SECTION V: NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Section V now contains information from previous R&P sections IV, VI and VII. This section has been reformatted and contains new and updated material throughout.

The information is this section includes:

Part I: Senior National Team Program
Part II: Junior Elite and Junior National Team Program
Part III: National Team Member Responsibilities
Part IV: Participation by Foreign Athletes

PART I: SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

I. Senior National Team

A. Selection
1. Senior National Team members are selected each year at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships and Winter Cup Challenge.
2. The MPC will determine the criteria and selection procedures for open National Team positions. These procedures will be published on the USA Gymnastics web site.
3. The MPC determines the total number of National Team members. The Committee may change the total number every year.
4. The MPC has the right to place an athlete on the National Team in an unranked and unfunded position.

B. Rankings
1. The MPC may or may not rank the members of the Senior National Team. Any national team ranking will be based on the competitive results from the Winter Cup Challenge, U.S. Gymnastics Championships or the trials for Olympic Games, World Championships or Pan American Games.
2. The MPC may leave unranked gymnast(s) on the National Team who are added by petition or do not compete in the trials.

C. Training Camps
Members of the Senior Team and their personal coaches are expected to attend all training camps provided by the USA Gymnastics Men's Program. Unauthorized absence from training camps may result in suspension from the National Team or loss of funding.

D. International Events
The MPC will assign Senior National Team members to various international and invitational meets at its discretion. All assignments must be approved by USA Gymnastics.

E. Coaches for Events
The MPC will assign coaches to various international and invitational meets at its discretion. All assignments must be approved by USA Gymnastics.

II. U.S. Gymnastics Championships, Winter Cup Challenge, National Qualifier – Senior Division

Qualification procedures, competition rules and format will be posted on the USA Gymnastics web site at www.usagym.org / Events / Men’s Artistic Gymnastics.
III. Trials for Olympic Games, Pan American Games and World Championships

The Men’s Program Committee shall determine and the USA Gymnastics President and the USA Gymnastics Executive Committee will approve the qualification procedures for the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships Team Trials as well as team selection procedures.

USA Gymnastics shall publish the qualification procedures on the USA Gymnastics web site (www.usagym.org / MEN / Elite / Selection Procedures) and/or in Technique magazine six months prior to the event.

The qualification procedures are subject to change when associated with scheduling, competition format and structure of organizing committees.

IV. Petitioning Procedures

A. Petitions

1. The petition form can be found online in the Appendices and by clicking on the Forms link.
2. The petition form should be used for all petitions.
3. The petition form shall be completed with official statements and signatures of the gymnast, the gymnast’s coach, and the examining physician.
4. The original copy is mailed (or emailed) to the Vice President of Men’s Program, one copy retained by the coach, and another retained by the gymnast.
5. All petitions will be reviewed by the MPC. The voting members of the MPC will approve or reject each petition.
6. The MPC will not accept a petition if it is not fully completed and officially documented as instructed.
7. The deadline for receiving petitions must be submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics’ national office at the time the athlete becomes aware of his inability to participate in the applicable competition. The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance, which prohibited the athlete from participating in the competitive process. In the case of a petition based upon an injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a physician’s statement, and the nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a neutral doctor selected by USA Gymnastics.
8. Qualification events and trial events may have different petition requirements. Please refer to event selection procedures published on the USA Gymnastics web site or in Technique magazine for exact requirements.
9. The Vice President of Men’s Program will notify the gymnast's coach of the MPC’s decision.
10. The MPC may consider petitions to the following:
   a. Final trials for the Pan American Games, Olympic Games and World Championships.
   b. U.S. Gymnastics Championships, Winter Cup Challenge or National Qualifier.
   c. National Team

PART II: JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

I. Purpose

The USA Gymnastics Junior Elite National Team Program has two goals. One is the recognition of competitive excellence through national team participation and the other is raising the standard of excellence in international competition through the educational process.
II. Program Objectives

The Junior National Team Program ultimately exists for the specific purpose of identifying and preparing athletes to compete for the United States in international competition. While the program can and should impact the development of all competitive gymnasts in the United States, the focus of the National Team Program is development of the elite gymnast. The National Team Program seeks to create a year-round competitive and educational support system for coaches and athletes through the following objectives:

A. Identifying the competitive path for our junior elite athletes and elevating the importance of successful competition.
B. Creating an educational and evaluation system that emphasizes international competitiveness.
C. Involve the personal coaches in overall program planning and organization as well as individualized athlete planning.
D. The education of the basic principles of coaching and the overall development of the elite athlete.

