

MPC Meeting (via Zoom)
January 7, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 12:04pm ET

Members Present:

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

Non-Members Present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager
Dusty Ritter – Former MDP Coordinator

- I. Paul Ruggeri has stepped down from his position as Athlete Representative on the Athletes Council as well as the MPC. USAG will look to fill those positions immediately.
- II. Funding for National Team in 2022

The MPC reviewed the new Tiered Funding Model that has been approved by the USOPC and USAG (Attachment A), which begins in January. With the maximum number of funded athletes for the Men’s Program capped at 35, we will be able to provide funding for all Senior NT athletes and all Level 10 NT athletes beginning in March when the Senior NT is re-ranked at Winter Cup. Therefore, Tiers 1-5 will go into effect in January and Tier 6 will go into effect starting in March.

This new funding model is an agreement between the USOPC and USAG to provide financial support to a record number of athletes across all gymnastics disciplines. The MPC fully supports this model and is appreciative of the work that has gone into providing financial support to our National Team athletes.

- III. Junior National Team & Senior Development Team Qualification and Selection

The MPC reviewed the documents submitted by Mike Serra regarding selection and qualification for Jr NT and Senior Development Team (Attachment B). This proposal has been vetted by members of the Junior and Senior communities, but this discussion has highlighted the need to integrate Jr and Sr coaches more frequently so that the message of “one national team” can be at the forefront of our decision making.

The next step of this proposal is to present it to members of the Jr and Sr coaching communities as well as the Junior National Coaching Staff on a Zoom call before final approval from the MPC.

IV. Qualification to U.S. Championships

The MPC wants to keep qualification similar to years passed, taking all Senior NT members from Winter Cup, up to six AA athletes from NCAA Championships and the remaining spots would come from the National Qualifier. There was discussion on looking at Individual Event winners from NCAA Championships and the Qualifier who meet a minimum D score for automatic qualification, but no motion was made at this time.

A discussion was had regarding a possible automatic qualification to U.S. Championships from USAG Collegiate National Championships. With the addition of new programs, this could be an enticing incentive for those athletes. There is a desire to keep the level of competitiveness at U.S. Championships to a high level, so a suggested minimum D score of 32.0 was suggested to be eligible for qualification. This would encourage those programs to follow the direction of the high performance plan in increasing difficulty while setting a standard to qualify to U.S. Championships.

Motion: To provide one (1) automatic qualification spot to the 2022 U.S. Championships for the All-Around Champion from USAG Collegiate National Championships as long as they achieve a minimum total D score of 32.0. If the AA Champion does not achieve a minimum 32.0 D score, then that qualification spot goes to the National Qualifier competition.

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Justin Spring

Passed Unanimously (5-0)

V. Doha World Cup

There is a conflict with travel dates to the Doha World Cup and Winter Cup. The arrival day for Doha is February 27th, which is Day 2 of Winter Cup. Therefore, athletes participating in that event would need to leave after Day 1 to get to Doha in time for training. Stephen Nedoroscik will likely travel to Doha from Cottbus, but there are two more spots available for Doha that will be decided at Winter Cup.


Since the top five (5) All-Around finishers from Day 1 will earn their spot on the Senior National Team, it makes sense to send those athletes after Day 1. The MPC felt it was fair to offer first right of refusal for Doha in rank order of AA from Day 1 up to the 5th place finisher. If we end up sending AA athletes to Doha, it should be a priority to send Individual Event specialists to the final two World Cups in Baku and Cairo. This strategy will be presented to the Senior National Team on our team meeting next week.

Motion to adjourn at 1:29pm ET

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Kip Simons

Passed Unanimously (5-0)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Sun". The signature is written in a cursive style with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

1/14/2022

MPC Chair Signature

Date

Attachment A

2022 Athlete Funding Tiers

Tier 1

\$3,000/month

- Olympic Medalist at the last Olympic Games in an Olympic discipline
- World Championship Medalist at **both** of the last two Senior World Championships

Tier 2

\$2,500/month

- Olympic Finalist at the last Olympic Games
- World Championship Medalist in one of the last two Senior World Championships

Tier 3

\$2,000/month

- Olympic Team Member at the last Olympic Games in an Olympic discipline
- World Championship Finalist in one of the last two Senior World Championships in an Olympic discipline
- World Cup Medalist within the prior two years from the month of payment in an Olympic discipline

