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 22, 2020.

2. Minimum International Federation standards for participation (if any):
   - Athlete must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31, 2019.
   - Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2019 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).
   - 20 seniors from the Elite Qualifier will advance to the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships. Athletes may qualify through placement at the 2020 Elite Qualifier or through the exemptions below:
     a. Qualifying Exemptions
        i. The top six (6) Seniors from the 2020 Rhythmic Challenge will automatically qualify to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
ii. Current National Team athletes in the Senior division unable to compete at the 2020 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 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships by petitioning (see 1.4).

iii. Any gymnast who meets the above criteria and chooses not to compete at the 2020 Elite Qualifier must notify the Rhythmic Program Director within four (4) weeks of the 2020 Elite Qualifier so that a final number of remaining open spots can be communicated to 2020 Elite Qualifier participants prior to the start of the Qualifier.

Group
Two (2) Senior FIG-level Groups will advance to the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.

- If a Senior FIG-level Group has been assigned to an official FIG international competition following the 2019 Rhythmic Challenge, this Group automatically advances to the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships. The top Group by All Around results at the 2019 Elite Qualifier, in addition to the above-named Group, advances.
- If no Group is assigned to official FIG competition following the 2019 Rhythmic Challenge, the top two (2) Groups by All Around results at the 2019 Elite Qualifier advance.

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 2019 World Championships Team – three (3) or four (4) athletes - is a combination of the results from 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships and discretionary selection criteria. Individual gymnasts will perform a total of 10 routines (Comp 1) at the 2019 World Championships.

a. The senior National Champion from the combined rank order of two (2) days of competition at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships will be automatically named to the 2019 World Championships Team.

b. From among the gymnasts ranked 2-6 in combined rank order of two (2) days of competition at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships and petitioned athletes, the Athlete Selection Committee (ASC) will name the remaining two (2) or three (3) 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

   a. Selection of the Group
      • The top ranked Senior Group at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships
        may be named to the World Championships by the Athlete Selection
        Committee after an analysis of readiness at the 2019 USA Gymnastics
        Championships and a review of the world-level 2019 international
        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, once the Group has been selected, the six (6) athletes who
      will be named to the 2019 World Championships team will be identified by the
      Athlete Section 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 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 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 World Championships 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 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships are listed
   in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies
2. In order to be considered by the ASC for the 2019 World Championships, 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 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
   Natalya Kozitskaya, IEC Chair
   Elena Savenkova, World Championships judge
   Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative
   Caroline Hunt, Rhythmic Program Director, Voice – no vote
   Independent Observer of Procedure, Appointed by the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors, no 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 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 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 World Championships, and in early July athletes will still be approaching their top competitive level.

Group composition is six (6) athletes and currently eight (8) athletes are in training with the National Group. Six (6) gymnasts will comprise the 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 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 World Championships Team:

**Individual**
- Results from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Consistency/hit routines at
  1) USA Gymnastics Championships
  2) Any official international assignment or national event during the competitive season (percentage of hit routines in competition).
    - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
- Evaluation of eight (8) individual event scores from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Previous proven international and national results.
- World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic 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/hit routines at
  1) USA Gymnastics Championships
  2) Any official international assignment or national event during the competitive season (percentage of hit routines in competition).
    - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
- Results from the 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Previous proven 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 World Championship Team, as specified in II.B.

   Group
   Athletes presently training with the Group named to the 2019 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 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 2019 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
  - International Elite Committee (IEC) Chair
  - Highest-rated Brevet judge (for Individual & Group)
  - Athlete Representative
  - Rhythmic Program Director – Caroline Hunt, Voice – no vote
  - Independent Observer of Procedure – Appointed by USA Gymnastics Board of Directors - no voice - no vote

V. **COACH SELECTION**

A. The coaches for the 2019 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 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.
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

A 2019 World 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 2019 USA Gymnastics Championships. 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 2019 World Championships.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to 2019 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
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 (5) business days following the approval by the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors.

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

IX. DATE OF NOMINATION

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

X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

There will be a training camp for the World Team prior to the World Championships TBD.

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
Lyudmila 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. USA GYMNASTICS SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and approved the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2019 World Championships Team.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President/CEO</td>
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<td>USA Gymnastics</td>
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<td>Rhythmic Program Director</td>
<td>Caroline Hunt</td>
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<td>04/15/19</td>
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<td>Athlete Representative</td>
<td>Rebecca Sereda</td>
<td>Rebecca Sereda</td>
<td>04/22/19</td>
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Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2019 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