

Men's Program Committee Meeting

1/13/2021 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:01PM/CT by MPC chair Michael Serra

Members Present

Mike Serra – Chair & Jr Coach Representative
Sergei Pakanich – Jr Coach Representative
Justin Spring – Sr Coach Representative
Randy Jepson – Sr Coach Representative
Kip Simons – Athlete Representative
Mike Juszczuk – NGJA Representative (voice, no vote)
David Klein – MDPC Chairman (voice, no vote)
Jason Woodnick – VP Men's Program (voice, no vote)
Brett McClure – High Performance Director (voice, no vote)
Dusty Ritter – Men's Development Program Coordinator (voice, no vote)
Raj Bhavsar – Men's Development Program Assistant (voice, no vote)

Members Not Present

Danell Leyva – Athlete Representative

Non-Members Present

Lisa Mendel – Men's Program Manager (voice, no vote)
Brandon Wynn – Men's Program Athlete Representative on Athletes' Council

The USAG Athletes' Council has approved Kip Simons as an Athlete Representative on the MPC. Kip fulfills the 10+ year eligibility criteria and will serve a four-year term ending January 2025. The MPC welcomes Kip!

I. Winter Cup Update

- 29 Senior athletes have applied to submit videos for qualification to Winter Cup
- 41 athletes are pre-qualified, leaving 7 spots available from video submission and injury petitions
- All MPC members will be sent the virtual competition schedule and are invited to attend to authenticate routine videos being submitted (Brett & Jason will try to attend all virtual events)

Motion: To approve the following proposals for Winter Cup:

1. All athletes (approximately 48) who qualify to Day 1 of the Senior division at Winter Cup will qualify to Day 1 of the 2021 U.S. Championships in the Senior division (pending approval from the USOPC to amend our Olympic Selection Procedures). Up to 6 AA athletes from NCAA Championships may also qualify to U.S. Championships following the Olympic Selection Procedures.

2. 35 athletes will qualify from the Winter Cup Senior division Day 1 to Day 2 using the 20-point program. If less than 35 athletes achieve points, the next highest AA by rank will advance until 35 athletes are qualified.
3. The MPC will name 16 athletes to the Senior National Team as laid out in the WC Qualification document, but may add up to two additional athletes for a total of 18 athletes, if necessary.

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Kip Simons

Passed Unanimously

II. International Assignments. The international calendar is still very much in flux with cancelations and/or postponements likely coming from FIG. Assignments by the MPC will follow Sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 of the Olympic Selection Procedures.

- Baku IE World Cup (March 4-7)
 - 2 Senior NT athletes
 - NT Athletes submit interest by Jan. 22. Nominative deadline is Feb. 3. Tentative names will be submitted for registration but will be confirmed or changed by MPC after video submission.
 - Video submission deadline: Feb. 14
- Doha IE World Cup (March 10-13)
 - 2 Senior NT athletes
 - NT Athletes submit interest by Jan 22. Nominative deadline is Feb. 10. Tentative names will be submitted for registration but will be confirmed or changed by MPC following Winter Cup
- Stuttgart (March 20-21) & Birmingham (March 25-28) AA World Cups
 - 1 NT athlete & 1 NT reserve athlete for each event
 - Nominative deadline is TBD for Stuttgart & Jan 27 for Birmingham. Tentative names will be submitted for registration but will be confirmed or changed by MPC following Winter Cup
- Tokyo AA World Cup (May 4)
 - 1 NT athlete and 1 NT reserve athlete
 - Nominative deadline is TBD, but likely late March. Tentative names will be submitted for registration but will be confirmed or changed by MPC after the virtual competition.
 - Virtual competition the week of NCAA Championships (April 11-17)

Discussion to ensure competitiveness at Stuttgart and Birmingham AA World Cups and provide the best opportunity for the USA to earn a +1 spot to Tokyo. For Stuttgart and Birmingham AA World Cups, assignment will be determined by Winter Cup Day 1 AA Results. The athlete who finishes with the top AA score will have first right of refusal for either competition. If he turns down either assignment, then the second-place finisher will have next choice, and so forth.