Tier 4

\$1,500/month

- Top 10 Seniors in the AA Final at the last US Gymnastics Championships in MAG and WAG
- Senior National Champion at the last US Gymnastics Championships on an individual apparatus in MAG and WAG

Tier 5

\$1,000/month

- World Championship or World Games Individual Medalist within the last two years in a non-Olympic discipline
- Senior National Team Member in an Olympic discipline
- Top 4 Juniors in the all-around at the last US Gymnastics Championships in MAG (17-18 age group) and WAG
- Youth Olympic or Junior World Championship Medalist or Trampoline 15-16 age group Medalist at WAGC within the prior two years in an Olympic discipline

Tier 6

\$500/month

- Senior World Championship and/or World Games Team Member within the last two years in non-Olympic disciplines
- Junior National Team Member in MAG and WAG

Additional “Cost of Living” Funding for Olympic Disciplines

- \$350/month – Athletes at or over the age of 22 in an Olympic discipline

Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI)

- The USOPC will provide EAHI to athletes in Tiers 1-4

Notes:

- In order to receive funding, athletes must be a National Team Member actively training and participating in all National Team activities (camps, competitions, international assignments, etc.). If an athlete cannot participate in National Team activities due to injury, illness, or extenuating circumstance, the athlete must submit a petition to the Chief Programs Officer, the Program Director/VP, and the two Athlete Representatives for his/her discipline on the Athletes Council, with appropriate documentation such as a doctor’s note, for approval. If an athlete cannot participate in a self-funded National Team camp or international assignment due to financial reasons, this will not preclude him/her from funding.
- Each athlete is funded at the highest tier he/she qualifies for and does not qualify for multiple tiers.
- An athlete on the National Team in two disciplines/categories, e.g. Trampoline and Double Mini, will be funded at his/her highest tier and will not receive double funding.

- Funding does not apply to Age Group Categories, specifically, MAG Level 8 and Level 9 National Team, WAG DP National Team, Acro 11-16, and T&T Age Groups Categories (except WAGC 15-16 where noted.)
 - Unless otherwise specified, “World Championship” refers to a Senior FIG World Championship.
 - An athlete who receives a World or Olympic medal as a member of the Team is considered a medalist for Women’s and Men’s Artistic.
 - For T&T, Rhythmic and Acro, a Team medal in a World Championships does not qualify the athlete as a “medalist.” This is because the Team competition is not part of the Olympic program.
 - Traveling alternates are considered “team members” but not medalists/finalists unless officially recognized by FIG or IOC.
 - Acro funding only applies if the pair/group is still together. An athlete who achieved funding with a different partner/group will not be eligible for funding if he/she is with a new partner/group.
 - Rhythmic Group – Funding only applies to the athletes who achieved the funding, i.e., if a new group member joins the team, she will not receive funding until she achieves the criteria in competition.
 - Funding does not apply to Synchronized Trampoline.
 - The additional “cost of living” funding is meant to support athletes who are at a stage in their lives where they have to financially support themselves.
 - Each discipline has a maximum number of funded athletes on National Team. In some circumstances athletes may be added to the National Team in an unranked and unfunded position (see discipline Rules & Policies).
 - WAG: 35 (Total Junior and Senior)
 - MAG: 35 (Total Junior and Senior)
 - RGI: 12 Individual Seniors
 - RGG: 7 Senior Group Athletes
 - TRA: 10 Seniors per gender
 - DMT: 8 Seniors per gender
 - TUM: 8 Seniors per gender
 - Acro: 10 Senior pair/groups
 - Tiers 1-4 are funded through the USOPC and payment will come via Direct Deposit from the USOPC.
 - Tiers 5, 6 & Cost of Living are funded through USAG and payment will come via Direct Deposit from USA Gymnastics.
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Attachment B

To: MPC

From: Mike Serra

Re: 2022 Junior Elite and Senior Development Program Difficulty Initiative Date: 12.28.21

Introduction:

The JE program falls under the purview of the MPC because it includes National Team selection. In accordance with our HPP, we would like to encourage and facilitate increased difficulty. Given the nature of our selection system, we feel it is best to achieve this through a tandem effort of difficulty-based bonus/execution mitigation. At the same time, we don't want to give up the gains we have made with technique and execution through the Technical Sequence Program over the last couple of quads.

