

**USA GYMNASTICS  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2020 OLYMPIC GAMES  
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS  
May 30, 2019**

**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 of the United States at the start of the Tryout Events (see 1.2.1).
- Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Games.

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

Any competitor in the 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 (2) or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

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

- Athlete must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31, 2020 (born on or before December 31, 2004).
- Hold a valid FIG License until the end of the 2020 Olympic Games Rhythmic Gymnastics competitions.
- Athlete must have reached the minimum technical standard established by FIG which is available on the FIG official website [http://www.gymnastics.sport/publicdir/rules/files/en\\_Technical%20Regulations%202019.pdf](http://www.gymnastics.sport/publicdir/rules/files/en_Technical%20Regulations%202019.pdf).

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics at the time of nomination.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOC Background Check Policy.

- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s online training.

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.

2020 USA Gymnastics Championships: June 2020

Location and date will be determined and announced no less than 90 days prior to the first day of competition – event information will be published at [https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/events/program\\_events.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/events/program_events.html).

2019 World Championships: Baku, Azerbaijan, September 16-22, 2019

One of the requirements for Automatic Qualification Criteria (see 1.3.) to be named to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team is by earning an NOC quota place (for individual events) through this qualification pathway.

2020 World Cup Series events: Four (4) World Cup events held in April 2020

Quota places may be earned for the NOC (by country) or as a nominative berth (by name) based on results from the 2020 World Cup Series. See 1.3.1.C. below and the [FIG Qualification System for Tokyo 2020](#) for details. For schedules and venues for the series of events, the FIG calendar is found at [www.gymnastics.sport/site/events/search.php?type=sport#filter](http://www.gymnastics.sport/site/events/search.php?type=sport#filter).

2020 Senior Pan American Championships: May 2020, dates/location TBD

Quota places may be earned as a nominative berth (by name) based on results from the All Around event at the 2020 Senior Pan American Championships. See 1.3.1.C. below and the [FIG Qualification System for Tokyo 2020](#) for details. Information about this event will be posted at <https://www.upag-pagu.com/calendario>.

- 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):

For the events referenced below, detailed information regarding the final competition dates, competition schedule and the competition format will be published via the Rhythmic page of USA Gymnastics’ website at <https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/index.html>.

Individual:

- The 2020 Elite Qualifier is open to senior athletes qualified per the below:
  - All Level 10 Senior athletes are eligible to participate in the 2020 Elite Qualifier.

- The top 25 Level 9 Seniors from the Level 9 Classic will qualify to participate in the 2020 Elite Qualifier (no petitions accepted).
- 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.
- A total of 20 seniors will advance to the 2020 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).

Group:

Two (2) Senior FIG-level Groups will advance to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships through the following methods:

1. If a Senior FIG-level Group is assigned to an official FIG international competition following the 2020 Rhythmic Challenge, this Group automatically advances to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
2. From the 2020 Elite Qualifier, the top Group by All Around results will advance to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
3. If no Group is assigned to official FIG international competition following the 2020 Rhythmic Challenge, the second place Group by All Around results at the 2020 Elite Qualifier will also advance to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process.

USA Gymnastics may qualify one (1) or two (2) Individual athletes and five (5) Group athletes to the 2020 Olympic Games as defined in the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) document *Qualification System – Games of the XXXII Olympiad – Tokyo 2020* (“FIG Qualification Document”) which can be found at:

<http://www.gymnastics.sport/site/rules/rules.php#13>

Provided the U.S. qualifies the Individual and Group quotas, one (1) Individual and one (1) Group replacement athlete will also be identified.

For Individuals, qualification may be earned for the NOC based on results from the 2019 World Championships; for the NOC or as a nominative berth (by name) based on results from the 2020 World Cup Series; or as a nominative berth (by name) based on results from the All Around event at the 2020 Senior Pan American Championships (referred to as 'Continental Championships' in the FIG Qualification Document).

For the Group, qualification may be earned for the NOC based on results from the 2019 World Championships or the 2020 Senior Pan American Championships (referred to as 'Continental Championships' in the FIG Qualification Document).

1.3.1. Individual: The selection process detailed below describes the selection method for the Individual slot(s) earned by the United States of America.

