

Men's Program Committee & Senior Selection Committee Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
December 7, 2022

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

MPC Members present:

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

SSC Members present:

Sam McArthur – Chair & Coaches Rep
Nalani Cook – Coaches Rep
Akash Modi – Athlete Rep
Alex Buscaglia – Athlete Rep
Brett McClure – High Performance Director
Jason Woodnick – VP Men's Program (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel (voice, no vote)

This meeting is a combined MPC and SSC meeting as there is official business that concerns both committees.

I. 2023 World Championships and Pan Am Games Selection Procedures

Drafts of both documents were circulated to National Team athletes and coaches for a review period. Additionally, the Men's Program Athletes' Council representatives held an athlete-only meeting to discuss these procedures. Feedback from athletes and coaches have been incorporated into both procedures.

The floor was opened for discussion around both documents. The following thoughts were brought forward regarding the U.S. Championships qualification processes listed within both documents:

- There was discussion around reducing the potential number of athletes who qualify from NCAA Championships. Instead of taking the top six non-qualified AA athletes who must finish in the top 12, we could look at only going to the top 10. The Committee members felt that the NCAA athletes are very strong, and we should not change the number of potential qualifiers to come from NCAA Championships
- It was suggested that we include a specific number of athletes to qualify from U.S. Classic in order for coaches and athletes to know how many spots will be taken from that competition. The problem is that that number can change based on the other qualification processes. Therefore, it is better to not lock in a specific number. The target number of athletes for the Senior division at U.S. Championships is 48 with the U.S. Classic qualifiers and petitions filling any remaining unqualified spots up to 48. There is an opportunity to go slightly higher than 48 in extreme circumstances.

The final discussion item involved locking in the traveling replacement athlete from World Championships to the Pan Am Games Team, and providing that athlete first right of refusal for the Games. With both events so close together, that athlete would likely be away from home for approximately one month. MPC and SSC members felt that athlete should have the opportunity to accept or decline the Games assignment based on the logistical requirements. The Pan Am Games selection procedures will be amended to show this change.

With no further discussion, the Senior Selection Committee was ready to vote on both selection documents.

Motion: To approve the 2023 World Championships selection procedures and approve the 2023 Pan Am Games selection procedures with the amendment regarding locking in the traveling replacement athlete from World Championships.

Motion: Sam McArthur
Second: Brett McClure
Passed 5-0

Both documents will now go to the USOPC (Pan Am Games only), the USAG Athletes' Council and the USAG Board of Directors for review and approval.

II. Junior National Team Selection

The MPC reviewed the Junior National Team selection chart from the 2022 season and found some updates and clarifications for the 2023 season. There are a couple items that need discussion:

- In the August 2022 MDPC meeting, it was recommended by the committee that Level 10 JE 16/17 year old athletes compete two days of optionals at Development Nationals, instead of doing one day of optionals and one day of technical sequences. Athletes would still be required to perform technical sequences at their Regional Championships to qualify into the JE category. This has been widely supported by the junior coaches but needed final approval from the MPC.

Motion: To approve the Level 10 JE 16 & 17 year old athletes to compete two days of optionals at the Men's Development National Championships.

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Pavel Sargsyan

Passed 6-0

With the update mentioned above, the junior athletes at U.S. Classic will only perform optional routines. If an athlete did not compete the Technical Sequences at their Regional Championships, they will be required to either submit technical sequences scores from another competition within the competition season or submit a video of their technical sequences to be judged.

- Regarding the Open Selection spots for the Level 10 National Team from U.S. Championships, the MPC felt that adding a D score component to those selected spots would help encourage the program's overall mission to increase D score. The recommendation is the following:
 - Lock in one of the three Open Selection spots for the 16 or 17 year old athlete with the highest ranking D score (combined Day 1 & 2) after the automatic National Team selections have been removed. In order to be locked in, the athlete's final scores (D+E combined from both days) must be ranked within the top 12 from the combined 16 & 17 year old athletes in the final AA results (combined Day 1 & 2). If the athlete's final score does not rank within the top 12 of the field, then all three Open Selection spots will be via AA rank order. There will be a maximum of two athletes from either age group by Open Selection process.

Mike Serra will update the Junior National Team selection chart and submit to the Junior Selection Committee for final approval.

