

**USA GYMNASTICS**  
**ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS ATHLETE AND COACH SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2021 WORLD AGE GROUP COMPETITION – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national citizen of the United States at the start of 2021 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Team Trials and at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the World Age Group Competition.

1.1.2. Minimum International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) standards for participation (if any):

- Age Group 1 (11-17) athletes must be between 11 and 17 years of age by December 31, 2021.
- Age Group 2 (12-19) athletes must be between 12 and 19 years of age by December 31, 2021.
- Junior (13-20) athletes must be between 13 and 20 years of age by December 31, 2021.
- Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2021 World Age Group accreditation.

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics at the time of nomination.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the conclusion of the World Age Group Competition 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/>.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2021 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Team Trials: April 22-26, 2021, Indianapolis, IN.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

To qualify to compete at the 2021 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Team Trials, a pair/group must meet the age requirements set forth in section 1.1.2. and be registered to compete in the respective age category (e.g., AG 1 11-17, AG 2 12-19, or Junior 13-20).

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).
  - 1.3.1. A pair/group may be named to the World Age Group (WAG) team if the requirements for automatic qualification (see section 2) are met.
  - 1.3.2. Additional pair/groups may be added to the WAG team by the Selection Committee based on discretionary selection criteria (see section 3).
  - 1.3.3. Maximum of 52 athletes may be selected to the WAG team, with not more than two (2) pairs or groups per category (age group and event).
  - 1.3.4. Maximum of one (1) alternate per category (age group and event).
  - 1.3.5. Selection Committee is not obligated to fill all available spots on the WC team.

#### 1.4 Petition Procedures

Notwithstanding the process identified in the preceding sections of these Selection Procedures, USA Gymnastics recognizes that extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances may occur which would cause a pair/group otherwise deserving of a spot on the 2021 World Age Group Championships 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 WAG team to be considered, it must be submitted in writing to the Chief Programs Officer and meet the following requirements:

- 1.4.1. Petitioning athletes must have:
  - a. Qualified to compete at the 2021 World Team Trials.
  - b. Registered to compete at the 2021 World Team Trials.
  - c. Signed and submitted selection procedures by the deadline.
- 1.4.2. 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.
- 1.4.3. Petitioning athletes MUST submit a video for review.
  - 1.4.3.1. Petition Video Guidelines
    - a. All competition videos must be from the judge's viewpoint, as close to a normal judge's position as possible.
    - b. Perspective should be from the front center of the floor.

- c. Recording device set up on table (approximately 3 feet high), or on tripod (preferred) slightly above height of table.
- d. 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.
- e. If possible, all four corners of floor should be visible in the video.
- f. The video must be HD quality; standard HD (720 or 1080).
- g. The video must be stable, without shaking or bumps. Use of a tripod is helpful.
- h. Video should be captured using landscape perspective.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. 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.
- l. 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.
- m. Music must be clear and loud enough on the video. Consider placing a speaker near the camera.

- 1.4.4. Petitions will be considered in the event of an injury, illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstances.
- a. The petition must include the date and nature of the injury and/or illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstance.
  - b. 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.

1.4.5. Due to the interdependent nature of partnerships, a petition must be jointly submitted by all members of the pair/group.

1.4.6. Petitions will be considered by the Selection Committee.

1.4.7. Covid petitions:

- a. 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. (Sections 1.4.1 - 1.4.6).

b. Video submissions must be of videos taken within a three (3) week timeframe leading up to WTT. Video must consist of all competition routines with all skills, full amount of difficulty, and artistry. Competition attire is allowed but not required.

c. 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.

## 2. AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

List the automatic qualification criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

A pair/group will automatically qualify to the WAG Team if *all* the following criteria are met at the 2021 World Team Trials competition.

- a. The pair/group must finish first place in their respective event, and
- b. The pair/group must meet or exceed the scores listed below in all two (2) exercises (AG1 11-17) or three (3) exercises (AG2 12-19 and Junior 13-20).
  1. Maximum difficulty value for respective level
    - AG1 11-17: 0.5 for balance and dynamic
    - AG2 12-19: v80 balance, v70 dynamic, v100 combined
    - Junior 13-20: v120 balance, v110 dynamic, v140 combined
  2. 17.5 Execution score
  3. 8.75 Artistry score

## 3. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

3.1. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

The following six (6) criteria will be evaluated based on performance at the 2021 World Team Trials competition for each pair/group. Criteria are equally weighted.

