

MPC Meeting  
Oct. 6, 2021 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm EST by Chair, Mike Serra

Members Present:

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

Members not present:

Paul Ruggeri – Athlete Rep

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Winter Cup Qualification Discussion

The discussion started with deciding on the size of the field for the Senior session at Winter Cup. 42 athletes allows for a one-touch warm up without having to split. 48 athletes would mean there could be rotations with split one-touch warm ups, which may prolong the competition. As this is the first National competition in the new quad, we don’t have a feel for our depth and number of athletes who may have retired. We should allow for 48 athletes to compete in the Senior session.

The Committee looked at previous Winter Cup qualification processes as well competitors from 2021 US Championships, Olympic Trials, current Senior National Team athletes, Senior Development Team athletes, and current Junior NT athletes who will be Senior age eligible in 2022 to determine potential number of pre-qualified athletes.

Eight applications were submitted to the MPC to be designated as Winter Cup qualifier events:

Beach Blast Invitational  
Houston National Invitational  
Stanford Open  
Rocky Mountain Open  
Windy City Invitational  
West Point Open  
Navy Open

## SC United Winter Cup Qualifier

The criteria that should be considered when designating Winter Cup qualifiers should include accessibility for non-pre-qualified athletes, geographic need, equipment, venue, and participation numbers. As many collegiate programs are already planning their 2023 calendar, the MPC would like to see 2023 Winter Cup qualification bids sent out in early 2022 so they can be added to their 2023 calendars and budgets. The MPC would also like to see the qualification events move around the country in the future.

**Motion: To approve Rocky Mountain Open, Stanford Open, Windy City Invitational, and West Point Open as the 2022 Winter Cup qualification events.**

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Kip Simons

Motion Passed Unanimously

The MPC would not identify the number of athletes who will qualify from each competition until the number of pre-qualified athletes are determined through registration numbers, which should be known before the end of November. The MPC did establish that athletes may only participate in one qualifying competition to attempt to qualify to Winter Cup.

**Motion: That all Senior athletes who qualified to the 2021 US Championships, all current Senior Development Team athletes, and all current age eligible Junior National Team athletes be pre-qualified to the Senior session at 2022 Winter Cup.**

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Randy Jepson

Motion Passed Unanimously

## II. Bonus System Discussion

The MPC is in agreement that in order to compete with the top three countries in the World, we must increase our difficulty as a country. Following what has been stated in our High Performance Plan, we need to incentivize athletes to perform routines that are competitive for medals at the international level. A strategic bonus system is needed that is tied to National Team selection at the Senior and Junior levels.

Syque Caesar submitted a Bonus system structure and Kevin Tan turned that structure into a formula-based system that provides greater returns on incremental D score increases. Kevin's system was shown to the coaches at the 2021 World Championship Trials and they were encouraged that this system could be a very useful tool. The next step is to create a working group to finalize the system to be able to present it to the Men's Program community in early November. The working group will determine base D scores for each event, compatibility with Pro Score for managing results, effect it will have on judging process, ease of use, etc. Jason will reach out to members of the community to be a part of the Bonus System Working Group, with the goal of having the bonus system completed by early November.

### III. National Team Selection

The MPC discussed process for Senior NT selection from 2022 Winter Cup. Currently, there are 20 Senior NT members with 12 spots receiving USOPC funding. Looking at the new quad, the Olympic team size will go to a 5-man team and according to previous FIG Olympic qualification drafts, there is one additional spot available through the Individual Event World Cup circuit. Athletes who provide scores on 3-4 events will be more valuable in this cycle due to the increase in team size.

When looking at team size, the MPC feels that the Senior Development Team should be incorporated into the Senior National Team, which would add up to five athletes in unfunded positions. The Senior Development Team should continue to be selected annually at US Championships.

**Motion: To give the Senior Development Team status as part of the Senior National Team.**

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Motion Passed Unanimously

The MPC turned the discussion to number of Senior National Team members. The idea of having 12 funded spots through objective criteria, 3 unfunded spots selected by the MPC through discretionary criteria, and 5 unfunded spots for Senior Development Team athletes (age 18-20) was proposed. The priority for funded spots should be to solidify team depth while providing opportunities for top IE athletes.

Another proposal was put forward to allow any World Championship medalist as well as the Senior AA champion at US Championships to earn automatic funded NT spots until the next year's US Championships. There could be a D score benchmark implemented with these automatic selections to maintain the focus of performing routines that will challenge for the podium internationally. The Bonus System Working Group could also determine the appropriate D score minimums for these spots.

As the MPC meeting was running well past the scheduled time, the decision was made to adjourn for the day and continue the meeting on Friday, October 8.

Motion to adjourn at 2:24pm EST

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Motion Passed Unanimously

MPC Meeting  
Oct. 8, 2021 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 11:10am EST by Chair, Mike Serra

Members Present:

Mike Serra – Chair & Jr Coaches Rep  
Justin Spring – Sr Coaches Rep  
Randy Jepson – Sr Coaches Rep  
Kip Simons – Athlete Rep  
Brett McClure – High Performance Director (voice, no vote)  
Jason Woodnick – VP Men’s Program (voice, no vote)  
David Klein – MDPC Chair (voice, no vote)  
Dusty Ritter – MDP Coordinator (voice, no vote)  
Raj Bhavsar – MDP Assistant (voice, no vote)  
Mike Juszczuk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Members not present:

Paul Ruggeri – Athlete Rep  
Sergei Pakanich – Jr Coaches Rep

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Continue Discussion on National Team Selection

The discussion continued regarding providing automatic funded NT spots for World Championship medalists and the top Senior AA athlete from US Championships with a minimum D score requirement. These athletes would keep their NT spot until the following year’s US Championships, which would allow them one year to focus on development and growth without having to re-make the NT at Winter Cup.