A. If two (2) Individual qualification places have been earned by the NOC, the selection process is as follows:

- Automatic Qualification Criteria: An Individual athlete will automatically qualify to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team, provided she meets the following criteria:
  - a) Athlete qualified an NOC place at the 2019 World Championships; AND
  - b) Places first, second or third in the All Around at the conclusion of the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Discretionary Selection: In the event no Individual athlete or only one (1) Individual athlete meets the automatic qualification criteria as outlined above, the determination of the Individual athlete(s) and the replacement athlete will be made by the Athlete Selection Committee utilizing the discretionary criteria outlined in 2.2.1.
- Petition: Athletes may petition directly onto the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team as outlined in 1.4.

B. If only one (1) Individual qualification place has been earned by the NOC, the selection process is as follows:

- Automatic Qualification Criteria: An Individual athlete will automatically qualify to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team, provided she meets the following criteria:
  - a) Has obtained an NOC place at the 2019 World Championships; AND
  - b) Places first in the All Around at the conclusion of the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- Discretionary Selection: In the event no Individual athlete meets the automatic qualification criteria as outlined above, the determination of the Individual athlete and the replacement athlete will be made by the

Athlete Selection Committee utilizing the discretionary criteria outlined in 2.2.1.

- Petition: Athletes may petition directly onto the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team as outlined in 1.4.

C. If the qualification place is nominative (earned by name at the 2020 World Cup Series or 2020 Senior Pan American Championships), that athlete will assume the qualification place as long as she has fulfilled all other eligibility criteria outlined in these procedures. No replacement of this athlete is possible except as outlined in the FIG Qualification Document and there is no possibility to submit a petition for this position.

1.3.2. Group: The process detailed below describes the selection method for the Group qualified by the United States of America.

A. The top ranked Senior Group at the conclusion of the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships will be the Group from which the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team will be nominated.

B. Selection of the Group's Athletes:

Groups have traditionally been comprised of six (6) athletes, five (5) of whom compete on each of the Group's two (2) events. Six (6) athletes compete at the 2019 World Championships and the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships; however, in accordance with the FIG Qualification Document, the Group size will be limited to five (5) athletes for the 2020 Olympic Games. Therefore, once the Group has been selected, the determination of the five (5) athletes who will be nominated to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team will be as follows:

- Following the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships, the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Group's head coach, will announce the five (5) athletes who will be nominated to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team. In making this determination, the criteria outlined in Section 2.2.2. will be evaluated.

C. The sixth athlete will be designated as the Group's replacement athlete.

1.4. Petition Procedures: Individual

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 2020 U.S. Olympic Team because of her previous competition results to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process.

1.4.1. Procedures for petitioning, as well as the Petition form, are listed in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies:

[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules\\_policies.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html) (see Appendix 11 for the Petition Form and Chapter 3: Competitive Structure for procedures).

- 1.4.2. Petitions will be considered by the Athlete Selection Committee, in consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director, for any current National Team athletes.
- 1.4.3. Athletes may petition into the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
  - a. In order to be considered by the Athlete 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 2020 Elite Qualifier. All petitions will be resolved and communicated at the conclusion of the 2020 Elite Qualifier.
- 1.4.4. Athletes may petition directly onto the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team.
  - a. In order to be considered by the Athlete 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 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships. All petitions will be resolved and communicated at the conclusion of the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- 1.4.5. 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 (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

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

One event, the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships, is being used to select the Individual gymnast(s) for the 2020 Olympic Games. Rhythmic is a subjectively judged sport, and an athlete can be severely penalized for a single error.

Group composition is traditionally six (6) athletes where four (4) gymnasts compete on both events, while the fifth and sixth gymnast compete on one (1) event each. However, for the 2020 Olympic Games, the Group will be comprised of only five (5) athletes where all of them compete in both events, creating a different scenario to be evaluated by the Athlete Selection Committee. In making the determination of the five (5) athletes who will comprise the Group for the 2020 Olympic Games, it will be necessary to evaluate the best five-athlete team composition using additional criteria—not just rankings and results.

