

HISTORY OF THE 2 PIECE CHAMPIONSHIPS



When the competition was first introduced in 2009 it was a national championship in its own right. It was established to encourage schools with girls' teams who found it difficult to compete well over all five of the demanding disciplines needed for the 5 Piece competition. Gymnasts in this new competition were only required to learn the rules of the Set Floor and Voluntary Vault. The top six teams in each age group from the previous 5 Piece Championships, apart from U9s, were not allowed to enter. Soon afterwards, it also became used as a qualifying competition for the 5 Piece championships if an age category was over-subscribed which was becoming more prevalent.

Port Regis School in Dorset hosted the first 2 Piece Championships with four girls' age categories, U10, U11, U13 & O13. Two years later the U15 age group was added. The U9 girls' category was catered for at a different venue and date, starting in Oct 2010 at Holmewood House in Tunbridge Wells. It remained a separate competition until it was absorbed into the main 2 Piece weekend, at Stamford in Lincolnshire, in Oct 2015.

In September 2014-2015 ISGA became co-educational and boys were introduced into the organisation. In November 2014 the Blue Coat School, Birmingham hosted the first boys' 2 Piece category, with U11's. The same season a new competition was founded, called the 4 Piece National Premier Championships for boys and the 4 Piece National Challenge Cup for the girls, (no group sequence). This was designed to cater for our growing membership of new schools, schools for whom gymnastics is a minor sport and schools who for various reasons were unable to qualify and participate in the 5 Piece Premier competition.

In 2015 at the 7th 2 Piece Championship in Stamford, an U9 Challenge Cup section was instigated for schools wanting to follow the slightly easier 4 Piece Girls' Challenge Cup route for their youngest gymnasts. At the same weekend two more boys categories were added, U9 and U13's. This brought the total to seven girls sections following the 5 Piece Premier route, plus one U9 challenge section following the 4 Piece girls' route, and three national age groups for the boys' competitions.

In 2018, at the 10th championships, the number of entries in the girls' championships had grown to such a point where it became necessary for two more Challenge Cup categories to be added, U10's & U11's, depending whether schools were choosing the 4 Piece January competition to follow on to or the 5 Piece March competition. Approximately 840 individual gymnasts competed in 125 teams representing 57 senior and junior independent schools around the UK and British schools from both Netherlands and Belgium.

ISGA Annual National Competitions

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| 1. <u>5 Piece Premier Girls National Championships.</u> | Held in March, started in 1979 |
| Set and vol. floor, set and vol. vault & group seq. | U9,U10,U11,U13, U15, O13 age groups |
| 2. <u>4 Piece Premier Boys National Championships.</u> | Held in January, started in 2015 |
| Set and voluntary floor, set and voluntary vault. | U9, U11, U13 age groups |
| 3. <u>4 Piece Girls National Challenge Cup.</u> | Held in January, started in 2015 |
| Set and vol. floor, set and vol. vault. | U9, U11, U13 age groups |
| 4. <u>2 Piece Girls National Championships.</u> | Held in November, started in 2009 |
| Set floor and vol. vault. | Girls U9, U10, U11, U13, U15, O13 age groups |
| 5. <u>2 Piece Boys National Championships</u> | Held in November, started in 2014 |
| Set floor and vol. vault. | Boys U9, U11, U13 age groups |