I. SELECTION SYSTEM

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1. Citizenship:
   Athlete must be a citizen of the United States at the start of the USA Gymnastics Championships and at the time of selection and hold a current U.S. passport valid through March 16, 2019.

2. Minimum International Federation standards for participation (if any):
   • Athlete must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31, 2018.
   • Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2018 World Championships accreditation.

3. Other requirements (if any):
   Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Gymnastics.

B. Tryout Events:

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

   USA Gymnastics Championships, Greensboro, NC
   July 5-July 9, 2018

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the trials, events or camps listed above in B. 1.

   Qualification for the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships:
   Individual
   • By results of the 2018 National Qualifier (May 16-20, 2018 Lake Placid, NY).
   • 20 seniors from the National Qualifier will advance to the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships. The qualified athletes will include:
     a. National team members who compete in an international assignment in 2018 will qualify directly to the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships (and will be exempt from having to compete in the 2018 National Qualifier).
     b. The remaining places, not to exceed 20 total, will be allocated in all-around rank order from the 2018 National Qualifier.
Group
Any Senior FIG-level Group may participate in the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships, provided: the athletes are currently training together for the Group event exclusively and they have participated in the 2018 Rhythmic Challenge or the 2018 National Qualifier.

C. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team members (including maximum team size).

1. Individual
The process for qualification/selection to the 2018 World Championships Team – 3 or 4 athletes - is a combination of the results from 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships and discretionary selection criteria. Individual gymnasts will perform a total of 10 routines (Comp 1) at the 2018 World Championships.
   a. The senior National Champion from the combined rank order of two days of competition at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships will be automatically named to the 2018 World Championships Team.
   b. From among the gymnasts ranked 2-6 in combined rank order of two days of competition at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships and petitioned athletes, the Athlete Selection Committee (ASC) will name the remaining two or three team members utilizing the discretionary criteria in II.B. A non-traveling alternate will also be named at this time by the same criteria.

2. Group
FIG Senior Group(s) must compete in the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.
   a. Selection of the Group
      • A Senior National Group was identified by the ASC in June 2016 following a tryout event.
      • In the event the Senior National Group is the only Group to compete in the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships, the Athlete Selection Committee may name the Senior National Group to the 2018 World Championships team after an analysis of the 2018 international competition results and a verification of readiness at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.
      • In the event more than one Senior Group enters the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships, the top ranked Senior Group at the conclusion of the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships will be named to the 2018 World Championships team.
   b. Selection of the Group’s Athletes
      Groups are comprised of five or six athletes, and five athletes compete on each of the Group’s two events. More than six athletes may be training with a Group; therefore, once the Group has been selected, the six athletes who will be named to the 2018 World Championships team will be identified by the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Group’s Head Coach at the conclusion of the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships. In making this determination, the criteria outlined in Section II. will be evaluated.
3. Line up determinations
   a. Individual
      The ASC will confirm the subdivision and events in which each gymnasts will compete in at the 2018 World Championships following a review of the results from international competitions in July and August, and prior to the final FIG registration deadline.

   b. Group
      The final confirmation of the team and line-up determination will be made by the Group’s Head Coach prior to the final FIG Nominative registration deadline and may include five or six competing athletes. In making this determination, the criteria outlined in Section II. will be evaluated.

D. 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 an athlete otherwise deserving of a spot on the 2018 World Championships Team because of her previous competition results to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process.


   2. In order to be considered by the ASC, petitions must be submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics national office as soon as practical after the athlete becomes aware of her inability to participate in the process described above, but no later than the conclusion of the USA Gymnastics Championships.

   3. 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 injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a physician’s statement. The nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a doctor selected by USA Gymnastics.

   4. In the case that an injury or illness occurs which prevents an athlete from competing in or completing all routines at USA Gymnastics Championships, she is able to submit a petition to the ASC for direct placement onto the World Championships Team.

   5. Any current National Team athlete may submit a petition to be directly placed on the World Championships Team.

   6. Petitions directly to the World Championships team will be evaluated by the selection committee utilizing the discretionary criteria listed in II.B.

E. Selection Committee Members

   1. Names of Selection Committee Members and Titles

      Nataliya Kozitskaya, IEC Chair
      Elena Savenkova, World Championships judge
      TBD, Athlete Representative (individual)
2. Conflict of Interest
In the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2018 World Championships Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Selection Committee or continue for any reason, a replacement will be named by the IEC Committee.

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

One event, the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships, is being used to select the World Team. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a subjectively judged event, and an athlete can be severely penalized for a single error in individual competition.

