

United States Trampoline and Tumbling Association Library

**OFFICIAL USTA**  
**TRAMPOLINE, TUMBLING, &**  
**DOUBLE MINI-TRAMP HANDBOOK**

*Including Official Rules of Competition  
and USTA Organization*

ATHLETE PLEDGE. I pledge to do my best and to be an athlete that is a team player with good sportsmanship. I will be honest, caring, responsible, and respectful, and will follow the rules of the United States Trampoline and Tumbling Association.

*This handbook and rules were developed for U.S.T.A. Members in good standing and intended for their exclusive use. Copies of this handbook cannot be made without prior written consent of the U.S.T.A. Executive Board.*

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**Welcome to the USTA!**

**I would like to use this opportunity to extend a warm USTA welcome to you, your club, and your athletes. Our organization offers a wide variety of avenues to fulfill your competitive needs such as sanctioned clinics, invitational meets, state championship meets, and our yearly culminating experience at nationals. This year's nationals will be held in Madison, Wisconsin and all athletes that qualify will have the opportunity to explore this great city. What a great experience lies ahead for you and your team this season with the USTA. We rely on members like you who return to us yearly and promote our organization and share all that we have to offer. I would like to express my continued appreciation for each of you, because through your dedicated display of the USTA, I am proud to represent, govern and lead this amazing organization. As a USTA family, the future looks to be pretty bright!**

**As I enter my fifth year as president, I am excited with the changes we have offered our membership. Last year we started a new path and are proudly unattached to any other governing body. Thank you for your support during this transitional period and as a board, we will continue to offer our best to each member. We will continue to search for more ways to enrich your experience and enhance every facet the USTA has to offer. I would like to thank the Executive Board, Technical Committee, Safety Committee, Ethic Committee, Judges' Committee, and all the State Chairs for their guidance and leadership to seek the growth of the organization and for being the heart of the USTA. As we are in our 2016-2017 competition season, I wish continued success, and moments that inspire you and your team. Your success is OUR success.**

***Be so good, they can't ignore you.....~Steve Martin***

Sincerely,  
Debbie Barber, USTA President

## ***PAST & PRESENT U.S.T.A. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS***

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SEC/TREAS</b>			
1971 -1973	Jeff Austin	Newt Loken	Ron Munn			
1974 -1974	Jeff Austin	Ron Munn	Dave Salois			
1975 -1976	Ron Munn	Neil Godbey	Jack Castle			
	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>REG V-P</b>	<b>TECH V-P</b>	<b>SEC/TREAS</b>		
1976 -1978	Ron Munn	Neil Godbey	Jack Castle	Ron Loe		
1978 -1979	Neil Godbey	Tom Kinrade	Terry Ellis	Pat Henderson		
1979 -1980	Neil Godbey	Tony Causa	Dennis Harget	Pat Henderson & Terry Ellis		
1980 -1982	Tony Causa	Don Wilson	Dennis Harget	Pat Henderson & Terry Ellis		
1983 -1984	Tony Causa	Don Wilson	Dennis Harget	Pat Henderson	<b>TECH CHAIR</b>	<b>ETHICS CHAIR</b>
1985 -1986	Nick Katrichis	Don Wilson	Dennis Harget	Patti Lingenfelter	Cindy Morano	
1987 -1988	Dan Galbraith	Don Wilson	Dennis Harget	Patti Lingenfelter	Cindy Morano	
1989 -1990	Dan Galbraith	Don Wilson	Dennis Harget	Patti Lingenfelter	Sue Olson	
1991 -1992	Dan Galbraith	Barry Green	Dana Johnson	Patti Lingenfelter	Sue Olson	
1992 -1993	Dan Galbraith	_____	Dana Johnson	Patti Lingenfelter	Sue Olson	
1993 -1994	Dan Galbraith	Paula Grigsby	Dana Johnson	Patti Lingenfelter	Sue Olson	
1994 -1999	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Dana Johnson	Patti Lingenfelter	Sue Olson	David Pollitte
1999 -2000	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Dana Johnson	Patti Lingenfelter	Scott Zulauf	David Pollitte

## PAST & PRESENT U.S.T.A. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>TECHNICAL VICE-PRES</b>	<b>TECHNICAL CHAIR</b>	<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	<b>ETHICS CHAIR</b>
2000-2003	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Dana Johnson	Scott Zulauf	Glenn Vandergriff	David Pollitte
2003-2007	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Dana Johnson	Scott Zulauf	Glenn Vandergriff	Gloria Herring
2007-2008	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Dana Johnson	Linda Billiet	Glenn Vandergriff	Gloria Herring
2008-2012	Debbie Moser	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Dana Johnson	Linda Billiet	Debbie Barber	Gloria Herring
2012-2013	Debbie Barber	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Dana Johnson	Linda Billiet	Diane Peden & Dawn Irish	Gloria Herring
2013-2015	Debbie Barber			Dana Johnson	Linda Billiet	Dawn Irish	Gloria Herring
2015-2016	Debbie Barber	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Gloria Herring	Linda Billiet	Dawn Irish	Carlye Beadles
2016-2017	Debbie Barber	Paula Grigsby	Patti Lingenfelter	Gloria Herring	Linda Billiet	Danielle Outlaw	Carlye Beadles



### U.S.T.A. LIFE MEMBERS

**LARRY GRISWOLD - GEORGE NISSEN - JAMES ROZANAS - LESLIE MILLER - PAUL LUXON**



### U.S.T.A. HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS

U.S.T.A. Hall of Fame Recipients will receive their team and coach memberships free of charge. In addition, they will be able to attend the National Congress free. All Hall of Fame Recipients will receive lifetime club membership, coach membership, and congress registration.

**1974 GEORGE NISSEN - LARRY GRISWOLD**

**1979 LARRY ANDERSON-CHARLES KEENEY-RON MUNN**

**1975 NEWT LOKEN - JAMES ROZANAS**

**1994 DEONNE ADAMI**

**1976 TED BLAKE - BOB BOLLINGER  
JEFF HENNESSY**

**2000 DENNIS HARGET**

**1977 LESTER GRIFFIN - NARD CAZZELL**

**2001 PATTI LINGENFELTER**

**1978 JUDY (WILLIS) CLINE -  
DR. EDSEL BUCHANAN**

**2015 DANA JOHNSON**

## U.S.T.A. GRISWOLD - NISSEN CUP AWARD

The Griswold-Nissen Cup Award was established by Mr. George Nissen and Mr. Larry Griswold, who both pioneered the sport of Trampolining in the 1930's and 1940's, to honor a young man or woman for their excellence in the sports of Trampoline, Tumbling, and Double Mini-Tramp. The minimum age to be nominated for the Nissen-Griswold Cup is 15 years old. Nominations for this coveted award which is presented at the U.S.T.A. Age-Group & Elite National Championship, are made by the U.S.T.A. coaches throughout the United States. Selection will be based on the following: 1) List of Title Accomplishments in the event(s) nominated for, 2) Additional recommendation from the coach concerning: Attitude (in and out of the gym, and toward competition), Leadership role, and Overall sportsmanship. All pictures and information will be displayed at the U.S.T.A. National Age-Group Championships. The U.S.T.A. membership then chooses the top six finalists by voting ballot, who become the Griswold-Nissen award winners and receives a plaque. From these top six finalists, the U.S.T.A. Executive Officers select the Griswold-Nissen Cup winner. Each nominee is considered on the criteria above. Each nominee will submit a 3"x 5" picture which will be put in the National Program with a short description of the requirements. Nominees must compete at Nationals the nomination year.

### U.S.T.A. GRISWOLD-NISSEN CUP AWARD RECIPIENTS:

1972 - Paul Luxon, England	1990 - Jared Kirby, Ohio	2004 - Erin Harder, Illinois
1973 - Jack Leonard, Ohio	1991 - Jeremy Redmond, Ohio	2005 - Jordan Salyers, Illinois
1974 - Eddie Goodman, Ohio	1992 - Crystal Knight, Oklahoma	2006 - Ginny Doran, Illinois
1975 - Diane Goldsworthy, Illinois	1993 - Jason Zulauf, Illinois	2007 - Sarah Maynard, Illinois
1976 - Robbie Bollinger, Illinois	1994 - Emily Hamm, Illinois	2008 - Annie Nord, Illinois
1977 - Tracy Long, Ohio	1995 - Grady Calloway, Oklahoma	2009 - Molly Boehm, Illinois
1978 - Lee Hennesey, Colorado	1996 - Steve Landon, Illinois	2010 - James Hawkins, Kentucky
1983 - Rick Baker, Ohio	1997 - Mark Griffith, Ohio	2011 - Trey Katz, Illinois
1984 - Gail Virzi, Illinois	1998 - David Oatman, Illinois	2012 - Garret Waterstradt, Illinois
1985 - Layne Tharp, Illinois	1999 - Jennifer Konstanty, Illinois	2013 - Cory Barnes, Illinois
1986 - Kevin Unwin, Ohio	2000 - Bridget Fannin, Kentucky	2014 - Erin Jauch, Illinois
1987 - Missy Ferris, Ohio	2001 - Michelle Clardy, Illinois	2015 - Austin Nacey, Illinois
1988 - Kevin Unwin, Ohio	2002 - Joe Pierce, Illinois	2016 - Courtney Holetzky, Illinois
1989 - Chandra Billiet, Illinois	2003 - Heather Davis, Illinois	



## GEORGE NISSEN MEMORIAL AWARD

The George Nissen Memorial Award was established in 2010 in honor of George Nissen, founder of the U.S.T.A. Nominations for this Memorial Award are made by the State Chairs, USTA Executive Board, and NTJC Judges. Nominees must be a minimum of 15 years old. The winner will be determined by the USTA Executive Board.

### GEORGE NISSEN MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

2010 - James Hawkins, Kentucky	2013 - Alison Carder, Iowa	2016 - Jocelyn Prinz, Michigan
2011 - Laura Gheen, Ohio	2014 - Garret Waterstradt, Illinois	
2012 - Cory Barnes, Illinois	2015 - Khierstyn Branann, Ohio	

## U.S.T.A. PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The U.S.T.A. Presidential Award was established by the Executive Board to recognize outstanding coaching. Nominations for U.S.T.A. coaches in good standing are sent by coaches in the U.S.T.A. to the U.S.T.A. National Office with a short statement supporting their nomination. A form will be sent to the nominees requesting the following additional information:

1. A list of U.S.T.A. activities headed by the nominee.
2. The number of participants competing in the U.S.T.A. and the current levels and events the athletes compete.
3. The number of years of participation in the U.S.T.A. (both as an athlete and coach).
4. A current head and shoulder picture should be sent back with the form.

The pictures and information will be displayed at the U.S.T.A. Age-Group National Championships. A picture of each nominee will be put in the National Program. Voting by all the U.S.T.A. coaches present will be based on this information.

### U.S.T.A. PRESIDENTIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

1983 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	1995 - David Pollitte, Kentucky	2006 - Henry Young, Kentucky
1984 - Cindy Morano, Illinois	1996 - Paula Grigsby, Illinois	2007 - Stacy Jauch, Illinois
1985 - Dennis Harget, Ohio	- Peggy Rayson, Indiana	2008 - Debbie & Bernita Moser, Carmen Moser-Payne, Iowa
1986 - David Harris, Kentucky	- Glenn Vandergriff, Ohio	2009 - Debbie Barber & Will Edmond, Ohio
1987 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	1997 - Ky Shaw, Illinois	2010 - Whitney Miller, Illinois
1988 - Lee Whitmore, Iowa	1998 - Kris Pullen, Illinois	2011 - Gail White, Illinois
1989 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	1999 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	2012 - Stacy Jauch, Illinois
1990 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	2000 - Dennis Harget, Ohio	2013 - Donna & Kelly Henby, Illinois
1991 - Paula Grigsby, Illinois	2001 - Marge Mazzotti/Becky Adams, IL	2014 - Dr. Tom & Eleanor Stevens, Illinois
- Sue Olson, Illinois	2002 - Gail White, Illinois	2015 - Shawn Moore, Illinois
1992 - Patti Lingenfelter, Illinois	2003 - Dan Irish, Illinois	2016 - Trey Katz, Illinois
1993 - Paula Grigsby, Illinois	2004 - Ernie Baumann, Cassia Cantelmo, & Andres Gomez, Illinois	
1994 - Roger Franklin, Illinois	2005 - Terry Wight, Illinois	



## KEVIN BALLENGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The U.S.T.A. Kevin Ballenger Memorial Scholarship was established by an anonymous donor in memory of Kevin Ballenger, a past U.S.T.A. competitor, coach, and Technical Board member. The Board of Directors will select two recipients. Recipients must be a graduating high school senior or current college student in good standing with the U.S.T.A. and compete at Nationals the nomination year

