the same competitive year she wishes to move to Level 4 or 5, she must upgrade her membership by submitting a regular Athlete Membership application and paying the difference in price.
 - b. If a gymnast already has a regular Athlete Membership, she is not required to change or purchase a new membership for P.R.E.P. Optional.

B. Mobility

This program is an alternative program that is outside of the Jr. Olympic Development Program structure.

- 1. There is NO OPPORTUNITY FOR MOBILITY into or within the Jr. Olympic Levels.
- 2. Mobility within the P.R.E.P. Optional Program is determined by the State/Regional Administrative Committee.

C. Equipment

P.R.E.P. Optional competitions must follow the current *Women's Rules and Policies* in regards to the Equipment Specifications, using the compulsory competition specifications as a minimum standard.

D. Competitive Divisions

(Divisions (A-E) can be renamed (i.e. Division A, Rookie or Bronze).

- Division A – Comparable to Compulsory Levels 1-3
- Division B – Comparable to Compulsory Levels 3-4
- Division C – Comparable to Compulsory Levels 5-6
- Division D - Comparable to Compulsory Levels 5-6 and Optional Level 7
- Division E – Comparable to Compulsory Level 6 and Optional Level 7 or above

A State or Region may use any or all of the divisions to suit their needs.

E. Age Divisions

Division	Minimum Age
A	Reached 4 th birthday
B	Reached 5 th birthday
C	Reached 6 th birthday
D	Reached 7 th birthday
E	Reached 8 th birthday

F. Meet Entry Fees

- In-Gym for P.R.E.P. Optional competition only \$35.00 or less
- *State Championships Entry Fee \$40.00, unless otherwise approved by the RACC
- *Regional Championships Entry Fee \$75.00, unless otherwise approved by the RACC
- *Decision to conduct State or Regional Championships is at the discretion of the respective State or Regional Administrative Committee.

G. Officials Fee Schedule (for meets or sessions within a meet that have only P.R.E.P. Optional competitors, including Invitationals)

Division	# of Judges per Panel	Judges' Rating	Rate per hour
A & B	Minimum of 1	Professional Member "Coach"	\$15.00
		Level 5/6 ad 7/8	\$15.00
		Level 9	\$18.00
		Level 10	\$22.00
		National & Brevet	\$25.00
C, D & E	Minimum of 1	Level 5/6 and Level 7/8	\$15.00
		Level 9	\$18.00
		Level 10	\$22.00
		National and Brevet	\$25.00

If P.R.E.P. Optional competitors are included in the same session(s) as Jr. Olympic (Levels 1-10) competitors, the USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package will be in effect.