

MPC Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 4:44pm EST.

Members present:

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

Justin Spring – Sr Coaches Rep joined the meeting late

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Reports

a. National Office - Jason

- i. New USAG brand unveiled at US Championships
- ii. Cost of domestic and international travel has increased significantly. We will need to be more mindful of the budget for the remainder of the year

b. High Performance Director - Brett

- i. International success throughout 2022, including World & Challenge Cups, DTB and Pan Am Championships
- ii. The U.S. Classic took the place of the National Qualifier and was a very positive and useful competition to prepare for U.S. Championships
- iii. The D score bonus system is working, and we are seeing many athletes emphasizing difficulty and taking advantage of the bonus system
- iv. Internationally, Japan and China are still very strong. Great Britain has shown that they will challenge for a podium spot at World Championships
- v. The remainder of 2022 is highlighted by the World Challenge Cup in Paris and World Championships in England. Also, the Level 10 and Senior National Teams will hold a joint training camp in December

- c. Senior Program Report – Randy
 - i. Senior coaches are very thankful for self-funding opportunities. Having our athletes perform on the international stage more frequently will have a positive impact on our relationships throughout the world
 - ii. Coaches are supportive of the bonus system and feel that it is doing its job
 - iii. Moving from the National Qualifier to U.S. Classic was extremely positive and hugely beneficial for the guys to get acclimated to what it feels like at U.S. Championships

- d. Junior Program Report – Mike, Sergei, Raj
 - i. With the loss of Dusty Ritter’s position this year, it has taken a group effort to fill the gaps. Hopefully a new Development Director will be in place in the beginning of 2023
 - ii. The ability to listen to the junior community during the year and make necessary changes immediately has been beneficial to the junior program. This was highlighted by the Junior bonus system, which the coaches asked for during the year
 - iii. Excellent showings by our Junior NT athletes at the DTB and Berlin competitions as well as winning Jr Pan Am Championships
 - iv. The message to the Jr high performance community is to start developing D score early to allow athletes to be able to perform higher level skills when they are older. Internationally competitive D scores with the best in the world are pushing 30.0.
 - v. Team V support from sports performance staff at the Jr training camps has been a very successful new initiative, providing athletes with resources in strength and conditioning, nutrition and sports psych
 - vi. A working group has been put together to review and update the Future Stars program and Technical Sequences for 2023

- e. Athlete Rep Report – Kip & Sam
 - i. Athletes would like more tickets for premier events for friends and family. Is it possible for unclaimed athlete tickets to be used by other athletes?
 - ii. Better communication is needed in explaining the reasoning behind the bonus system and how it will evolve throughout the Olympic cycle

- f. NGJA Report – Mike Juszczuk
 - i. NGJA membership numbers are back to where they were pre-Covid
 - ii. Steve Butcher is leaving FIG and returning to the U.S.
 - iii. Butch has been doing a great job sending information from the MTC directly. We should reach out to him if we need action items to be brought forward
 - iv. The newest version of the FIG COP was released one day before competition at U.S. Championships and European Championships. This puts everyone at a disadvantage, but knowing what changes have been implemented. FIG needs to evaluate their process and be mindful of the competition calendar.
 - v. The biggest challenge for judges is that they are still required to attend four international competitions to maintain their brevet category, despite one less

year in the cycle. There are not enough competitions and many judges will not be able to attend the required four competitions. Perhaps judges can be sent as neutral to various international events.

- II. Hall of Fame Update
 - a. Danell Leyva and Phil Cahoy Sr have been nominated for the 2023 HOF by the Men's Program Committee. We are awaiting confirmation on their induction.
- III. New MPC Charter - <https://usagym.org/pages/men/pages/charters.html>
 - a. Highlighted differences include:
 - i. New composition – the MPC Chair is now a separate non-voting position
 - ii. A replacement process has been created in the event of recusals
 - iii. New term limits have been created

As Mike Serra currently holds two positions on the MPC (Jr Coach Rep and Chair), we will need to hold elections for one of those positions to meet our new composition requirements. Mike would like to stay on at Chair and open the Jr Coach Rep position.