### KEVIN BALLENGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

1995 - Sharon Musyznski, IL	
1996 - Anne Trudo, IA & Kristin Streepy, IN	2007 - Kile Allen, IL & Jamee Crandall, IA
1997 - Josh Lindell, KY & Michelle Clardy, IL	2008 - Danica Taylor, IL & Nicholas Schmitz, IA
1998 - Annette Pelligrino, IL & Amanda Keusch, IN	2009 - Brieauna Bradley, IL & Annie Nord, IL
1999 - Lori Cornelius, IN & Tiffany Yocum, IL	2010 - Kelsey Butler, IL & Lauren Adcock, IL
2000 - Jenni Konstanty, IL & Lance Holms, IA	2011 - Trey Katz, IL & James Hawkins,, KY
2001 - Patrick Maas, IA & John Kaufmann, IA	2012 - Colby Crase, IA & Erin Jauch, IL
2002 - Regina Hogan, IA & Trista Lewis, IL	2013 - Erin Jauch, IL & Cory Barnes, IL
2003 - Stacy Ramsden, IL & Bridgett Fannin, KY	2014 - Erin Jauch, IL & Katie Boeding, IA
2004 - Samantha Plunkett, IL & Nicolle Wolf, KY	2015 - Michaela Schuenke, IL & Austin Nacey, IL
2005 - Lenny Burden, IL & Kayli Pollitte, KY	2016 - Shelby Szudera Wienand, IL; Jacob Gasper, IA; & Mackensie Schuster, IA
<b>2006 - Baylie Heims, IA &amp; Kateri Victor, IL</b>	



## ATHLETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The U.S.T.A. Athlete Memorial Scholarship was established by the U.S.T.A. in memory of past U.S.T.A. athletes. The Board of Directors will select the recipient. Recipients must be a graduating high school senior or current college student in good standing with the U.S.T.A. and compete at Nationals the nomination year. The number of awards presented will be determined by the Executive Board. Nominees must compete at Nationals the nomination year.

### ATHLETE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

2003 - Andrea Rave, Iowa	2008 - Jamie Hannah, Iowa	2013 - Briana Stewart, Illinois
2004 - Sara Sadewasser, Iowa	2009 - Molly Boehm, Illinois	2014 - Nicole Souder, Illinois
2005 - Dianna Jarvis, Ohio	2010 - Ryan Bohn, Illinois	2015 - Riley Wildt, Illinois
2006 - Brandon Petrie, Illinois	2011 - Kara Spencer, Kentucky	2016 - Grace Sneek, Illinois
2007 - Dianna Jarvis, Ohio	2012 - Danielle Meister, Illinois	



## N.T.J.C. SCHOLARSHIP

The National Trampoline and Tumbling Judges' Association was established in 1997 for senior U.S.T.A. Competitors. The N.T.J.C. Executive Board will select two recipients. Recipients must be a graduating high school senior or current college student in good standing with the U.S.T.A. and compete at Nationals the nomination year.

### N.T.J.C. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

1997 - Ann Hanson, Iowa	2007 - Stephanie Jarvis, Ohio & David Johns, Kentucky
1998 - Amy Knockel, Iowa	2008 - Raymond Cousins, Ohio & Taylor Clark, Kentucky
1999 - Emily Hamm, Illinois	2009 - Ashley Quint, Iowa & Stephanie Jarvis, Ohio
2000 - Gregory Hogan, Iowa & Kimberly Ham, Indiana	2010 - Molly Boehm, Illinois & James Hawkins, Kentucky
2001 - Bobby Jo Johnson, Iowa	2011 - Caitlin Gilliam, Ohio & Karissa Diller, Illinois
2002 - Betty Anaya, Illinois & Bridgett Fannin, Kentucky	2012 - Kara Spencer, Kentucky & Analyse Ratkowski, Illinois
2003 - Betty Anaya, Illinois & Nicolle Wolf, Illinois	2013 - Nicole Souder, Illinois & Amanda Jarvis, Ohio
2004 - Dianne Jarvis, Ohio & Heather Davis, Illinois	2014 - Josh Coles, Illinois & Amanda Jarvis, Ohio
2005 - Erin Harder, Illinois & Kali Reid, Illinois	2015 - Jacob Dwyer, Illinois & Derrick Weiss, Kentucky
2006 - Dianna Jarvis, Ohio & Sarah Kriz, Illinois	2016 - Kellyn Euhus, Illinois & Ryan Bohn, Illinois



## COACH/JUDGE SCHOLARSHIP

A \$300 U.S.T.A. Coach/N.T.J.C. Judge Scholarship was established by the U.S.T.A. in 2007-08 to recognize a coach or judge that is a current undergraduate or graduate student working on an accredited degree program or trade school with a minimum of 6 semester hours that is not also an athlete. Nominees must have completed at least two years as a coach and/or judge only and be in good standing with the USTA/NTJC. The scholarship was discontinued in 2014-15.

### N.T.J.C. COACH/JUDGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

2008 - April Wight, NTJC Judge - Illinois	2012 - Tasha Botkin, Coach - Iowa
2009 - Doug Grow, Coach - Illinois	2013 - Erin Turner, Coach - Illinois
2010 - Ashley Schwalm, NTJC Judge - Illinois	2014 - Sarah Maynard, Coach - Illinois
2011 - Erin Rummage, Coach - Kentucky	

## N.T.J.C. JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The N.T.J.C. Judge of the Year will be selected from nominees by the eligible U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. members present at the N.T.J.C. Meeting during the National Championships.

### N.T.J.A. JUDGE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS:


1998 - Karen Johnson, Iowa  
 1999 - Jackie Hamm, Illinois  
 2000 - Scott Zulauf, Illinois  
 2001 - Cathy Howe, Indiana  
 2002 - Linda Billiet, Illinois  
 2004 - Pam Konstanty, Illinois  
 2005 - Lori Zulauf, Illinois

2006 - Ran Ann Gore, Illinois  
 2007 - Tammy Kleiboeker, Illinois  
 2008 - Cynthia Willoughby, Kentucky  
 2009 - Deb Hurley, Iowa  
 2010 - David Quint, Iowa  
 2011 - Chris Allen, Illinois  
 2012 - Shelly Steiner, Kentucky

2013 - Leanne Riefler, Illinois  
 2014 - John Kauffman, Iowa  
 2015 - Jeannette Waggoner, Kentucky  
 2016 - Angie Boline, Illinois

### USTA NATIONAL OFFICE:

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**United States Trampoline & Tumbling Association**  
**6304 Bayberry Blvd NE**  
**Winter Haven FL 33881**  
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**Phone: 309-854-2896**



USTA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS			
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**NATIONAL TRAMPOLINE/TUMBLING JUDGES' COMMITTEE:**

**JUDGING COORDINATOR:** Shelly Steiner, PO Box 1403, Grayson, KY 41143, 606-316-7719, [seniorasteiner@yahoo.com](mailto:seniorasteiner@yahoo.com)

<p><b><u>Assistant Judging Coord</u></b> Cynthia Willoughby 120 Moores Flatt Road Morehead, KY 40351 606-780-8845 <a href="mailto:tumblenana1@aol.com">tumblenana1@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Membership Coorinator</u></b> Eleanor Nicoulin 4354 Accomack Drive Louisville, KY 40241 502-744-3731 <a href="mailto:enicoulin@yahoo.com">enicoulin@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Committee Secretary</u></b> John Kauffman 4595 Widgeon Ct. Marion, IA 52302 515-291-3008 <a href="mailto:kauffman.john@gmail.com">kauffman.john@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>USTA Liaison Officer</u></b> Patti Lingenfelter 6304 Bayberry Blvd NE Winter Haven, FL 33881 309-854-2896 <a href="mailto:ustapattim@gmail.com">ustapattim@gmail.com</a></p>
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**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:**

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**ETHICS COMMITTEE**

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# POLICIES & PROCEDURES - 2016-17

## MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in the USTA is a privilege granted by the U.S.T.A. That privilege can be withdrawn by the USTA at any time where a member's conduct is determined to be inconsistent with the best interest of the sport and of the athletes we are serving.

## ATHLETE

U.S.T.A. memberships must be paid before participation in a competition. Membership in the U.S.T.A. shall be open to all persons interested in actively advancing the sport of trampoline and tumbling. To qualify as a member in good standing, an athlete must not have any outstanding debts with the U.S.T.A. or to any of the U.S.T.A.'s national sponsors, or affiliate organizations, clubs, or businesses.

The age of the competitor shall be determined by a universal birth date of December 31. Whatever age the competitor will be on December 31 of the current competitive season is the age for competition for the entire season. The "season" shall be designated as August through July (i.e., Whatever the age is as of December 31, 2016, is the age for the competitive season from August 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017).

No competitor shall be permitted to participate in any U.S.T.A. competition, or sanctioned competition, unless they are an amateur and a U.S.T.A. member in good standing. An amateur is anyone who is so designated by the U.S.T.A.

U.S.T.A. athlete membership must be paid before participation in a competition. An athlete who competes without a current U.S.T.A. membership will be considered ineligible and the competition will not count as being attended; therefore, the athlete will not qualify for their State Competition.

**The U.S.T.A. Athlete Membership Application and Waiver form (printed when applying for an athlete membership) that includes the U.S.T.A. and its Officers must be signed by the parent/guardian/adult athlete and coach of each competitor. These forms must be filed and kept by the athlete's U.S.T.A. Club (Team) for a very long time with a copy sent to the U.S.T.A. National Office. If this form is not signed, the athlete must not be allowed to participate in any U.S.T.A. Sanctioned Event.**

If a U.S.T.A. Athlete moves from one club to another, said athlete cannot compete in a U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition under their new club within 30 days of their last U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition with their previous club without the approval of the U.S.T.A. Executive Board or unless a release is signed by the original coach with a transfer of their U.S.T.A. membership number.

No competitor shall compete in other than his or her age group.

Once an athlete competes in a level, they may not move back to a lower level. Exceptions may be petitioned through the Technical Vice-President.

Athletes must actually compete and receive a score (not just salute) in at least one U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition in that event prior to the State competition to be eligible to compete in that event at the State Competition.

Athletes, age 7 or over, (except special needs) must receive a number score (not just a 0) in that event in at least one meet prior to state if they salute at State to qualify for Nationals.

Advanced and Elite athletes will only receive their respective patches & chevrons if they attend and compete in their State Championship each year unless petitioned or injured.

An Unattached (UNA) Athlete member must be pre-approved by the USTA Executive Board under extreme circumstances. After approval, the competitor has the same competition rights and privileges as a regular Competitor Member. The only difference is that the competitor is not affiliated with a specific USTA Club Member. If an Unattached Competitor is under the age of 18 years, they must have a signed letter from a registered USTA Coach who will be responsible for them on the competition floor. Unattached (UNA) Competitors must pay the Team Entry fee in addition to their athlete membership and event fees.

**ATHLETE'S PLEDGE:** I pledge to do my best and to be an athlete that is a team player with good sportsmanship. I will be honest, caring, responsible, and respectful, and will follow the rules of the United States Trampoline and Tumbling Association.

## COACH

U.S.T.A. memberships must be paid before participation in a competition. Membership in the U.S.T.A. shall be open to all persons interested in actively advancing the sport of trampoline and tumbling. To qualify as a member in good standing, a coach must not have any outstanding debts with the U.S.T.A. or to any of the U.S.T.A.'s national sponsors, or affiliate organizations, clubs, businesses, or allied bodies.

Coach Competition Attire. Coaches must wear proper attire at all sanctioned competitions. Violators may be asked to leave the competition floor.

Proper Coach attire:

- Warm-up (with or without a jacket), long pants (no leggings), and short or long sleeved team/event t-shirt or polo shirt
- USTA ID Badge
- Closed Toe Athletic Shoes
- No denim pants/shorts/leggings allowed
- No hats allowed

Safety Certification. The U.S.T.A. requires all coach members be U.S.T.A. Safety Certified. The U.S.T.A. Safety Certification Handbook & Test is available through the U.S.T.A. Web Page - [usta1.org](http://usta1.org). Certification must be renewed every four (4) years.

Safe Sport Certification. The U.S.T.A. requires all coach members be Safe Sport Certified through Armatus System which is available through a direct link on the U.S.T.A. Web Page - [usta1.org](http://usta1.org). Certification must be renewed every year.

Background Check. The U.S.T.A. requires all coach members 18 years of age and above pass a Sterling Backcheck which is available through a link on the U.S.T.A. Web Page - [usta1.org](http://usta1.org). Certification must be renewed every two (2) years.

