

## **Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures 2021-2022 12-19 & 13-20 Junior National Team (JNT)**

### **I. Overview**

The process for qualification/selection to the 2021-2022 Acrobatic Gymnastics National Team is a combination of the results from 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships and discretionary selection criteria outlined (II.B). 12-19 & 13-20 Juniors unable to attend the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships due to 2021 World Championships may submit a WAGC-petition.

#### **A. QUALIFICATION:**

Athletes will be named to the JNT in one of the following ways:

- i. Petitioning onto the team via the 2021 World Age Group Competition petition process defined in Section II.A.
- ii. Automatically qualify from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships per Section II.B.
- iii. Be selected using the discretionary criteria based on performances at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships as defined in Section II.C.
- iv. Through a successfully approved petition onto JNT through the process set forth in Section III.
- v. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (ASC) reserves the right to select additional pair/groups for JNT at selection events during the 2021-2022 competitive season. The criteria for selection is outlined in section II.A and section II.B.

#### **B. ELIGIBILITY:**

- i. Only United States citizens may be named to JNT.
- ii. All athletes in the pair/group must meet FIG age criteria for the respective competitive age group (12-19 or 13-20) in 2021 and/or (12-18 or 13-19) in 2022.
- iii. Athletes must compete at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships and follow the selection process outlined, unless petitioning (see Sections II.A. and III).
  - a. 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships to be held from June 21-27, 2021 in St. Louis, MO.
- iii. Athletes must be a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics.
- iv. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to complete USA Gymnastics' U110: US Center for SafeSport Core Course online training available at <https://usagym.org/pages/education/courses/U110/>.
- v. Athletes trying out for JNT must compete in the respective Junior Elite age category (12-19 or 13-20) at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships to be considered.
- vi. An athlete may not be named to JNT in multiple disciplines (i.e., men's pairs and men's group).

#### **C. SELECTION:**

- i. The selection of the pair/groups to JNT will be made by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (ASC).
- ii. Selection will be made according to criteria outlined in Section II.
- iii. The selection process will be consistent with the standards outlined in USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest Guide for Athlete Selection.

#### **D. TEAM COMPOSITION:**

The composition of JNT may include a maximum of twenty (20) pair/groups (Women's Pair, Men's Pair, Mixed Pair, Women's Group, and Men's Group). ASC is not obligated to fill all available spots of the age categories (12-19 & 13-20) or events.

- i. Positions on JNT may require ranking.
- ii. Ranking may be adjusted throughout the competitive season and will be evaluated at selection competitions (i.e. Acro Cup, National Qualifier, USA Gymnastics Championships) or training camps-

- in closest proximity to the international assignment.
- iii. The ASC will determine ranking.
- iv. A maximum of two (2) alternate pair/group per event may be identified. Alternates are not members of JNT.
- v. Alternates may be named to the JNT if vacancies become available in team positions. Decision to name alternates to the team will be based upon timing in the season, available international assignments, number of current JNT members, and pair/group's readiness for international competition (as determined by the ASC).

**II. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM (JNT) WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

**A. 2021 WORLD AGE GROUP COMPETITION TEAM PETITION:**

Because of the conflict of dates between the 2021 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Age Group Competition in Geneva, SUI and the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships in St. Louis, MO, pair/groups on the 2021 World Age Group Competition Team will be automatically placed on the JNT in the same age group (as their WAGC team assignment), given they complete the following:

- i. Complete the 2021 WAGC Petition form and return it to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director by June 24, and
- ii. Indicate, via the petition form, their intent to continue to compete at the junior elite in the same level (12-19 or 13-20) and in the same partnership for the 2021-2022 season.

**B. AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION TO JNT:**

A pair/group will automatically qualify to the 2021-2022 Acrobatic Gymnastics JNT from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships, if *all* the following criteria is met:

- i. The pair/group must finish in first place in their respective event.
- ii. The pair/group must earn minimum scores in all three (3) routines, as follows:
  - 8.75 Artistry
  - 17.5 Execution
- iii. The pair/group must achieve a minimum degree of difficulty in each of the three routines, as follows:

JNT	Balance	Dynamic	Combined
12-19	0.8	0.7	1.0
13-20	1.2	1.1	1.4

- iv. In the event of a tie, both pair/groups will be named to the JNT.

**C. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION CRITERIA:**

In addition to automatic qualification to JNT, pair/groups may be added to the JNT based on discretionary evaluation of performances from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships. Evaluation criteria for selection is outlined below. Note: Additions to JNT via the petition process or 2021/2022 future selection events will use the discretionary criteria below as well.

- **Score and ranking from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships**
- **Elements performed**
  - a. Bonus elements and other quality elements successfully performed in competition.
  - b. Number of elements in each exercise to reach the total difficulty.
  - c. Total exercise difficulty will be compared against the target difficulty. Target difficulty is the difficulty score before CJP deductions.
  - d. Technical performance of elements including quality of body lines, exceptional

amplitude and body shapes in balance and dynamic, and overall control and ease of elements.

