

USA GYMNASTICS /USAG
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2007 PAN AMERICAN GAMES - RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Rhythmic
January 5, 2007

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1. Citizenship: Athletes must be US citizens and hold a current US passport at the start of the 2007 Rhythmic Challenge. Each preliminary qualifying event has it's own citizenship eligibility rules which take precedence for that event. Eligibility rules may be found in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies at [.http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/rhythmic/rules-policies/](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/rhythmic/rules-policies/).

2. Minimum Federation Internationale de Gymnastique standards for participation (if any): The minimum age requirement will follow PASO statutes and will be posted on the USA Gymnastics web site as soon as it is available.

3. Other requirements (if any): Must be a USA Gymnastics athlete member.

B. Provide a brief summary outlining how an athlete is selected as a nominee to the Team.

The selection procedures for the two individual gymnasts are as follows:

1. The process for consideration to be nominated for the Rhythmic 2007 Pan American Team involves all age eligible 2006-2007 National Team Members (for national team qualification, please visit www.usa-gymnastics.org) who will be invited to a selection camp to be held in June 2007.

2. The highest ranked athlete from the control competition at the Selection Camp will be nominated to the 2007 Pan American Team.

3. The second athlete will be selected by the Selection Committee (See Section II) at the conclusion of the camp.

4. Approved petitions.

Petitions to the 2007 Pan American Team will be limited to the top five (5) senior athletes from the 2007 Rhythmic Challenge. Petitioned athletes are subject to the same criteria for selection as the second athlete.

In order to submit a petition to be nominated to the 2007 Pan American Games Team, the athlete must submit a written petition to the Rhythmic Program Director as soon as practical after learning of her inability to participate or continue to participate in the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp. Petitions based on illness or injury must be accompanied by a physician's report indicating the nature and extent of the injury and illness, and the nature and

extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a doctor selected by USA Gymnastics. Petitions will be accepted or denied by the Selection Committee, in conjunction with the Rhythmic Program Director and the USA Gymnastics President.

C. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2007 Pan American Selection Camp - June 2007 - Site & Date TBD (and posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days in advance of the event)

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in Section I(C)(1) (if any).

2006 Visa Championships - St. Paul, MN August 17-19, 2006

Qualification to the 2006 Visa Championships – Individual Competition

- a. Each athlete who wishes to enter the 2006 Visa Championships must be a registered athlete member with USA Gymnastics.
- b. Qualification to the 2006 Visa Championships is through two qualifying events which are open to all Level 9 & 10 rhythmic gymnasts who are registered athlete members with USA Gymnastics. The qualifying events are scheduled to take place in July 2006.
- c. The top three Senior National Team members, as determined by the 2005 Visa Championships & the top three AA athletes at the 2006 Rhythmic Challenge (held in February 2006), are automatically accepted into the 2006 Visa Championships.

2007 Rhythmic Challenge - February 18, 2007 ; Colorado Springs, CO.
All 2006 national team athletes are invited to participate in the 2007 Rhythmic Challenge.

3. Provide the event name, dates and locations of additional trials that will be used to determine “start positions” (if any).

N/A

D. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees.

1. All age eligible 2006-2007 national team athletes (see National Team procedures at www.usa-gymnastics.org) will be invited to the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp to be held in June 2007 (and posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days prior to the event).
2. The highest ranked all around athlete from the results of the competition held at the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp will be nominated to the team.
3. The Selection Committee will consider the selection criteria as listed in Section II and any petitioning athletes when selecting the final member of the team and the rank order of the replacement athletes.

Petitions

Petitions to the 2007 Pan American Team will be limited to the top five (5) senior athletes from the 2007 Rhythmic Challenge. Petitioned athletes are subject to the same criteria for selection as the second athlete.

