



## **National Elite Committee Minutes**

**Conference Call  
November 5, 2009**

**1. Call-to-Order 10:00pm, November 5, 2009**

**2. Roll Call**

Ivaylo Katsov – National Elite Committee Chairman  
Marie Annonson – West Coast Training Center  
Linda Meier – Aerial Tumbling & Acrobatics  
David Reiakvam – Empire  
Bob Meier – Program Committee Chairman  
Kari Duncan – National Technical Committee Chairman  
Selena Peco – National Junior Olympic Committee Chairman  
Tom Housley – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director

**3. Chairman Opening Remarks**

Ivaylo Katsov thanked members of the elite sub-group, Marie Annonson, Linda Meier, and David Reiakvam, for their time, hard work, and expertise on the level elite program level mobility. On behalf of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee, Ivaylo believes the proposal is smart, well throughout and great starting point.

**4. Dilemma - Progression from Junior 11-16 to Junior Elite: 11-19 Level Mobility**

The gap from Junior 11-16 to Junior Elite has become apparently difficult for pair-groups especially for developing clubs and coaches. The sub-group was created to develop a system to help bridge the gap between Junior 11-16 and Junior Elite in the United States Acrobatic Gymnastics Program.

**5. Purpose – Progression and Skills Testing**

The purpose of the 11-19 skills testing is to guide coaches early on in the pair-groups career to ensure successful preparation for Junior Elite and Senior level. In 2010, 11-19 level mobility will be a means by which athletes, competing in the elite program, skills test from Junior 11-16 to Junior Elite. The 11-19 will be implemented for athletes in the Elite Program. 11-19 level mobility will follow the guidelines for skills testing as outlined in the Rules and Policies with the exception of pass/fail criteria. The sub-group is charged to develop and create criteria/parameters for pass/fail.

**6. 11-19 Level Mobility Methodology**

The sub-group proposes to have multiple categories, allowing the personal coach to tailor skills to match the specific attributes of his/her athletes. Required skills will be broader compared to the Junior Olympic Program due to the higher level of skills FIG 12-19 pair-groups must perform to be within medal contention on the international scene. The goal is to increase the value of mandatory skills, thusly limiting the total number of skills per routine --in short; fewer skills with higher value. Required elements will be specific to each event.

## **Elite Committee minutes (continued)**

### **7. Recommendation – 12-19 Skills Testing**

Increase difficulty of each routine to the meet minimum difficult level of FIG Age Group 12-19, minus the value of individuals (value 10). Balance value 80. Dynamic value 60.

### **8. Recommendation**

All athletes within the current partnership must have competition experience at Level 9 (JOP) or higher prior to competing Junior 11-16 (EP).

### **9. Next Step**

The sub-group will continue to develop criteria for each event with priority focused on Women's Pair, Men's Pair, Mixed Pair, and Women's Group. Men's Group will be completed at a later date and time. The sub-group will present the material prior to the National Athlete Development Camp. Implementation is set for Jan 2010.

### **10. Deadline**

The Elite Committee Chairman set a deadline for the elite sub-group to complete the task. The deadline is December 14.

### **11. Future consideration/discussion**

- More discussion on the pros/cons of implementing 11-19 as a training level solely within the elite program specifically in the off-year of the World Championships.
  - i. Impact on USA and Internationally -
- Age restrictions to meet 11-19 – age band between youngest and oldest athlete
  - i. Year 2011 - youngest is 10
  - ii. Year 2012 – youngest is 12

Meeting adjourned at 10:57pm

*Approved by the Elite Sub-Group 11/11/2009  
Approved by USA Gymnastics, Steve Penny*