- **Artistry and Presentation**

- a. Performance, Choreography, Musicality, Expression, and Partnership will be considered by the ASC (per FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Points).
- b. Intricacy, complexity, and creativity of choreography exhibited in exercises.
- c. Effective use of music, entries/exits, or other artistry moments that create identity or memorability amongst large competitive divisions.
- d. Overall sophistication and performance of artistry and choreography will be considered. Routines are expected to be performed with intricacy of choreography including full amplitude, polished timing, smooth transitions with elements, and ease on the floor.

- **International caliber and Overall performance**

- a. International Caliber defined as strength, endurance, flexibility, and grace. Standards commensurate with world-level competitors.
- b. Posture, presence, and poise entering and exiting the floor and during the performance of the exercise.
- c. Athletes' competitive experience, pair/group professionalism, and consistency will be taken into consideration.
- d. Mental and physical competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance.
- e. Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic and adhering to national team policies.

### III. **PETITIONS**

Petition Procedures - Notwithstanding the process identified in the preceding sections of these Selection Procedures, USA Gymnastics recognizes that extraordinary circumstances may occur which would cause a pair/group otherwise deserving of a spot on the 2021-2022 National Team, because of their previous competition results, to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process. For a petition onto the National Team to be considered, it must be submitted in writing to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director and meet the following requirements:

A. Petitioning athletes must have:

- i. Qualified to compete at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- ii. Registered to compete at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- iii. Signed and submitted selection procedures by the deadline.

B. Petitions must be submitted immediately following the pair/group's inability to participate in the selection event and before the conclusion of the selection event.

C. Petitioning athletes MUST submit a video for review following guidelines listed below. Athletes who are unable to attend 2021 USA Nationals Championships due to conflict with competing at 2021 World Championships are not required to submit videos along with their petition.

D. Petitions will be considered in the event of an injury, illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstances.

- i. The petition must include the date and nature of the injury and/or illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstance.
- ii. Petitions based upon injury or illness must be accompanied by a physician's statement. The injury or illness is subject to verification by a physician approved by USA Gymnastics. Additional

documentation may be requested to validate unforeseen circumstances.

- E. Due to the interdependent nature of partnerships, a petition must be jointly submitted by all members of the pair/group.
- F. Petitions will be considered by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (ASC) based on discretionary criteria listed (II.C).
- G. Petition Video Guidelines
  - i. All competition videos must be from the judge's viewpoint, as close to a normal judge's position as possible.
  - ii. Perspective should be from the front center of the floor.
  - iii. Recording device set up on table, or on tripod (preferred) slightly above height of table.
  - iv. Camera should be a reasonable distance from the floor and athletes, so all partners are visible, yet athletes do not appear too distant in the video.
  - v. If possible, all four corners of floor should be visible in the video.
  - vi. The video must be HD quality; standard HD (720 or 1080).
  - vii. The video must be stable, without shaking or bumps. Use of a tripod is helpful.
  - viii. Video should be captured using landscape perspective.
  - ix. As much as possible, the camera should remain static. Camera should remain at a steady distance to see all athletes and skills and should only be moved from side-to-side if the entire floor is not visible. The camera should not be moved up and down to capture the routine.
  - x. All partners must be visible at all times. This includes for high skills and tosses, as well as when the partners are spread around the floor.
  - xi. Video must include the athletes' salute and walk on at the beginning of the exercise, the complete exercise, and the salute and walk off at the end of the exercise.
  - xii. Sufficient lighting is required to guarantee all athletes can be seen clearly. The floor should be completely lit and glares on the video should be avoided.
  - xiii. Music must be clear and loud enough on the video. Consider placing a speaker near the camera.
  - xiv. Video submissions must be within 3 weeks of WTT. Video must consist of all competition routines with all skills, full amount of difficulty, and artistry. Competition attire is allowed but not required. Note: Coaches should precautionarily take videos of performances leading up to WTT in the event a petition would be required. It is recommended these videos are taken every week leading up to the event to avoid any problems.
- H. Covid petitions: Covid petitions will be considered in the event that an athlete cannot compete due to inability to pass Covid requirement protocols designated by the event. Athletes submitting the covid petition would need to follow all requirements as outlined above. (Section III).

