

USA Gymnastics - Rhythmic Gymnastics
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2014 Youth Olympic Games
October 2, 2013

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the start of the first qualifying event and hold a valid U.S. passport valid through March, 2015.

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- Athletes must be 15 years of age (born in 1999)
- Athletes must hold a valid FIG Athlete license at the time of the 2014 Youth Olympic Games nomination.

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must attend for the entire duration of the Games.
- Athlete must participate in the cultural and education program, and mixed team events as requested.
- Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Gymnastics.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

- Rhythmic Challenge, February 12-16, 2014, Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center
- International Selection Camp, March 1-4, 2014, TBD (location to be announced at least 30 days prior to the event)
- Jr. Pan American Championships, May 7-12, 2014, Daytona Beach, FL

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

- a. Rhythmic Challenge, February 12-16, 2014; Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center

The Junior Division of the Rhythmic Challenge is open to competitors from the 2013 U.S. Championships who finished in the top-12 in the All-Around, and any other age-eligible athletes (born 1999) who competed at the 2013 U.S. Championships.

- b. International Selection Camp, March 1-4, 2014 TBD
The top six juniors in rank order from the all-around results of the Rhythmic Challenge will be invited to participate in the International Selection Camp.
- c. Jr. Pan American Championships, May 7-12, 2014; Daytona Beach, FL
Three athletes will be named to the Jr. Pan American Team by the selection committee based on results from verification at the International Selection Camp (see Section 1.3. below, item 2).

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

One athlete may be nominated to the Youth Olympic Games Team, provided a qualification place is obtained through the Jr. Pan American Championships.

1. Age eligible athletes must compete at the 2014 Rhythmic Challenge and place in the top six in the all-around results. Those athletes will be invited to participate in the International Selection Camp.
2. At the International Selection Camp, athletes must perform verification routines, which will be evaluated by a panel of internationally rated (Brevet) judges. Verification will be structured to follow the format of the Youth Olympic Games; eight total routines, over the course of two or three days.
 - The top two athletes who are YOG age-eligible (born in 1999) will be named to the Jr. Pan American Games Team.
 - The third gymnast for the Jr. Pan American Games Team will be selected by the selection committee, considering the discretionary criteria outlined in Section 2 below. This athlete may or may not be YOG age-eligible.
3. The age-eligible athlete nominated for the Youth Olympic Games will be the athlete with the highest combined total score using the scores from verification routines at the International Selection Camp (8 scores) and the All-Around at the 2014 Jr. Pan American Championships (4 scores) provided a qualification place is obtained through the Jr. Pan American Championships.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Discretionary selection will only be used to determine the third athlete who will be named to the 2014 Jr. Pan American Championships team. The 2014 Jr. Pan Am Championships Team will be comprised of three junior athletes (at least two born in 1999, the third athlete may be born in 1999, 2000, or 2001). The athlete with the highest all-around score at this competition who is age-eligible for YOG (born in 1999) will qualify their country to the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

USA's competitive goal at the 2014 Jr. Pan American Championships is two-fold: to qualify our country for the Youth Olympic Games, and to win a team medal. The selection committee will carefully balance this dual objective in the selection of the third athlete to the Jr. Pan American Team. Since the first two athletes named to this team must be YOG age-eligible, the selection committee will need to assess the likelihood that one of these athletes will qualify the U.S. for the YOG, as well as consider the relative strength of the team members in an effort to compose a medal-winning team.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

The Discretionary criteria that will be used to select the third athlete for the Jr. Pan American Championships team is:

- Assessment of the likelihood that one of the first two athletes named to the Jr. Pan American Championships team will qualify the U.S. for the YOG.
- Age of the athlete
- Relative event strength of the athlete, and how that will complement the other two team members in pursuit of a team medal.
- Scores from verification at the International Selection Camp

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles:

Caroline Hunt - FIG RG TC Member
TBD - Jr. Pan American Championships judge
TBD - athlete representative

2.3.1. Conflict of Interest

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not

otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

In the event a selection committee member is conflicted, the International Elite Committee will select another individual who does not have a conflict to serve on the Selection Committee.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USA Gymnastics has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Gymnastics may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the President of USA Gymnastics.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness, which inhibits peak performance as certified by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). Athletes must submit any medical diagnosis that is requested by USA Gymnastics to assure that the athlete is able to compete and is not at risk for further injury. If an athlete refuses verification of her illness or injury by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), her injury will be assumed to be disabling and she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct, Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual or USA Gymnastics National Team Agreement:
http://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html
http://usagym.org/pages/aboutus/pages/code_of_ethics.html?prog=r
- 3.1.4. Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director and an interview with the athlete and her coach.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to review per USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures. An athlete who

may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics Bylaws Article 10 and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to USA Gymnastics' Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply.

The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at: <http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>.

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The age eligible athlete with the second highest combined results (see Section 1.3., item 3) based on the selection process will be the replacement.

- 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

As permitted by FIG and/or IOC Youth Olympic Games policy, the age eligible athlete with the second highest combined results (see Section 1.3., item 3) based on the selection process will be the replacement.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Gymnastics will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of conclusion of the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Youth Olympic Games and are included as links:

USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct

http://usagym.org/pages/aboutus/pages/code_of_ethics.html

Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual

http://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html

National Team Agreement

http://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html

USOC Code of Conduct:

<http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Gymnastics in the following locations:

7.1. Website:

http://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC, at www.usagym.org.

7.2. Other: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before: June 19, 2014

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

The selected athlete will be notified of any mandatory training and/or competition at least 30 days in advance. Specific dates and locations of any scheduled training camps and/or competitions will be posted on www.usagym.org as soon as possible.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Rhythmic International Elite Committee
Olga Kutuzova: Chair
Natalia Klimouk: Coach Representative
Nataliya Kiriyyenko: Coach Representative
Tatyana Itkina: Coach Representative
Ava Gehringer: Athlete Representative

Caroline Hunt, Staff Liaison

12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Gymnastics' Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
<http://usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/usag-bylaws.pdf>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC and FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and FIG rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Gymnastics. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Gymnastics may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, John W. Ruger, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at john.ruger@usoc.org
- <http://www2.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>

15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Gymnastics.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President /CEO	Steve Penny		10/15/13
Rhythmic Program Director	Caroline Hunt		10/15/13
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	David Durante		10/15/13

* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.