III. Senior National Team Selection at Winter Cup

The MPC and SSC reviewed the proposed Senior National Team selection document, which was based off what has been done in previous years. There was discussion regarding individual event specialists who meet the stated benchmarks, and it was decided that if more than two specialists meet the benchmarks, then those (and all remaining) spots will fall to the discretionary and/or petition selections.

The Committees discussed Vahe Petrosyan, who has earned an individual spot to the 2023 Pan Am Games through his AA title at the 2021 Jr Pan Am Games. Vahe is currently not qualified for Winter Cup as he did not compete at the 2022 U.S. Championships due to injury. With limited senior competitions available, it is imperative that we ensure Vahe gets ample opportunities to compete on the floor with our top senior athletes in order to best prepare him for the Pan Am Games. The MPC felt it is necessary to qualify Vahe to Winter Cup in the senior division.

Motion: To approve Vahe Petrosyan to compete in the senior division of the 2023 Winter Cup.

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

The Senior Selection Committee members felt they were ready to vote on the Senior National Team selection.

Motion: To approve the Senior National Team Selection Procedures for the 2023 Winter Cup (Attachment A).

Motion: Brett McClure
Second: Nalani Cook
Passed 4-0 (1 vote not present)

Before the Senior Selection Committee was relieved of their duties, they mentioned that for U.S. Championships, they would like to discuss using an “execution” component in selecting the Senior Development Team. This will be brought up in a future meeting.

The SSC adjourned at 1:33pm ET

IV. D-score Bonus for 2023

The D-score Bonus Working Group met to work through changes to the system for 2023. The bonus system was extremely effective in 2022, helping Team USA close the difficulty gap with the top countries at World Championships. We want to continue to use the bonus to incentivize difficulty as we have to continue to close the gap even more.

The philosophy has been that as we get closer to the Olympics, the bonus values decrease and ultimately go away in the Olympic year. With this quadrennium being one year shorter, we will miss having the additional year of the bonus system to prepare for Paris, and there will have to be a compromise in 2023 to allow for more of a focus on execution.

The MPC felt that the base score and bonus numbers were right in line with the objectives, with the possible exception of the lower D-scores. There was a thought that at those lower D-score bonus values there was not enough of an incentive and athletes may elect not to push the difficulty if they are in the lower range. It was determined that this is only the second year of the bonus system and we need to see how it plays out throughout the year.

Motion: To approve the Senior D-score bonus system for the 2023 Winter Cup (Attachment B).

Motion: Randy Jepson
Second: Kip Simons
Passed 5-0 (1 vote not present)

The Junior D-score bonus (Attachment B) will not change in 2023. However, after discussion at the MDPC level, it was recommended that the bonus be in place for the Elite Team Cup in 2023. The MPC agreed that this will help in promoting our program objective to incentivize difficulty.

Motion: To use the Junior D-score bonus system (Attachment B) for junior athletes at the 2023 Elite Team Cup and Winter Cup.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm ET



12.18.22

Men's Program Committee Chair

Date

DocuSigned by:



12/19/2022

Senior Selection Committee Chair

Date

Attachment A

Senior National Team Selection at 2023 Winter Cup

- Any medalist from the 2022 World Championships
- The top five AA athletes in rank order from Day 1 AA results, not already named to the team
- The top five athletes by rank order from the 10-point program final results (combined Day 1 and 2), not already named to the team
- Up to two athletes that meet the minimum benchmarks below:
 - Must be the event winner (determined by 2-day total)
 - Must achieve a FIG D score on either day of competition which would have ranked within the top three highest D scores on that event from IE finals at the 2022 World Championships. Vault must be a 2-score average of both vaults from each day
 - If more than two athletes meet the benchmarks above, all remaining NT spots will be filled by discretionary criteria and/or petition
- Remaining spots will be filled by discretionary criteria and/or petition

Senior Development Team athletes (5) will maintain their spots on the SDT earned to the 2023 US Championships. In the event a current Senior Dev Team member makes the Sr. National Team, that athlete will be replaced based on highest AA D-Score from Day 1 AA results who meets the Sr Development Team age eligibility.