For Group, more than six athletes may be training with a group, and it will be necessary to evaluate the best team composition.

Additionally, the 2018 Rhythmic training plan is designed for athletes to reach their peak performances in September at the World Championships, and in early July athletes will still be approaching their top competitive level.

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

The Athlete Selection Committee will use the following criteria, when selecting members for the 2018 World Championships Team:

Individual
- Results from the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships
- Consistency – percentage of hit routines competition
- Evaluation of four-event scores
- Previous proven international and national results
- World Class presentation
- Readiness to compete

Group
- Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast
- Ability to contribute to the Group dynamic
- Consistency—percentage of hit routines in competition
- Results from the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships
- Previous proven international and national results
- World Class presentation
III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. 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:
   - Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the President of USA Gymnastics.
   - Injury or illness which inhibits peak performance as certified by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of her illness or injury by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), her injury will be assumed to be disabling and she may be removed.
   - Violation of the USA Gymnastics’ Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct, National Team Agreement or the Rhythmic Responsibility Manual, which can be found online at https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html
   - Inability to follow the training plan
   - Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director and the Athlete Representative, and an interview with the athlete and her coach. Any decision to remove an athlete or coach may be reviewed through the USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures. An athlete who may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics Bylaws (Article 10).

B. An athlete may be removed from the team at any time for violation of WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:
   - Individual
     The Athlete Selection Committee will identify a non-traveling alternate athlete for the 2018 World Championship Team, as specified in II, B.
   - Group
     Athletes presently training with the Group named to the 2018 World Championships team are eligible replacement athletes.

B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:
   - Individual
     Should a Team Member be removed or withdrawn, the alternate that was previously named will be placed on the 2018 World Championships team. In consideration of the new team dynamic, the ASC will evaluate (using the discretionary criteria outlined in section II.) if any line-up changes need to take place, if applicable, based on the timing of the replacement.
Group
In the event a Group team member is removed or withdrawn, an athlete that is presently training with the Group may be named to the 2018 World Championships by the same process outlined in II.B.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

Athlete Selection Committee

V. COACH SELECTION

A. The Coaches for the 2018 World Championships Team will be selected from among the personal coaches of the team members, based upon the following criteria:

Individual – The coaches will be selected from among the personal coaches of the individual athletes. In the event the number of credentials available is less than the number of personal coaches, the Athlete Selection Committee will name the coaches.

Group – one Head Coach will be named. An Assistant Group Coach may be named. Group coaches will be selected by the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director.

Coaches will be named after the World Championship team has been identified at the conclusion of 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.

B. Removal of Coach

• Voluntary withdrawal. Coach must submit a written letter to the President of USA Gymnastics.
• Injury or illness which inhibits the ability to perform coaching duties as certified by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). If a coach refuses verification of his or her illness or injury by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), the injury will be assumed to be disabling and the coach may be removed.
• Violation of the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct or Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual.
• A coach shall automatically be deemed removed if the individual becomes ineligible for leadership pursuant to Section 2.4 of USA Gymnastics Bylaws or fails to meet the affirmative duty required by Section 2.4 of the Bylaws.
• Should an athlete be removed from the team pursuant to section III, the personal coach of that athlete may also be removed. Factors that may be taken into consideration when evaluating removal may include timing of the removal, availability of credentials, status of a replacement athlete, or the needs of the team.
• Any decision to remove a coach may be reviewed through USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures per the USA Gymnastics Bylaws (Article 10).
VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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 months past the date of the conclusion of the 2018 World Championships.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to 2018 World Championships Team and can be found online at https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html

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

VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

A. USA Gymnastics Web site: www.usagym.org
   These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following the approval or the procedures.

B. Directly distributed to the age eligible National Team Members.

IX. DATE OF NOMINATION

The 2018 World Championships team will be announced following the conclusion of competition at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.

X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

n/a

XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC 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 USOC Rules, as applicable.

XII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES
The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: International Elite Coaches Committee

Nataliya Kozitskaya, Coach representative (Chair)
Natalia Klimouk, Coach representative
Nataliya Kiriyenko, Coach representative
Ava Gehringer, Athlete Representative

XIII. USA GYMNASTICS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: www.usagym.org

XIV. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC and/or FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or 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 altercation or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the president of USA Gymnastics.

XV. SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and approved the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2018 World Championships Team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA Gymnastics President</td>
<td>Kerry Perry</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/2/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Program Director</td>
<td>Caroline Hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/3/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Representative</td>
<td>Ava Gehringer</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/3/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2018 World Championships 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