Coach Certification. The U.S.T.A. recommends all coach members be U.S.T.A. Coach Certified in all levels and appropriate events. Coach Certification Courses & Tests will be offered at the yearly U.S.T.A. Congress only. The U.S.T.A. recommends Coach Certifications be renewed every four (4) years.

**1. ADULT COACH**

An Adult Coach Membership is required for all coaches 18 years and above who are listed as a USTA Coach and/or participating in a sanctioned USTA event. Adult Coach Members must provide their picture, have a current safety certification, take the safe sport certification, and have a current background check. The minimum age for an Adult USTA Coach is 18 years. An identification badge will be issued for each coach member. All coaches will be required to wear their membership identification badge at all times while on the competition floor at any sanctioned USTA Competition.

Failure to wear the proper I.D. badge will result in a \$25 fine to be issued by the Meet Director or The State Chair and admittance to the competition floor may be denied. Money from the coaches' membership fees will be used by the USTA to provide coaches' food and beverages at the U.S.T.A. National Championships.

A U.S.T.A. Coach Membership Application and Waiver form (printed when applying for coach membership) that includes the U.S.T.A. and its Officers must be signed. These forms must be filed, kept by the U.S.T.A. Team, and a copy sent to the U.S.T.A. National Office. If this form is not signed, the coach must not be allowed to participate in any U.S.T.A. Sanctioned Event.

**2. JUNIOR COACH**

A Junior Coach Membership is required for all coaches within the ages of 14-17 who are listed as a USTA Coach and/or participating in a sanctioned USTA event as a coach. Junior Coach Members must provide their picture, have a current safety certification, and take the safe sport certification. The minimum age for a USTA Junior Coach is 14 years. An identification badge will be issued for each coach member. All coaches will be required to wear their membership identification badge at all times while on the competition floor at any sanctioned USTA Competition.

Failure to wear the proper I.D. badge will result in a \$25 fine to be issued by the Meet Director or The State Chair and admittance to the competition floor may be denied. Money from the coaches' membership fees will be used by the USTA to provide coaches' food and beverages at the U.S.T.A. National Championships.

The U.S.T.A. Coach Membership Application and Waiver form (printed when applying for coach membership) that includes the U.S.T.A. and its Officers must be signed by the parent/guardian and coach of each competitor. These forms must be filed and kept by the U.S.T.A. Club (Team) for a very long time with a copy sent to the U.S.T.A. National Office. If this form is not signed, the coach must not be allowed to participate in any U.S.T.A. Sanctioned Event.

**CLUB (TEAM)**

1. No club (team) shall be permitted to participate in any U.S.T.A. competition, or sanctioned competition, unless they are an amateur, and a U.S.T.A. member. An amateur is anyone who is so designated by the U.S.T.A.
2. U.S.T.A. memberships must be paid before participation in a competition. Membership in the U.S.T.A. shall be open to all persons interested in actively advancing the sport of trampolining and tumbling. To qualify as a member in good standing, a club or associate must not have any outstanding debts with the U.S.T.A. or to any of the U.S.T.A.'s national sponsors, affiliate organizations, clubs, businesses, or allied bodies.

3. To have voting privileges at the U.S.T.A. National Congress, a club must have been a member in good standing for two consecutive years and be a current member in good standing of the U.S.T.A., have a current team membership, current coach membership, and at least three active athlete members from the previous year.

In addition, U.S.T.A. club and Coach or Associate Memberships must be paid by September 1 each year in order to have voting privileges at the U.S.T.A. National Congress. Each club is entitled to one vote.

4. All coaches on the Club Roster must be Safety Certified by the USTA. Safety Certification is valid for four (4) years. New Clubs will have 60 days to Safety Certify a coach.

## **COMPETITION**

1. The U.S.T.A. Athlete Membership Application and Waiver form (printed when applying for athlete membership) that includes the U.S.T.A. and its Officers must be signed by the parent/ guardian/adult athlete and coach of each competitor. These forms must be filed and kept by the U.S.T.A. club (Team) for a very long time with a copy sent to the U.S.T.A. National Office). If this form is not signed, the competitor must not be allowed to compete in the competition.
2. All rules and regulations of the U.S.T.A. must be followed. Violation of these rules can result in revocation of the sanction for the host club. Any and all exceptions to these terms must be approved by the Vice President.
3. Entries will be accepted only on the standard official mandatory Universal Entry Form on [ustaclubs.com](http://ustaclubs.com) website (which lists the athletes' first and last name, age, date of birth, U.S.T.A. Numbers and levels for each event), completed, properly executed, submitted, and received before the stipulated closing date together with the entry fee as provided therein to the Director of Competition at the address designated.
4. For all competitions, the time listed is the warm-up time with a requirement to be there 30 minutes prior. The meet director is allowed to start the warm-ups 30 minutes before the scheduled (published) time even if the entire group is not present. Warm-ups and competition may begin more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time if all the competitors are present and with the coaches' approval.
4. Coaches must be dressed in proper attire. Coaches dress code must be enforced.
5. Athlete attire. The USTA requires appropriate dress to be worn in the competition area, warm-up area, and awards area.
6. Coaches and Judges must have and wear the appropriate USTA or NTJC ID Badge. The fine for failure to wear their ID will be \$25 per occurrence.
7. Electronic Devices such as cell phones, pagers, and walkie-talkies must be turned off on the competition floor except for those needed by the host club. This includes, athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spotters.
8. Liquor (alcohol) may not be raffled at any U.S.T.A. Sanctioned event.
9. No competitor with a hard cast will be allowed to compete.

## **SCORING**

1. The Master Scorer program should be the standard program used by everyone in the USTA. It should be used at all competitions.
2. The Master Scorer program or current standard program must be used at all State, Team Trial, and National Competitions.
3. Copies of the Meet Results must be submitted to the State Chairperson and the USTA National Office within two weeks of the competition. The Meet Director's Report and Judges' Reports must be submitted to the USTA National Office with the Meet Results. The results and forms may be mailed or emailed to the National Office.
  - A. Failure to submit Meet Results and required forms by the deadline may result in a fine.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO SANCTION A COMPETITION OR CLINIC**

1. To be eligible to sanction a U.S.T.A. Competition or Clinic  
**MUST:**
  - A. Have a current U.S.T.A. Membership.
  - B. Have at least ten (10) current, active individual (athlete) members.
  - C. Actively support the U.S.T.A.
  - D. Have attended their U.S.T.A. State Championship the previous season.

- E. U.S.T.A. sanction application must be postmarked to the U.S.T.A. National Office at least four weeks prior to the competition. Failure to meet the four week deadline will result in a \$100 fine in addition to the sanction fees. All fines will go to the U.S.T.A. Scholarship fund.
- F. Hire the published set number of certified N.T.J.C. judges in good standing as required for a meet by level and event.
- G. Verify that all N.T.J.C. judges hired have a current N.T.J.C. membership and submit the memberships numbers on the Meet Director's Form & N.T.J.C. Report Forms (in sanction forms) with the sanction packet. Failure to do so will result in a suspension from hosting a sanctioned event the next competition season.
- H. Abide by all rules and regulations of the U.S.T.A. & N.T.J.C.. Violation of these rules can result in revocation of the sanction.
- I. Abide by all U.S.T.A. safety guidelines as stated in the Safety Handbook. If a meet director intentionally violates safety rules (including USTA numbers) when hosting a meet, they will not be allowed to sanction a meet the following year.
  - a. To report any safety violation, complete and submit the USTA Safety Violation Form (that can be found on the USTA web page) to the USTA National Office.
- J. Provide stretch out areas for all levels and events.

Any and all exceptions to these terms must be approved by the Vice President.

- 2. In the event any Meet Director and/or Clinic Director of a U.S.T.A. Sanctioned event fails to follow U.S.T.A. Sanction Requirements, the following penalties will occur:
  - A. If any U.S.T.A. rules are broken and/or guidelines not adhered to without approval from the U.S.T.A. Vice President, the following fines will be issued:
    - a. 1st offense, \$200 for invitationals, \$500 for State, \$1,000 for Team Trials and Nationals.
    - b. 2nd offense, a two (2) year suspension from hosting any U.S.T.A. Sanctioned Event.
- 3. In the event any Meet Director and/or Clinic Director of a U.S.T.A. Sanctioned event intentionally violates safety rules (including USTA membership numbers) when hosting a sanctioned competition, they will not be allowed to sanction a competition or clinic the following year).

**GRADES OF CLINICS** - All participating clubs must attest that all their participating athletes have the U.S.T.A. Athlete Membership Application and Waiver form properly signed and on file.

- 1. **OPEN INVITATIONAL:** Each year, during a state meeting organized by the State Chairperson, U.S.T.A. Club Members in good standing may bid to host invitationals which will be put on the state calendar. OPEN Individual clinic bids will be awarded according to each state rules as long as they meet U.S.T.A. National rules and regulations and all U.S.T.A. clubs in that state are invited. The meet director also has the option to invite clubs from other states.
- 2. **CLOSED:** Each year, during a state meeting organized by the State Chairperson, U.S.T.A. Club Member in good standing may bid to host invitationals which will be put on the state calendar. Individual clinic bids will be awarded according to each state rules as long as they meet U.S.T.A. National rules and regulations. The clinic director has the option to invite only selected clubs.
- 3. **SANCTION FEE:** Application to host a Clinic must be submitted to the USTA Executive Board for approval. The clinic director will send invitations to all USTA Member Clubs. Only USTA Members will be allowed to attend a sanctioned clinic.

**GRADES OF COMPETITION** - All participating clubs must attest that all their participating athletes have the required Athlete Membership Application and Waiver form properly signed and on file. All Meet Entries for sanctioned competitions MUST be submitted on the standard (universal) entry form which is available on the USTA web page.

All Meet Entries must include a typed team roster(s) that include first & last names, ages, dates of birth, levels for each event, and USTA Numbers. The typed roster should be in the same order as the entry form and/or in alphabetic order. Each club must contact the hosting club to verify receipt of entries and must verify receipt of athlete/coach entry passes, if applicable - Recommended for all competitions, required for National Championships.

- 1. **INVITATIONAL:** A yearly calendar of events (competitions, judges' courses, mock meets, and clinics) will be set each year at a state meeting to be scheduled by the state chair. State meeting information must be postmarked to all registered state coaches/teams at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The state does not have the right to withdraw voting privileges from any individual team in that state during the State meeting. Once the calendar has been published, any changes must be pre-approved by the USTA Vice President. Individual States may have two classes of local meets.

When putting the state meet schedule together, the type of meet each club is hosting must be declared and published.

Two first year judges may not be on the same panel with the exception of advanced or elite, which has four aesthetic judges on the panel.

Each individual state may govern their local competitions, as long as there isn't any conflict with an existing national rule provided the



U.S.T.A. Executive Board approves. National rules supersede state rules.

- A. **OPEN INVITATIONAL:** Each year, during a state meeting organized by the State Chairperson, U.S.T.A. Club Members in good standing may bid to host OPEN invitational competitions which will be put on the state calendar. OPEN Individual competition bids will be awarded according to each state rules as long as they meet U.S.T.A. National rules and regulations and all U.S.T.A. clubs in that state are invited. The meet director also has the option to invite clubs from other states.
- B. **CLOSED:** Each year, during a state meeting organized by the State Chairperson, U.S.T.A. Club Members in good standing may bid to host CLOSED invitational competitions which will be put on the state calendar. CLOSED Individual competition bids will be awarded according to each state rules as long as they meet U.S.T.A. National rules and regulations. The meet director has the option to invite only selected clubs; however, at least one other club with at least five athletes must attend.

2. **TEAM TRIALS:** Sanction Application Fee waived.

The bids for Team Trials will be voted on at the U.S.T.A. National Championships. The Team Trial dates will be set by April 1 and the deadline for bids to host will be June 1.

During Team Trial years, USTA competitions will be allowed in states where the Team Trials are not being held.

The U.S.T.A. Sanction Packet will provide a clear definition for awards, equipment and site requirements for Team Trial competitions. As determined by the U.S.T.A. Membership, Team Trial or Mini Team Trial competition(s) will be scheduled to allow eligible U.S.T.A. athletes to qualify for the U.S.T.A. Elite National Team and/or the U.S.T.A. All Star National Team. U.S.T.A. Club Members in good standing may bid to host one of these competitions which will be put on the national calendar. Team Trial entry fees are set as: 1 Event - \$60, 2 Events - \$75, 3 Events - \$90. The meet director has the option to hold an invitational competition in conjunction with the Team Trial/Mini Team Trial Competition with entry fees set as: 1 Events - \$30, 2 Events - \$35, 3 Events - \$40.

- 1. Must have identical equipment for warm-ups and competition. Each age group must compete on the same piece of equipment.
- 2. Colored tape must be placed on the competition floor to mark area for the coaches.
- 3. Must have a TV with video for viewing protests.
- 4. An EMT must be present at all Team Trial Competitions.
- 5. The Master Scorer program (or current standard scoring program) must be used at all Team Trial Competitions.