III. Training Camp Program Goals

A. Train basics, skills, sequences, half routines and routines
B. Evaluate skill and routine development
C. Assist direction of training programs throughout the year
D. Provide educational clinics for the gymnasts and coaches
E. Evaluate athlete progress through intra-squad meets
F. Bring foreign coaches to the training camps to exchange information and knowledge with American gymnasts and coaches

IV. Junior Elite and Junior National Team Composition

The Junior National and Junior Elite National Teams are comprised of approximately 29 athletes, ages 11 to 18, selected at either the Junior Olympic National Championships or the U.S. Gymnastics Championships. All Team Members must meet the qualifications set by the Vice President of the Men’s Program, his designee and the Junior National Coaching Staff. USA Gymnastics will pay travel and training camp expenses to and from the designated training camps for all Junior Elite National Team Members. Team members must pay their own travel and room and board for the Junior Olympic National Championships and/or the U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

V. Junior Elite and Junior National Team Responsibilities

A. A National Team Member must attend all USA Gymnastics scheduled training camps. Members may be excused for emergency situations, but the nature of the emergency must be communicated to USA Gymnastics.

B. A Junior National Team Member MUST attend any event, competition, etc., assigned by USA Gymnastics.

C. Based on observations at training camps, a Junior National Team Member MUST maintain a good attitude toward training and must not present any undue problems, psychological or otherwise.
VI. **Junior Elite and Junior National Team Selection**

The selection procedures listed below are subject to change by either the Men’s Program Committee or Junior Olympic Program Committee based on the competition schedule or other National Team program factors. Coaches are encouraged to review posted MPC & JOPC minutes and specific event information for up to date selection procedures.

A. **Junior Elite Age 17 – 19 and Junior Elite Age 15 - 16**
   1. National Team Selection procedures may change from year to year and any change will be posted on the Men’s Program page of the USA Gymnastics website, [https://usagym.org](https://usagym.org).
   2. Approximately eleven (11) athletes from 15-18 will be selected based on placing in the Junior Elite Division at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships.
   3. Approximately three (3) athletes may be placed on the Junior Elite National Team from among the participants at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships or from approved petitions. This selection is determined by a committee comprised of the High-Performance Director, Junior Olympic Program Coordinator and three members of the Junior National Coaching Staff.
   4. Qualification to the U.S. Gymnastics Championships will be determined by the Men’s Program Committee each year and posted no less than 90 days prior to the U.S. Gymnastics Championships.
   5. The Junior Olympic competitive season is defined as September 1 – May 31. Athlete’s age is determined according to the current Junior Olympic Age Group Competition Program rules and approved updates that use May 31 of the current competitive season as the age determining date. This will mean that athletes will compete in the same age division at U.S. Gymnastics Championships in which they qualified.
   6. The Junior Elite Division at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships will use FIG scoring, with any MPC published modifications.

B. **Junior National Age 11 - 12 and Junior National 13 - 14**
   1. National Team Selection procedures may change from year to year and any change will be posted on the Men’s Program page of the USA Gymnastics website, [https://usagym.org](https://usagym.org).
   2. Approximately eleven (11) athletes from 11-14 will be selected based on placing in the Junior Elite Division at the Junior Olympic Championships.
   3. Approximately three (3) athletes may be placed on the Junior Elite National Team from among the participants at the Junior Olympic Championships or from approved petitions. This selection is determined by a committee comprised of the High-Performance Director (or his designee), Junior Olympic Program Coordinator and three members of the Junior National Coaching Staff.
   4. Qualification to the Junior Olympic National Championships will be through the normal USA Gymnastics Age Group Competition Program Rules, including any published updates.

