USA GYMNASTICS
RHYTHMIC ATHLETE & COACH SELECTION PROCEDURES
2019 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – MOSCOW, RUSSIA
APRIL 12, 2019

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 January 21, 2020.

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

      • Athlete must be a minimum of 13 years of age by December 31, 2019.
      • Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2019 Junior 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, Des Moines, Iowa: July 4-7, 2019

   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 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships:

      Individual

      • By results of the 2019 Elite Qualifier (May 17-19, 2019 Lake Placid, NY).
      • 25 juniors from the Elite Qualifier will advance to the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.

      a. Due to the timing of the USA Gymnastics Championships in relation to the Junior World Championships, the top six (6) gymnasts on each apparatus and their coaches will be asked to get a Russian visa at their own expense in the case they are named to the Junior World Championships following the USA Gymnastics Championships.
• Qualifying exemptions: Current National Team athletes in the Junior division unable to compete at Elite Qualifier due to injury or illness verified by a doctor, or extenuating circumstance verified by the Program Director and the Rhythmic Program Committee, may advance to the Elite National Championships. In such case, she may also apply for the Russian visa following the Elite Qualifier. All other Junior athletes must compete at Elite Qualifier to qualify to the Elite Championships.

**Group**

Junior FIG-level Group participate in the 2019 Elite Qualifier: the top two (2) Junior Groups will advance to the USA Gymnastics Championships.

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 Individual event in the 2019 Junior World Championships is a Team Event and individual event qualification. Individual gymnasts will perform a total of 4 routines (Comp I) at the 2019 Junior World Championships. The process for qualification/selection to the 2019 World Championships Team – 1, 2, 3 or 4 athletes - is a combination of the results from 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships and discretionary selection criteria.

a. The top six (6) Juniors on each individual event will advance to a third day of competition during the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships

b. At the conclusion of the third day, the Athlete Selection Committee (ASC) will name the individual team members by evaluating:

- Results from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships on individual events
- Consistency/hit routines at
  - USA Gymnastics Championships
  - Elite Qualifier
  - Any official international assignment or national event during the competitive season
    i. A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall
- Previous international results
- World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World presentation
- Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness
2. **Group**
   
   a. **Selection of the Group**

   The top Junior Group at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships may be named to the Junior World Championships by the Athlete Selection Committee:
   
   - Provided the athletes are currently training together for the Group event exclusively and have participated in the 2019 Rhythmic Challenge and the 2019 Elite Qualifier.
   - After an analysis of the selection criteria in b (above) at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships and a verification of readiness after a review of the world-level 2019 international Junior Group competition results.

   b. **Selection of the Group’s Athletes**

   Groups are comprised of six (6) athletes, five (5) of whom compete on each of the Group’s two (2) events. More than six (6) athletes may be training with a Group; therefore, if a Group has been selected, the six (6) athletes who will be named to the 2019 Junior World Championships team will be identified by the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Group’s Head Coach, at the conclusion the 2019 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 gymnast will compete at the 2019 Junior World Championships prior to the final FIG registration deadline.

   b. **Group**

   The final line-up determination will be made by the Group’s Head Coach prior to the final FIG registration deadline and may include five (5) or six (6) competing athletes.

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 2019 Junior 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 for a spot on the Junior World Championship team 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 approved by USA Gymnastics.

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

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

6. Petitions directly to the Junior World Championships team will be evaluated by the Athlete Selection Committee utilizing the discretionary criteria listed in II.B.

E. Selection Committee Members

1. Names of Selection Committee Members and Titles

   Natalya Kozitskaya, IEC Chair
   Catherine Yahkimovich (Individual), Junior World Championships judge
   TBD (Group), Junior World Championships judge
   Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative
   Caroline Hunt, Rhythmic Program Director – Voice – no vote

2. Conflict of Interest

   In the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2019 Junior 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 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships, is being used to select the Junior World Team. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a subjectively judged event, and an athlete can be severely penalized for a single error in individual competition.

   Additionally, the 2019 Rhythmic training plan is designed for athletes to reach their peak performances in September at the Junior World Championships, and in early July athletes will still be approaching their top competitive level.
Group composition is six (6) athletes and more than six (6) athletes may be in training with the National Group. Six (6) gymnasts will comprise the Junior World Team for Group, although only five (5) gymnasts compete in each Group routine. In making the determination of the athletes who will comprise the Group for the Junior World Team, as well as in making the determination of the final line-up for competition, it will be necessary to evaluate the best team composition.

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 2019 Junior World Championships Team:

1. **Individual**
   - Results from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships on individual events
   - Consistency/hit routines at:
     a. USA Gymnastics Championships
     b. Elite Qualifier
     c. Any official international assignment or national event during the competitive season
        - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
   - Previous international results
   - World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation
   - Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness

2. **Group**
   - Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast.
   - Ability to contribute to the Group dynamic.
   - Consistency/hit routines at:
     a. USA Gymnastics Championships
     b. Elite Qualifier
     c. Any official international assignment or national event during the competition season
        - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
   - Results from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.
   - Previous international and national results.
   - World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic 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 2019 Junior World Championship Team, as specified in II B.

Group
Athletes presently training with the Group named to the 2019 Junior 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 2019 Junior 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.
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 2019 Junior 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 2019 Junior World Championships Team will be selected from among the personal coaches of the team members, based upon the following criteria:

Individual – one (1) personal coach per athlete

Group – one (1) Head Coach will be named. An Assistant Group Coach may be named.

Coaches will be selected by the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director.

B. Personal Coaches of the athletes selected as 2019 Junior World Championships Team Members will be selected according to the number of credentials available to the team and limited to one (1) coach per athlete. Final determination on allocation of personal coach credentials will be made by the Head of Delegation in case there are less credentials than personal coaches.

C. 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 2019 Junior World Championships.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2019 Junior 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 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 by the President of USA Gymnastics.

B. Procedures will be directly distributed to the age eligible National Team Members.

IX. DATE OF NOMINATION

The 2019 Junior World Championships team will be announced following the conclusion of competition at the 2019 Junior USA Gymnastics Championships.

X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

No mandatory training and/or competition.

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

Natalya Kozitskaya, Coach representative (Chair)
Natalia Klimouk, Coach representative
Margarita Mamzina, Coach representative
Nataliya Kiriyenko, Coach representative
Olga Kutuzova, Coach representative
Lyudmilia Kerznerman, Coach representative
Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative
Ava Gehringer – Athlete Representative
Caroline Hunt – Rhythmic Program Director – Voice – no vote

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 2019 Junior 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>Li Li Leung</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Program Director</td>
<td>Caroline Hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Representative</td>
<td>Rebecca Sereda</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/12/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2019 Junior 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