Discretionary Criteria

The following criteria will be evaluated using results from the 2023 Winter Cup, including both days of competition and results from the 10-point program:

- a. Rankings within each competition results and 10-point program results
- b. Ability to fulfill upcoming international assignments and/or contribution to team scoring scenarios that may be used to determine international assignments
- c. D scores that are competitive with finalists from major FIG international events in 2022 and 2023
- d. E scores that are competitive with finalists from major FIG international events in 2022 and 2023
- e. Overall competitiveness with top international athletes across major FIG international events in 2022 and 2023

Petitions for National Team

Petitions are due to the Chair of the designated Selection Committee via email before the conclusion of the 2023 Winter Cup. In order for petitions to be accepted for review, they must include the following:

- a. Petition form to be completed: <https://usagym.org/pages/home/pages/forms.html?#mens>
- b. Medical report/letter subject to verification by USAG medical staff (if applicable)
- c. Athlete's return to play plan/timeline

- d. Proof of medical clearance to participate or estimated date of clearance subject to verification by USAG medical staff

For petitions to the National Team, the designated Selection Committee will consider the discretionary criteria listed above as well as past results from domestic elite championships and FIG international events*.

* Major FIG international events include, but are not limited to the following competitions:

- World Championships
- FIG World Cups and Challenge Cups
- DTB Pokal
- Continental Championships
- Major Games (Olympic Games, Asian Games, Pan Am Games, World University Games, Commonwealth Games, etc.)

Attachment B
2023 Winter Cup Senior Men's Bonus Table

FX		PH		SR		VT		PB		HB	
Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon
5.9	0.05	5.8	0.05	5.7	0.05	5.2	0.00 0	6.1	0.05	5.7	0.05
6.0	0.11	5.9	0.10	5.8	0.11			6.2	0.11	5.8	0.12
6.1	0.18	6.0	0.16	5.9	0.18	5.4	0.05 5	6.3	0.17	5.9	0.20
6.2	0.26	6.1	0.22	6.0	0.26			6.4	0.24	6.0	0.29
6.3	0.34	6.2	0.29	6.1	0.34	5.6	0.20 2	6.5	0.32	6.1	0.41
6.4	0.44	6.3	0.36	6.2	0.44			6.6	0.40	6.2	0.54
6.5	0.55	6.4	0.44	6.3	0.55	5.8	0.41 2	6.7	0.49	6.3	0.70
6.6	0.68	6.5	0.52	6.4	0.68			6.8	0.59	6.4	0.89
6.7	0.82	6.6	0.60	6.5	0.82	6.0	0.70 5	6.9	0.70	6.5	1.10
6.8	0.97	6.7	0.69	6.6	0.97			7.0	0.82	6.6	1.35
6.9	1.14	6.8	0.79	6.7	1.14	6.2	1.10 7	7.1	0.95	6.7	1.65
7.0	1.33	6.9	0.89	6.8	1.33			7.2	1.09	6.8	1.99
7.1	1.54	7.0	1.00	6.9	1.54	6.4	1.65	7.3	1.24	6.9	2.38

2023 Elite Team Cup/Winter Cup Junior Men's Bonus Table

FX		PH		SR		VT		PB		HB	
Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon	Difficul	Bon
4.6	0.10	4.6	0.10	4.2	0.10	4.8	0.10 0	4.5	0.10	4.0	0.10
4.7	0.21	4.7	0.21	4.3	0.21			4.6	0.21	4.1	0.21
4.8	0.33	4.8	0.33	4.4	0.33	5.0	0.30 2	4.7	0.33	4.2	0.33
4.9	0.46	4.9	0.46	4.5	0.46			4.8	0.46	4.3	0.46
5.0	0.61	5.0	0.61	4.6	0.61	5.2	0.50 5	4.9	0.61	4.4	0.61
5.1	0.76	5.1	0.76	4.7	0.76			5.0	0.76	4.5	0.76
5.2	0.92	5.2	0.92	4.8	0.92	5.4	0.71 0	5.1	0.92	4.6	0.92
5.3	1.10	5.3	1.10	4.9	1.10			5.2	1.10	4.7	1.10
5.4	1.29	5.4	1.29	5.0	1.29	5.6	0.91 6	5.3	1.29	4.8	1.29
5.5	1.49	5.5	1.49	5.1	1.49			5.4	1.49	4.9	1.49