



Coaches, there are several important changes to Rules & Policies this year that affect everyone attending the State Championships. Please take a moment to read over these points and make yourself familiar with the new requirements prior to arriving to the competition.

1. NEW USAG DRESS CODE **(Coaches' attire at State and above competitions.)**

USAG has adopted a professional dress code for all championship meets (State level and above). In accordance with updated Rules and Policies Part 1, Section 3, Paragraph 1,D,2 (Dress) on page 11the policy is as follows:

Shoes: closed toe athletic shoes

Pants: Athletic warm-ups or "Docker-style" pants (**No jeans**)

Shorts: Athletic or tailored shorts that are a reasonable length (example-7" inseam) No shorts with tears, holes or short-shorts

Shirts: Collared shirts, business casual shirts, or T-shirts **with gym logo.**
No spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or midriff revealing shirts

Hats: no hats or visors.

Please make all professional members at your gym aware of this new requirement. It will be enforced at the Compulsory state Meet with violators asked to leave the competition area.

2. Background Check verification forms no longer being issued.

Effective December 1st, 2008 USA Gymnastics will no longer be providing background check verification forms to those Professional members who are in a pending status for the background check requirement.

Professional members will NOT be released from pending, and therefore no membership benefits will be released until the final result of the background check screening has been received by USA Gymnastics from the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI).

Mandatory background check screening went into effect on December 1st, 2007. The verification forms were implemented to allow Professional members to become acclimated with the new membership requirement. The verification forms were only issued to those Professional members who had started the background check process, but the final result had not yet been received by USA Gymnastics.

It is vitally important for those Professional members who have not yet begun the background check process to start immediately. In addition, any new/expired/or lapsed Professional member should begin the process of paying for membership and attaining membership requirements (background check and safety/risk management certification) as soon as possible so that they will not be prevented from participation at USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.

If a current Professional member has not completed the background check requirement by December 1st, 2008, meet directors are directed to not allow these individuals onto the floor at USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.

Any new Professional member will remain in a pending status and therefore be ineligible for participation in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events until the background check has been fully completed.

Please note the normal processing time required for the background check is 3 to 4 weeks. Rush processing is not available.

For more information regarding the background check requirement please visit the [USA Gymnastics](#) website.

If you have started the background check and have not yet received the results please contact NCSI at 866-833-7100 to inquire of the status of your background check.

3. Credentials

Each coach attending a sanctioned competition *MUST PRESENT* their current proof of membership to sign in personnel before they can legally be on the floor to coach if requested. Please make sure your coaches have their membership with them. In order to avoid meet interruption by having the Meet Director go on line and search for same. In fact, please ask your coaches to show you their credentials before you send them to a meet. Some may think they have it when in fact they don't. Credentials are easily misplaced. Please make sure you have made additional copies of all credentials in case you receive a call from your coach stating they don't have their credentials. You can then fax it to the meet director, but understand, they will NOT be allowed on the floor until the meet director has received that copy. It is a courtesy for the Meet Director to look up a membership, but it NOT their responsibility at the meet. Be sure you have put the correct names of all coaches attending a competition on the meet entry form.

4. Meet Equipment

Remember that no outside equipment will be allowed into the competition area. This includes spring boards and vault mats. All equipment to be used will be provided at the meet sight.

I want to wish everyone good luck and look forward to seeing you at the meet.

Thank You,

Larry P. Corrigan

TN-SACC