C. **Additional Athletes**
   The Junior National Coaching Staff has the ability to place up to three additional athletes onto the Junior National or Junior Elite National teams based on unusual or extenuating circumstances. Athletes who participate in and complete a national team selection event are not eligible for consideration.
VII. **Junior National Developmental (Future Stars) Team Selection**

A. Selection - The Junior National Development Team will be selected from the 10, 11, 12 and 13 year old age divisions at the Future Stars National Championships/Evaluation every Fall. The gymnasts perform compulsory routines composed of about ten basic skills and are also evaluated on trampoline and on their performance of prescribed flexibility, strength and body positions. A Junior National Coaching Staff member and an NGJA judge will evaluate the routines and the additional requirements and jointly produce scores based on technique and execution.

B. The following athletes will make up the Junior National Development Team from the Future Stars National Championships competition in rank order all-around scores:

- 10 year olds – top 16
- 11 year olds – top 16
- 12 year olds – top 12
- 13 year olds – top 6

These athletes will receive a National Development Team warm-up that identifies them as team members.

C. The following athletes, selected in rank order, and their coaches will be invited to attend a Junior National Development Team training camp the following summer:

- 10 year olds – top 8
- 11 year olds – top 8
- 12 year olds – top 6
- 13 year olds – top 3

USA Gymnastics will provide the athletes and coaches with room and board during the camp. Athletes and coaches attending the Junior National Development Camp will be responsible for their transportation to the camp.

VIII. **Junior National Team Training Camps**

The goal of the Junior National Team Training Camps is to give coaches and athletes practical help with their specific needs as well as provide guidance concerning appropriate planning so that the athlete may develop into an internationally competitive team member. The team structure attempts to provide coaches with realistic long-term goal setting for international competitiveness and the means to monitor that progress. The Junior National Camps will feature the following:

A. Coaches will work primarily with their own athletes. Junior National Coaching Staff and guest staff will work with groups of coaches.

B. The athletes are divided into groups and a Team Leader (one of the personal coaches) is assigned to each group by the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator.

C. All staff and coaches will discuss the camp's progress each day. This will include athlete evaluations. They will also carefully cover the next day's plans and activities.

D. Coaches will meet individually with the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator to discuss long-term development, goals and workout plans. These meetings will also be used to set individual goals for the next camp.

E. Evaluation on all or some of the following will be conducted: team presentation and warm-up, basic tumbling, individual presentation, individual skill development, strength, flexibility, optional routine development.

F. The setting of specific goals for the next camp.

G. Educational support materials for both the athlete and coach.
IX. Junior National Coaching Staff

Mission Statement of the Junior National Coaching Staff

The mission if the Junior National Coaching Staff is to help properly prepare our junior gymnasts to perform at the highest level in international competition.

In support of this mission statement the Junior National Coaching Staff will:

A. Take a leadership role in coaches and athlete education.
B. Design and facilitate the implementation of programs and curriculum that support proper development of all athletes.
C. Pursue international educational and competitive opportunities for junior athletes and coaches.
D. Assist in the identification and recommendation of athletes and coaches for international competitions.
E. Assist in the direction and content of all junior national team training camps.

In support of the mission statement and the goals identified within that statement, the Junior National Coaching Staff pledges to:

- Conduct itself in a professional manner.
- Work for the advancement of all athletes and coaches within the men's gymnastics community.
- Research and pursue the most contemporary technical information.

X. Junior National Coaching Staff Responsibilities

The Junior National Coaching Staff is responsible for providing the leadership in technical development and execution to the Junior Program of the USA Gymnastics Men's Program. Selection to the Junior National Coaching Staff is a singular honor and is a responsibility that requires attendance at training camps, coach’s staff meetings and the USA Gymnastics National Congress. The Junior National Coaching Staff members are available as a resource for the states and regions. They have demonstrated by their talents and successes that they are leaders in the sport. Junior National Coaching Staff members are required to agree to the following responsibilities:

A. General
   1. Work with the Vice President of the Men’s Program, Men's Program Manager, Junior Olympic Program Coordinator, and other staff members in a professional manner.
   2. Perform the position's required administrative and coaching duties.

