

USAG MPC Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
September 16, 2020

Mike Serra called the meeting to order 12:01pm EST

Members Present:

Brett McClure-High Performance Director (voice, no vote)  
Mike Serra- Chairman / Jr. Coaches Rep  
Sergei Pakanich- Jr. Coaches Rep  
Dusty Ritter- JO Program Coordinator (voice, no vote)  
Jason Woodnick- Vice President of Men's Program (voice, no vote)  
Danell Leyva- Athlete Rep  
Kip Simons- Sr. Coaches Rep  
Randy Jepson- Sr. Coaches Rep  
Raj Bhavsar- JO Program Assistant (voice, no vote)  
Justin Spring - Board of Directors Rep (voice, no vote)  
Michael Juszczuk - NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members Present:

Lisa Mendel- Men's Program Manager

- I. Official welcome to new Athlete Representative, Danell Leyva. Danell will be serving a 4-year term that concludes on Dec. 31, 2023.
- II. USAG/HP Update:
  - Men's program is back to full staff and having regularly scheduled meetings to discuss planning and strategies for the future. It's been motivational for all staff members to focus on the future.
  - Throughout June and July, the staff held individual meetings with each National Team member. The meetings were very positive, and the common theme was how well each athlete was feeling as they started back into regular training. Many felt that the time off was good for their overall physical health.
  - The USAG High Performance Plan was submitted to USOPC on Sept. 1. A lot of time and effort put in by Brett, Dusty, Raj, and Jason to put a plan together. Major focus on athlete health and wellness for all NT members. USAG presented a tiered funding structure that would provide increased funding to a larger group of athletes. USOPC will review the plan for approval in October/November.
    - One caveat to the HPP was a request to the USOPC to re-submit the plan if the men's NCAA programs continue to be cut. This would require a change in strategy and direction for the men's program.
  - Update on USOPC Resident program - On-site and off-site cohorts have been combined to allow for two trainings per day. Very positive environment having the athletes back together. We were granted five on-site beds for Phase 4. Those were offered to NT

athletes, who declined the offer. We were able to bring back Adrian de los Angeles and Kanji Oyama as on-site athletes, but their beds are at risk if Tokyo medal potential athletes from any sport require a bed.

- Donnell Whittenburg has left the USOPTC to train in Milwaukee
- USOPTC may cancel camps for all NGB's for the remainder of the year

### III. Men's Program Update

- The domestic National calendar is confirmed. Very few confirmations on the international calendar as things continue to change and borders continue to stay closed in certain countries.
- Winter Cup & ETC will be Feb 25-28 in conjunction with Nastia Liukin Cup. A location is not finalized, but likely in the mid-west. The competition will be on podium but may have limited audience due to COVID restrictions. Still hopeful for TV coverage. There will be a medical plan put together for the competition.

### IV. Jr. Program Update

- Upcoming JOPC meeting at the end of month. Finalizing age group program manual to be rolled out in May of 2021. JOPC and committee members have put in a lot of work to get this program completed.
- In lieu of no in person camps, we will conduct national team verifications through video submissions.
- The Junior program is preparing as though we'll have a full slate of international competitions. We will look at the possibility of virtual competitions with other countries.
- Virtual National Future Stars will be open to all age eligible athletes. Athletes will submit videos through a virtual platform. Judges will analyze and provide constructive feedback. The National Coaches Workshop will take place Nov. 21-22 through Zoom. There will be 10 lectures. The JNCS is determining the content of the lectures.

### V. Sr. Program Update

- Big 10 is starting football in Mid Oct., which is positive news for Big 10 gymnastics programs.
- Live online meets - Programs rallying to have the NCAA adopt legislation to allow for live online meets. Most Athletic Directors think this is a great solution.
- USAG working on a campaign to preserve men's gymnastics in the collegiate landscape.
- Several other initiatives are being planned/proposed to support the college programs including, but all need to be reviewed and approved by USAG leadership and the appropriate men's program committees:
  - Utilizing funds from the NGF Scholarship Fund.
  - Combining NCAA Championships with other USAG competitions to share workload and expenses, also potential for greater revenue

VI. Winter Cup Qualification Process:

- We would like to circulate the Winter Cup qualification process to the community very soon. We are unsure if there will be any of the qualifying competitions in 2021, so we need to plan as if those will not happen.
- Video submission process to replace the four qualifying competitions. Invite top 8 Seniors by AA rank from video submission. Videos must be submitted during one-week period with deadline end of January. Full process to be laid out in follow up document.
- For individual event specialists who have not already qualified, the score from the final qualifying spot on each event at the 2019 World Championships will be used as a benchmark for invitation.
- Senior NT Selection from Winter Cup - Maximum of 16 to Sr. Nat'l Team. Pending USOPC approval of High Performance Plan and new tiered funding structure, we are hopeful to be able to provide funding for more than 12 athletes. The minimum that will receive funding is 12 athletes.

**Action:** Jason to edit the Winter Cup document following the MPC meeting and send to NT coaches and athletes for review within the next couple of weeks.

VII. MPC Elections:

- MPC reviewed the proposal put forth by Jason and Lisa regarding Coach Representative election procedures to be included in the men's Rules and Policies (see attached document).
- Also discussed postponing the 2020 elections until 2021 to keep consistency in planning and decision making. (Following the MPC meeting, it was learned that the USAG Board is instructing all disciplines to hold elections in 2020 as usual, and not postpone until 2021).

**Motion:** To approve the proposed and amended MPC Coaches Rep election document and include in the men's program Rules and Policies

Motion: Mike Serra

Second - Kip Simons

Passed: Four votes in favor

Randy Jepson abstained

VIII. NGJA update:

- Uncertainty in the amount of judges who will recertify this year. Probably 50-60% will recertify.
- MPC recommends judges who were assigned for 2020 to keep their assignments for 2021.
- Domestic judging assignments to be finalized following JOPC meeting in Sept.

IX. Rules and Policies:

- Remove “No protests shall be allowed” from Page 37, Section VI. D. This goes against USAG’s new protest policy
- Remove NT Members Responsibilities Section (this should be in the NT Handbook only)

Motion: To remove both items from the men’s program Rules and Policies

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second from Sergei Pakanich

Passed: Unanimously

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:29pm

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Mike Serra

Passed Unanimously