Only athletes registered with a U.S.T.A. Club that competed in the previous year's U.S.T.A. National Championships will be eligible to compete in Team Trials. A competitor must compete in at least one U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition as an advanced athlete prior to the Team Trial competition to be eligible to compete in that event at the Team Trial competition and be registered with a team that attended the prior year's U.S.T.A. National Championship.

The U.S.T.A. National Office will send out the Team Trial Judge surveys to all eligible NTJC judges. Team Trial judges will be selected and assigned by the USTA Executive Board. At least two members of the N.T.J.C. Board must among those judges selected. No judge will be allowed to judge a division if they have a family member (i.e. son, daughter, sister, brother, grandson, granddaughter, or in-law) in the division. The same judges will be used for all three Team Trials.

During the first year of the two year term, if a member of any of the U.S.T.A. National Teams drops out or is removed by the U.S.T.A., the next athlete in line to make the team will be moved up to the Team. The athlete that drops out of the Team must return their Team Uniform.

During the odd years, if the U.S.T.A. decides to fill empty spots on the team, a Mini-Team Trial will be held with a girl replacing a girl and a boy replacing a boy.

Entries received by the Team Trial meet entry deadline requirements will be drawn randomly by the computer for placement in competition order. Those entries received after the deadline will be added to the top of the list in the order received as done in the past.

- 2. All athletes at Team Trials competitions must compete with their flight in the designated order of competition unless the athlete is competing on another event at that competition.
- 3. For Team Trial competitions, the time listed is the warm-up time with a requirement to be there 30 minutes prior. The meet director is allowed to start the warm-up 30 minutes before the scheduled (published) time even if the entire group is not present. Athletes who arrive late during the warm-up time, but prior to the start of competition will be allowed to join the existing group and have their remaining warm-up. Athletes that arrive once competition has started will be disqualified.

A. **ELITE NATIONAL TEAM**

- 1. Elite National Team Trial/Mini Team Trials will held according to the U.S.T.A. Elite rules and regulations.
- 2. All athletes trying out for the U.S.T.A. National Team are required to provide a \$300 deposit prior to competing at the first

team trial. U.S.T.A. will refund the money if the athlete does not make the National Team. All moneys will be held at the U.S.T.A. National office until the team trials are completed. After the last Team Trial, deposits will be returned to all athletes who do not qualify for the National Team. Athletes who qualify for the National Team will receive their travel reimbursement after the second year is completed as long as they have met all obligations (which includes competing in Nationals as required) and turned in their travel receipts.

3. Athletes trying out for the U.S.T.A. National Team will be required to sign a code of conduct agreement and a contract. All National Team Members must participate in all National Team events unless the event is listed as optional. Non-participation in required events will result in the removal from the team. Athletes over 12 years old will stay together with supervision by designated chaperons as assigned by the U.S.T.A. Athletes 12 years old and younger may stay with a parent if they wish. The U.S.T.A. National Office will reserve all national Team Members' hotel rooms for team trips and events. The National team members will stay at the same hotel with a minimum of one dinner together as a team. An adult chaperone shall not be permitted to share a bed with an athlete on the U.S.T.A. National Team Trips (arrangements will be made so all chaperones have a bed to himself/herself). If a U.S.T.A. National Team Athlete drops out of the National Team or is removed from the National Team, they must return the Team Attire and will not be eligible to try out for another U.S.T.A. National Team.
4. During the year, to qualify a new U.S.T.A. National Team, there will be three (3) Team Trial Meets. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team Trial points shall be awarded by placement. 1st - 100 points; 2nd- 99 points; 3rd - 98 points; 4th - 97 points; 5th - 96 points; etc. On each event, the top two scores from the three meets will be added together to achieve the final ranking. If a competitor does not obtain the elite difficulty score, they will not receive a ranking point score.
5. The U.S.T.A. Elite National Team Member number for boys and girls will be based on the ratio at the first two team trials, averaged. \*If there is a tie for any place, all tied athletes go, cross off the duplicated, count the number of athletes that are not crossed off, subtract that number from the average to determine how many additional athletes are needed, rank those athletes placing below by score regardless of event, cross off those athletes that are already on the team, and count down the number of athletes needed to fill the team. Those are the athletes to make the team. Should there be a tie for the last spot, all athletes with that score make the team.

\*EXAMPLE: When a tie at 3<sup>rd</sup> place, skip 4<sup>th</sup> place, point system and award to down to 5<sup>th</sup> place award and point system.

**6. U.S.T.A. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Sign a U.S.T.A. National Team Contract. If a National Team Member goes against the terms or their contract, they will receive one warning before being dropped from the team.
2. Attend and compete in the U.S.T.A. National Championships.
3. Attend and perform in the U.S.T.A. National Championship Opening Ceremonies and Team Exhibition unless injured.
4. Attend the U.S.T.A. National Championship Athlete Party.
5. Must go on all National Team trips unless a letter from their school or doctor is presented and accepted.
6. Must attend a minimum of 1 training camp per term during the course of their 2 year term as a National Team Member.
7. Must remain with the club they competed for during the trials for the next 2 years UNLESS they appeal through the USTA Executive Board to change clubs.

**B. ALL STAR NATIONAL TEAM**

The All Star National Team Trial will be held according the U.S.T.A. level rules and regulations, with the exception that it is an open-age group competition.

Each age group must compete on the same piece of equipment.

The U.S.T.A. All Star National Team Members will be determined as follows:

Beginner through Novice Levels - The Top 1 girl and Top 1 boy  
Intermediate through Advanced Levels - The Top 3 girls and Top 1 boy

**3. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

To be eligible to bid on a State Championship, said team must have attended the previous year's U.S.T.A. National Championships. A team must have had a minimum of 10 athletes compete in the prior year's National Championship to qualify to bid for their State Championship if the State has over 300 members.

The U.S.T.A. Sanction Packet will provide a clear definition for judges, awards, equipment, and site requirements for State competitions.

- A. Judges must have a minimum of one year's judging experience (accepted after all 2+ years judging experienced judges), judged at least one sanctioned competition during the competition season and be selected based on seniority. Once contracted, if there

has to be a cancellation, the meet director must cancel the judge with the lowest seniority even if judges are contracted from another state with more seniority.

- B. A list of judges to be hired for State Meets must be submitted to the USTA National Office at least 90 days before issuing contracts (after January 1) for approval by the NTJC and USTA Executive Boards.

State Championship Meet Director must submit a proposed judges list to the U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. Boards for approval at least 90 days prior to the competition. Judges for State Championship must have been certified for at least two years.

A member of the U.S.T.A. Technical Board must be at all State Championships - if not, the State Championship Meet Director must state in writing who will be the pre-approved (by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board) representative.

Each year, a state championship will be held within the states of the U.S.T.A. The organization of the state championships will be the responsibility of the State Chairperson under the direction of the Vice-President. The following rules and regulations must be followed:

- A. The State Championships must be held each year before the Age-Group National Competition. The exact dates for the state championships are to be determined by the Vice-President with the approval of the U.S.T.A. Board of Directors.

1. Must have identical equipment for warm-ups and competition. Each age group must compete on the same piece of equipment.
2. Colored tape must be placed on the competition floor to mark area for the coaches.
3. Must have a TV with video for viewing protests.
4. Must use the Master Scorer program (or current standard scoring program).

- B. The age divisions for the state championships are determined by each event and level as stated in the competition rules for that event and level. There will be a \$25 fine for any team that enters a competitor incorrectly (per occurrence).

- C. Late entries for all State Championships must be made no later than 48 hours to the start of the competition and be approved by the State Chairperson to ensure qualification requirements are met.

- D. For State Championships, the time listed is the warm-up time with a requirement to be there 30 minutes prior. The meet director is allowed to start the warm-ups 30 minutes before the scheduled (published) time even if the entire group is not present. Athletes who arrive late during the warm-up time, but prior to the start of competition will be allowed to join the existing group and have their remaining warm-ups. Athletes that arrive once competition has started will be disqualified.

Warm-ups and competition may begin more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time if all the competitors are present and with the coaches approval.

- E. All athletes at State Championships must compete with their flight in the designated order of competition unless the competing on another event at that competition no matter what the situation, even if only saluting.

- F. A competitor must actually compete and receive a number score in at least one U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition in that event prior (not just sign up and salute) to the State Championship to be eligible to compete in that event at the State Championship.

1. A competitor age 7 and over (except special needs) must receive a number score and not just a "0" in at least one sanctioned U.S.T.A. meet prior to State Championship if they salute at State Championship to qualify for Nationals.

- G. Advanced athletes that compete in their State Championship qualify for Nationals in the advanced event competed. NOTE: Must have competed in the advanced level in that event at a meet prior to their State and received a score.

- H. An athlete who exceeds level maximums at the State Championship will be allowed to compete at Nationals provided they qualify in their current division (after appropriate major score deductions are taken). However, said competitor must compete in the next level at the National Championships.

- I. Except for the Advanced level, the State Championship will be used to qualify competitors for the Age-Group National Championships under the following rules: the top fifteen (15) places in each age group shall qualify for the Age-Group National Championships. All Competitors that tie for a place as stated above, shall go to the Age-Group National Championships as well. Refer to following chart. NOTE: Sub-Advanced and Advanced Synchro competitors will qualify for Nationals provided both athletes were at their state qualifier and one of the pairs qualifies for Nationals in their age-group.

- J. If an athlete competes in the wrong age group(s) in their State Championship, their scores will be compared to the scores in the correct age group(s) to determine if they qualify for Nationals. A \$25 change fee will be charged for each event.

- K. **PETITIONS:**  
**MUST** use the U.S.T.A. Petition Form found in the U.S.T.A. Handbook.

- 1). In a circumstance where no State Championship is held, a competitor or team may petition to compete and qualify in another state's championship.
- 2). If an athlete is granted a petition to enter another state's championship:
  - a). In order to be eligible to petition to another State Championship to qualify for Nationals, an athlete must have competed in (and received scores) at least two meets in applicable events prior to petitioning.
  - b). The athlete must pay entry fees to both their state championship meet director and to the meet director of the state petitioning to.
  - c). Their score on any event will be compared to the scores of the athletes in their own state competition (if applicable) before being considered for qualification to Nationals. The Technical Vice President will evaluate these petitions on a case by case basis. Their score cannot bump out any athlete from the host state from attending Nationals. Their score is to remain separate from the host state athletes' scores.
- 3). A club may not petition their entire team into another state meet, exceptions must be granted by the Technical Vice President.
- 4). In the event an athlete is injured during their State Championship and cannot compete, their coach must contact Gloria Herring, Technical Vice President, and/or and Executive Board member before the end of the State Championship in order to meet petition eligibility.

L. The host club(s) of the U.S.T.A. State Championships are required to submit a list of judges and their judging assignment to the N.T.J.C. Executive Board and the U.S.T.A. Executive Board for review and approval prior to sending out contracts for their State Championship.

4. **AGE-GROUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:** The U.S.T.A. Sanction Packet will provide a clear definition for awards, equipment, and site requirements for National Championship competitions. The U.S.T.A. Executive Board will host the U.S.T.A. Age-Group National Championships every other year in a city and site determined by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board and will select three to five clubs to help with the event (will receive a monetary award that will be determined yearly). All other years, the U.S.T.A. Age-Group National Championship will be held in a site and on a date determined by the U.S.T.A. Members present during Congress and approval of Sanction by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board. In the event that there are two or more bids, winner must receive +1 vote over ½ the voting members present to win on the first vote. If there is not a winner, the membership will vote on the bidders receiving the top two number of votes from the first vote. The following rules and regulations must be followed:

**IF NOT HOSTED BY THE U.S.T.A. EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

A. To be eligible to bid on the U.S.T.A. National Championships-  
**MUST:**

- 1). Be a U.S.T.A. Club member with an active competitive team in the U.S.T.A.
- 2). Have hosted at least three sanctioned U.S.T.A. competitions over the period of membership.
- 3). Have belonged to and supported the U.S.T.A. for at least two years.
- 4). Have attended the prior U.S.T.A. Nationals and have attended their State Championship
- 5). Bring a competition team (athletes must actually register and compete) to the following year's U.S.T.A. Nationals. (Failure to comply will result in not being eligible to host any sanctioned competition the following year).
- 6). Not offer monetary or valuable prizes to be given as incentives to buy a bid. Trinkets, food, popcorn, pie, and things on that order can be given out during the bid.

NOTE: (If more than one club chooses to form a corporation to host the U.S.T.A. National Championships, both (or all) must be U.S.T.A. Club members with active competitive teams and meet all requirements.) If multiple clubs win the bid to host Nationals, all parties must remain the same or the Executive Board has the option to rescind the bid.

