

American Turners National Festival News

The NHPEC had their annual meeting in Ft. Wayne in May. The main focus was preparing for the National Festival to take place July 24-27, 2019 in Ft. Wayne. It's time for you to start planning on making the trip and get your body fit for the competition.

Co-Ed Volleyball will be offered again, so start gathering some players to form a team. Basic rules will be - Each team must have a minimum of 2 male and 2 female players on the court and all players must rotate positions. Three Age groups: 11-17, 18 & over, and a Senior Division, which is 50+ for women and 55+ for men. If you don't have enough for a team you will be able to join others at the Festival to form a conglomerate team.

Gymnastics - Women ages 7-29 will have the option of competing either the USAG Jr. Olympic levels 3, 4 & 5, or use the USAG Xcel format with levels Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Anyone who is not involved in the USAG J.O. program will be able to easily follow the Xcel format. For more information go to usagym.org and look for Xcel Program under Women's section. If you have any questions regarding the rules for Xcel feel free to contact me for clarification.

Sr. Women now have another option for vaulting. Ages 30-59 can do the J.O. Level 3 vault on a minimum of a 32" mat stack and women 60+ can do a straight jump onto a 16" mat stack. Of course, you still can vault over the vaulting "horse" or "table". Pommel Horse and Parallel Bars are an option for Sr. Women 50+. Please note, you may do either Parallel Bars OR Uneven Bars – not both.

Pickleball has become very popular and we want to offer this as a new event at the Festival. Each Society may enter as many Pickleball teams as they like. Each participant must be at least 18 years old. Teams will consist of two players, any gender. No specific uniform is required. Age groups are 18-54 and 55+. Competitors age 55+ can play in the 18-54 age group, but competitors age 18-54 cannot play in the 55+ age group. Games played to 11 points, with a win by 2 points. Format will be based on number of teams entered. All other rules to follow USAPA. Detailed rules can be found on the USAPA website or in the American Turner Supplemental Handbook (revised for the 2019 Festival) on our website.

Festival Transportation Fund – The Jahn Fund is once again financially supporting a Transportation Fund, but the really good news is that it will be for children and adults. The way it is calculated to determine the amount each member receives will be published soon.