USA Gymnastics
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 Youth Olympic Games
Rhythmic Gymnastics
Amended April 16, 2018

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1.1.1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games (April, 2019).

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Youth Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 41).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2018 Youth Olympic Games accreditation.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Gymnastics.
- Athletes must attend for the entire duration of the Games.
- Athletes must participate in the cultural and education program, and mixed team events as requested.
- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.

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.

2018 USA Gymnastics Championships – June/July 2018 – Location TBD

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).

2018 National Qualifier (TBD) is the qualifying event for the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Current National Team athletes in the Junior and Senior divisions who qualify for international selection events are not required to compete in the 2018 National Qualifier and will automatically advance to the USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Current National Team athletes injured at the time of the 2018 National Qualifier may advance to the USA Gymnastics Championships (with doctor verification).
- All Level 9 gymnasts who have participated in the All-Around Regional Championships are eligible to compete in the 2018 National Qualifier.
- Injury/Illness petitions for non-National Team athletes are not accepted for this competition

1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

A maximum of one Individual athlete will be nominated for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games provided the U.S. earns a quota place through the FIG-identified YOG qualification event (currently scheduled as the Junior Pan American Championships to be held in March 2018 in Argentina).

1. The Youth Olympic-age eligible junior athlete who finishes highest in the all-around ranking after three days of competition at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships will be nominated to the YOG team, provided no athlete has submitted a petition per 1.3.2.2. below.
2. The Youth Olympic-age eligible junior athlete who has the second highest all-around ranking after three days of
competition at the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships will be named as the YOG replacement athlete, provided no athlete has submitted a petition per 1.3.2.2. below.

3. In the event an athlete petitions directly to the YOG team, that petition will be evaluated by the Selection Committee utilizing the discretionary criteria outlined in 2.2.

4. The selection committee will announce the YOG athlete and replacement athlete the day following the conclusion of the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.

1.3.2. 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 Youth Olympic Games Team because of her previous competition results to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process.

1. Procedures for petitioning into the USA Gymnastics Championships are listed in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies, located at https://usagym.org/PDFs/Rhythmic/Rules/2017rp/3_competitionstructure.pdf

2. Petitions directly to the Youth Olympic Games team will be considered by the Selection Committee, in consultation with the Program Director, for any Youth Olympic Games age-eligible athlete who competed in the 2018 Jr. Pan American Championships. The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance which prohibited the athlete from participating in the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships. 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.

3. In order to be considered by the Selection Committee, 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 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships.

4. Athletes who meet the criteria to petition, may petition directly to the 2018 Youth Olympic Games Team.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)
2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:

Discretionary criteria will only be used in the event of a petition to the Youth Olympic Games.

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

The Selection Committee will consider the following areas when selecting the 2018 Youth Olympic Games team member:

- Results from competition at the USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Results from competition at the Jr. Pan American Championships.
- Results from other international competitions.
- Start values (D Scores)
- Execution (E scores)
- Medal potential
- Readiness to compete
- Physical capability to fulfill the training plan.

2.3. 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:

International Elite Coaches Committee-Chair
Brevet Judge
Athlete Representative

2.3.1. Conflict of Interest

In the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Selection Committee or continue for any reason, a replacement will be named by the International Elite Coaches Committee.

3. **REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USA Gymnastics has jurisdiction over potential nominees.
An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Gymnastics may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Gymnastics’ President.

3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

3.1.3. Violation of USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct, National Team Agreement, or Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics’ Bylaws, Article 10 and the USOC’s Bylaws, Section 9.

3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct, the USOC’s Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply.

The USOC’s Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at: http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Resources/http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents

3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. Prior to submission of entries by name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The athlete identified as the replacement athlete per 1.3.2.
4.1.2. After submission of entries by name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

- Prior to departure, see 4.1.1.
- After arrival at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, if the nominated athlete is unable to compete due to injury, voluntary withdrawal or removal, the following process will be used to determine a replacement.
  ➢ The replacement athlete that had previously been named during the selection process will be nominated.
  ➢ The replacement athlete must have sufficient travel time to arrive in Buenos Aires in order to compete.

5. **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 conclusion of the Games.

6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Youth Olympic Games and are included as attachments:
- Code of Ethical Conduct
- National Team Agreement
- Rhythmic Responsibilities Manual

Include the appropriate link for your discipline:

7. **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

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

7.1. USA Gymnastics Website:


These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.
7.2. Other:
Direct distribution to age-eligible national team members and their personal coaches.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC: The day immediately following the 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships, but no later than 10 August, 2018.

9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

10. 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-Chair
Natalia Klimouk-Coach
Nataliya Kiriyenko-Coach
Lyudmila Kerznerman-Coach
Ava Gehringer-Athlete Representative

11. USA GYMNASTICS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: https://usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/usag-bylaws.pdf

12. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, PASO, as applicable, and/or FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, PASO, as applicable, 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 USOC.

13.  **ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Gymnastics may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- [http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman)

14.  **NGB SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Gymnastics.

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>USA Gymnastics COO</td>
<td>Ron Galimore</td>
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<td>4/18/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Program Director</td>
<td>Caroline Hunt</td>
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<td>4/18/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>USOC Athletes’ Advisory Council Representative*</td>
<td>Nastia Liukin</td>
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<td>4/18/18</td>
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* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.