**Minutes: MAG Parent Meeting - October 09, 2024**

**Board members in attendance: Liz Jones, Kelly Farris, Dana Ervin, Heidi Perez, Michealene Zarach, Erin Rhodes. Unable to attend: Robyn Hulfeld**

**Start Time: 6:10**

**Board Updates**

* Ashlyn’s daughter has decided to retire from gymnastics and she has stepped down from the board. We are excited to welcome Dana Ervin to the board as our secretary! Dana has extensive experience serving on various boards and will be a huge asset to our club. Welcome Dana!

**Xcel State Meet**

* We officially won the bid to host the 2025 Xcel State Meet. Please save the date in your calendars to volunteer March 13th-16th. Set-up will most likely be Thursday evening, competition Friday-Sunday, and tear-down Sunday immediately following the competition. This tentative schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the competition and the Indiana State Gymnastics Board. More details regarding this meet will be released at a later date.
* As a reminder, volunteers over the age of 18 need to have their Safe Sport Certification complete in order to volunteer at this meet or any other gymnastics related event that we host.
* Meet will be held at the [Dean and Barabara White Community Center](https://g.co/kgs/DMLLGW1)
* Our team has doubled, so shift requirements may not be as extensive as last year, but we will get information out as the meet gets closer.

**\*Parent Question: Do we need to do the Safe Sport Training again?**

**\*Answer:** Yes, everyone needs to renew their Safe Sport certification each year. You can complete the training here: <https://members.usagym.org/pages/education/courses/U110/>

**Competition Etiquette**

* Please see attached paper for some guidelines and helpful tips to prepare for competition season.
* Went over form w/ the following key points
  + Arrive early- Kevin will send the call time, but it is usually 30 mins before check in
  + Please refrain from sideline coaching
  + REMINDER- NO PARENTS ON THE FLOOR before, during, or after the meet.
  + Parents are encouraged to wear MIDWEST gear- see Hannah or purchase from MAG spiritwear shop (coming soon).
* Your account in Sports Engine must be current on payments or your child will not be allowed to compete until payments have been caught up.
* Gymnasts need to neatly have their hair pulled back from their face and off their neck (french braids, bun, etc). Please consider doing several test runs for their competition hair before the actual competition. This allows them to practice with their hairstyle to make sure it doesn’t hurt or get in the way on any event.

- Emphasis on: Practice your meet hair ahead of time

- Hair requirements: pulled back, out of the face, off the neck, long hair should be braided and out of the way.

* Uniforms consist of: Competition leotard, warm-up jacket and pants, bow, and black shoes (slides, crocs, etc). We recommend a shoe that is easy to slip on and off. The girls will have limited time to run to the bathroom during the competition so having easy shoes is a necessity.
* **AWARDS:**
  + Gymnasts are required to stay until the end of the award ceremony. If you need to leave early, please clear with Coach Kevin prior to the competition.
* Emphasized: Do not leave early unless cleared with Coach Kevin BEFORE the meet.
  + Gymnasts are required to wear their uniform on the awards stand. Please make sure their jackets, pants and black shoes are on with jackets zipped up.
* Recommended shoes: crocs or slides, not regular shoes.
* For anyone who ordered uniforms- they are in, so please see Hannah ASAP to pick yours up. Jackets have been sent to the embroiderer. You will be notified when they are in.
  + Teach your gymnast to clean up after themselves. Snacks are allowed during awards; however, we want to respect the host team and not create more work for them between sessions. Our team should leave their area clean with all trash picked up.
* Please make sure your child knows how to clean up after themselves
  + Popcorn is SUPER messy, may not want to include in the treat bags
  + Lastly, every gymnast, parent and spectator represents Midwest Training. Cheering is encouraged! No one but coaches and gymnasts are allowed on the competition floor. You are also not allowed to approach any judge during the competition. If you have a question regarding your child’s score or performance, please email Coach Kevin. As a reminder, our coaches will likely be coaching several sessions back to back. So please give him time to respond. If there is an immediate issue, he will reach out to you. We are looking forward to a great season! Go Midwest!
* Sportsmanship is the most important thing
* DO NOT approach coaches or judges. Coaches have specifically requested not to be approached unless it is an emergency. If you have any questions about scores or other performance related information please send and email, and Coach Kevin will respond on the following Monday.

**\*Parent Questions:** None

**Mock Meet**

* The cost for the mock meet will be $50 a gymnast. This covers judges fees and travel, judges food, and coaches fees.
* Date has changed due to the judges availability
* The meet is sanctioned, so it can be used to qualify for State or to skip levels
* Your $50 goes to
  + Pay the Judges. Judges are Linda McDonald and Beth Keller. We will have 3 sessions this year instead of 2 like last year. It is roughly $15/hour for each judge
  + Pay the coaches.

**\*Parent Question: Will there be awards at the mock meet?**

**\*Answer:** No, not for the mock meet

**\*Parent Question: Do we need to wear warm ups to the mock meet?**

**\*Answer:**  Kevin will specify what to wear, but if we don’t hear anything, just come in full uniforms. If for some reason jackets are not in in time, that’s ok- just wear what you have.

**\*Parent Question: Do we know the mock meet schedule and levels?**

**\*Answer:**  That’s a great question for Coach Kevin. As a reminder MAG handles all things for the the booster club- fundraising, payments, team fun, etc. Coach Kevin handles all things gymnastics- levels, practices, meets, scheduling, etc.

