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**Wisconsin**

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## **Wisconsin Education Program**

*"This program will create a culture of teamwork... fun... learning... and success in Wisconsin."*

April 12th, 2017 by Justin Slife

1. **Building the Four Part Educational Pyramid** (Long Term Goal)
2. **Defining & Understanding the State Developmental Model**  
(Working Together as ONE)
3. **Wisconsin State Educational Plans & Goals** (Short Term Goals)

# 1. Building the Four Part Educational Pyramid (Long Term Goal)

Wisconsin Gymnastics will adopt a four part educational pyramid. Building this pyramid is a vital part of the plan... it is our primary “long term” goal. The pyramid will be built from the ground up... the different levels of the structure are described below...

- **Culture** - Culture is a positive state spirit of teamwork... fun... learning... and success. Once a culture is created... it is a brand that can be marketed.
- **Education** - Education is for those that believe that learning never ends. Education can and will be provided for anything that will help us achieve our state goals no matter how small or large those goals may be.
- **Performance** - Performance is a high level testing and development system for our coaches and their athletes. This system will help us make sure that our state is setting and meeting standards at all stages of competitive gymnastics. This section of our education program will contain our Wisconsin TOPS program as well as “High Performance” camps.
- **Results** - Results are simply the outcome of all of our hard work. Ultimately... we are a state that is looking for results on the National & International levels. Positive results will be announced at the Wisconsin State Banquet each year.



## 2. Defining & Understanding the State Developmental Model (Working Together as ONE)

Why do we need a developmental model? - We want to make sure that everyone is on the same page so that the educational opportunities that we provide are meaningful. By having a clear model... no one will be confused as to the focus of the education being provided for each level or program. The developmental model aims to get everyone on the same page so we can work together as ONE team.




Understanding the development model (again starting with the base and working up)...

- **Foundation (FUN)** - Preschool and recreational athletes. Beginner athletes that are exploring gymnastics for fun by taking preschool or recreational gymnastics classes at a local club. The foundation level of gymnastics looks to help better skills that will help with all sports such as balance, speed, agility, strength, flexibility, etc.
- **Participation (TRAIN & COMPETE TO PROGRESS)** - JO Compulsory, Xcel, TOPS & Wisconsin TOPS athletes. This area of gymnastics needs to be FUN. While some of these programs are competitive... we should never sacrifice progress for winning at these levels. Athletes should be monitored on a regular basis to find athletes ready to move to the performance level.
- **Performance (TRAIN & COMPETE TO WIN)** - JO Optional and HOPEs athletes. Competitive gymnastics at a high level. Participation with a noticeable commitment to improving performance. While progressing is still important... the drive to WIN becomes very real at this level of the pyramid. Coaches are very talented but may or may not have sport science knowledge or access many resources.
- **Excellence (SPORT AS A LIFESTYLE FOR THE USA)** - Elite athletes. Only a limited few ever reach this level of performance. International competition with the ultimate goal of winning gold medals at the Olympic Games and World Championships. Athletes at

this level must have professional coaches with great knowledge of sport science. Elite athletes and coaches need a network of support and access to a large resource pool. Elite athletics is a lifestyle that requires much sacrifice.

### 3. Wisconsin State Educational Plans & Goals (Short Term Goals)

- Plans For CULTURE (GOAL: Create a Culture)

- **Queen of Culture:** Kelly Zimdars
- **Logos & Color (branding):** Submit state tertiary logo to USAG for approval. State logo must match USAG logo colors so “USAG red” was chosen for our state color. Logos & color will be part of everything we do from the websites to state leotards and apparel.
- **Motto:** “FORWARD”... this is the same as our state motto and is very fitting for Wisconsin Gymnastics.
- **Hand Signal:** Using both hands... form a “W” by putting the thumbs together and extending the index finger on each side. This hand signal will be used to cheer on the state.  

