



### ***A Message from Pat Panichas and Jamie Winkler***

Dear Members,

There has been much discussion regarding the Mat Stack for Level 6 and 7 vaulting. All of us on the JO and Technical Committees apologize for this confusion.

There is presently conflict on this issue within the two documents governing the rules.

Unfortunately, when developing the rules on the specifications for Level 6/7 vaulting Code of Points, it was inadvertently left off that landing simply on the soft 32" port-a-pit (as is NOW **acceptable** in the Level 3 Mat stack) would be allowed. Understand there is NOTHING **OFFICIAL** we can do at this time to fix either document.

According to our highest document governing the rules for our program, the Women's Program *Operating Code*, **no one** is allowed to make "official" changes during the season after the annual meeting. This Mat Stack issue is on the agenda for the joint Technical and JO meeting in May, and we guarantee the issue will be resolved in writing at that time.

For the interim time until the May meeting, it is strongly encouraged that we all do what is in the best interest of the athletes. This will require each of us to use our best judgment. We want the judges and coaches to follow the rules; however, please understand not every scenario can be thought of when creating the rules. New concepts generally provide challenges at first. This must remain our main focus.

Regarding the landing on a Mat Stack whether it be Level 3,6,or 7, we want our athletes safe and a possible landing position on the back on a hard surface such as a competition landing mat or inflatable surface as the top layer would **NOT** be safe or in the best interest of the athlete. With that said, if the host club provides a soft 32" port-a-pit mat set up (which is listed as the minimum height for Levels 6/7) for the vault. this IS safe and should be considered as such.

Again, we hope the community has patience and consider common practice of landing surfaces as we navigate through new changes set in place to help our athletes.

Please feel to reach out to me if you would like to discuss it.

Thank you,  
Pat Panichas (WTCC) and Jamie Winkler (JOCC)