I will outline below a multifaceted and comprehensive Junior Elite program qualification and NT selection system with a high-performance strategy which emphasizes increased difficulty. The objective is to encourage and enable our top athletes to increase their competitive difficulty values as juniors to bring them in line with the top MAG programs in the world so that as they transition to the senior program, the USA is more competitive as a team and individual at the world level.

Components:

1. Technical Sequences:

- a. The TS program has been tremendously effective at establishing consistent basic and technical development throughout the JE Program and promoting performance excellence. The TS program will be retained with a few adaptations for the 2022 championships.
- b. Change 1: Where we had two age divisions (11-14 and 15-18), we now have three age divisions (12-13, 14-15, 16-18).
 - i. This change was already approved by the MPC
- c. Change 2: TS will not be performed on day two of MDP Nationals by the 18-19-year olds. Instead, they will do two days of optional routines for rank. 16-17-year olds may qualify to US Championships in the junior division. 18-19-year olds may qualify to US Championships in the junior division but may only be selected to the Senior Development Team.
 - i. The 18-19-year olds will still perform TS at MDP Regionals for qualification to the Elite division at MDP Nationals.
 - ii. 12-17-year old age divisions will continue to do one day of optional routines and one day of TS.
- d. A more comprehensive adjustment to the TS routines is expected for the 2022-23 season.

2. Junior Difficulty Bonus/Execution Mitigation:

- a. Note: The idea of having the junior program mirror the senior program exponential bonus system was discussed. The consensus has been that the difficulty bonus system for juniors should be different than that which is applied to seniors.
 - i. The cohort falling under the category of “junior” is very broad and represents a continuum of development in the sport. So, while establishing international benchmarks for competitiveness is relatively straight forward with seniors, it is much less so for juniors. For example, benchmark difficulty is different for a 14-year old than that of a 17-year old. Also, there is much better data available about what difficulty the top MAG programs are competing than is available for juniors. Therefore, linking difficulty bonus directly to international benchmarks for juniors is not an exact science given the spectrum of development in juniors who are at varying degrees of maturity.
 - ii. First, there is virtually no meaningful data available for athletes under the age of 15. Second, we want a difficulty bonus system that is meaningful and motivational to all of our JE athletes, regardless of age.
 - iii. Because the age spread of our juniors is 12-17, we are looking 2-4 quadrennium’s down the road for these athletes. While we do not know what difficulty will be necessary for competitiveness in 2032, we can safely assume that it will be more than it is now. Therefore, what we really want to do is spark a difficulty “arms race” that promotes progressive development and comprehensive EG repertoire, rather than say “achieve this benchmark for selection.”
- b. 2D+E: (Clarification: Combined Final score + “D” score from optional performance)
 - i. The concept of 2D+E is a straight-forward formula that encourages and empowers athletes increase their difficulty without permitting bad execution. It impacts every athlete, regardless of where they are on their developmental continuum.
 - ii. One of the most commonly cited barriers for junior athletes to increase their difficulty is the fact that, given the FIG rules of execution, athletes can score higher by keeping their difficulty low. 2D+E helps mitigate the impact of the execution rules without encouraging them to overreach.
 - iii. This concept was applied to the open selections at USA Championships in 2021 with great success.
 - iv. In heuristic terms, it allows an athlete to upgrade a skill one letter value, make a small error and still come out slightly ahead and a medium error would only cost a tenth. On the other hand, a large error or multiple errors in the execution of the upgrade prevents him from being more competitive based on the increased difficulty. It rewarded athletes who exhibited higher difficulty while moderating the balance between difficulty and execution.
- c. Men’s Development Program (MDP) Bonus:
 - i. The MDPC instituted a difficulty bonus system for the MDP Optional Program that awards 0.2 in bonus to routines which achieve a certain international benchmark on each event. While this may not be adequate for general purposes,

it is informative and motivational for athletes in a position to be competitive on the floor at major international junior events. Please note that this bonus is only applied in DP events such as Development Program Nationals.