#### **IV. TEAM OBLIGATIONS**

- A. Pair/groups selected to JNT remain on the team until the 2022 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- B. JNT members must sign USA Gymnastics National Team Funding and Support Agreement.
- C. JNT athletes are required to attend Regional and National Training Camps.
- D. JNT athletes must attend a mandatory team meeting. Team meeting is TBD but will likely take place virtually following USA Gymnastics Championships.
- E. The Program Committee will formulate the calendar of events and delegation size. International event assignments will be designated by ASC. JNT pair/groups may or may not be given an assignment during the 2021-22 competitive year.
  - i. Pair/groups who do not accept assignments offered may not receive another opportunity.
  - ii. Assignments may be determined according to competition directives, number of pair/groups on the team, age requirements, size of delegation, competitive readiness of pair/group, and experience.
  - iii. Assignments may be determined during training camps (accompanied with video review to ASC), selection events, based on competitive history, and/or national/international success.
- F. Athletes may decline an international assignment due to funding.
- G. Funding may be provided to JNT (in good standing) for specific events.

- H. USA warm-ups will be provided to JNT athletes prior to their first international competition assignment as Team USA.
- I. The following documents are required to be adhered to by athletes and coaches as a condition of being named to the 2021-22 JNT and can be found online at [https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro\\_selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro_selection_procedures.html)
- i. USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy
  - ii. USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct
  - iii. National Team Agreement
  - iv. Program Manual

**V. RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT**

Pair/groups may choose to retire from competition or resign from the national team. Resignation is required if there is a change in partnership (1 or more partners) and/or a change in competition level.

- i. Coaches must promptly notify the High-Performance Coordinator of changes in partnership status or level which may affect the pair/group's standing on JNT and/or ability to compete. This may include, but is not limited to, the retirement of athletes, changes in partnerships, changes in competition level, injuries, etc.
- ii. Coaches should make all attempts to notify the National Office before the information is made public. This includes social media.
- iii. Due to the interdependent nature of partnerships, removal, retirement or resignation of any single athlete will be effective for the entire pair/group.

**VI. APPROVAL OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

These Selection Procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee.

**VII. ACROBATICS SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The following individuals serve on the Acrobatics Gymnastics Selection Committee, which is responsible for making discretionary selections:

- Elite Committee Representative, Ronda Francis
- Elite Coach, Alayna Davis (Excused, unable to attend 2021 Gymnastics Championships due to WAGC conflict)
- International Expert, Nicole Barrilleaux
- Athlete Representative, Jessica Renteria
- Acrobatics Program Director, Shelby Salmon (voice, no vote)
- Acrobatics High-Performance Coordinator, Carisa Laughon (voice, no vote) (Excused, unable to attend 2021 Gymnastics Championships due to WAGC conflict)

Note: In the event a selection committee member cannot attend the event due to extenuating circumstances, remaining members of the Selection committee will be responsible.

USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest Guide for Athlete Selection defines the process that is used to handle any potential conflicts of interest. <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Pressbox/SelectionProcedures/conflictinterest.pdf>



## Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures Agreement 12-19 & 13-20 Junior National Team

By signing this form, each coach, athlete, and (if athlete is under the age of 18) parent/legal guardian participating in the selection process is acknowledging and agreeing that you have carefully reviewed and understand the terms of the applicable Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures for the respective team. Please note, the parent's signature is required if the athlete is under 18 years of age. A copy of birth certificate or passport (color copy, jpeg format) for each athlete must be submitted with the Selection Procedures by **June 24, 2021** to the Acrobatics Program Director, Shelby Salmon @ [ssalmon@usagym.org](mailto:ssalmon@usagym.org).

**Selection for the teams listed will be conducted at the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships.  
Junior National Team**

Age eligible for the 2021 Pan American Championships?

**12-19 & 13-20 in 2021**

*Age eligibility is determined by the age in which the athlete will be as of December 31, 2021*

YES

NO

Age eligible for the 2022 World Championships?

**12-18 & 13-19 in 2022**

*Age eligibility is determined by the age in which the athlete will be as of December 31, 2022*

YES

NO

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Abbr: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_ P/G ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

**Top's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Base's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Base's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following information for future plans and goals. This information is not part of the selection process for the 2021 National Team, but will assist in planning for PAGU Championships and development of the team over the 2021-2022 season.

### 2021 PAGU Championships Intentions:

#### Pair/Groups competing for a position on the 12-19 USA National Team

- This 12-19 pair group is age-eligible and if selected would attend for 12-19 at 2021 PAGU Championships.
- This 12-19 pair group will move age groups after Nationals and would not participate in 2021 PAGU Championships

#### Pair/Groups competing for a position on the 13-19 USA National Team

- This 13-20 pair group is age-eligible and if selected would attend for 2021 PAGU Championships
- This 13-20 pair group will move age groups after Nationals and would not participate in 2021 PAGU Championships

### 2022 WAGC and WCH Intentions:

This pair or group is planning to compete for a spot on the 2022 WAGC Team.  
Check the box(s).

- YES                       NO                       Undecided

If yes, please check one or more of the boxes below:

- 12-18 (must be age Eligible in 2022)
- 13-19 (must be age Eligible in 2022)
- Senior (Must be age Eligible in 2022)
- Undecided