- **Wisconsin Chant:** “Let’s Go Wisco!”
- **Website:** The state website will be updated to include our logos and color. The website will also be updated to more effectively communicate information as well and recognize clubs, athletes, coaches, judges, etc. for special accomplishments.
- **Social Media:** The primary forms of social media that the state will be using are Instagram and Facebook. Currently there are no other social media platforms that reach our target market better than these two.
- **Recognition:** The state will be recognizing clubs and individuals for their accomplishments on a more regular basis.
- **Wisconsin State Awards Banquet:** Open to all USAG professional and instructor members in the state. Athletes that are being recognized will be invited to the banquet also. Professional and instructor members will be allowed to bring their spouse. Athletes will be allowed to bring two parents. Once a date is set... tickets will go on sale.
- **Communication:** Our state culture will be one of constant communication. This communication will help us push the goals of the state.
- **Goals & Standards:** The state will have goals & standards... these goals & standards will be one of the primary focuses of our culture. We are looking to move “FORWARD” to become one of the most respected states in USA Gymnastics. LET’S GO WISCO!



- **Plans For EDUCATION (GOAL: Provide Education to All)**
  - **Educational Heads: Justin Slife, Jay Murphy, Kelly Zimdars**
  - Flipping Education clinic on Sunday, July 9th. Cost to state is \$5,000. Attendees will pay \$25 to attend. For this fee a Wisconsin Gymnastics t-shirt and lunch will be provided. During lunch... an informational flyer on Wisconsin Gymnastics and our goals will be distributed.
  - Wisconsin (WI) TOPS is a program that we will be developing to help soften the entry point of the TOPS program. WI TOPS tests will be held year round with extra help available to coaches and athletes participating in the program. TOPS is a fantastic educational program that we are looking to get more clubs and coaches involved with.
  - Develop a state performance camp system that will help us keep track of our standards, create our culture, while providing high level gymnastics education. Proposed camps include: WI TOPS / TOPS, Hot Shot (athletes under a certain age meeting certain criteria), High Performance (L9/10 athletes), Compulsory to Optional (what to work to get compulsories to optionals), Optional Camp (L6/7/8... L9/10 are welcome but this camp is for beginner optionals)
  - We are also trying to organize a clinic to help develop high level uneven bars in the state. All of the education heads have agreed that Wisconsin is very weak on bars.
  - Develop a “bring your athlete(s)” style clinic for all levels where the focus is education of our coaches on not athlete performance or the testing of standards. This clinic would be open to all in the state. Each club would be able to bring a limited number of athletes.
- **Plans for PERFORMANCE (GOAL: Set Goals... Set Standards Based On Our Goals... Develop a Camp Structure to Maintain & Test Our Standards)**
  - **Performance Head: Justin Slife**
  - Goals must be discussed at May 12th board meeting. Suggested goals are below...
    - Increase number of L10's in the state to a specific number such as 50.
    - Increase number of athletes qualifying to Nationals & Westerns to a specific number such as 50.
    - Increase number of top 10 event and AA finishes at Nationals & Westerns to a specific number such as 50.
    - Win Super 8, Level 9 & Level 10 at Regionals.
  - Standards will be set based on the goals that we set on May 12th. Standards are suggested skill sets & physical abilities that we are looking for at each level in order to achieve our goals.
  - Develop a state performance camp system that will help us keep track of our standards so we can achieve our goals. This camp system will help create a positive state culture while providing high level gymnastics education.
    - Actual camps must be discussed at May 12th board meeting. Proposed camps include...
      - WI TOPS / TOPS / HOPES
      - Hot Shot (athletes under a certain age meeting certain criteria)
      - High Performance (L9/10 athletes)
      - Compulsory to Optional (what to work to get compulsories to optionals)



- Optional Camp (L6/7/8... L9/10 are welcome but this camp is for beginner optionals)
- **RESULTS (GOAL: Recognize Positive Results... Solidify 2017 State Banquet)**
  - **Results Head: TEAM WISCONSIN**
  - Each year our positive results will be gone over at our state banquet.
  - Results will be reviewed to see if changes need to be made to our state plan.
  - State awards banquet must be discussed and solidified at May 12th board meeting.



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