- International caliber, defined as strength, endurance, flexibility, grace, technical execution, and artistry standard commensurate with World-level competitors.
- Elements performed
  - a. 'Bonus' elements and other quality elements successfully performed
  - b. Number of elements performed to reach total difficulty
  - c. Total exercise difficulty will be compared against maximum difficulty for the level
  - d. Difficulty for the exercises is the difficulty score before CJP deductions
- Execution of elements performed, including completion of elements and technique
- Artistry and presentation

- a. Overall sophistication and execution 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.
- b. Partnership, Expression, Performance, Creativity, and Musicality will be considered (criteria are defined per FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Points). [https://www.gymnastics.sport/publicdir/rules/files/en\\_ACRO CoP 2017-2020.pdf](https://www.gymnastics.sport/publicdir/rules/files/en_ACRO%20CoP%202017-2020.pdf)
- Overall performance
  - a. Posture, presence, and poise on the floor
  - b. Pair/group sportsmanship
  - c. Mental and physical competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance
  - d. Demonstrated professional attitude, ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic, and adhering to national team policies
- Score and ranking from the 2021 World Team Trials competition

If after evaluation of the above discretionary criteria two (2) or more pair/groups are considered equal, the Selection Committee will then evaluate national and international competition history from the previous two (2) seasons based on the competition history form submitted upon registration for the World Team Trials (see Attachment A). The Selection Committee will use the criteria below to compare and select the pair/group.

- Number and type of competitions
- Performance and scores from those events
- Consistency from those events

- 3.2. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

Selection Committee:

- Elite Committee Representative, Ronda Francis
- Elite Coach, Alayna Davis
- International Expert, Nicole Barrilleaux
- Athlete Representative, Jessica Renteria

Note: An Independent Observer of Procedure appointed by a sub-committee of the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors will be present at the final selection meeting (No voice, no vote).

- 3.2.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

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/Selection Procedures/conflictinterest.pdf](https://usagym.org/PDFs/Pressbox/Selection%20Procedures/conflictinterest.pdf)

#### 4. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 4.1 An athlete who is selected to the team by USA Gymnastics may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:
- 4.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Gymnastics Acro Program Director and Chief Programs Officer.
  - 4.1.2. Injury or illness **which inhibits peak performance** as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
  - 4.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 11 of these procedures.
  - 4.1.4. Violation of USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct, or National Team Agreement, which may be found online at [https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro\\_selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro_selection_procedures.html)
- 4.2 Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Chief Programs Officer and the Athlete Representative, and an interview with the athlete and his/her coach. An athlete who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics' grievance process.
- 4.3 An athlete may be removed from the Team for an adjudicated violation of WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

#### 5. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 5.1. Describe the process for by which the replacement pool of athlete(s) will be identified:
- Alternate pair/groups are selected from the 2021 World Team Trials competition, a maximum of one (1) alternate per age group and event.
- 5.2. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:
- In the case of a vacancy, the alternate in the respective age group/event would be requested to submit a current video of competition exercises. The performance will be evaluated for proof of readiness, defined as a level of performance matching that displayed during the 2021 World Team Trials competition, to compete at the World Age Group Competition.
- 5.3. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making replacement determinations:
- Selection Committee (see Section 3.2)