**Motion: Starting in 2022, the top two (2) ranked Senior AA athletes from US Championships (combined 2-day total) and any World Championship medalist from the same calendar year will retain their funded Senior National Team spot(s) until the following US Championships. A minimum difficulty score must be met, which will be determined by the MPC and published in the competition directives for US Championships.**

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Kip Simons

Motion Passed Unanimously

**Motion: Any medalist from 2021 World Championships will retain their funded National Team spot until 2022 US Championships**

Motion: Mike Serra  
Second: Randy Jepson  
Motion Passed Unanimously

The MPC discussed further composition of the Senior National Team and felt they were ready to make a motion.

**Motion: To comprise the makeup of the Senior National Team in the following order, with bonus system implemented:**

- **Five (5) funded spots allocated to the top five (5) all-around athletes by rank**
- **Five (5) funded spots allocated to the five (5) highest ranked athletes in the 10-point program final results, not already named to the team**
- **Up to two (2) Individual Event specialist selections that meet set minimum benchmarks**
- **Up to three (3) non-funded spots by discretionary selection criteria**
- **Up to five (5) non-funded Senior Development Team spots for athletes aged 18-20**

Motion: Mike Serra  
Second: Justin Spring  
Motion Passed Unanimously

**At this time, the USOPC has not approved USAG's athlete funding request for 2022. The criteria listed above regarding the composition of the Senior National Team is based off anticipated funded spots, which would be the same as 2021. These criteria are not final and are subject to change.**

At Winter Cup, any automatic NT spots from the previous World Championships or US Championships will be named first when selecting the National Team, and the number of selected spots may be reduced. The MPC will make the final determination on where those NT spots will be taken from and that information will be posted in the National Team selection portion of the Winter Cup directives.

The MPC moved to discussing the discretionary criteria for selection, which they determined should closely follow what was included in the 2021 World Championships Selection Procedures, found here: [https://usagym.org/pages/men/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/men/pages/selection_procedures.html).

The MPC, then, needed to address the criteria for Individual Event selection. We should continue to compare IE specialists against the top athletes in the world for these spots. We have been using Final Score comparisons, but should now also include D score. Though we know that the FIG code of points is changing in January, the MPC feels that scores should not fluctuate too far from what we have seen in this current quad. The results from 2021 World Championships are the most recent objective criteria we can use to compare IE scores.

**Motion: The funded Individual Event selection spots on the National Team must meet the following criteria:**

- **Achieve a FIG D score on either day of competition, which must be within the top three (3) highest D scores from individual event finals at the 2021 World Championships, and**
- **Must be the event winner**
- **In the event that no athlete meets these criteria or more than two (2) athletes meet these criteria, the MPC may award the IE spots by discretionary selection from the list of event winners.**

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Randy Jepson

Motion Passed Unanimously

## II. 2021 Arthur Gander & Swiss Cup

The US men have been invited to attend the Arthur Gander Memorial and Swiss Cup competitions in late November. The Swiss Federation has invited any 2021 Olympic or Worlds Team member. The Swiss LOC covers all expenses for this event. Jason reached out to all of the eligible athletes to see who would be interested. Yul Moldauer and Donnell Whittenburg have both expressed interest in attending these competitions. The MPC discussed both athletes in depth, looking at recent competition performances, performance readiness and health status of the athletes.

### **Motion: To send Yul Moldauer to the Arthur Gander & Swiss Cup competitions**

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Kip Simons

Motion Passed Unanimously

## III. Shared Coaches Funding

Clarity is needed around what payments are included in the shared coaches funding policy. The original proposal from 2017 states that the shared funding is only for coaches base support funding only, but that has changed over the past several years. The policy needs to be updated to clearly state which monies are to be shared.

Athlete and coach bonus money for the Olympic Games and World Championships come from either the USOPC's Operation Gold funding or USAG's Enhanced Operation Gold funding. For the Tokyo Olympic Games, USAG provided the athletes with the ability to allocate the coach bonus to one or multiple coaches who have played a role in their success. Should this continue to be the policy for Olympic Games and World Championships, then Operation Gold and Enhanced Operation Gold bonuses will not fall into the Shared Coaches Funding Policy. All other coaches support funding, including, but not limited to, Winter Cup and US Championships performance funding, monthly base support funding and National Team training camp attendance funding will follow the guidelines of the Shared Coaches Funding policy.

The MPC would like USAG to set parameters around who may be identified by the athletes to receive Operation Gold or Enhanced Operation Gold funding.

IV. Identifying Multiple Coaches for National Team Athletes

There was discussion regarding naming multiple coaches for National Team athletes, but the MPC felt that no change was needed to what is currently being done by naming one coach per National Team athlete.

Motion to adjourn at 1:20pm ET

Motion: Randy Jepson  
Second: Mike Serra  
Motion Passed Unanimously



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MPC Chairman Signature

10/17/21

Date

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Michael Serra

Print Name