



**2009 WOMEN'S JR. OLYMPIC  
NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (JO-NIT)  
Held in conjunction with the Jr. Olympic National Championships**

**Dates:** May 8 Training Day 8:00 – 10:30 am  
May 9 Competition Day (4 sessions: 8:55, 12:10, 3:10 & 6:40)

**Site:** Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin, Dallas, TX 75202

**What is the JO-NIT?**

Only 448 athletes out of the almost 1500 Level 10's competing at the State Championships level have the opportunity to qualify to the Jr. Olympic National Championships. The JO-NIT was developed to allow an additional 192 athletes an opportunity to compete at the National level.

In many of the largely populated regions, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> ranked gymnasts often achieve a very high AA score but do not qualify to JO Nationals. Sometimes an excellent athlete has made uncharacteristic mistakes at the Regional Championships and doesn't qualify to Nationals. This new competition will allow these excellent athletes another chance to participate on the National level.

For the athletes who are in High School and aspiring to earn a college scholarship, this competition will also provide them with an opportunity to perform their routines for the NCAA coaches who will already be in attendance for JO Nationals. Last year, almost every collegiate coach stayed on Sunday to watch this competition for recruiting purposes.

**Who qualifies?**

Gymnasts ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> All-Around in each of the 8 age divisions at the Level 10 Regional Championships qualify (provided they achieve a minimum AA of 34.00), plus any Regional Individual Event champions who did not qualify to JO Nationals or the JO-NIT in the AA will qualify on that event.

After the number of accepted petitioned athletes is determined, the remaining slots (maximum of 64) and any slots not filled by a region will be filled by other regions based on a percentage of percentage from Regional Championships.

**How does this work? I'm an alternate to JO Nationals & a qualifier to the JO-NIT?**

Athletes ranking #8 and #9 (and any ties for 9<sup>th</sup>) at Regionals are considered the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> alternates for their age division and region for JO Nationals. Most regions encourage their alternates to attend the competition in the event that an injury occurs last minute to one of the Regional Team members. Those athletes who have invested in the travel to the National competition now will definitely have an opportunity to compete in the JO-NIT if they are not needed to replace an injured athlete from their region.

**Who can petition?**

Level 10 athletes who are unable to compete in the Regional meet due to injury or illness and who have participated at either the previous year's JO Nationals or Level 9 Easterns/Westerns **and** have also achieved a 36.00 AA score or better as a Level 10 **in the current year** may petition to enter the JO-NIT.

Necessary Documentation: Doctor's verification of injury/illness and release to full activity, verification of 36.00 AA score from current season, and verification of competition at the 2009 JO Nationals or L9 East/West Championships.



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**Petition Deadline?**

Petitions to the JO-NIT must be sent electronically to the National Technical Committee Chairman Cheryl Hamilton ([cherylh001@aol.com](mailto:cherylh001@aol.com)) and Tom Koll, National JO Committee Chairman ([tkoll60@msn.com](mailto:tkoll60@msn.com)) NO LATER THAN the Monday prior to Regionals (April 5, 2010).

**How do I enter the JO-NIT?**

Athletes ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Regionals will be placed on the JO Nationals entry list as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate. No entry fee is paid to the JO Nationals meet host. If you (or any other additional qualifiers from your region) wish to enter the JO-NIT competition, you must indicate that at the Regional meet and your club must **enter you online as a club entry NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**. The entry fee is the same as JO Nationals - \$100. If you are called in to compete in JO Nationals, your entry fee will be automatically forwarded to the JO Nationals Meet host, Metroplex Gymnastics.

The link to the JO-NIT club registration is:

<http://www2.usa-gymnastics.org/membership/club-group-processing.html>

DEADLINE: Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Alternates for the JO-NIT: The next two athletes in each region (#10-11, unless the region has more qualifiers due to the percentage) are named as alternates to the JO-NIT. If any of the JO-NIT qualifiers declines or needs to replace a JO National qualifier, we will call upon the next athlete in line to compete at the JO-NIT.

**Questions??**

**Contact Connie Maloney, Women's JO Program Director, at 317/829-5628 or [cmaloney@usa-gymnastics.org](mailto:cmaloney@usa-gymnastics.org)**