3. Junior National Team Selection:

- a. **Age-Based Selection:** In order to maintain a consistent developmental pipeline of athletes, each single year age cohort (12-18) is guaranteed a certain number of selections to the JNT by AA rank order. 19-year olds who qualify to USAs through MDP Nationals can only be selected to the Senior Development Team as they are not age eligible for FIG junior events.
- b. **Open Selection:** In order to accommodate talent bubbles in any particular age cohort, a certain number of JNT selection will be made across levels. For example, there are 3 open selections from all ages of Levels 8 and 9 made after the 12 age-based selections are made. Then if one level happens to have more competitive depth in a year, it can be accommodated this way. This system has already been in use for the past quad
- c. **Qualification and Selection Events:** The MDP Regionals serve as qualification to the Junior Elite division at MDP Nationals for each of the JNT age categories. MDP Nationals is the JNT Selection Event for Levels 8 and 9 and the primary qualification event for Level 10s to USA the Championships Junior Division. The USA Qualifier also serves as a supplemental junior division qualifying event for USAs.

4. Senior Development Team

- a. This year, the MPC approved the upgrading of the Senior Development Team to National Team status. The SDT (5 athletes ages 18-20) is selected at the USA Championships from the Junior and/or Senior Sessions.
- b. Qualification to SDT involves minimum D scores for eligibility (see chart).
- c. 18-19-year old athletes competing in the junior session at USA's will compete 10 skill routines with junior FIG rules otherwise. They will also be eligible for senior difficulty bonus.

TABLE FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

	LEVEL 8	LEVEL 9	LEVEL 10	LEVEL 10
Ages	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19
Qualification to MDP Nationals	Through Regional Champs. as per JE Qualifications	Through Regional Champs. as per JE Qualifications	Through Regional Champs. as per JE Qualifications	Through Regional Champs. as per JE Qualifications
Ranking Method for IE & AA Awards at MDP Nationals	MDP Rules Opt. + TS	MDP Rules Opt. + TS	MDP Rules Opt. + TS	MDP Rules 2 Day Optional Total
Ranking Method for JNT Selection & USA Champs. Qualification at MDP Nationals	MDP Rules with 2D+E for Optional Session (JNT Selection)	MDP Rules with 2D+E for Optional Session (JNT Selection)	MDP Rules with 2D+E for Optional Session (USA's Qualification)	MDP Rules with 2D+E for Optional Sessions (USA's Qualification)
Qualification Totals to USAs from MDPN	N/A	N/A	30 Total (16yo=14; 17yo=14)	8 Total regardless of age
Qual. Totals to USAs from USA Qualifier	N/A	N/A	6 Tot from Jr Session (age regardless)- Opt+TS	Can only Qualify in Sr Session
Ranking Method for IE & AA Awards at USA Champs.	N/A	N/A	Jr FIG Rules 2 Day Optional Total	Jr FIG Rules 2 Day Optional Total
Ranking Method for JNT Selection at USA Champs.	N/A	N/A	Jr FIG Rules with 2D+E (2 Day Optional Total)	Jr FIG Rules with 2D+E (2 Day Optional Total)
Age-Based JNT Selections	12 Yrs. (3), 13 Yrs. (3) (from MDP Nationals)	14 Yrs. (3), 15 Yrs. (3) (from MDP Nationals)	16 Yrs. (5), 17 Yrs. (5) (from USA Champs)	18 yrs (1) (from USA Champs)
Open Selections	Total of (3) from combined L8/9		Total (3) from 16-17yo	See Senior Dev Team Selection

TABLE FOR SENIOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

	JUNIOR SESSION @ USAs	SENIOR SESSION @ USAs
Ages	18-19	18-20
Qualification Totals to USAs	8 from MDPN (regardless of age)	as per senior qualification rules
Qualification Ranking Method	Optional AA Day 1 + Day 2	as per senior qualification rules
Minimum Difficulty at USA's	32 (10 skill routines)	32.0 (10 skill routines)
SDT Selection Ranking Method	Optional AA Day 1 + Day 2	Optional AA Day 1 + Day 2
Bonus System	Senior Bonus System	Senior Bonus System
Open Selections	Up to 5	Up to 5
Total Number of SDT	Total of 5 Athletes from both Junior and Senior Divisions selected rank order by final score provided they meet the D score requirements. In the event that few than 5 athletes achieve the D score threshold, the remaining SDT athletes will be selected rank order by D score.	