

MPC Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2022 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:34pm ET by Chair, Mike Serra.

Members present:

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

Members not present:

David Klein – MDPC Chair (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Man’s Program Manager (voice, no vote)

I. 2023 Winter Cup Qualifications

The MPC (Committee) first reviewed the qualification process from the 2022 Winter Cup. The qualification process included all Senior athletes who competed at the 2021 U.S. Championships, all FIG age eligible Junior National Team athletes, 12 athletes from the three Winter Cup Qualifier competitions and approved petitions. This process was able to work because so many Senior athletes retired following the 2021 Olympic Trials, that the numbers were able to work within our targeted 48-athlete competition. If we were to use the same process for 2023, we would have too many athletes as there are minimal retirements from the pool of Seniors at the 2022 U.S. Championships. The MPC began looking at other procedures that may be viable.

The 10-point program final results showed 30 Senior athletes who achieved at least one point, including 19 of our Senior National and Senior Development Team athletes. The only Senior National Team athlete who did not show up on the 10-point program results was Paul Juda, who did not compete due to injury. Adding Paul Juda to the qualified athletes gives us 31 pre-qualified Senior athletes.

Historically, the MPC has approved all FIG age eligible Junior National Team athletes to compete in the Winter Cup as Senior athletes. In 2023, there will be seven 18-year old Junior National Team athletes who are eligible to compete in the Winter Cup. Adding those seven athletes gives us 38 pre-qualified athletes to the Winter Cup.

In 2023, there are four Winter Cup qualifying competitions, HNI, Navy Open, Stanford Open and Windy City. Traditionally, the top three all-around athletes from each competition are qualified to Winter Cup. If we continue with that strategy, we would take 12 athletes from the qualifier competitions, which would give us 50 athletes qualified to Winter Cup. This would put us over the targeted number of 48, and also not leave any room for petitions for injured athletes or individual event specialists.

The MPC felt that in order to bring our total athlete number down, we should look at two options:

1. Reduce the number of FIG age eligible Junior National Team athletes, or
2. Reduce the number of Senior athletes who qualified from the 10-point program final results at the 2022 U.S. Championships

The Jr High Performance Coordinator (Jr HPC) stressed how important it is to have the Junior athletes included in Winter Cup in 2023 as it is part of the Junior World Championships selection procedures. Additionally, if the 18-year old Junior NT athletes are no longer qualified to Winter Cup, they would need to qualify for their Elite Team Cup team. Many regions have already begun that team selection process with the belief that the Junior National Team athletes would be qualified through to Winter Cup. This change will disrupt the whole process. If the 18-year old Junior National Team athletes are now being asked to earn their way to Winter Cup through one of the qualifying competitions, then there is a chance they will not make it as they will be competing against more experienced Senior athletes.

The Senior coaches' perspective is that the Senior athletes earned their way into the 2023 Winter Cup through Senior level performances at the 2022 U.S. Championships and that the Junior National Team athletes, who are now stepping into the Senior category, should be expected to earn their way into the Winter Cup and compete against other Seniors. They agree that supporting our Junior National Team athletes' development as they begin their Senior careers is extremely important, but they should be able to qualify through one of the qualifier competitions.

**Motion: To approve the following qualification procedures for the 2023 Winter Cup (see Attachment A for full procedures):**

- a. All current Senior National Team and Senior Development Team members
- b. All Senior athletes who received at least one (1) point from the 10-point program final results at the 2022 U.S. Championships
- c. The top three (3) ranked Level 10 Junior National Team athletes from the all-around final results at the 2022 U.S. Championships, who are Senior FIG age eligible
- d. The top three (3) all-around athletes from each of the designated Winter Cup qualification competitions:
  - i. Navy Open (Jan. 21-22)
  - ii. Stanford Open (Jan. 27-29)
  - iii. Houston National Invitational (Jan. 13-15)
  - iv. Windy City (Jan. 13-15)
- e. MPC approved petitions for injury or extraordinary circumstance
- f. MPC approved petitions for Individual Event specialists who achieve a D score at one of the qualifying competitions that would have ranked within the top eight (8) finalists from the 2022 World Championships Qualifications. Vault must be a two-score average.

If a FIG age eligible Junior National Team athlete does not accept his position at Winter Cup, he will be replaced by the next ranked FIG age eligible Junior National Team athlete via all-around final results from the 2022 U.S. Championships.

Motion: Randy Jepson  
Second: Kip Simons  
Passed 5-0

## II. Senior National Team Selection from 2023 Winter Cup

The Committee agrees that any medalist from the 2022 World Championships will maintain their spot on the Senior National Team until 2023 U.S. Championships. Should the team earn a medal, then the team and traveling alternate will all maintain their National Team spots until 2023 U.S. Championships.

Due to time constraints, this discussion had to be tabled as there was one more important topic that needed to be discussed before the meeting concluded.

## III. 2023 Pan Am Games Selection

The selection procedures for the 2023 Pan Am Games are due to the USOPC by December 1, 2022. We need to determine a strategy for team selection for this event as it takes place the week after World Championships in 2023. With both events taking place so close together, the objective is to have two separate teams, which would allow for more major international experience for our National Team athletes. The selection for both teams would come from the 2023 U.S. Championships. Team score scenarios and discretionary criteria would be used to name the World Championship Team first, and then a second set of scenarios would be created with the Worlds Team athletes removed. There was also some discussion around giving the Worlds Team replacement athletes the first right of refusal for Pan Am Games, but the traveling replacement athlete for World Championships would be required to accept that role and not turn it down in favor of Pan Am Games. They could, however, attend both competitions if they are able.

