Club Programs for College Gymnastics

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www.NAIGC.net
College club gymnastics is a growing part of the national gymnastics scene

The programs support growth in the greater USAG JO and NCAA programs

Athletes and gym clubs have opportunities to get involved right away
What is college club gymnastics?

• **College teams are formed by groups of students**
  – Typically hold an “official” status as a club team at the university
  – Either with or without funding from the university

• **College club is competitive gymnastics**
  – Athletes compete under USAG JO level 9 rules at meets nation-wide
  – The competition season culminates in a national championship

• **Athletes come from a wide range of backgrounds**
  – Most athletes come from USAG JO and high-school optional programs
  – However, the program also supports those without experience
College club gymnastics forms a natural extension of optional level gymnastics

• **Athletes compete under USAG JO level 9 rules**
  – Most meets are judged by members of the judges associations
  – Routines include a wide range of beginning to advanced skills

• **NAIGC National Championships**
  – Hosted in a different city each year
  – Three days of competition

• **Provides opportunities for gymnasts to continue into college**
  – Is a great option for athletes when no NCAA program exists
  – Also widens access to athletes when scholarships become scarce
Over 650 competitors from 57 teams march in at the start of the 2010 NAIGC National Championships, hosted by Texas State University. The championship meet represents the culmination of club gymnastics across the county, and the successful growth over the past few years.
The National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs

- The NAIGC is a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to support collegiate gymnastics clubs in the United States
  - Primarily responsible for organizing the marketing of college clubs
  - Sets and interprets the rules for competitions

- Is the largest of the college club groups
  - Also works with some of the other college organizations
  - Is independent of NCAA and CGA programs

- Membership in the NAIGC is open to any club team
  - Must be college-aged participants affiliated with a college or university
  - Membership is available regardless of experience or current ability
Club gymnastics is a national level program

- There are over 100 universities nationwide with NAIGC club teams
  - Most teams are supported by the university sports and athletics departments
  - Some club teams are also supported by “parent” NCAA teams
  - A few teams are supported only by a USAG gym club

- Most clubs typically host a meet
  - Smaller meets can be just a few universities
  - Larger meets often pull from universities nationwide

- Is increasing in visibility
  - More and more recognition by universities
  - Is beginning to become a factor in freshman recruiting
Locations of NAIGC National Championships
The NAIGC growth over past few years has been phenomenal

- The NAIGC is growing at a rapid rate every year
  - The last three years saw the highest growth rate so far
  - Twelve new clubs joined the NAIGC last year
  - Seven new clubs joined the NAIGC in 2010 alone
  - This indicates and upward trend in the growth of the NAIGC

- There is significant growth in participation at National Championships

  Although only 57 club teams participated in NAIGC Nationals in 2010, there are many more club teams registered as active.

  As of August 2010, there were exactly 100 teams registered.
Club gymnastics is already well established in the East...

Sample of East Schools
- Emory University
- Miami University
- Purdue
- University of Virginia
- James Madison University (JMU)
- Texas State University
- MIT
- Boston University
- Cornell University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Florida State University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Indiana University
- Northwestern
- Ohio State University
- Penn State University
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University
- Tulane University
- Etc...
....and is growing in the West

West Coast Schools
• UC Berkeley
• UC Davis
• UC Santa Cruz
• Oregon State University
• Washington State University
• Boise State University

Future West Coast Schools
• University of Nevada, Las Vegas
• San Jose State University
• University of Arizona
• UCLA
• Etc...
Region 1 has many schools that could support a club program:

**California**
- CalPoly, San Luis Obispo
- Cal State, Bakersfield
- Cal State, Fullerton
- Cal State, Northridge
- **University of California, Berkeley**
- California State University, Fresno
- California State University, Long Beach
- Loyola Marymount University
- University of the Pacific
- Pepperdine University
- California State University, Sacramento
- Saint Mary's College of California
- University of San Diego
- San Diego State University
- University of San Francisco
- San Jose State University
- Santa Clara University
- Stanford University
- **University of California, Davis**
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California

**Hawaii**
- University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Arizona**
- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- **Northern Arizona State University**

**Nevada**
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The NCAA Division I generally represents those universities with the highest levels of support for athletics.

Of the 30 DI schools in Region I, only three have NAIGC teams.
Purpose of the NAIGC
The purpose of the NAIGC is to expand opportunities for participation in the sport of gymnastics and to promote interaction among collegiate gymnastics clubs by providing structure for competition on local, regional, and national levels; facilitating communication; and building a community of support and camaraderie that encourages sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork, and fun.
College club gymnastics provides opportunities at all levels

• **Athletes have more options to continue the sport after high school**
  – Particularly for athletes that wouldn’t otherwise be eligible for NCAA
  – Forms a natural extension of optional level gymnastics

• **Provides a stronger business case to USAG JO programs**
  – Can retain more athletes when more college programs exist
  – Can also advertise their gym if they host a college club team

• **A stronger base will strengthen the existing NCAA programs**
  – USAG JO programs will retain more athletes when more college programs exist
  – Colleges will support larger gymnastics programs when more interest exists
Club Gymnastics fills a “missing gap” in our national gymnastics program

- Highest skilled athletes
- Receives the most funding
- Emphasis towards FIG rules

- Widest range of participation
- University or USAG club sponsored
- Emphasis towards level 9/10 rules

- Developmental program
- Entirely by USAG Club
- Still a profit driven model
Growth of this sport is in effectively messaging the opportunities that exist

• Gym clubs need to be aware of their role in supporting college programs
  – Gym clubs have the opportunity to start teams at local universities
  – Can use these teams to better market the gym and retain students
  – Experience the benefits of an additional team to the gym’s programs

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"The spirit of the collegiate club competition/participation was confirmed by consensus. The NAIGC was formed to encourage and promote maximum participation for gymnasts who are not members of collegiate varsity teams. Our purpose is to encourage participation and competition, not limit it."

-Ken Conner
Joining or starting a new NAIGC club team is easy

• **Athletes are welcome to join any one of the many existing teams**
  – Most club teams do not require “try-outs”
  – Can be as easy as reaching out to a student representative of the club

• **But it is just as easy to start a new team if none already exists**
  – Not all clubs are officially sponsored by the university – many are organized through USAG gymnastics clubs
  – Many teams have a mix of coaching – some being coached full time, while others are purely student led
  – A search for “gymnastics” on facebook can form an initial team
  – New club teams are often the encouragement for other nearby schools to start a team
  – Interested groups can check out the “new club kit” at www.NAIGC.net
We expect continued growth in the program

• **Better integration with USAG gym club programs**
  – More USAG gym clubs hosting NAIGC teams
  – Using NAIGC teams to promote the USAG JO program

• **Stronger infrastructure of organized meets**
  – Better registration and support for local clubs hosting their own meets
  – New qualification standards at national championships

• **Better recruiting and awareness programs for athletes**
  – Athletes should be made aware that opportunities exist for them
  – Colleges and universities should be made aware that club gymnastics exists as a way to add our great sport back into their athletic programs without significant cost
There is an enormous range of skills both within the league and within the teams themselves. Some clubs are former varsity teams which just got cut, while others are clubs that are just starting and trying to get their feet wet. As for the individuals, some have never done gymnastics before while others have been doing it their entire lives, even training and competing at an elite level.
Key Contact Information

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Websites to Learn More

www.NAIGC.net

Berkeley: CalGymnasticsClub.com
UC Santa Cruz: SlugGymnastics.com
UC Davis: UCDGymnasticsClub.com

There is a listing of current clubs across the nation, along with more contact info, at NAIGC.net

New club information kit is available at NAIGC website at www.NAIGC.net