B. Specific
   1. Required Event Attendance
      a. Be prepared to attend at least one Junior National Team Training Camp per year as assigned by the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator. In addition:
         i. Be prepared to carry out assigned duties in such areas as clinician, coaching, group leader, supervisor and resource person for other coaches.
ii. Attend all camp staff and coaches meetings
b. Attend Future Stars National Championships and National Coaches Workshop and be prepared to:
   i. Evaluate the Future Stars National Championships
   ii. Participate as a presenter, lecturer and/or a coach at the National Coaches Workshop
c. Attend USA Gymnastics National Congress and be prepared to participate as a presenter or lecturer as requested.

2. Duties at the Regional and State level
   a. Junior National Coaching Staff members are charged with the responsibility of providing direction, education, and coordination of the technical aspects of regional camps and coaches workshops consistent with national program goals. Toward that end, Junior National Coaching Staff members must work with the Regional Chairman of the staff member's home region to develop and carry out a Regional Clinic within the needs and realities of that region.
   b. Junior National Coaching Staff members are charged with the responsibility of planning, approving and, whenever possible, directing the technical aspects of state camps and coaches workshops. Toward that end, Junior National Coaching Staff members must work with the State Chairmen of the staff member's home region to develop and carry out a State Clinic within the needs and realities of that state.
   c. Attend and oversee the Regional Future Star's evaluation in the staff member's home region. Junior National Coaching Staff members must serve as technical director of the evaluation, be responsible for training and education of officials, and approving all qualifiers for advancement to the National Future Stars Championships.

3. Serve as a resource person for the community.
   a. Be willing to work with and serve as a technical resource to coaches within their region and to national team member's coaches
   b. Be willing to draft and submit technical articles for publication in a timely manner when requested

4. Miscellaneous: Junior National Coaching Staff members should attempt to make themselves available,
   a. Attend other training camps as requested by the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator or National Team Coordinator
   b. Conduct other regional clinics or camps
   c. Attend domestic or international events as assigned
   d. Attend FIG Solidarity Courses as assigned whenever possible, for the following when requested:

XI. Junior National Coaching Staff Selection

A. Application: Interested applicants may send a request for appointment and a complete resume to the Vice President of the Men's Program. The Vice President of the Men's Program will review the application in consultation with the Junior Olympic Program Coordinator and the National Team Coordinator and then determine appointments to the staff based on:
   1. Professional membership in the Men's Program
   2. Active involvement in the junior program on the local, regional and national level
3. Demonstrated interest in the national program through attending clinics, training camps and USA Gymnastics National Congress
4. Perceived ability to integrate into the Junior National Coaching Staff
5. Technical knowledge of gymnastics
6. Competitive and coaching experience
7. Education

B. Term: The term for a Junior National Coaching Staff position is four years. The initial year of the four-year term shall be probationary and the Vice President of the Men's Program may elect to terminate a Junior National Coaching Staff appointment at the end of the first year. There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms.

C. Removal from the Junior National Coaching Staff: Failure of a Junior National Coaching Staff member to follow the USAG Code of Ethics or to meet the obligations set forth in this document and the mission statement may result in suspension or termination of a Junior National Coaching Staff appointment by the Vice President of the Men's Program.

D. The Junior National Coaching Staff Application form can be found on the forms link located on the left sidebar of the Men's Page on the USA Gymnastics web site at https://usagym.org.

XII. Current Junior National Coaching Staff

Junior Olympic Program Coordinator, Dusty Ritter
Adam Lomax, Region 1
Vince Miller, Region 1
Mike Naddour, Region 1
Bob Young, Region 2
Tom Meadows, Region 3
Yuejin Sun, Region 3
Marc Yancey, Region 3
Chuck Chmelka, Region 4
Mike Serra, Region 5
Juha Tanskanen, Region 5
Gene Watson, Region 5
Lorenzo Macaluso, Region 6
Kevin Preston, Region 7
Yin Alvarez, Region 8
Jim Hisey, Region 8
Nikolai Korepanov, Region 8
Andriy Stepanchenko, Region 9
Brandy Wood, Region 9
Nancy Spielkamp - Dance and Presentation Specialist
Joy Umenhofer - Trampoline Specialist