- A. Each club with 10 or more athletes competing at Nationals must have the equivalent of one (1) volunteer for at least one full day. Fine - \$80.
- B. Recommended schedule of events: Night before Day 1 - NTJC Meeting; Day 3 - National Team Practice; Day 4 - Parade of Champions. **TBA - Athlete party.**

NOTE: Required Athlete Parade of Champions attire: competition attire only OR complete team warm-up OR leo (step-in) with team pants OR leo (step-in) with team jacket and competition footwear. Non-shedding accessories can be worn.

C. National Judge Surveys will be posted on the U.S.T.A. Web Page in January of each year. Judges interested in judging the National Championships must complete the survey and return to the U.S.T.A. National Office by the deadline. National Judges will be selected and assigned by the USTA Executive Board with the approval of the NTJC Board. A minimum of two members

of the NTJC Board must be hired. At least two members of the NTJC Board must among those judges selected. Food to be provided for the judges must be pre-approved by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board. Food provided must be hot and balanced.

- D. Must have identical equipment for warm-ups and competition. Each age group must compete on the same piece of equipment.
- E. Colored tape must be placed on the competition floor to mark area for the coaches.
- F. Must have a TV with video on every apparatus for viewing protests.
- G. Must use The Master Scorer program (or current standard scoring program).
- H. Must have an EMT present.
- I. Must provide an area for competition warm-ups to be stored in the stretch-out area.
- J. Must have an athlete party (dance) free to all coaches, judges, athletes and their families.
- K. Recommend that all general seating must be off the competition floor (stadium seating) .
- L. Recommended provision of separate stretch-out areas for each event. All tumbling together, etc. All flights cannot be called down to the warm-up area at the same time (ex: Adv-Beginner 9 year olds - call two flights down at a time only). If staging chairs are used, they will reserved for the appropriate athletes only ( coaches, spectators, volunteers, etc. will not be allowed).
- M. Recommend posting and presenting team awards each day.
- N. Entries received by the National meet entry deadline requirements will be drawn randomly of a clubs athletes within an age group for placement in competition order. Those entries received after the deadline will be added to the top of the list in the order received as done in the past.  
  
No entries or changes will be accepted after June 1. No changes will be allowed at the National Championships.
- O. No refunds will be given for National Championships entry cancellations.
- P. Only those competitors having met their U.S.T.A. requirements (having competed in at least one U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition in their event prior to the State Competition) and qualified within their State Competition will be eligible for the Age-Group National Championship. NOTE: If the Executive Board waives the requirements for qualification to the U.S.T.A. National Championships to any team or state, those athletes will be placed separately. There will be a \$25 fine for any team that enters a competition incorrectly (per occurrence).
- Q. Athletes who exceed level maximums at the State competition will be allowed to compete at Nationals provided they qualify in their current division (after appropriate deductions are taken). However, said athletes must compete in the next level at Nationals.
- R. **PETITIONS: MUST** use the U.S.T.A. Petition Form found in the forms section of the U.S.T.A. Handbook.

- 1). If a competitor cannot enter his or her State Competition because of illness, injury, or other reasons beyond their control, the competitor may petition to the U.S.T.A. Technical Vice-President for entry into the Age-Group National Championship. This petition must be sent to the U.S.T.A. Technical Vice-President prior to the athlete's State Competition.

NOTE: If an athlete is injured during their state championship and cannot compete, contact Gloria Herring or an Executive Board member before the end of the state championship in order to meet petition eligibility.

- 2). In order to petition to Nationals, an athlete must file the Petition Form with the U.S.T.A. Technical Vice President under the current guidelines and time frames. A petition will only be considered if the athlete has competed in two U.S.T.A. sanctioned competitions during the current season and submits a copy of two of their score sheets from those competitions and the athlete's team competed in the previous year's National Championships. Those scores must be compared to the athlete's age/level/event at their state competition and fall within their state's national qualifiers.
- 3). Petitions regarding emergencies must be submitted within 10 working days of the athlete's state meet to be considered.
- 4). As a general rule, athletes can only be petitioned into Nationals on injury or religious grounds. Petitions will not be granted on conflict of schedule grounds such as a prom, track meet, dance recital, etc., on the same day as your state competition. If an athlete cannot participate in their own state meet due to a conflict, they may petition for approval to attend another state meet to qualify to nationals.

- 5). Petitions will not be granted on the grounds of attendance of family member activities such as First Communion of a sibling, family reunion, etc. Only under very unusual circumstances will an athlete be allowed to petition down a level.
  - 6). To expedite a petition, send a letter requesting the petition, detailing all pertinent information, including date of injury, nature of injury, length of time out of practice, a doctor's letter, a clergyman's letter, certificate of First Communion, any prescriptions written by the doctor, placing at last year's nationals, and any score sheets from the current year showing this year's performance. Do not send a list of meets that the athlete has attended and their placing. Copies of meet score sheets are required to prove actual participation in and performance in competitions. The athlete must have entered and competed in at least two U.S.T.A. sanctioned competition prior to the state meet (cannot just enter and salute).
  - 7). Petitions must be postmarked prior to the athlete's state meet. No petitions will be granted after the state meet is held unless an injury or illness occurs during the state meet. Petitions must be applied for in a timely and professional manner. If an injury or illness occurs just prior to or at the state competition, call the Technical Vice-President with notification of the situation and your intention to petition.
  - 8). Do not send originals of any document - only copies. For your protection, make and keep copies of all materials sent. Send petition by certified mail with a return receipt card.
  - 9). Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the petition. Mail to Gloria Herring, U.S.T.A. Technical Vice-President, 404 Washington Av, Bellefontaine, OH 43311 or email [gloriastumbling@gmail.com](mailto:gloriastumbling@gmail.com). If you have any questions about petitioning an athlete, call Gloria at 937-441-8365 or email [gloriastumbling@gmail.com](mailto:gloriastumbling@gmail.com).
- S. At the National Championships, an athlete must represent the team they competed with at their State Meet. If an athlete switches gyms between their State Meet and Nationals, the athlete must compete as an unattached athlete and will not be counted for any team points. All unattached athletes will be required to pay the \$50 team fee.
- T. For National competitions, the time listed is the warm-up time with a requirement to be there 30 minutes prior. The meet director is allowed to begin warm-ups 30 minutes before the scheduled (published) time even if the entire group is not present. Athletes who arrive late during the warm-up time, but prior to the start of competition will be allowed to join the existing group and take the remaining warm-ups. Athletes that arrive once competition has started will be disqualified.
- Warm-ups and competition may begin more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time if all the competitors are present and with the coaches approval.
- U. All athletes at National competitions must compete with their flight in the designated order of competition unless the athlete is competing on another event at that competition.
- V. Sub-Advanced and Advanced Synchro competitors will qualify for Nationals provided both athletes were at their state qualifier and one of the pairs qualifies for Nationals in their age-group.
- W. The entire U.S.T.A. National Team will put on a yearly exhibition as part of the Parade of Champions Ceremonies (at the discretion of each National Team Member's coach).
- X. The Parade of Champions Ceremonies exhibition will also include any Advanced or Elite National Champion(s) of events already contested in any event who is not a National Team Member.
- Y. The U.S.T.A. Executive Board reserves the right to approve the floor plan, schedule, dates, equipment, vendors, opening ceremony details (including exhibitions), and awards. Detailed information must be submitted to the U.S.T.A. National Office 16 weeks prior to the Championships.
- A1. Snacks must be supplied for coaches at the announcer's table (ex: crackers, raisins, popcorn, cheese sticks, etc.)
- B1. Club (Team) Meet Results will be provided free of charge upon completion of the proper form.
- C1. **AWARDS:**
- 1). **Flight Awards:** Mandatory at Nationals and optional at state competitions. Flights will be in groups of 10 or less with scores calculated immediately and the flight awards (MEDALS) presented upon completion of that flight's competition. Flight scores will then be combined to determine the top 10 competitors or the athletes that qualify for finals by the head table as usual. These awards will be presented at the award area at a designated time.
  - 2). **Individual Awards:** Awards shall be awarded to the first through tenth place winners in Age-Group National Championship and Elite National Championship Competition. When two or more competitors tie for any place, each shall receive identical awards. Awards may only be received in competition attire. (No warm-ups). If a competitor does not pick up their award(s) within 24 hours of their last event at Nationals, they will forfeit their right to that award.

Advanced and Elite Finals: Only those athletes that actually qualify for finals will receive top 10 awards.

In the event of ties that result in no 10<sup>th</sup> place, top ten awards will not be awarded to any athlete from preliminaries that did not qualify and compete in finals).

In the event of ties that result in more than 10 advancing to finals and places drop to 11<sup>th</sup> or below, those places will receive a special award.

- 3). **Team Awards:** To enter a team championship, a team must be a member of the U.S.T.A. After the preliminary round of competition, the recorders will enter the scores of each competitor on the appropriate team score sheet. The recorders will then eliminate all scores except for the three (3) highest scores for women and the two (2) highest scores for men, the sum of which will be the total score for that team. The team with the highest total score is the winner.

Team awards may be given in the following categories in State, Age-Group National Championship, and Elite National Championship Competition. Team awards are determined by the three (3) highest scores for women and the two (2) highest scores for men for each team registered in each event; the sum of which will be added together for the total of that team's score. The required entry fee of \$50 for Team Awards must be submitted to the meet director by the deadline stated on the entry form.

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| <p><b>a. Men's Trampoline</b><br/>1) Beginner Division<br/>2) Novice Division<br/>3) Intermediate Division<br/>4) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>5) Advanced Division<br/>6) Elite Division</p>   | <p><b>b. Women's Trampoline</b><br/>1) Beginner Division<br/>2) Novice Division<br/>3) Intermediate Division<br/>4) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>5) Advanced Division<br/>6) Elite Division</p>   |
| <p><b>c. Men's Tumbling</b><br/>1) Sub-Beginner Division<br/>2) Beginner Division<br/>3) Advanced Beginner Division<br/>4) Sub-Novice Division<br/>5) Novice Division<br/>6) Intermediate Division<br/>7) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>8) Advanced Division<br/>9) Elite Division</p> | <p><b>d. Women's Tumbling</b><br/>1) Sub-Beginner Division<br/>2) Beginner Division<br/>3) Advanced Beginner Division<br/>4) Sub-Novice Division<br/>5) Novice Division<br/>6) Intermediate Division<br/>7) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>8) Advanced Division<br/>9) Elite Division</p> |
| <p><b>e. Men's D-Mini Trampoline</b><br/>1) Beginner Division<br/>2) Novice Division<br/>3) Intermediate Division<br/>4) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>5) Advanced Division<br/>6) Elite Division</p>  | <p><b>f. Women's Double-Mini Trampoline</b><br/>1) Beginner Division<br/>2) Novice Division<br/>3) Intermediate Division<br/>4) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>5) Advanced Division<br/>6) Elite Division</p>   |
| <p><b>g. Men's Synch Trampoline</b><br/>1) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>2) Advanced Division</p>  | <p><b>h. Women's Synchronized Trampoline</b><br/>1) Sub-Advanced Division<br/>2) Advanced Division</p>   |

**\*NOTE:** Synchronized Teams comprised of athletes from two different teams will split the teams points for team awards.

- 4). **Event Team Awards** (Combination of the top preliminary scores regardless of sex from each level [except the Sub-Beginner level in Tumbling]).
- 1) Tumbling                      2) Trampoline                      3) Double-Mini
- 5). **Advanced Overall Team Award** (Combination of the above Advanced Events).

All Advanced Overall and Event Team awards will be presented during the following U.S.T.A. National Congress Banquet. Points are awarded for all Advanced places as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> - 11 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8 points, 4<sup>th</sup> - 7 points, 5<sup>th</sup> - 6 points. **\*NOTE:** Synchronized Teams comprised of athletes from two different teams will split the teams points for team awards.

C1. **MEET RESULTS:** Team results will be provided free.

D1. NATIONAL COMPETITION PROMOTION

- 1). A competitor must advance to the next level of competition (with the exception of the Sub-Beginners and all 6 & under age groups) at the beginning of the upcoming season as follows.
  - The top 1 place must move to the next level if there are 5-9 competitors in the age group.
  - The top 3 places must move to the next level if there are 10-19 competitors in the age group.
  - The top 5 places must move to the next level if there are 20 or more competitors in the age group
  - All ties for the final cut-off place will be required to move up a level.

