

## **NAIGC Competition Structures and Eligibility**

*Version 1.3 / Last Amended: 10/25/2017*

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the stance of NAIGC with respect to participation in NAIGC sanctioned gymnastics competitions, including the NAIGC National Championships. The NAIGC will use an Open Division to facilitate open participation, and a Collegiate Division to identify eligible collegiate athletes and eligible collegiate teams. These structures will be used to simultaneously facilitate open participation and achievement recognition, while also providing a fair environment for collegiate teams to compete against each other.

### II. Competition Divisions

- A. Open Division – Participation in the individual event, individual all-around, or team competitions in the Open Division shall be open to any individual member or team from any NAIGC member club, including the NAIGC Alumni Club.
- B. Collegiate Division – Participation in the individual event, individual all-around, or team competitions in the Collegiate Division is also open to any individual member or team from any NAIGC member club. Awards for individual events and for all-around in the Collegiate Division are restricted to eligible collegiate athletes. (See the definition of Eligible Collegiate Athlete below). Awards for the team competition in the Collegiate Division are restricted to eligible collegiate teams. (See the definition of Eligible Collegiate Team below). Both non-eligible individual participants and non-eligible teams may receive shadow awards in this division. (See the definition of Shadow Awards below).

### III. Collegiate Eligibility

#### A. Definitions

1. Eligible Collegiate Athlete – An eligible collegiate athlete is defined to be someone enrolled full-time in either undergraduate, graduate, or professional school courses for at least one semester 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 Collegiate Club – An eligible collegiate club is defined to be an NAIGC club from a single college or university.
3. Eligible Collegiate Team – An eligible collegiate team is defined to be a team from an eligible collegiate club that is comprised entirely of eligible collegiate athletes.
  - a. Restriction 1 – Each eligible collegiate club may sponsor at most one eligible collegiate team in each discipline-division-level.
  - b. Restriction 2 – A member of an eligible collegiate club who meets the definition of an eligible collegiate athlete at a different college or university may only compete as part of the sponsoring club's collegiate team if the sponsoring club's college or university recognizes them as a member of the club, and the school of their enrollment does not have its own eligible collegiate club.

#### B. Verification

1. Upon registering any teams or individuals into the Collegiate Division, a club administrator from the sponsoring NAIGC club must confirm whether it is an Eligible Collegiate Club by specifying its sponsoring college or university. (Note that a club administrator means a member of the club who has administrative privileges on the NAIGC website.)
2. For each individual that registers in the Collegiate Division, a club administrator from that individual's sponsoring NAIGC club must confirm the full-time student status of that individual by specifying the individual's college or university.
3. For each team that registers in the Collegiate Division that elects to compete for a team score, a club administrator from that team's sponsoring NAIGC club must confirm exactly which members of that team are eligible to count for the team score.
4. 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.
5. 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.

#### IV. Shadow Awards and Qualifications

##### A. Definitions

1. Shadow Award – A shadow award is an award that recognizes a non-eligible individual or team for the place that would have been earned if the eligibility criteria were met, without affecting the award distribution for eligible individuals or teams in the same competition.
2. Shadow Qualification – A shadow qualification is a qualification into finals that does not affect qualification into finals for any other team or individual.

##### B. Goals – Shadow awards and shadow qualifications are essential components of our plan to simultaneously meet three goals:

1. Adhering to our organization's principle of open participation,
2. Recognizing the achievement of all participants, and
3. Maintaining integrity and fairness in the competition.

##### C. Use Cases

1. Collegiate Division
  - a. Shadow awards will be given in the Collegiate Division whenever a non-eligible team or individual scores high enough to receive an award.
  - b. Shadow qualification in the Collegiate Division will apply to all non-eligible collegiate athletes and non-eligible teams.
2. Open Division
  - a. Shadow awards will be given in the Open Division only if more than one team from a single club would otherwise receive a team award.

- b. Shadow qualification in the Open Division will apply to any team who qualifies for finals but scores below its sponsoring club's highest-scoring team within the same discipline-division-level.
    - 3. Qualifying Finalists Per Club
      - a. At most half the total number of qualifying finalists on an Event (or in All-Around) within a single discipline-division-level may be from a single club.
      - b. The qualifying gymnasts from a club included by this rule will be determined by the highest scores.
      - c. Any gymnast who is excluded by this rule may still participate in the relevant Final as a shadow qualifier, and is eligible to receive a shadow award.
      - d. Any gymnast who is excluded by this rule will open up a spot for another finalist (unless due to ties the intended number of qualifiers into finals has already been met).
    - 4. Placements Per Club
      - a. For divisions / levels without finals, at most half the total number of placing gymnasts on an Event (or in All-Around) within a single discipline-division-level may be from a single club.
      - b. The placing gymnasts from a club included by this rule will be determined by the highest scores.
      - c. Any gymnast who is excluded by this rule may still receive a shadow award.
  - D. Limit to Number of Shadows - If necessary due to the capacity of the meet (along with number of ties and number of shadows), the Board of Directors or meet host may reasonably limit the number of shadow qualifications or awards for teams or individuals.
  - E. Presentation
    - 1. All shadow awards for a given Event (or All-around, or Team) will be presented during the awards ceremony, immediately following the presentation of awards for that event. Award recipients will remain standing while shadow awards are announced. Shadow award recipients will stand in line according to their placement relative to other award recipients for that event.
    - 2. Posted results for shadow qualifications into Finals will appear alongside the corresponding qualification results.
- V. Competition Disciplines
  - A. Specification – NAIGC Sanctioned Meets shall offer multiple disciplines of competition, including, but not limited to:
    - 1. Women's Artistic Gymnastics, and
    - 2. Men's Artistic Gymnastics.
  - B. Participation
    - 1. Participation in either discipline shall not be restricted on the basis of gender.
    - 2. Participation in multiple disciplines simultaneously may be restricted.
- VI. Competition Levels
  - A. Specification

1. Any competition of a given discipline and division may be further divided into levels.
2. Individuals and teams in the same level shall vie for the same set of awards.
3. Individuals and teams in different levels shall not vie for the same awards.
4. Different levels may use different competition formats and rules.

B. Participation

1. Each club that registers for a competition may enter one or more teams into each level offered by that competition, subject to any restrictions imposed by the competition's division.
2. Each individual may compete for at most one team, and will be judged at the level into which the team is registered.

VII. Competition Rules

- A. The competition rules pertaining to NAIGC women's artistic gymnastics are specified in the document titled NAIGC Women's Competition Rules and Interpretations.
- B. The competition rules pertaining to NAIGC men's artistic gymnastics are specified in the document(s) titled NAIGC Men's Competition Rules and Interpretations.
- C. The most up-to-date and authoritative versions of all Rules and Interpretations documents may be found on the NAIGC website.

VIII. Ties

- A. Any ties for scores in the Team, All-Around, or individual Event competitions will be recorded as a tie. There is no tiebreaker.
- B. During the awards ceremony, tying individuals will be recognized as tying for the place they earned; however there will be only one award purchased in advance for each place. One of the tying pair is expected to volunteer to receive a duplicate award in the mail after the event. The volunteer may also choose to keep the next lower place award (when available).

IX. Amendments

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