PART III: NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

All national team members must sign and return a National Team Agreement and as well as an agreement to adhere to the policies presented in the National Team Responsibilities Manual before being confirmed as a member of the National Team. Each member of a National Team delegation attending any National Team function is obligated to follow the policies presented in the National Team Responsibilities Manual.
Excerpt from the National Team Responsibilities Manual:

The USA Men’s Program has the ambitious goal of challenging for medals at the highest level at every international event where the US men are participants. This is a goal that will require commitment to excellence from every aspect of the men’s program and an unprecedented attention to detail.

It is evident that all activities of our national team, both domestic and international, have a direct impact on international success. Therefore, the expectations for all national team activities should be addressed in order to provide both direction and clarity to the national team program.

National Team Goal
This national team goal was established following the 2012 Olympic Games after extensive discussion by all stakeholders in the men’s program.

The goal of the National Team is competitive success at the World Championships and Olympic Games defined as:

- Earn a team medal through maximizing team performance and then,
- Maximize medal potential in all around and individual event competition.

Further, in support of the team goal, the men’s program will strive to be competitive for medals on every event and in every international event where U.S. athletes are present.

Section I: Responsibilities

This section includes the duties and responsibilities of the USA Men’s Team while engaged in any National Team activity (competitions, training camps, tours, exhibitions, etc.). The team is defined as the group of individuals who have an official role at a national team activity and includes personal coaches, athletes, national team coordinator, head coach, team leader/head of delegation, medical staff, athlete representative or other support staff.

Our performance in our various roles is highly visible to organizing committees, officials and other delegations and is critical to our overall impression and success. This manual will provide a list of duties and responsibilities that will allow us all to be prepared for the opportunity to represent our country at the highest level of achievement.

When competing as a team, we must all understand that conformance with every aspect of these guidelines is essential to effectively function as a team in order to achieve team goals. While we recognize that individuality is an important aspect of our culture, personal agendas and individual needs must become secondary to our team goals. Everyone included in our delegation is compelled to conduct himself in a professional manner for the duration of the event. Our mission is to represent our country, our sport and ourselves at the highest level possible. These events should be considered as an honor and a responsibility. USA Gymnastics has assisted with your preparation and is funding the experience. Please understand that adherence to this manual is a requirement of all delegation members. Should any delegation member be dismissed because of non-compliance, he may lose benefits associated with team membership.

USA Gymnastics is committed to promoting a safe environment. Many policies and procedures are in place to promote USA Gymnastics’ Safe Sport ideals, including its Code of Ethical Conduct and Participant Welfare Policy. Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated – and specific forms of misconduct that USA Gymnastics has deemed as Prohibited Conduct are included in this manual. National Team members, coaches, and staff are the most visible members of the gymnastics community and it is expected that this group set a positive example by conducting yourself in a positive, ethical manner. It is
critical that each of you upholds USA Gymnastics’ Safe Sport ideals and works together to create the safest possible environment for our athletes.

I. Personal Coach
The personal coach of each athlete is critical to the success of the athlete and the team. Each personal coach is responsible for the conduct of his athlete(s) and for their competitive performance. This includes their physical, mental and emotional performances. For international events where the coach has been invited to attend, USA Gymnastics will make every effort to obtain a credential. If there are not enough credentials for all coaches, the National Team Coordinator (NTC) and the Vice President of Men’s Program or the MPC – as applicable for the event - will determine who will receive a credential. In most cases, only one coach per program will travel with the delegation. While we recognize that most programs consist of two or more coaching staff members, proper training in the final preparation stage will allow the athlete to function optimally with one coach and allow for greater flexibility with regard to assignments and credentials.