5. **ELITE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:** Each year, an Elite National Championship will be held at a site and on a date determined by the U.S.T.A. Members and N.T.J.C. Members present during Congress and approval of sanction by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board. In addition to the rules for the Age-Group National Championships, the following rules and regulations must be followed:

- A. The Elite National Championship will be an open competition to all U.S.T.A. competitive members (must have competed in the advanced level of tumbling at a U.S.T.A. sanctioned meet during that competition year) and qualified for Elite by receiving the difficulty score. Elite qualifying difficulty scores are: Double-mini - 7.3 pts (3 passes combined); Trampoline - 7.5 pts (no repeats); Tumbling - 8.0 pts (combined 5 skill and 8 skill passes). If an athlete qualifies throughout the year with the Elite score, they qualify for the Elite level at State and at the Elite level at Nationals (as long as they compete at their State Championships).
- B. The schedule for the Elite National Championships may be flexible. Based on entries received, as soon after the deadline as possible, the meet director may adjust the schedule by a day (up or back). However, this should be done well in advance of the event.
- C. For Elite competitions, the time listed is the warm-up time with a requirement to be there 30 minutes prior. The meet director is allowed to start the warm-up 30 minutes before the scheduled (published) time even if the entire group is not present. Athletes who arrive late during the warm-up time, but prior to the start of competition will be allowed to join the existing group and have the remaining warm-up. Athletes that arrive once competition has started will be disqualified.
- D. The order of competition will be assigned by a random sort on the competition computer. After the deadline, athletes will be placed at the top of the competition. Those entries received after the deadline will be added to the top of the list in the order received as done in the past. No entries will be accepted after June 1
- E. All athletes at Elite National competitions must compete with their flight in the designated order of competition unless the athlete is competing on another event at that competition.

F. **ENTRY FEES:**

Each competitor must pay an entry fee for each event entered. This entry fee shall be determined by the meet director with the approval of the Board of Directors. Team entry fees shall also be determined by the meet director with the approval of the Board of Directors. Deadlines for all fees and late entry fees will be determined by the meet director with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Each team must pay an entry fee of \$100.

G. **AWARDS:** Each team entering the National Championships will be charged a \$50 Team Award fee and automatically be entered for all team awards eligible for.

- 1). **Flight Awards:** Mandatory at Nationals and optional at state competitions. All athletes will receive a participation award which will be given to the team at registration. Flights will be in groups of 10 or less with scores calculated immediately and the flight awards presented upon completion of that flight's competition. Flight scores will then be combined to determine the top 10 competitors or the athletes that qualify for finals by the head table as usual. These awards will be presented at the award area at a designated time.
- 2). **Individual:** Awards shall be awarded to the first through tenth place winners in Age-Group National Championship and Elite National Championship Competition. When two or more competitors tie for any place, each shall receive identical awards. Awards may only be received in competition attire. (No warm-ups). If a competitor does not pick up their award(s) within 24 hours of their last event at Nationals, they will forfeit their right to that award.
- 3). **Team:** Elite Team awards are determined by the three (3) highest scores for women and the two (2) highest scores for men for each team registered in each event; the sum of which will be added together for the total of that team's score.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Men's Trampoline<br/>1) Elite Division</li> <li>c. Men's Tumbling<br/>1) Elite Division</li> <li>e. Men's D-Mini Trampoline<br/>1) Elite Division</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Women's Trampoline<br/>1) Elite Division</li> <li>d. Women's Tumbling<br/>1) Elite Division</li> <li>f. Women's Double-Mini Trampoline<br/>1) Elite Division</li> </ul> |
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## **NATIONAL/STATE DATA BASE**

Set up a National or State Data Base. The Data Base would include athlete names, ages, USTA numbers, and competition levels. The data base would be maintained by the state chairs. It would track what meets each athlete attended. It would be password protected. The password would be given to host clubs in their meet sanction. Clubs would have to notify their state chair when they move an athlete up a level or if an athlete changes clubs. Estimated cost to develop the program would be \$2,000. Initial payment cap would be \$5,000.

## **ELITE AND ADVANCED PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**

The U.S.T.A. will appoint an Elite and Advanced Program Director. The director will select a committee consisting of U.S.T.A. Safety and U.S.T.A. coaching certified members. This committee will offer suggestions to the U.S.T.A. body for Elite and compulsory passes and difficulty changes, any changes must be passed by the U.S.T.A. members at the yearly Congress meeting.

The committee will offer two or more camps a year for advanced elite tumblers and coaches. They will also set up video exchanges and make training videos available for coaches to purchase. This committee's purpose will be to improve the training available to both the coaches and athletes at this level and to offer more opportunities for these athletes to be together.

The U.S.T.A. must pre-approve all clinicians to be contracted for clinics.

## **CLINICIANS:**

U.S.T.A. Clinicians will be made available to new clubs to help improve education. Clinicians must have five years experience in the U.S.T.A., be U.S.T.A. certified in each level and event, and pre-approved by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board. They should also have coached athletes in each level (unless approved by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board) and have passed the U.S.T.A. Safety Certification. The clinicians would be made available to new clubs and any other club that requests them. The clinician(s) will have some required guidelines and will cover General Rules and Policies from the U.S.T.A. Handbook and basic passes for each level. The clinician(s) will be paid and reimbursed for any expenses by the club requesting the clinician(s).

## GENERAL RULES OF COMPETITION FOR MEN AND WOMEN

1. **Events:** Individual and Synchronized Trampoline events, Individual Tumbling events, and Individual Double Mini-Tramp events shall be provided for both men and women in State Age-Group Nationals, and Elite National Championships. (Note: For expediency, Trampoline, Tumbling and Double Mini-Tramp events may be run concurrently.

2. **Suggested Order of Competition:**

A. State & Age-Group Nationals:

1. Preliminaries:
  - a. Tumbling - Individual Men & Women
  - b. Double-Mini-Tramp - Individual Men & Women
  - c. Trampoline - Individual Men & Women; Synchronized Men & Women
2. Finals
  - a. Tumbling - Individual Men & Women
  - b. Double Mini-Tramp - Individual Men & Women
  - c. Trampoline - Individual Men & Women

B. **Elite Nationals:**

1. Preliminaries:
  - a. Tumbling - Compulsory and Optional, Men & Women
  - b. Double Mini-Tramp - Optional, Men & Women
  - c. Trampoline - Individual Compulsory and Optional, Men & Women
2. Finals
  - a. Tumbling - Individual Men & Women
  - b. Double Mini-Tramp - Individual Men & Women
  - c. Trampoline - Individual Men & Women

3. **Officials:** The officials of the meet, their duties and jurisdiction shall be as follows:

A. **Meet Director** - The general conduct of the State, Age-Group Nationals, and Elite National meets shall be the responsibility of the meet director under the jurisdiction of the Executive Board of Directors.

A Meet Director must make sure all judges record their current N.T.J.C. membership number on their Judge's Report. In the event, a judge does not provide their membership numbers, the Meet Director must deduct for the memberships from the judge's fees and mail them to the appropriate office. Failure to comply will result in the club's suspension from hosting a sanctioned competition the following season.

The Meet Director must be notified immediately of any injuries that occur at their meet.

B. **Judges:**

If a Judge fails to carry out his duties in a satisfactory manner, he or she must be replaced. This decision will be made by the Arbitration Jury upon the recommendation of the Superior Judge.

The Team Trial, State, Age-Group Nationals, and Elite National competitions must be approved by the Executive Board of Directors with recommendation of the National Trampoline and Tumbling Judges Committee.

Team Trial and National Championship judges will be selected and assigned by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board.

No judge will be allowed to judge a Team Trials and National Championship division if they have a family member (i.e., son, daughter, sister, brother, grandchild, or in-law) competing in that division.

C. **The Technical Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall determine the suitability of all apparatus and equipment used and report on same to the Executive Board of Directors prior to the competition.

D. **Protest (Arbitration Jury) Committee:** A protest can only be made at levels of competition that have difficulty points and/or black and white situations (i.e., number of skills, positions, etc.)

The Meet Director must select and post a list of the Protest (Arbitration Jury) Committee Members (including an alternate) prior to the start of sanctioned competitions. The Meet Director will announce the Protest Committee Members (including an alternate) during the coaches and judges' meeting at these competitions.

The Protest Committee (Arbitration Jury) shall be designated at all competitions. For a protest with a panel of 4+ judges, the committee will consist of the superior judge, a member of the Technical Committee (or in his absence a member of the Board of Directors), the meet director, and two judges of the appropriate event appointed by the meet director before the competition begins. Note: One of the two judges must be a difficulty judge. For a protest with a panel of 3 or less judges, composition will consist of the meet director, a member of the Technical Committee (or in his absence a member of the Board of Directors), the Superior Judge, an Aesthetic judge of the appropriate event and an Aesthetic Judge from another panel. If a member of the Technical Board is also a judge on the panel involved in the protest, that judge may not serve as a member of the Protest Committee as the Technical Board Representative. If the protest concerns a competitor from the meet director's team, the meet director will be replaced by another member of the Technical Committee or Board of Directors for that protest. If the protest concerns a competitor from the Technical Committee Member at the competition, the meet director shall designate an unbiased coach. Each Protest Committee Member must review the protest procedure rules prior to acting on any protest.

A written protest with protest fee must be handed to the meet director within 5 minutes of the end of that flight of competition. The meet director will inform the respective judging panel that a protest has been filed, gather the appropriate protest committee members and prepare the video for viewing by the committee.

- o During this time, there is to be no discussion amongst the committee regarding the pass or rules in questions. This eliminates any pre-determined conceptions of the pass and any bias or persuasion of committee members to vote one way or another. Once the committee is convened and the video is set for review, the meet director will read only the general facts related to the protest and indicate the specific skill (i.e. ó the second skill, the last skill, etc.) or movement in question (i.e. ó landing).
- o At this time, the committee may also ask the meet director and/or superior judge to review any rules related to the protest. (i.e. ó ðA position is determined by \_\_\_ degree angle betweení ö or ðA pass is initiated whení ö)

The Arbitration Jury shall convene to handle disputes concerning protests and ethical infractions during competition. In addition to their duties as a protest committee, they shall act as a jury to consider disqualification or removal based on ethical infractions of any individual in attendance for the day or duration of the meet. If a member of the ethics committee is in attendance, it is recommended that they be added to the jury for ethical infraction decisions only. The meet director shall make a report of the incident on the Meet Director's Report. A copy of the report must be sent to the Ethic Chairperson within 10 days of the incident. All future actions concerning the incident shall be the responsibility of the Ethics Committee as outlined in the Ethics Committee handbook. If a protest is won, the scores must be taken back to the judging panel for proper score adjustment.

A decision must be made within 5 minutes of reviewing the video.

A video other than the meet director's designated video can be used if the meet director's designated video does not record the pass or if there is not a meet director's video. In this situation only, the meet director has the option to review the first video tape available to use by the Arbitration Jury. If no video is available, the judges' decision stands and the protest money will be kept.

At State, National, and Team Trial Competitions, a video other than the meet director's designated video can be used if the meet director's designated video does not record the pass. In this situation only, the meet director has the option to review the first video tape available to use by the Protest Committee. If no video is available, the judges' decision stands and the protest fee will be kept.

All video may be viewed in slow motion.

Decisions made by the Arbitration Jury at a competition cannot be overturned by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board.

Protest Fees: \$50/Invitational Competitions, State; \$100/Team Trials, Nationals

4. **Admission to the Field of Competition:** Only competitors, judges, scorers, spotters, and those required for maintenance of the apparatus will be admitted in the competition area. Only those photographers and reporters authorized by the organization sponsoring the meet may be admitted, with the approval of the meet director and the Executive Board of Directors.
5. **Disposition of the Score Sheets:** All of the score sheets pertaining to the entire competition shall be certified by the Superior Judges and turned over to the meet director by the Chief Scorer as soon as the competition and the scoring thereof is completed; and after publication, the score sheets of all competitors and a general write-up of the competition must be sent to the State Chairperson and National Office.

## **TECHNICAL AND RULES COMMITTEE**

- A.** The Technical Committee Chairperson shall be elected by the U.S.T.A. Board of Directors at the U.S.T.A. National Congress on even numbered years. All nominees for the position of Technical Chairperson must have served on the Technical Committee for two or more years. The Board of Directors of the U.S.T.A. shall elect a Technical Chairperson to handle all technical matters in connection with the programs of the sport.
- 1).** The Technical Chairperson shall:
- a. Call and preside at all necessary meetings of the Technical Committee. The Chairperson may also hold polls by mail, telephone, or email.
  - b. Appoint a Safety Director for the U.S.T.A. Safety Committee.
  - c. Maintain a schedule for rule changes by event with:
    - a. Even numbered years - Tumbling Rule changes only.
    - b. Odd numbered years - Trampoline/Double Mini Rule changes only.
  - d. In even numbered years, the Chairperson shall appoint six (6) Technical Committee members from U.S.T.A. membership subject to the approval of the Executive Board.  
  