## 6. COACH SELECTION

- 6.1. The coaches for the 2021 WAG Team must meet the following minimum criteria:
- Be a current professional member of USA Gymnastics.
  - Possess a valid passport that does not expire until at least six (6) months after the conclusion of the event.
  - Be in good health and able to withstand the physical rigors of traveling with and working with the team
  - Be available for the entire duration of the competition, including any mandatory training specified in section 11.
  - Have thorough knowledge of FIG rules and regulations.
- 6.2. Coaches will be selected according to the total number of coaching and team manager credentials available, as per the FIG Technical Regulations and Rules for Accreditation, and limited to one (1) coach per pair/group, based on the following criteria:
- Personal Coach of an athlete named to the 2021 World Age Group Championships team.
  - Demonstrated ability to establish harmonious working relationships with all athletes and team personnel.
  - Ability to work with other Team USA groupings if/when required.
  - International coaching experience and history of traveling internationally with athlete(s).
  - Ability to work as part of Team USA in terms of respectful and professional communication to athletes, coaches, judges, and other officials.
  - Ability to attend all required meetings, training and competition sessions.
  - Medal potential of competing pair/groups(s) of personal coaches based on performance from the 2021 World Team Trials and past results.
- 6.3. Removal of Coach
- 6.3.1 A coach who is selected to the team by USA Gymnastics may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:
- Voluntary withdrawal. Coach must submit a written letter to the USA Gymnastics Acro Program Director and Chief Programs Officer.
  - Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics. If the individual refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
  - Violation of the USA Gymnastics' Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct or Program Manual, which can be found here [https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro\\_selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro_selection_procedures.html)
  - The Coach no longer meets the criteria in 6.1 or 6.2. (I.E., may no longer be a personal coach of a pair/group named to the team due to pair/group's removal from the team).
- 6.3.2. A coach who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics' grievance process.
- 6.4. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making selection determinations:

Selection Committee (see Section 3.2)

## **7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A 2021 World Age Group Team Selection Committee Report, outlining the work and decisions of the selection committee, will be made available for distribution to all athletes and coaches who participated in the selection events within a reasonable amount of time after the conclusion of the final selection event. The report will be made public on the USA Gymnastics website. USA Gymnastics retains the sole discretion to determine the contents and timing of the report.

USA Gymnastics will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the date of the conclusion of the World Age Group Competition.

## **8. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be adhered to by athletes and coaches as a condition of being named to the 2021 WAG Team 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)

- USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy
- USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct
- National Team Agreement
- Program Manual

## **9. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

USA Gymnastics approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USA Gymnastics in the following locations:

9.1. USA Gymnastics Web site: [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USA Gymnastics Chief Programs Officer.

9.2. Directly distributed to age-eligible national team members and their personal coaches.

## **10. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The 2021 World Age Group team will be announced on April 26, 2021.

## **11. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**



Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

Per the competition directives, provisional World Age Group Competition training and competition dates are as follows:

- AG1 11-17: June 20-25, 2021
- AG2 12-19 and Junior 13-20: June 24-30, 2021

Travel days are outside of these dates. Early training opportunities may be scheduled for the WAG Team. All selected pair/groups will be expected to participate in this training.

## **12. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FIG, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

## **13. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Elite Committee Chair/Program Committee	Ronda Francis
Elite Committee Member	Gawain DuPree
Athlete Representative	Jessica Renteria
High Performance Coordinator	Carisa Laughon

## **14. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

USA Gymnastics Bylaws can be found at: [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org).




## **15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FIG rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Gymnastics. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USA Gymnastics President/CEO.

## **16. USA Gymnastics SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and approved the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2021 World Age Group Team.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
USA Gymnastics President/CEO	Li Li Leung		4/19/2021
USA Gymnastics Chief Programs Officer	Stefanie Korepin		4/19/2021
USA Gymnastics Acro Program Director	Shelby Salmon	<i>Shelby Salmon</i>	4/19/2021
Athlete Representative	Jessica Renteria		4/19/2021

**Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2021 World Age Group Team as outlined in these selection procedures has carefully reviewed, understands and agrees to the terms of the selection procedures. That understanding and agreement is reflected by the signature of the athlete and coach below.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent (if athlete is under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2021 ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS WORLD AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SELECTION PROCEDURE – ATTACHMENT A**

This completed form must accompany each pair/group’s World Age Group Team Trials registration/petition, to be used to compare pairs/groups considered equal after reviewing discretionary criteria (see section 3.1.).

**PAIR/GROUP HISTORY**

**Current Pair/Group Experience:**

Please list previous experience (within the last two (2) seasons) of athletes in their current partnership and level only. List ALL National and International events attended, ranking and score.

Event/Year	Level competed at event	Rank	Total Score	Balance Score	Dynamic Score	Combined Score

**Athlete Experience:**

If athletes have previous experience from other partnerships within the last two (2) season, please list international events ONLY, including rank and scores.

Athlete Name	Event/Year	Rank	Total Score	Balance Score	Dynamic Score	Combined Score