

## SECTION VII: SENIOR ELITE PROGRAM

**New additions are highlighted**

### I. U.S. National Championships – Senior Division

Qualification procedures, competition rules and format will be posted on the USA Gymnastics web site at [www.usa-gymnastics.org](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org).

Eligibility:

1. A gymnast must be at least 16 years old in the year of the Championships.
2. Coaches must be safety certified, passed a background check and a professional member of USA Gymnastics Men's Program to be on the competitive floor.

### II. Trials for Olympic Games, Pan American Games and World Championships

The MPC shall determine and the USA Gymnastics President and the USA Gymnastics Executive Committee will approve the qualification procedures for the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships Trials and Team.

The USA Gymnastics shall publish the qualification procedures on the USA Gymnastics web site and/or in *Technique* magazine six months prior to the event.

The qualification procedures are subject to change when associated with scheduling, competition format and structure of organizing committees.

### III. Senior National Team

#### A. Selection

1. Senior National Team members are selected each year at the U.S. National Championships and Winter Cup
2. The MPC will determine the criteria and selection procedures for open National Team positions. These procedures will be published on the USA Gymnastics web site and/or in *Technique Magazine*.
3. The MPC determines the total number of the National Team members. The Committee may change the total number every year.
4. The MPC has the right to place an athlete on the National Team in an unranked position through petition.

#### B. Rankings

1. The Men's Program Committee may or may not rank the members of the Senior National Team. Any national team ranking will be based on the competitive results from either the U.S. Championships or the trials for Olympic Games, World Championships or Pan American Games
2. The MPC may leave unranked the gymnast(s) on the National Team who are added by petition or do not compete in the trials.

#### C. Training Camps

Members of the Senior Team and their personal coaches are expected to attend all training camps provided by the USA Gymnastics Men's Program. Unauthorized absence from training camps may result in suspension from the National Team.

#### D. International Events

The MPC will assign Senior National Team members to various international and invitational meets at its discretion. All assignments must be approved by USA Gymnastics.

#### E. Coaches for Events

The MPC will assign coaches to various international and invitational meets at its discretion. All assignments must be approved by USA Gymnastics.

### IV. Petitioning Procedures

#### A. Petitions

1. The petition form should be used for all petitions.
2. The petition form shall be completed with official statements and signatures of the gymnast, the gymnast's coach, and the examining physician.
3. The petition form is included in these Rules and Policies in the Appendices. It is also available from the USA Gymnastics office.
4. The original copy is mailed to the Men's Program Director, one copy retained by the coach, and another retained by the gymnast.
5. All petitions will be reviewed by the MPC. The voting members of the MPC will approve or reject each petition.
6. The MPC will not accept a petition if it is not fully completed and officially documented as instructed.
7. The deadline for receiving petitions must be submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics' national office at the time the athlete becomes aware of his inability to participate in the applicable competition. The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance, which prohibited the athlete from participating in the competitive process. In the case of a petition based upon an injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a physician's statement, and the nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a neutral doctor selected by USA Gymnastics.
8. Qualification events and trial events may have different petition requirements. Please refer to event selection procedures published on the USA Gymnastics web site or in *Technique* magazine for exact requirements.
9. The Men's Program Director will notify the gymnast's coach of the Committee's decision.
10. The MPC may consider petitions for the following:
  - a. Final trials for the Pan American Games, Olympic Games and World Championships.
  - b. U. S. National Championships, Winter Cup Challenge or National Qualifier.
11. Acceptance by the MPC of any petition to U.S. National Championships or trial events will not exclude a competitor qualifying through competition. The petitioned athlete will be an additional athlete.

### V. HIV Statement

Human Immune deficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This virus causes a gradual weakening of the immune system, eventually resulting in infections, cancer, and death. Gymnastics is in the lowest risk category of Olympic Sports and, to date, no documented cases of HIV transmission between athletes have been reported. However, prudence dictates that the following precautions be taken.

- A. Athletes, who have open lesions, wounds, dermatitis, and so forth, should cover the area with a dressing that will prevent contamination from other sources.
- B. Competitions should be interrupted when an athlete has a wound in which a large amount of exposed blood is present, to allow the bleeding to be stopped and the athlete to be cleaned.

- C. Surfaces contaminated with blood or body fluid should be cleaned after each use, or more often if needed with a solution known to inactivate the virus (sodium hypochlorite, better known as household bleach, at 1:10 dilution).

For more information, please refer to the USA Gymnastics Risk Management/Safety Handbook.