In order to submit a petition to be nominated to the 2007 Pan American Games Team, the athlete must submit a written petition to the Rhythmic Program Director as soon as practical after learning of her inability to participate or continue to participate in the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp. Petitions based on illness or injury must be accompanied by a physician's report indicating the nature and extent of the injury and illness, and the nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a doctor selected by USA Gymnastics. Petitions will be accepted or denied by the Selection Committee, in conjunction with the Rhythmic Program Director and the USA Gymnastics President.

- E. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and title(s) of their members.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- Rhythmic Vice Chair – Andrea Schmid
- Athlete Representative – Caroline Hunt
- A third member will be determined by January 2007 by the Rhythmic Program Committee

In the event any member of the Selection Committee is currently affiliated with an athlete in contention, the Rhythmic Program Committee will select another individual who is unaffiliated to serve on the Selection Committee.

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

The sport of gymnastics is not a measured or timed event. Rhythmic gymnastics is a subjectively evaluated sport, therefore, in the selection of athletes it is difficult to make decisions based solely on objective criteria.

B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:

SELECTION CRITERIA

The committee will consider the following areas when nominating the second athlete to the 2007 Pan American Team and replacement athletes:

1. Results of the 2007 Rhythmic Challenge.
2. Routine performance "Hit" consistency.
3. Results from international and national competitions.
4. International experience.
5. Competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance.
6. Medal potential.
7. Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamics.

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- Rhythmic Vice Chair – Andrea Schmid
- Athlete Representative – Caroline Hunt
- A third member will be determined by January 2007 by the Rhythmic Program Committee

In the event any member of the Selection Committee is currently affiliated with an athlete in contention, the Rhythmic Program Committee will select another individual who is unaffiliated to serve on the Selection Committee.

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. Prior to acceptance of nomination 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 from the Nominations for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics.

1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Gymnastics President/CEO.
2. Injury or illness is certified by an USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by an USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
3. Violation of the USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct and/or the Team Responsibility Manual (Attachment A).

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Gymnastics Constitution and Bylaws (Article 10) or by USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

B. After acceptance of nomination by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team and an athlete may be removed for any of the following reasons.

1. After acceptance of nomination by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

Injury or illness which prohibits peak performance as defined by the USOC Code of Conduct may be cause for removal.

USOC approved team member is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

C. Anti-Doping Removal.

An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of PASO, WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

Same Criteria as nominated 2007 Pan American Team members.

B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected to replace a previously nominated athlete, should a vacancy occur.

1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

By the rank order of the Replacement Athletes at the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp.

2. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

By the rank order of the Replacement Athletes at the 2007 Pan American Selection Camp.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

1. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

Selection Committee

2. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the team:

Selection Committee

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Gymnastics will retain all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the 2007 Pan American Games.

VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of participation in the Olympic or Pan American Games and are included as attachments:

National Team Agreement/ Rhythmic Team Responsibility Manual (Attachment A)
USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct (Attachment B)

VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

- A. NGB Website: www.usa-gymnastics.org

The website information will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USOC and will include the USOC approval date.

- B. USA Gymnastics Official Publication(s) (if any):

Technique Magazine

- C. Other

VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be submitted to the USOC on:

June 15, 2007

IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

N/A

X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athlete must adhere to all PASO, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by the PASO, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC Rules.

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Rhythmic Program Committee

These Selection Procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Rhythmic Program Committee. The Rhythmic Program Committee consists of the following members:

Committee	Name	Title
RPC	Andrea Schmid	Vice Chair
RPC	Lucy Kerznerman	Coach Representative
RPC	Nadine Davies	Judge Representative
RPC	Vanessa VanderPluym	Athlete Representative
RPC	Suzie DiTullio	JO Program Rep

XII. USA GYMNASTICS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/organization/usag-02bylaws.pdf>

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

The procedures are based on PASO and/or the FIG rules and regulations are presently known and understood. Any changes in the selection procedures caused by a change in PASO and/or the 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.

XIV. 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:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-Mail at john.ruger@usoc.org
- www.888athlete.org