**Fun!**

* Our next team event will be a fun get-together at Stoney Run Park (Pavillion 10) on October 27th from 4-6. Please refer to the email that was sent on October 2nd for all of the details!
* The sign up sheet is in the gym
* The booster club will be providing hot dogs for each gymnast.
* There will be a hot dog cart with options available for purchase including brats, italian beef, tamales, hot dogs and more
* There is a park near the pavillion, bathroom son site, trails, bon fire
* REMINDER: this is not a drop off event. You are responsible for watching your own children
* We have ordered two beautiful bows for the competition season. Each gymnast will receive both bows and you can choose which one to wear each meet. Your social fee covered the cost of these bows 🙂
* Bows should be in in the next couple of weeks and before the mock meet
* We will be doing another Spirit wear shop this year! More details will be sent soon.
* We will have similar products with a new logo.
* Please send suggestions for items you would like to see in the spirit shop, and/or favorites from last year

**Team Parents**

* Please see attachment for all of the information regarding team parents for this upcoming season!
* THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!! We still need a parent for level 9, Please see Michaelene or Erin
* Team parents received handouts with their level information. Please see Michaelene or Erin if you are a team parent and did not attend the meeting
* Snack bags:
  + Given out as the girls gather in the awards area
  + Keep it cheap, nothing extravagant: a snack, drink and a treat/small gift (**nothing that stains- remember: the jackets are white!!**).
  + Team parents were given a list of allergies to discuss amongst their level.

**\*Parent Question: What does being a team mom entail?**

**\*Answer:**  Organize who will bring the meet bags for the team and act as a funnel for info. The board will contact team parents, and then the team parents will contact their level. We received a volunteer for XGold during the meeting. Thank you

**\*Parent Question:**  **Will we do snacks at the mock meet? Or will there be an ice cream social like last year?**

**\*Answer:**  No, we are doing the fall party instead of the ice cream social. The mock meet will last all day (until around 9PM), so we will not have time to do a social afterwards.

**\*Parent Question: Is the mock meet one day?**

**\*Answer:**  Yes- Sunday 11/24/2024. The Sunday before Thanksgiving

**Financial Updates**

* See attachment :)
* Discussed budget sheet
* Some upcoming expenses are not reflected on the sheet
  + USAG Membership for coaches
  + Accountant fees- currently in the process of filing for our tax-exempt status
  + Christmas party
    - Save the date!! Saturday 12/21/2024, time TBD
    - We will talk to kevin about practice times
  + Others that we can’t think of right now, but even with upcoming expenses, we are still in a good place financially
* Social fees are not reflected on the sheet, as they are held in a separate account so they aren’t mixed with MAG expenses
* There are 2 accounts
  + Fees paid in and out for competitions
  + Social fees and fundraising (tracked by individual athletes/families)

**\*Parent Question: Is the Florida meet still happening?**

**\*Answer:** We will see what happens with Hurricane Milton, but as of right now everything is still scheduled according to plan. Hopefully everything will be okay

**\*Parent Question:**  **Why isn’t the information for the 2nd account on the finance sheet?**

**\*Answer:**  Oops! Sorry, human error. We forgot to print that page. The account holds booster club credits for each gymnast/ booster club dues. It is not touched until the check is sent for meet registration. The budget shown on the printed sheet is our general fund that comes from the social fees and gymnasts who have quit the team. Any credits earned from working meets is yours to use for next season and goes into the booster club fee account. When a gymnast quits, the funds stay with MAG and are moved to the general account.

**\*Parent Question:**  **If a gymnast knows they are going to quit at the end of the year, do they still have to work the state meet or do the buy out?**

**\*Answer:** It depends on if their drop notice is in. If they plan to participate in any of the end of year activities, they they are still part of the team and the family will be responsible for the State Meet requirements.

**\*Parent Question: If a gymnast quits, can they donate their credits to another gymnast?**

**\*Answer:** Unfortunately no. Any credits will go into the general fund and be used as quickly as possible in a way that benefits the entire team. For example, last year we used funds from gymnasts who quit to purchase the picture packages.

**\*Parent Question: What is the buy out fee for the state meet?**

**\*Answer:** We won't know until we get closer to the meet and have everything planned, but last year I think it was $250/session and there were 4 required sessions outside of set up and tear down

**\*Parent Question: How many sessions will we be required to work for the state meet?**

**\*Answer:** We won’t know until we have all of the logistics for the meet.

**\*Parent Question: I thought the money that we earned from working the state meet was ours to use as we. Why can’t I be paid out when my gymnast quits the team?**

**\*Answer:** The state meet is a team fundraiser, so the funds must go to team use for either a specific gymnast or the team as a whole if that gymnast is no longer on the team. We were misinformed last year when we said they could be paid into personal accounts, but our accountant has informed us that if we did this we would have file tax paperwork, as you would become paid employees. This is not an option for our volunteer organization.

**\*Parent Question: Can we use team funds for leos?**

**\*Answer:** We will have to ask Hannah. We hope so!

**\*Parent Question: How does it work for volunteers when our kids are cometing at the state meet?**

**\*Answer:** We advise you not to sign up for the session immediately before, during, or immediately after your child competes. This way you will have time to get them to the meet and take them home afterward.

**\*Parent Question: Will the meet schedule be out before sign ups?**

**\*Answer:** It was out last year, but we (as a whole team family) will make sure everything works out if issues come up.

**\*Parent Question: Is Safe Sport required?**

**\*Answer:** It is only required for anyone volunteering at the State Meet and if anyone wants to volunteer at the parties

**\*Parent Question: Why is the Noblesville meet no longer on the schedule? Will we be reimbursed since we are now short a meet?**

**\*Answer:** Coach Kevin handles all of the scheduling, so any questions about that would need to go to him. We think this was the meet that had an error on the date and interfered with a different meet, so it was dropped from the schedule. This is the most accurate and up to date meet schedule sent by Coach Kevin. The booster club dues cover 6 meets including state, so we are squared away as far as funding and meet counts.

**End Time: 7:02-** Everyone was dismissed as a whole, but parents were invited to stay if they had individual questions