In odd-numbered years, the U.S.T.A. members will elect two (2) members-at-large at the National Congress. Members will vote for one individual only.  
  
In odd-numbered years, interested N.T.J.C. members (who have been certified for at least five (5) years, are certified in all three (3) events, and are not also a coach) will submit letters of interest and resumes for consideration by the Technical Chair and approval of the Executive Board to fill the two (2) N.T.J.C. positions on the Technical Committee. The N.T.J.C. members to be considered must include the N.T.J.C. Judging Coordinator.
    - d1. The tenure of office shall be two years.
    - d2. Technical Committee members must pay for and attend all three days of the National Congress.
- B.** The Technical Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity for the Board of Directors in general, but not necessarily confined to the following matters:
- 1). Elaboration of technical regulations and programs; planning of the competitions; composition of prescribed exercises; and competition rules.
  - 2). Terminology for Trampoline, Tumbling, and Double Mini-Trampoline and general regulations of the different competitions.
  - 3). All research and study in the interest of progress and the improvement of methods and, in general, all technical questions which may be submitted or which they agree to study.
  - 4). Provide standards for qualifications from state competitions to the Age-Group National Championship, with the approval of the U.S.T.A. Board of Directors.
  - 5). Certify that any club or person bidding for a U.S.T.A. competition be able to meet the physical standards outlined in the U.S.T.A. rules for competition.
- C.** Only rule proposals and or changes submitted by U.S.T.A. or N.T.J.C. members by the deadline will be considered by the Technical Committee. All changes voted upon by the Technical Committee must have the affirmative majority vote before they can be submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval at any board meeting.
- 1). Clarifications: Any judge that requires a clarification of a rule must contact, either by email, phone, or mail, the N.T.J.C. President. The N.T.J.C. President then contacts the Technical Chair. A clarification/decision will be reached within two weeks and an accumulative list of the current seasons clarifications will be distributed to the U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. State Chairs for immediate distribution to the general membership and judges. An accumulative list will be included in each quarterly U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. newsletters.
- D.** Sub-Committees. The following sub-committees are hereby established by the U.S.T.A. Technical Committee:

- 1). Safety Committee
  - 2). Research Committee
  - 3). Rules Committee
- K.** Additional sub-committees may be established by the Technical Committee when deemed necessary.
- L.** Chairpersons of all sub-committees shall be required to present in writing a report of all committee activities at all meetings and at regular times designated by the Technical Chairperson.
- M.** The Technical Committee may appoint special members for a specific mission to any committee. They shall have a voice in their particular matter, but no vote.
- N.** In the event of any tie vote within the Technical Committee, the U.S.T.A. Technical Vice-President shall cast the deciding vote.
- O.** The Technical Vice-President is an ex-officio member of the Technical Committee.
- P.** A member of the U.S.T.A. Technical Board must be at all State Championships - if not, the State Championship Meet Director must state in writing who will be the pre-approved (by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board) representative.

## STATE CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

Represent the USTA in a positive way.

Act as a liaison between the USTA Executive Board/National Office and your state's club members. Answer questions, if possible; however, if you don't know the answer FOR SURE, contact the National Office or refer to the National Office.

Promote the USTA - recruit and develop new members.

- ◆ Be as familiar as possible with our procedures (how to join, safety certifications, background check, safe sport certification) to help answer questions & guide prospective and/or new members.
- ◆ Develop a State Website and/or Newsletter (possible to link to USTA web page)
- ◆ Contact Dance Studios, YMCA's, Recreation Park Districts, etc.
- ◆ Videos, Facebook, Adobe, etc.

Attend the USTA National Congress (All day Saturday & Sunday) and State Chair meeting each year.

1<sup>st</sup> Duty of the Competition Season - State Meeting

- ◆ Notify Each Club & National Office of date, time, and location
- ◆ Preside over meeting
- ◆ Set the year's calendar (which includes the next year's state meeting and judges' course)
- ◆ Develop & maintain state rules and procedures
- ◆ Send out the minutes and schedule to all clubs, the National Office, & the USTA Vice President, Paula Grigsby

Maintain an email directory of each club in the state

- ◆ Send emails to keep all clubs informed of clarifications, meetings, state activities, etc.
- ◆ Forward all appropriate emails from the National Office upon receipt.

COPY ALL communications that concern your state to the National Office.

Maintain a file of each club's rosters

Develop & Maintain a list of all the state's Advanced & Elite Athletes (from the copy of results you will receive) to check against the list the National Office keeps on file. Notify the National Office of any discrepancies.

E-Mail State information to Debbie Barber, USTA President, [debbie41272@gmail.com](mailto:debbie41272@gmail.com) for the USTA Face book and to the National Office.

Verify all of your state's meets are sanctioned in a timely manner. Only email *entry information if the competition/clinic has been sanctioned.*

Monitor sanctioned meets for USTA Club, Coach, and Athlete Memberships, proper equipment, safety, and judging requirements. Enforce the coach dress code and ID badges at all competitions.

Recognize receipt of emails from the National Office with a quick "o.s." or "got it" so we know you are getting our emails.

Although optional, work with the coaches to put a State Raffle Basket together for Nationals.

Reach out to new clubs to welcome them, offer information, and give them assistance to help them get going and make their experience in USTA a positive one.

Attend the State Meeting, the State Meet, the USTA Congress and the State Chair Meeting. Present a State Report to the Members at Congress. Congress attendance required to receive State Chair stipend.

Create and maintain a file of state related information (minutes, awards, etc.) to pass along to the following state chairs to make the transition easier.

## STATE MEET

- ◆ Work with the State Meet Director to verify all athletes have qualified for state. Have the state meet director send you a copy of all entries as they come in.
  - ✓ Each athlete must have competed in at least one USTA Sanctioned competition in each applicable event (not just sign up and salute) prior to the State Championship. EXCEPTION: *Athletes under 7 must have competed in at least one USTA Sanctioned competition in each applicable event , but may have a "0" score.*
  - ✓ Each athlete is entered in the correct level(s) and age group. Athletes may not move down any level without an approved petition.
  - ✓ Each advanced athlete must have competed as an advanced athlete in at least one meet in the advanced level prior to state - in each applicable event.
- ◆ Thoroughly read the letter sent to State Chairs and State Meet Directors each year and take a copy to the competition with you.
- ◆ If your state gives out scholarships or special awards, send out nomination forms (some states recognize a judge, coach, and/or special athlete of the year and present them with an award).
- ◆ Recommend surveying the clubs for all Senior Athletes prior to the State Meet and recognize them at the meet (possibly present them with a small gift).
- ◆ Organize a special ceremony to acknowledge special award winners, advanced/elite athletes, seniors, etc. in advance.

\*NOTE: Only Advanced/Elite who actually compete at state receive the patches and chevrons.

## **United States Trampoline and Tumbling Association Social Media and Electronic Communication Policies**

The mission of the U.S.T.A. is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of trampoline and tumbling. Our Facebook page is an extension of that mission and viewed as an opportunity to build the overall U.S.T.A. brand and visibility to our members and those interested in our organization. Our Facebook page shall be used to promote our organization as a whole. While the U.S.T.A. may from time to time highlight thru photos, content or video posts, Coaches, Athletes, or Clubs, the purpose of such posts will be to highlight the excellence of the organization, solidifying it's existing membership and encouraging new membership to the U.S.T.A. The U.S.T.A. reserves to the right to not post or share posts that are deemed as event marketing or promotional in nature as we have other vehicles to transmit that information. Please continue to share information for post consideration to the U.S.T.A. President, Debbie Barber or the U.S.T.A. Executive Director, Patti Lingenfelter.

### **OVERVIEW**

Online, social media and other electronic communication tools such as text messaging have become a prevalent and effective means of personal and professional communication, and have fundamentally changed the way many people and organizations interact. This policy sets forth our expectations with respect to the use of online and social media, as well as other forms of electronic communications, by all U.S.T.A. coaches, athletes, parents, staff, volunteers and administrators.

The term “social media” as used in this policy encompasses a wide array of online media and communications and their scope is constantly evolving. For purposes of this policy, the terms “online media” and “social media” are to refer to internal and external websites, blogs, online social networks (*e.g.*, Face book, Twitter, LinkedIn), wikis, video and photo sharing sites (*e.g.*, Adobe, SKYPE, Instagram and Flickr), and other forms of personal online publishing and discourse. Policies regarding text messaging, email and individual telephonic communications are also covered by these policies.

Social media forums are typically public. Even when using social media for purely personal purposes, a person’s public expressions might affect their professional identity and the organizational interests of U.S.T.A. and our members. Accordingly, anyone participating in social media must ensure that their participation is consistent with U.S.T.A. policies. That said; U.S.T.A. fully respects the interest our employees, contractors and coaches may have in participating in online and social media on a personal basis. What our employees, contractors and coaches do outside of work on their own time is normally their own business. However, activities of U.S.T.A. employees, contractors and coaches outside of work that affect the organization's reputation, the employee’s, contractor’s or coach’s job performance, the safety of our athletes, or other U.S.T.A. personnel are within the scope of this policy.

Both on and off the field, safety and youth protection should be a key focus. U.S.T.A. is committed to be an advocate for youth and to keep children and their privacy safe, both online and off, and safety is always at the forefront of any considerations where social media usage is concerned.

With these objectives in mind, all U.S.T.A. staff, contractors, volunteers, administrators, and coaches must be familiar with and adhere to this policy, regardless of whether they personally use social media, and must share this policy with parents and athletes as appropriate.

### **INTERNET AND COMMUNICATION POLICIES FOR COACHES**

- All social media communications must be public, and all communications on or through them must be public. Being “public” means no private channels. For example, private Face book groups, direct messaging or private invitations to personal Face book pages, invite-only Adobe channels, or Twitter, direct messaging to individual athletes, and the like shall not be permitted between coaches and athletes. This enables administrators to monitor all communication and help ensure there is no inappropriate communication between coaches (including assistants and volunteer coaches) and athletes. This also serves to protect coaches.
- There should be no private messages and no one-on-one direct contact through Face book messages, Twitter, direct messaging, Skype, chats, instant messaging (including but not limited to Google Messenger, AIM, and the like) or other similar messaging features provided through social media sites.



- **A coach may respond to a direct inquiry via text message or email from a athlete regarding logistics of practice times, cancellations, schedules, etc. but our coaches should strive to include another adult on messages whenever possible.**
- **Coaches and team representatives should avoid cell phone conversations with athletes to the greatest extent possible, and cell phone communications should only be used when absolutely necessary, and should only be U.S.T.A. related.**
- **When providing your contact information for personal business in social media, you should use your personal contact information (such as a personal email address), not your U.S.T.A. contact information.**
- **Respect privacy and confidentiality obligations when posting photos or videos. Before you post online video or photos that include images of athletes, it is your responsibility to obtain consent from their parent or guardian. If you fail to do so and they subsequently object, it is your responsibility to promptly take down or otherwise edit the posting in order to protect their privacy. U.S.T.A. will fully support those who wish to maintain their privacy in this regard.**

## **INTERNET SAFETY FOR ATHLETES**

- **Do not give anyone online, not even your coach or other parent volunteers, your phone numbers at home or school, your parents' workplaces, or the name or location of your school or home address unless you have your parents' permission first. Never give your password to anyone but a parent or other adult in your family.**
- **Do not participate in "one on one" conversations via email text message, or telephone with your coach for anything other than USTA related business.**
- **Do not participate in "one on one" conversations via Skype, Face book or other social media sites with your coach.**
- **If your coach or any other adult sends or shows you email or any type of direct message/wall post or text message with images or words that make you feel uncomfortable, do not respond. Tell a parent or trusted adult about the message or what happened.**
- **Tell a parent or guardian about any calls or texts you receive from a coach that discuss anything other than U.S.T.A. related issues.**
- **If your coach or any other adult tells you to keep what's going on between the two of you secret, tell a parent or guardian immediately.**
- **Be careful to whom you talk to on the Internet. If someone starts talking about subjects that make you feel uncomfortable, tell a parent or guardian. Keep in mind that a person you don't know who is trying to talk to you on the Internet could be an adult posing as a kid.**
- **Pay attention if someone tells you things that don't fit together. If one time an online "friend" says he or she is 12, and another time says he or she is 14. That is a warning that this person is lying and may be an adult posing as a kid.**
- **Unless you talk to a parent about it first, never talk to anybody by phone or text message if you know that person only online. If someone asks you to call—even if it's collect or a toll-free, 800 number—that's a warning. That person can get your phone number this way, either from a phone bill or from caller ID.**
- **Never agree to meet someone, including a coach or U.S.T.A. staff or volunteer, at any place off-line in the real world, unless you have a parent's permission.**
- **Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players or judges and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.**
- **Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications. Harassment is any offensive conduct based on a person's race, sex, gender identity, national origin, color, disability, age,**

**sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, religion or any other status identified by U.S.T.A. and protected by law.**

- **Posting is speaking in public. Don't post anything you wouldn't say at a public meeting representing U.S.T.A. or to the media.**
- **Be careful not to engage with posters who are commenting on matters related to the department's reputation. Please alert the social media manager if this is a concern.**
- **You will not post content that: is threatening, or pornographic; incites violence; or contains nudity or graphic or gratuitous violence.**

#### **INTERNET SAFETY FOR PARENTS**

- **Discuss internet safety, and the "Internet Safety for Athletes," section above, with your children.**
- **Let your children know that their coach, and other adults, should not communicate with them without your explicit knowledge and approval.**
- **Review your child's online and electronic communications as appropriate to minimize risk.**
- **Report any suspicious online or electronic communications to the club executive director as soon as possible.**
- **If appropriate, report any suspicious online or electronic communications to the appropriate authorities as soon as possible.**

# ETHICS HANDBOOK



# **ETHICS HANDBOOK**

**The Ethics Committee was established in 1990**

**October 2016 Revision**

The mission of the U.S.T.A. is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of trampoline and tumbling. The U.S.T.A. grants the privilege of membership to individuals committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn by the U.S.T.A. at any time where the U.S.T.A. determines that a member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

Members of the U.S.T.A. are charged with the responsibility for contributing to an environment which makes participation in the sport a positive and rewarding experience. In order to achieve that result, each professional member has special obligation to make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete.