Responsibilities are as follows:
• Support the decisions and be responsive to the National Team Coordinator and/or Head Coach
• Manage their athlete(s) according to the established team policies
• Voice all opinions and concerns within coaches meetings, directly to the National Team Coordinator (or USA Gymnastics personnel) or through the MPC
• Attend all coaches/team meetings
• Attend all training sessions
• Adhere to daily schedule of activities as outlined by the National Team Coordinator
• Adhere to the established team training/activities schedule for all team athletes from the time their athlete is selected for an event until the completion of that event. This is particularly important for Olympic, World and Pan American Games teams
• Be on time and in proper attire for all team functions
• Respect, communicate with and support all members of the delegation as needed
• Understand that each member’s role and all decisions are made in the best interest of the USA Team
• Present a positive image at all times; especially, when in public or dealing with the media/sponsors
• Remain focused on your duties
• Refrain from any conversations or activities which could be construed as inappropriate or divisive
• Show respect for athlete rest and preparation needs by refraining from conversations with athletes in their hotel rooms
• Check the athlete’s apparel
• Do not share privileged information, photos or comments from training camps or competitions to the public via phone, social media, email or other method. Privileged information includes selection information, injuries, athlete performance information, skill or routine video, etc.
• Shall not engage in any form of Prohibited Conduct (see Attachment)
• Shall not willfully tolerate Prohibited Conduct
• Has the duty to report any actions that may constitute Prohibited Conduct, or any suspicions that Prohibited Conduct has occurred
• Must complete annual Safe Sport training

II. Athletes
As a member of the USA Men’s National Team, each athlete will be expected to assume the following responsibilities when representing the USA at any team activity or competition. These
Responsibilities should be considered prior to your acceptance and/or qualification to the team. You are a selected representative of USA Gymnastics and your behavior must, at all times, be that of a National Team Member.

Responsibilities are as follows:

- Attend all scheduled team training sessions and meetings at all national team camps and assigned competitions
- Get adequate rest
- Attend all scheduled team meals
- Fully comply with all USADA, WADA, FIG and USA Gymnastics requirements regarding anti-doping
- Discuss any physical ailments with your personal coach immediately who will report those to the NTC
- Condition properly and follow-up with all appropriate physical therapy in order to maximize your performance
- Communication, respect and support for the National Team Coordinator and the designated coaches is required at all times
- Understand that you will be under the direction of the National Team Coordinator and/or the Head Coach at camps or events. Your personal coach is in attendance as a member of the support team.
- Demonstrate respect and support for your teammates, support staff and host country
- Present yourself in a manner consistent with the National Team and USA Gymnastics image. In addition, athletes, will abide by the following based on direction and discretion of the National Team Coordinator:
  - No jewelry while at training or competition
  - No excessive hair styles/colors
  - No excessive language in the gym or at team functions
  - No facial hair at assigned events or specified team functions
- Responsible for extra grips and necessary items for training and competition
- Be prepared to show competitive readiness at any time
- Follow the daily schedule set up by the National Team Coordinator
- Adhere to the established team training/activities schedule for all team athletes from the time of selection to an event until the completion of that event. This is particularly important for Olympic, World and Pan American Games teams
- Training alterations due to injury or illness must be communicated to the National Team Coordinator prior to workout
- Have all the listed apparel with you and in good condition
- Know and execute with excellence the National Team warm-up
- All athletes are expected to remain a part of the team and adhere to the team schedule until all Individual and Team Competitions are completed
- Do not share privileged information, photos or comments from training camps or competitions to the public via phone, social media, email or other method. Privileged information includes selection information, injuries, athlete performance information, skill or routine video, etc.
- Shall not engage in any form of Prohibited Conduct (see Attachment)
- Shall not willfully tolerate Prohibited Conduct
- Has the duty to report any actions that may constitute Prohibited Conduct, or any suspicions that Prohibited Conduct has occurred

Click here for the complete National Team Responsibilities Manual.
PART IV: PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN ATHLETES

Only athletes who are eligible to become members of the Junior or Senior National Team may participate in the following events:

- National Qualifier
- Winter Cup Challenge
- U.S. Gymnastics Championships
- World, Pan American Games or Olympic Team Trials

Foreign athletes within the Junior Olympic Program may participate according to the requirements presented in Section V, parts IV and V of these Rules and Policies but may not become members of the Men’s National Development Team, Junior National Team or Junior Elite National Team.