Since the outcome of these meets is a critical part of our plus one strategy for the Olympic Games, it is vital that we (Team USA) are able to send our most capable athletes in order to earn the plus one spot.

At the same time, the Winter Cup medical protocols related to COVID-19 create a very tenuous situation which could, at any time, prevent an otherwise prepared athlete from being able to participate at the Winter Cup.

The MPC recommends a **COVID-19 Contingency Plan** in the assignment process. This contingency plan would only be enforced in the event that a minimum standard of competitiveness is not achieved at the Winter Cup. After reviewing AA results from past World Cups to determine competitiveness for a top three result, it was determined that the minimum standard be an **84.0 AA score** on Day 1. This COVID-19 contingency plan will allow for a National Team athlete who is not permitted by local health authorities or USA Gymnastics medical staff to compete at the Winter Cup due to COVID-19 (positive PCR test, contact tracing, mandatory quarantine, etc.), to compete virtually for consideration to assignment to these World Cup events.

The timing of the virtual competition will be determined on an individual basis as determined by the COVID-19 circumstances, but the judging panels will remain consistent from Winter Cup. The expectation would be that the virtual performance should be significantly better than the top AA finisher(s) at the Winter Cup in order to earn the assignment. In order to be eligible for this virtual competition tryout, the athlete must be a member of the Senior National Team following Winter Cup. In the event that the COVID-19 plan is enforced, that does not mean that the top athletes at the Winter Cup will not be assigned, only that the athletes who were unable to compete at Winter Cup and challenge for those World Cup spots will be allowed to do so virtually.

Motion (via email following meeting): To implement a COVID-19 Contingency Plan at Winter Cup, specifically for the Stuttgart and Birmingham AA World Cups in the event that a National Team member is unable to participate at Winter Cup due to COVID-19 protocols, as determined by USAG medical staff or local health authorities. The contingency plan will only be implemented in the event a minimum AA score of 84.0 is not achieved on Day 1 by AA athletes.

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Kip Simons

Passed

1 no response

- Senior Pan Am Championships (May 7-9)
 - 5 Senior NT athletes
 - Nominative deadline is TBD, but likely late March. Tentative names will be submitted for registration but will be confirmed or changed after final video submission.
 - Following Winter Cup, 6-8 NT athletes will be named to the Pan Am Team Squad by the MPC (not including 2019 Worlds Team members).
 - Virtual competition to take place the week of NCAA Championships (April 11-17). Winter Cup and virtual competition scores will be evaluated to determine Pan Am Team

Discussion to incentivize our top athletes to attend Pan Am Championships to attempt to earn a +1 spot for Team USA. With Pan Am Championships, U.S. Championships, and Olympic Trials all within 7 weeks of each other, athletes may choose not to attend Pan Am's to focus on the domestic events and qualifying for the Olympic Team. How can we incentivize the Pan Am Championships?

Motion: To offer an automatic spot on the Senior National Team to be named following U.S. Championships for the top AA athlete at Pan Am Championships that places 1st or 2nd in the AA Final and earns a +1 spot for the USA.

Motion: Mike Serra
Second: Randy Jepson
Passed Unanimously

Action: Jason to revise Senior Pan Am Procedures and send to MPC for final review and approval

- Junior Pan AM Championships (June 18-20)
 - Process for selection to include video submissions

Discussion to include only Junior NT athletes or open the selection to non-NT members. Majority felt that this should be for Junior NT athletes only. We will name a new Junior NT following Development Program National Championships and U.S. Championships for the Pan Am Games in September.

Action: Dusty & Raj to finalize process for selection. Jason to finalize procedures and send to MPC for final review and approval

III. Men's Program Committee Structures. Charters required for all men's program committees.

Action: Jason to assign groups to create committee charters for all men's program committees and set deadlines for drafts to be completed.

Motion to adjourn at 2:25pm CT with next call on Feb. 5th to approve Winter Cup qualifiers/petitions

Motion: Mike Serra
Second: Justin Spring
Passed Unanimously