Motion: To retain Mike Serra in the Men's Program Committee Chair position until 2024

Motion: Randy Jepson
Second: Sergei Pakanich
Passed 5-0 (1 vote not present)

Elections for a new Jr Coach Representative will take place in September.

- IV. 2023 Pan Am Games and 2024 Olympic Selection Procedures
 - a. We need to start putting a plan together for these competitions. Key USOPC deadlines for these competitions:
 - i. Pan Am Games Selection Procedures – Dec. 15, 2022
 - ii. 2024 Olympic Games Selection Procedures – Oct. 15, 2023, but the goal will be to have these completed by mid-2023.

Justin Spring was able to call in for the remainder of the meeting.

- V. Senior National Team Selection
 - a. Mike Serra submitted a proposal for future selection that would quantify international achievements (Attachment A). Athletes could earn points for international achievements, which would go towards their NT selection. Ideally, this would encourage athletes to attend more international competitions and grow our athletes' profiles internationally. This would likely only affect a few athletes every year, who may not have locked their NT spot by automatic selection. This could be an objective measurement for those athletes.
 - b. The Committee discussed this proposal and felt that this can be brought to the athletes and coaches for their thoughts.

VI. New Business

- a. Justin Spring is no longer a coach within the Men's Program but would like to stay in his Coaches Rep position until his term is up in 2024. He will need to actively engage with his constituents to show that he is able to fulfill the duties of his position.
- b. Winter Cup Qualification
 - i. The MPC had a brief discussion on how many athletes will qualify to 2023 Winter Cup from 2022 U.S. Championships. We cannot take all Day 2 athletes as that is too many. 12 athletes will qualify from across the four Winter Cup qualifier competitions.
- c. The Jr High Performance Coordinator would like to have the junior bonus system in place for the 2023 Elite Team Cup. The message must be consistent that we are continuing to incentivize D score.

Motion to adjourn at 6:57pm EST

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Mike Serra

Passed 6-0



8.30.2022

MPC Chair

Date

Attachment A

To: Men's Program Committee

Re: Recognition of International Accomplishment in SNT Selection From: Mike Serra

Date: August 19, 2022

Introduction:

International accomplishment has long been considered an important consideration when naming national teams. Athletes and coaches have many times requested that their international success be recognized in the selection process. However, there has not been a functionally objective metric for this employed in national team selections. I would like to propose such a metric for discussion.

SNT Selection Points for International Accomplishment:

- Award points to athletes who medal in World Cup and World Challenge Cups which will carry into the next championships meet in which SNT is selected.
 - The points would be added to their points total in the 10-point system.
- The appropriate number of points to be awarded would need to be determined, but for the sake of discussion, here is a scenario to consider:

FIG World Cup and PAGU Championships competitions:

- Gold (5 pts), Silver (3 pts), Bronze (2 pts)
- Other meets such as Pacific Rim Championships may also want to be considered.

FIG World Challenge Cup competitions:

- Gold (3 pts), Silver (2 pts), Bronze (1 pt)

Bonus Points: 2 pts for each OG or WC finalist beaten in finals to win the medal. The OG or WC finalist beaten must be from the current quad or last two years, whichever is longer.

Discussion Points:

Positive Impacts:

- Athletes efforts to succeed internationally would be validated.
- Athletes would be more motivated to participate and win these events.
- It helps mitigate the dilemma athletes often find themselves in whereby their efforts to succeed internationally may compromise their preparation for NT selection events.

- If more American athletes participate and win medals in these events, it improves the international profile of the entire USA program which can only be good for us in future events.
- International success is a valid and meaningful factor to consider when selecting NT members and comparing athletes who are otherwise very close in performance.

This proposal would likely only affect the last few spots to be named to the team. For example, in the current selection process, only a few spots on the team are likely to be determined by points. After the WC Team Squad is named, AA spots and Discretionary spots are awarded, there are a limited number of spots to be awarded by points. Using recent international success as an objective metric in this process would certainly be appropriate.