

**USA GYMNASTICS /USAG
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2007 PAN AMERICAN GAMES - RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Women's Artistic
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 U.S. Citizens and hold a current U.S. Passport at the start of the 2007 American Classic. Each preliminary qualifying event has its own citizenship eligibility rules which take precedence for that event. Eligibility rules may be found in the Women's Rules and Policies at <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/women/rules-and-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 an USA Gymnastics Athlete Member.

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

The Pan American Team is defined as the six (6) athletes who will be nominated to the USOC. A minimum of three (3) replacement athletes will also be nominated. These nine athletes will form the Pan American Team Training Squad.

The process for qualification/selection to the Pan American Team Training Squad is a combination of the American Classic results and discretionary selection criteria.

1. The senior All-Around Champion from the American Classic is nominated to the Pan American Team Training Squad.
2. Eight other athletes selected from among the competitors at the American Classic and petitioned athletes will be nominated to the Pan American Training Squad.
3. The Pan American Team will be named from among the members of the Pan American Training Squad at the conclusion of the Pan American Team

Final Selection Camp.

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.

American Classic May 30 – June 1, 2007 at National Team Training Center in Houston, Texas.

Pan American Team Final Selection Camp: June 30- July 4, 2007 Women's National Team Training Center, Houston Texas.

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, Minnesota, August 16-19, 2006
2006 World Championship October 13-21, 2006 Denmark

Qualification for the 2007 American Classic is:

- By score from the national qualifying meet May 4-6, 2007 at the National Team Training Center in Houston, Texas. , or
- By score from a verification training camp (Camps as determined by Women's Program Staff), or
- By being one of the six (6) members of the 2006 World Championships Team and any alternates, or being a member of the 2006 National Team.
- Accepted petitioned athletes.

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

None

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. Selection of Athletes of the Pan American Training Squad.

In addition to the All-Around American Classic Champion, eight (8) age-eligible, unranked Pan American Training Squad members will be selected from among the competitors at the American Classic and petitioning athletes.

2. There will be a mandatory Pan American Team Final Selection Camp for the Pan American Training Squad to be held June 30-July 4, 2007 in Houston, Texas. Two days of competition will be conducted at the Pan American Team Final Selection Camp. The Selection Committee will use the selection criteria as listed below in Section II(B) to select the nominated athletes.

3. USA Gymnastics recognizes that extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances may occur which would cause an athlete otherwise deserving of an opportunity to try out for the Pan American team because of her previous competitive results, to be unable to participate in one or more steps of the process. Please note that petitions are accepted only to compete in qualifying events and not directly onto the Pan American Team.

a. Procedures for petitioning into the 2007 American Classic are listed in the *2006-2007 Women's Rules and Policies*.

b. Petitions into the Pan American Team Final Selection Camp will be considered by the Selection Committee, in consultation with the Women's Program Director, for any member of the 2006 World Championship Team and from any athlete who has competed at either the 2006 U.S. Classic, the 2006 VISA Championships, or on an international assignment in the fall of 2006 or in the year 2007.

c. In order to be considered by the Selection Committee, petitions must be submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics' national office as soon as practical after the athlete becomes aware of her inability to participate in the process described above but before the conclusion of the American Classic.

d. 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. The nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a doctor selected by USA Gymnastics.

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

In the event any of the members of the Selection Committee is currently affiliated with an athlete, the International Elite Committee will select another individual who is unaffiliated to serve on the Selection Committee.

Committee	Name	Title
Selection Committee	Martha Karolyi	National Team Coordinator

Selection Committee	Steve Rybacki	Chairman, International Elite Committee
Selection Committee	Kim Zmeskal	Athlete Representative

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. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely by the rank order to be competitive for both team and individual event medals. The current rules do not require athletes to compete on all events, which necessitates evaluating relative event strength and contribution to total team or event scores.

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

The committee will consider the following areas when selecting the Pan American Team Training Squad and nominating the Pan American Team and replacement athletes:

- Team needs and medal potential
- Results from international and national competitions
- Difficulty Scores
- Routine performance "Hit" consistency
- Composite strength of all the Pan American Team Members
- Routine execution
- World Class presentation
- Competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance
- Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic.

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

SELECTION COMMITTEE

In the event any of the members of the Selection Committee is currently affiliated with an athlete, the International Elite Committee will select another individual who is unaffiliated to serve on the Selection Committee.

Committee	Name	Title
Selection Committee	Martha Karolyi	National Team Coordinator
Selection Committee	Steve Rybacki	International Elite Committee Chairman
Selection Committee	Kim Zmeskal	Athlete Representative

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) which inhibits peak performance. 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. (Attachment A)
4. Violation of the Women's Team Responsibility Manual. (Attachment B)

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 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).

Under the USOC Code of Conduct and athlete may be removed because of injury or illness which prohibits peak performance as defined by the USOC Code of Conduct and reviewed by the USOC medical staff.

A 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 selection criteria and process as the nominated 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:

See Section II(B).

2. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See Section II(B).

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

i. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:
Selection Committee.

Committee	Name	Title
Selection Committee	Martha Karolyi	Nat'l Team Coordinator
Selection Committee	Steve Rybacki	Chairman IEC
Selection Committee	Kim Zmeskal	Athlete Rep

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

a. Prior to acceptance of nomination by the USOC:
Selection Committee

b. After acceptance of Nomination by the USOC:

- Prior to departure for the Games- Selection Committee
- After departure of the team and during the Games- The National Team Coordinator, the Head Coach and the Assistant Coach (if unaffiliated with the replacement athletes) will determine the replacement athlete. If either of the coaches is affiliated with any of the replacement athletes the decision will be made by a vote of the non-affiliated personal coaches who are fully credentialed and the National Team Coordinator.

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:

- USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
- Women's Responsibility Manual (Attachment B)
- National Team Agreement (Attachment C)

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
Will mail hard copy to all national team members and age eligible athletes qualified to the American Classic.

VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION

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

- Pan American Training Squad Names (9) on June 1, 2007
- Pan American Team on July 3, 2007

IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

- Pan American Team Final Selection Camp - July 1-4, 2007 Houston, Texas

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:

International Elite Committee

Committee	Name	Title
International Elite Committee	Steve Rybacki	Chairman
International Elite Committee	Al Fong	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Valeri Liukin	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Donna Strauss	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Mary Lee Tracy	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Kim Zmeskal	Athlete Rep
International Elite Committee	Larissa Fontaine	USOC Athlete 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