



Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee
August 6-8, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meetings conducted via Zoom video calls.

Thursday, August 6, 2020, meeting commenced at 9:00am EDT.

Acrobatics Program Committee Chair: Carisa Laughon

National JO Committee Chair: Sarah Thomas

National Elite Committee Chair: Ronda Francis

National Technical Committee Chair: Holly King

Athlete Representative: Jessica Renteria

USAG Chief Programs Officer: Stefanie Korepin (non-voting)

USAG Director of Program Development and Olympic Relations: Mary McDaniel (non-voting)

1. **Welcome:** Carisa opened the meetings, addressing this year's change to a virtual video call instead of in-person meeting.
2. **USA Gymnastics Executive Leadership Team:** The USAG Executive Leadership team joined for this portion of the call with Li Li introducing these individuals to the Acrobatics Program Committee (APC). Each team member presented their role and responsibilities in the organization. Li Li communicated the organization's updated mission statement and upcoming initiatives. The APC had the opportunity to ask questions of the leadership team.

The APC raised a concern from our community regarding COVID restrictions in certain states and counties delaying the re-start of training activities for some clubs. Kim Kranz, Chief of Athlete Wellness, addressed this concern and is willing to share information and assist moving forward.

3. **Acrobatics Staff Positions:** The APC discussed with Stefanie the need to fill the open leadership positions within the Acrobatics Program, including Program Director and High Performance Coordinator. Stefanie communicated that there would be renewed efforts to fill these positions as soon as possible.
4. **Technical Committee Update:** Virtual judges clinics are being planned for the coming season. A national clinic, for brevet judges, regional technical chairs, and regional clinicians is targeted for the fall. Regional Technical Chairs may schedule virtual clinics in their regions for dates after the national clinic. Virtual clinics will include practice judging, rules overview, and online exam. New judges courses and exams can also be offered online. Upgrades will be open for 2021 with testing done in-person with a Regional or National Technical Chair.

Holly made the recommendation for all Meet Referees to be responsible to conduct a video judging "warm-up" prior to each competition. This should take place in the pre-meet judges meeting.

During the 2019 and 2020 season, there have been approximate 10 individuals who have used the Fast Track program for judges, with positive results.

The Program Committee asked the National Technical Committee to develop criteria for a pilot program for the inclusion of judges who are Junior Professional members, aged 16-17. Region 3 will be the first to pilot this new initiative for the 2021 season.

5. **Athlete Council Update:** Jessica provided an update on the Athlete Council activities, which include a High Performance Plan for the USOPC, the ACE Program for transition athletes from junior to senior levels and into retirement, and the Alumni Network. The APC also discussed greater inclusion of Athlete Wellness resources at future training camps.
6. **JO Committee Update:** A new Junior Olympic (JO) Code of Points will be available beginning with the 2022 season. The National JO Committee (NJOC) is responsible to finalize changes to the JO Code of Points for the next cycle, as well as develop all manuals and supplemental materials. The APC made the following recommendations for the NJOC to review:
 - NJOC should review all skill changes once more before finalizing.
 - Level current music for Levels 1-4
 - Change music and choreography for all events at Level 5

7. **Elite Committee Update:**

The APC recommends the following changes for the bonus system:

- **JE 12-18 and 13-18 – maximum number of bonus skills/exercise is 2.**
- **Senior Elite - maximum number of bonus skills/exercise is 3.**
- **Each bonus element is worth +0.3, which is added into the Total Score.**
- **All identified bonus skills will remain the same for the 2021 season. New skills will be considered by the NEC for implementation in 2022.**

Motion: Ronda

Second: Holly

Passed

The APC clarified that the bonus system should be used as part of the scoring calculation at USA Gymnastics Championships, which is a National Team selection competition. The bonus system should not be used at World Team Trials since the competition is rule by FIG rules and skill selection is considered as part of the stated selection criteria in the Selection procedures.

8. **PAGU Update:** The APC is excited to hear about the promising growth initiatives happening within PAGU. There is a full Technical Committee for Acrobatics and they have planned a series of education webinars for countries and clubs developing acrobatics programs.
9. **Rules & Policies:** The following updates for the 2021 Rules & Policies were discussed.
 - JO Program will undergo a name change to no longer use “Junior Olympic” or “JO”.
 - **Lyrics in music: For USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitions, all music may contain lyrics. Lyrics are no longer restricted to the music of one exercise per pair/group. All rules regarding appropriateness of lyrics are still in effect. Please note for international competitions, the rule of lyrics in only one exercise per pair/group is still in effect through the 2021 season.**
 - Motion: Holly**
 - Second: Carisa**
 - Passed**
 - Age Group 11-16 will continue for the 2021 season, through USA Gymnastics Championships, then will be eliminated as a competitive level on the International Track. There will no longer be

an Age Group 11-16 National Team selected. Assignments for Age Group 11-16 will be made for the 2021 PAGU Championships based on performance at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships (selection procedures forthcoming).