A member of the U.S.T.A. has a responsibility to the sport of trampoline and tumbling which governs it. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to knowingly misrepresent the policies or actions of the U.S.T.A. or its authorized representatives.

Members of the U.S.T.A. must ensure that the sport is conducted in an environment free of drug or alcohol abuse.

As an Advisory Committee to the Executive Board, the Ethics Committees' purpose is to encourage willful adherence to Article III of the Articles of Incorporation of the United State Trampoline and Tumbling Association. The Articles and Bylaws are found in the U.S.T.A. Handbook. The committee pays specific attention to the sections of Article III.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PURPOSES AND POWERS**

- A. To perpetuate and improve the sport of trampoline and tumbling in all aspects.**
- B. To promote and encourage competition under the highest possible standards.**
- C. To protect the interest of the participants in all levels of trampoline and tumbling competition.**
- D. To give prompt attention to valid suggestions of how to improve the conduct and administration of trampoline and tumbling throughout the nation.**

It is the responsibility of the U.S.T.A. to improve, promote, encourage, and protect the competitive interest of all those affiliated with the organization. There will be action taken against those individuals who do not adhere to the rules of conduct set forth by the Ethics Committee.

The U.S.T.A. can withhold the privilege of any club, coach, athlete, or judge from participation in any U.S.T.A. sanctioned event. The U.S.T.A. may place on warning, probation, or suspension any member in violation of Articles or Code of Conduct. The U.S.T.A. has jurisdiction over all that encompasses competition. The U.S.T.A. is hopeful that its members shall conduct their business matters in a lawful and ethical manner. However, the U.S.T.A. has no jurisdiction on such issues.

## **CLUBS**

A club is defined in Article IV, section 1b of the by-laws of the U.S.T.A. The by-laws are found in the U.S.T.A. Handbook. Furthermore each club, by membership application does designate a coach or coaches as their representative to the U.S.T.A. The actions or lack thereof by said club shall be the responsibility of the coach or coaches.

#### **CLUBS WILL:**

- 1. Work within the framework of the U.S.T.A. for scheduling meets and other activities so as not to conflict with other scheduled activities in their state.**
- 2. Work in harmony with other clubs to promote and expand the U.S.T.A. membership as much as possible.**
- 3. Maintain their facilities and meet sites according to the safety guidelines required by the U.S.T.A.**
- 4. Keep their club, coach, and athletes U.S.T.A. memberships current prior to competition.**
- 5. Develop a social media (electronic communication) policy for their club, coaches, and athletes. Clearly outline the policy in team and staff manuals and cover the policy in staff meetings and in meetings with parents. Ensure that all parties involved know the policy. It is important to consider and define how to enforce the policy and what the consequences will be for the violations. Consider creating a separate Facebook or Twitter account, which is solely used for work matters, ensuring that unfavorable posts and photos do not appear on the page. The overarching rule of any communication should be that it is public and used for specific purposes, such as schedule changes and other announcements.**
- 6. Convey positive, respectful ethics within all contexts of social media. Negative communications and/or bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and may result in suspension.**

#### **COACHES**

Each coach should realize that they have a vital leadership role in the U.S.T.A. The success of their club, athletes, and parents' organization is dependent on their leadership qualities. The success of the U.S.T.A. is dependent on the strength of its clubs. It is the responsibility of this committee and the U.S.T.A. Executive Board to insist that its member coaches strive toward high standard of leadership qualities.

#### **COACHES WILL:**

- 1. Coach to the best of their ability, gain as much technical knowledge about the sport of tumbling and trampoline as possible.**
- 2. Conduct themselves with respect to other coaches, judges, athletes, and parents.**
- 3. Follow the chain of command with respect to meets and organizational matters as set down by the U.S.T.A.**
- 4. Reflect a positive attitude with all students, coaches, judges, and officials connected with the sport of tumbling and trampoline.**
- 5. Convey positive, respectful ethics within all contexts of social media. Negative communications and/or bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and may result in suspension.**
- 6. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or sleeping arrangements with an athlete alone (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that athlete) and the coach must have written permission in advance to travel with the athlete and what the hotel arrangements are. Anytime a coach is traveling one on one with an athlete to a competition or event, again you must have written permission by the parent or guardian, and it is recommended that you establish a 'buddy club' to associate with during the event and when away from the venue.**

**7. Coaches must uphold professional standards of conduct, clarify their professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior, and adapt their methods to the needs of different athletes. Curfews shall be established by the athlete's supervisor each day of the event. Coaches need to have a signed minor athlete medical treatment authorization and consent form for the athlete they are traveling with.**

**8. All chaperons for any USTA events must sign and agree to these rules before agreeing to chaperon any USTA events.**

**9. Failure to follow these rules will result in action being taken by the USTA Ethics Board and USTA Executive Board.**

#### **COACHES WILL NOT:**

**1. Engage in any behavior that is unlawful.**

**2. Approach other coaches' athletes for the purpose of adding them to their team and will not accept another club's members to their team without notifying the current coach. The coach should ask the athlete or their parent to talk to the coach. Then follow with a phone call or certified letter. An athlete is a free agent, but their former coach should not be subject to a surprise at the next meet.**

**3. Hold a team member in a lower level solely for the purpose of winning an event.**

**4. Be involved with any drug or alcohol abuse while coaching or during any U.S.T.A. sponsored event.**

**5. Contact students in private via social media - either by posting on their Facebook walls or direct messaging them. Communication on a public forum - such as a fan or business page is allowable, however.**

**6. Fraudulently use expired U.S.T.A. Numbers or the Numbers of another athlete.**

**7. Approach judges during a competition except to ask position of skill and must go to the Meet Director if they have a problem. Ethical complaints can be directed writing to the Ethics Committee Chair.**

**8. Display bad sportsmanship, use abusive language or gestures, or treat judges in a way intended to intimidate.**

**9. Use any form of social media for negative discourse when discussing the USTA, athletes, coaches, or judges.**

**10. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.**

**11. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence or a professional member's position as coach to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.**

**12. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.**

#### **SPECTATORS**

##### **SPECTATORS WILL:**

**1. Show respect for coaches, all athletes, judges, and other spectators.**

**2. Will follow standard guidelines of courtesy and safety for competition (that is, remaining in spectators' area, not interrupting the competition, not coaching or interfering from the stands).**

**3. Respect personal property of all coaches competitors, judges, clubs, and facilities.**

**4. Reflect a positive attitude with all athletes, coaches, judges, and officials connected with the sport of tumbling and trampoline.**

**5. Convey positive, respectful ethics within all contexts of social media. Negative communications and/or bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.**

**SPECTATORS WILL NOT:**

**1. Engage in any behavior that is unlawful.**

**2. Be involved with any drug or alcohol abuse.**

**3. Display bad sportsmanship, use abusive language, or abusive gestures.**

**4. Approach a judge to discuss justification of a call.**

**5. Use any form of social media for negative discourse when discussing the USTA, athletes, coaches, or judges.**

**JUDGES**

**JUDGES WILL:**

**1. Conduct themselves as stated in the guidelines of the N.T.J.C. Handbook.**

**2. Convey positive, respectful ethics within all contexts of social media. Negative communications and/or bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and may result in suspension.**

**JUDGES WILL NOT:**

**1. Use any form of social media for negative discourse when discussing the USTA, athletes, coaches, or judges.**

**2. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.**

**3. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence or a professional member's position as coach to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.**

**4. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.**

**ATHLETES**

**Athlete eligibility is also described in the by-laws. It should be noted that the U.S.T.A. has no jurisdiction over the business, working, or training choices of the membership. Furthermore, the U.S.T.A. will not engage in any actions that do not pertain to U.S.T.A. Competition. The U.S.T.A. shall determine competitive status by adherence to the by-laws and codes only.**

**ATHLETES WILL:**

**1. Follow standard guidelines of courtesy and safety for competition (i.e., not cutting in line at warm-ups, not taking extra turns after warm-up sessions are competed, not tumbling in non-designated areas, etc.)**



- 2. Reflect an attitude of respect with all athletes, coaches, judges, and officials connected with the sport of tumbling and trampoline.**
- 3. Respect personal property of all coaches, competitors, spectators, judges, clubs, and facilities.**
- 4. Refrain from behavior that creates an unnecessary distraction from the focus of the competition.**

**Which is:**

- 1. Athlete preparation**
- 2. Athlete competition**
- 3. Athlete awards**
- 5. Convey positive, respectful ethics within all contexts of social media. Negative communications and/or bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and may result in suspension.**

**ATHLETES WILL NOT:**

- 1. Engage in any behavior that is unlawful.**
- 2. Be involved with any drug or alcohol abuse.**
- 3. Display bad sportsmanship, use abusive language, or abusive gestures.**
- 4. Approach a judge to discuss justification of a call.**
- 5. Use any form of social media for negative discourse when discussing the USTA, athletes, coaches, or judges.**

**ETHICS COMMITTEE - RULES OF ACTION**

**1. Reporting Unethical Actions to the Committee Chairperson.**

**A. Any U.S.T.A. Executive Board Member may send either:**

- 1. Signed, written documentation**
- 2. Video-taped documentation**

**B. U.S.T.A. Coaches or Judge may send either**

- 1. A written document signed by 3 Coaches or Judges**
- 2. Video-taped documentation**

**C. Any Individual may send**

- 1. Video-taped documentation**

**D. Any N.T.J.C. Judge may**

- 1. Make a written complaint on the Judges' Report for the Meet Director**

**a. The Meet Director can obtain signature from two other coaches and report as A.1.**

**E. The Meet Director does not need to obtain signatures for infractions they were witness to. They may send either**

**1. Signed, written documentation**

**2. Video-taped documentation**

**Members should be very careful in the way in which video taping is done. Any video recording of an individual without their written consent is a violation of the Right to Privacy Act. Passive recording of an individual while recording an event such as at a meet would be less likely labeled as stalking.**

## **II. Actions of Ethics Committee Chairperson**

**A. Matters deemed time imperative are taken directly to the Executive Board.**

**1. Action chosen by Executive Board**

**2. Committee Chair reports action and documentation to Committee Members.**

**B. A certified or return/receipt letter will be sent.**

**1. Outlining the complaint**

**2. Requesting written response to be postmarked within 10 days of notification**

**C. Upon receipt of response, the Ethics Committee Chairperson will submit proposal for further action to the members.**

**1. No response within 10 days by Ethics Committee Members shall be considered agreement with proposed action**

**2. Member response will be distributed to all members and then taken to the Executive Board for further action. See section A above.**

**D. If no response is received by the deadline. The Ethical Committee Chairperson will issue a second certified letter after attempting to verify address by telephone.**

**1. Requesting a response**

**2. Issuing a mandate for resolution in which describes the action that is required in order to avoid penalties.**

**E. In the event the second letter does not elicit a response, the Ethics Committee Chairperson will send a third certified letter.**

**1. Notification - no longer in good standing with the U.S.T.A.**

**2. Cannot attend, judge, or compete in any sanction U.S.T.A. meet until resolution is made.**

**F. Copies of all correspondence will be send to all members of the Executive Board.**

**III. Once a problem period has expired, records will be kept on file for review in the event other offensives occur.**

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

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