The Committee felt that the High Performance Director should talk to the coaches and athletes to get their thoughts. Then, Jason will create a draft of the selection procedures for the Committee, coaches and athletes to review.

Motion to adjourn at 1:56pm ET



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MPC Chair

October 18, 2022

Date

## Attachment A

### 2023 Winter Cup Qualification & Entry Procedures

- I. Approximately 48 athletes who are FIG age eligible and U.S. citizens will qualify to the Senior division of Winter Cup, including:
  - a. All current Senior National Team and Senior Development Team members
  - b. All Senior athletes who received at least one (1) point from the 10-point program final results at the 2022 U.S. Championships
  - c. The top three (3) ranked Level 10 Junior National Team athletes from the all-around final results at the 2022 U.S. Championships, who are Senior FIG age eligible
  - d. The top three (3) all-around athletes from each of the designated Winter Cup qualification competitions:
    - i. Navy Open (Jan. 21-22)
    - ii. Stanford Open (Jan. 27-29)
    - iii. Houston National Invitational (Jan. 13-15)
    - iv. Windy City (Jan. 13-15)
  - e. MPC approved petitions for injury or extraordinary circumstance
  - f. MPC approved petitions for Individual Event specialists who achieve a D score at one of the qualifying competitions that would have ranked within the top eight (8) finalists from the 2022 World Championships Qualifications. Vault must be a two-score average.
- II. Important notes for Qualification:
  - a. Athletes may participate in multiple qualification competitions but must designate only one (1) competition for attempting to qualify to Winter Cup. Athletes must submit their chosen qualification competition via email to Men's Program Committee Chairman Mike Serra ([michael.serra@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michael.serra@sbcglobal.net)), by **January 12, 2023**. **Athletes who submit their designated competition after this date will be ineligible for Winter Cup.**
  - b. If an FIG age eligible Junior National Team athlete does not accept his position at Winter Cup, he will be replaced by the next ranked FIG age eligible Junior National Team athlete via all-around final results from the 2022 U.S. Championships.
  - c. Any additional spots available after all qualified athletes have been determined may be filled by using scores from all four (4) qualifying competitions combined.
- III. Petitions
  - a. Petitions for injury, extraordinary circumstance or Individual Event specialists who meet criteria I.f. above are due via email to Men's Program Committee Chairman Mike Serra ([michael.serra@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michael.serra@sbcglobal.net)), by **January 31, 2023**, and must include the following:
    - i. Petition form: <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Men/Rules/Rules%20and%20Policies/injury-petition.pdf>
    - ii. Medical report/letter from a medical professional with date of clearance for participation in Winter Cup (if applicable)
    - iii. Results from qualifying competition for Individual Event specialists
- IV. Entry Information
  - a. Entry fee to Winter Cup is \$175 per athlete.

- b. Only one (1) coach per athlete, with a maximum of two (2) coaches per program will be issued a credential at no charge. An additional coach's credential request form must be submitted for consideration if more coaches are needed. [Click here](#) for form.
- c. Registration for pre-qualified athletes will begin on October 17, 2022, and close on **November 18, 2022**.
- d. Registration for athletes from the designated qualifiers will begin on January 15, 2023, and close on **January 31, 2023**. Petitions will be reviewed by the MPC after February 1.
- e. Program must use Meet Reservation to register for Winter Cup.
- f. No refunds will be issued after February 3, 2023.

## 2023 Winter Cup Pre-Qualified Athletes

<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Program</u>
Bischoff, Jeremy	Stanford University	Loos, Riley	Stanford University
Blixt, Landen	University of Michigan	Malone, Brody	Stanford University
Bock, Cameron	University of Michigan	McCool, Connor	University of Illinois
Braunton, Garrett	U.S. Air Force Academy	Moldauer, Yul	5280 Gymnastics
Burkhart, Taylor	Stanford University	Nedoroscik, Stephen	Penn State University
Christopoulos, Taylor	University of Nebraska	Nelson, Kameron	Ohio State University
Cormier, Matt	Penn State University	Nitache, Alexandru	GymTek Academy
Davenport-Mills, Chase	Roswell Gymnastics	Phillips, Curran	Stanford University
Diab, Alex	USOPTC	Richard, Frederick	University of Michigan
Drake, Isaiah	US Naval Academy	Shamah, David	EVO Athletics
Hale, Dallas	Cypress Academy	Simmons, Daniel	University of Oklahoma
Hong, Asher	Stanford University	Skirkey, Ian	University of Illinois
Hoopes, Patrick	U.S. Air Force Academy	Sun, Blake	Stanford University
Hymanson, Evan	Stanford Boys Gymnastics	Walker, Colt	Stanford University
Juda, Paul	University of Michigan	Whittenburg, Donnell	Salto Gymnastics
Karnes, Joshua	Penn State University	Wiskus, Shane	USOPTC
Lasic-Ellis, Ian	Stanford University	Young, Khoi	Stanford University