- **Age Groups Changes:** For all JO levels, based on the number of entries in a respective category (i.e., level and event) the Meet Director must divide competitors into approximately equal groups, according to the quotas stated below, for awards. Division into groups should be based on the age of the oldest competitor of the pair/group.
 - For Local and State competitions, if there are 8 or more entries in a category, competitors should be divided into groups.
 - For Regional Championships, if there are 10 or more entries in a category, competitors should be divided into groups.
 - For USA Gymnastics Championships, if there are 15 or more entries in a category, competitors should be divided into groups.

Motion: Sarah

Second: Carisa

Passed

- **Because of uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic leading into the 2021 season, the qualification process for the 2021 season is being relaxed in an effort to aid participation, retention, and development efforts for clubs and athletes. The changes, for the 2021 season only, are as follows:**
 - A pair/group must compete at both state and regional championships.
 - The pair/group must earn the national qualifying score at either state or regional championships.
 - The requirement of competition and qualification scores at two local meets is waived. However, participation in local competitions, either in-person or virtual, is highly encouraged, if safe to do so.

Motion: Carisa

Second: Holly

Passed

- Implementation of Acro Companion for the 2021 season will move forward. All tariff sheets for levels 9-10 and international track levels are required to be created with Acro Companion and uploaded to Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM).
- The APC discussed the need to update the Acrobatic Gymnastics Meet Director exam, checklist, and sanction paperwork.

10. 2020 National and Regional Committee Elections: Carisa confirmed that all national and regional committee elections have concluded, with all positions filled. New terms begin September 1. Thank you to all who were nominated and elected – your support of and voice in the acrobatics program is so important. Carisa thanked Mary McDaniel for her assistance with the nomination and election process.

Day 1 meeting adjourned at 1:10pm EDT.

Friday, August 7, 2020, meeting commenced at 9:00am EDT.

11. Virtual Competition Playbook: Stefanie tasked the APC with forming a taskforce to help create rules and guidelines around virtual competitions. The APC briefly discussed virtual competitions and Carisa will move forward to identify members for a taskforce.

12. 2019-2020 Events

- October - Fall National Team Training Camp (virtual)

- Coaches meeting
- Group athlete wellness sessions
- Individual training sessions by club.
- Spring International Competition - National Team Assignment, targeting MIAC, POR (March 3-7)
- World Team Trials (April 21-25) – selection of World Championships and WAGC teams and alternates.
- World Age Group Competition:
 - 11-16 age group – June 6-11, 2021
 - 12-18 / 13-19 – June 10-16, 2021
- World Championships - June 15-21, 2021
- USA Gymnastics Championships - June 22-27, 2021 (National Team and PAGU selection)
- Pan American Gymnastics Union (PAGU) Championships - Fall 2021
- Fall International Competition for remaining national team
- Fall National Team Training Camp (Oct)
- Fall Developmental/Open Camp (Oct)
- 2021 National Judges Course
- 2022 World Team Trials – December 2021
- World Age Group Competition – March 2-8, 2022
- World Championships – March 11-13, 2022
- World Games – July 2022

13. 2020 National Team

- **Because of the cancellation of the 2020 USA Gym Champs, the APC recommends extending the term of the national team members who remain in the same partnerships. An exception will be made for this season to allow national team pair/groups to change levels without necessitating resign from the National Team.**

Motion: Carisa

Second: Ronda

Passed

- The APC asked the NEC to develop selection procedures for use to consider any senior pair/groups by video for addition to the National Team prior to the spring international competition.

Day 2 meeting adjourned at 1:05pm EDT.

Saturday, August 8, 2020, meeting commenced at 9:00am EDT.

Marcia DeGuire joined the call for the Growth & Development agenda item.

14. Growth & Development: The organization, goals, and responsibilities of the Growth & Development Committee were discussed. With the update to the Operating Code this year, appointments to the Growth & Development Committee must be renewed. The APC discussed options to include more than one representative per region and seek interest from the community before considering appointments.

Discussion also focused on ideas to build awareness for acrobatics, types and ways to produce more coaches education, and program growth initiatives through clinics.

Marcia left the call.

15. USA Gymnastics Championships –

- **The APC made the following recommendation for USA Gymnastics Championships:**
 - Finals competition for 12-18 to take place in the arena. For pair/groups who do not qualify for finals, they will have an opportunity to compete their combined exercise for an exhibition score at a designated time in the JO venue.
 - All elite levels (Age Group 11-16, Junior Elite 12-18, Junior Elite 13-19 and Senior Elite) will have finals, which start from zero. All-around ranking is based on finals exercises.
 - Awards (medals) will be given for All-around, Balance and Dynamic.
 1. All-around is based on score/ranking for finals exercises.
 2. Balance and Dynamic use the scores/ranking for the respective preliminary exercise.
 - Number of finalists is based on entries in the category.
 1. Less than 12 entries = 6 finalists
 2. 12-29 entries = 8 finalists
 3. 30+ entries = 10 finalist
 - The number of awards places is based on the number of finalists. If there are 6 finalists, then three places will be awarded. For 8 or more finalists, 6 places will be awarded.

Motion: Jessica

Second: Sarah

Passed

Carisa expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Program Committee Chair for the last four years and work closely with a passionate and hard working group of individuals to lead the acrobatics program. Sarah will be a knowledgeable and strong next leader for the Program Committee and the USA Acrobatics Program.

Day 3 meeting adjourned at 1:30pm EDT.