

NAIGC Competition Structures and Eligibility Policy

Version 2.1 / Last Amended: 11/13/2023

I. Purpose

- A. To outline the competition structure and eligibility criteria that shall be followed for the NAIGC National Championships. Within each level and discipline, the NAIGC will acknowledge individuals and teams as specified in this policy. This structure facilitates open participation and achievement recognition for all members, while also providing a fair environment for 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), and Trampoline and Tumbling (T&T).
- B. Level: A rules structure within a discipline (ex. Level 9, NAIGC Modified NCAA, etc.)
- C. Placement Category: A group of competitors within or across disciplines and levels who are recognized separately for finals qualifications and awards (ex. MAG Collegiate Men+ Category, WAG Community Women Category).
 - 1. Eligibility criteria for each Placement Category is defined in Section VII.
- D. Club: An NAIGC member club as defined in the NAIGC Club Membership Policy.
- E. Team: All of the individuals from a single club who meet the requirements as described in Sections VI.B.2 and VII.
- F. Gender: Definitions of gender to facilitate restriction of finals qualification and awards for athletes who may have a biological advantage over the majority of participants.
 - 1. Male: Any athlete who identifies as male.
 - 2. Female: Any athlete who identifies as female.
 - 3. Other: Any athlete who does not identify exclusively as male or female (e.g. non-binary) or prefers not to select a gender.

III. Competition Offerings

- 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. UAG Rules
 - 4. 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. T&T National Championship Format
 - 4. UAG 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 individual may compete for at most one team per discipline. All individuals on a team will be judged at the level in which the team is registered.
3. Individuals may register for both MAG and WAG disciplines (UAG). See UAG Rules Policy for UAG definition.

IV. Disciplines with Finals Session(s)

A. Qualification

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

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 (MAG/WAG only) 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 08:00AM the day the finals session(s) are scheduled to occur. Competitors will be judged but will not be eligible for awards.

C. Individual Competition

1. In a placement category with 6 or more individuals qualifying to finals, additional individuals will be added to the final if over half (50%) of finals qualifiers for a single individual event or the individual all-around are from a single club. The process for determining how many additional individuals to qualify is as follows:
 - a. Calculate the goal for the number of individuals not from the majority club as 50% of the initial total qualifiers rounded down.
 - b. Qualify additional gymnasts, moving down the score list, until the number of qualifiers not in the majority club is equal to the number calculated in the first step.
2. For example, if 4 of the top 6 qualifiers are from Club A, 2 of the top 6 qualifiers are from Club B, 7th place is also from Club A, and 8th place is from Club B, both 7th and 8th place will be added to the final competition.

D. UAG Competition

1. If a gymnast is participating in finals for 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.

2. Awards will be calculated from prelims results as outlined in the UAG Nationals Format.

V. Disciplines without Finals Sessions

A. Trampoline and Tumbling (T&T)

1. All athletes may compete any level on any event. This includes the ability to compete different levels on different events.
2. Athletes will only be separated into placement categories based on level. There will be no separation based on gender or collegiate status.
3. Awards will be determined by grouping scores within each level from all sessions in the preliminary rounds.
4. Any ties for scores in individual event competitions will be recorded as a tie. There is no tiebreaker.
5. There is no team competition for T&T.

VI. 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 Placement Category eligibility.
- B. A subset of awards may be presented for individual events, individual all-around, and team competitions based on Placement Categories outlined in Section VI.
 1. Awards will be presented per the documents listed in Section III.B.
 2. Teams must have at least 3 scores per event in order to count for a team score and team award.
- C. Except as described in Section VII.A.2, individuals may not elect the Placement 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.
- D. Only competitors competing on all events within a discipline are eligible to receive individual all-around awards in that discipline.
- E. Any ties for scores in the team, individual all-around, or individual event competitions will be recorded as a tie. There is no tiebreaker.
- F. Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the Sanctioning Team (e.g. Athletes competing on all events across all disciplines, the top scoring team within each discipline and level that has individuals competing from at least two Placement Categories, etc.)

VII. Eligibility for Placement Categories (MAG and WAG only)

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. The definition of full-time enrollment is determined by the student's college or university. Across MAG and WAG, there are four Collegiate Placement Categories, defined as follows:

- a. MAG Collegiate Men+: Collegiate individuals competing on the MAG events whose selected category is Male
 - b. MAG Collegiate Women+: Collegiate individuals competing on the MAG events whose selected category is Female
 - c. WAG Collegiate Men+: Collegiate individuals competing on the WAG events whose selected category is Male
 - d. WAG Collegiate Women+: Collegiate individuals competing on the WAG events whose selected category is Female
 - e. Athletes who select "Other" as their gender may choose whether they would like to compete in the Men+ or Women+ category for *each* discipline. If no choice is communicated to the meet organizer then they will by default be placed in the Men+ category.
2. An NAIGC member enrolled full time in graduate or professional school may elect to be either an eligible collegiate individual by registering as a student or an eligible community individual by registering as a non-student. Whichever eligibility is elected will apply for individual event, individual all-around and team awards.
 3. Eligible Collegiate Team – An eligible collegiate team is defined to be a team composed entirely of eligible collegiate individuals from a single college or university in the United States and from a single Placement Category.

B. Community Category

1. Eligible Community Individual – An eligible community individual is defined as any individual who does not meet the definition of an eligible collegiate individual. Across MAG and WAG, there are four Community Placement Categories, defined as follows:
 - a. MAG Community Men+: Community individuals competing on the MAG events whose selected category is Male
 - b. MAG Community Women+: Community individuals competing on the MAG events whose selected category is Female
 - c. WAG Community Men+: Community individuals competing on the WAG events whose selected category is Male
 - d. WAG Community Women+: Community individuals competing on the WAG events whose selected category is Female
 - e. Athletes who select "Other" as their gender may choose whether they would like to compete in the Men+ or Women+ category for *each* discipline. If no choice is communicated to the meet organizer then they will by default be placed in the Men+ category.

2. Eligible Community Team – An eligible community team is defined to be any team that does not qualify as a Collegiate Team as defined in VII.A.2 above.

C. Mixed Team Awards

1. An award will be given to the top team(s) in each level with at least one *counting* score from both the Men+ and Women+ categories. Team scores will be calculated using all of the scores from a given club in a given level, regardless of both student status and gender identity.
2. Mixed teams results will be calculated from prelims and are not eligible to qualify for finals as a mixed team.

D. Verification

1. 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.
2. 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.

VIII. Amendments

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