Additionally, the 2020 rhythmic training plan is designed for athletes to reach their peak performances at the time of the 2020 Olympic Games, and in June when athletes will be selected, athletes will still be approaching their top competitive level.

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

2.2.1. Individual: Criteria will be considered in the following priority order:

- A. Results from the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- B. Consistency/hit routines at:
  - 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships
  - 2020 Pan American Championships if applicable, 2020 officially-assigned international events.
    - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
- C. Previous proven international and national results (see B).
- D. World Class presentation at the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation.
- E. Readiness to compete – current health status and physical preparedness.
- F. Evaluation of eight (8) individual event scores from the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.

2.2.2. Group: Criteria will be considered in the following priority order:

- A. Readiness to compete – current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast.
- B. Ability to contribute to the Group dynamic in the five-athlete team format.
- C. Consistency/hit routines at:
  - 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships
  - 2020 Pan American Championships if applicable, 2020 officially-assigned international events.
    - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall.
- D. Results from the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- E. Previous proven international and national results (see C)
- F. World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation.

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:

Athlete Selection Committee members:

- International Elite Committee (IEC) Chair
- Highest-rated Brevet judge (for Individual & Group)
- Athlete Representative
- Rhythmic Program Director – Caroline Hunt, Voice, no vote

Additionally, the Group’s head coach will be consulted (voice, no vote) in the selection of the Group’s athletes.

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).

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

In the event that an Athlete Selection Committee member has a conflict of interest or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Athlete Selection Committee or continue for any reason, a replacement will be named by the International Elite Committee (IEC), maintaining at least 20% athlete representation on the committee.

USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest Policy for Athlete Selection defines the process that is used to handle any potential conflicts of interest and will be found here once the document is finalized for 2020:

[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html)

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee 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 for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Gymnastics President/CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics. If an athlete refuses verification of her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Gymnastics, her injury will be assumed to be disabling and she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.



- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Gymnastics' Code of Ethical Conduct, National Team Agreement, or Rhythmic Responsibility Manual, which may be found online at: [usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](http://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html)

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 athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee 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:  
[www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct)  
[www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents](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, WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the Policies and Procedures of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the USOC Athlete Safety Policy and USAG's SafeSport policies, 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:

Individual – See 1.3.1.A. or B. (Discretionary Selection bullets)  
Group – See 1.3.2.C.
  - 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Individual – See 1.3.1.A. or B. (Discretionary Selection bullets)  
Group – See 1.3.2.C.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A 2020 Olympic Games Athlete 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 2020 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 Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be adhered to/signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and can be found online at:

[https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html)

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

## **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. USAG Web site: [usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html)

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

7.2. Other: N/A

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before:

June 22, 2020

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

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

An Olympic Team preparation camp will be held in July 2020. All 2020 U.S. Olympic Team members and named replacement athletes are required to attend for the duration of the

camp. Olympic Team camp location, dates, schedule and requirements will be distributed by email to all participants qualified to the 2020 USA Gymnastics Championships and their coaches following the 2020 Elite Qualifier with a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to the start of the camp.

Waivers from this camp are not permitted, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. In that case, it is reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the USA Gymnastics High Performance Director, Rhythmic Program Director and an athlete representative. Any unexcused absence will serve as cause for removal from the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team with the right to a hearing pursuant to the USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures or Section 9 of USOC Bylaws.

#### **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, 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.

#### **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

International Elite Coaches Committee:

Coach Rep – Nataliya Kozitskaya

Coach Rep – Natalia Klimouk

Coach Rep – Margarita Mamzina

Coach Rep – Olga Kutuzova

Coach Rep – Lyudmila Kerznerman

Coach Rep – Nataliya Kiriyyenko

Athlete Rep – Rebecca Sereda

Athlete Rep – Ava Gehringer

Rhythmic Program Director – Caroline Hunt, Voice, no vote

#### **12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

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

#### **13. 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 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 USOC.

#### 14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombudsman Office:




PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

#### 15. USA GYMNASTICS SIGNATURES

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the IOC, USOC and FIG 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.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Gymnastics CEO	Li Li Leung		6/18/19
Rhythmic Program Director	Caroline Hunt		6/10/19
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Nastia Liukin		6/13/19

\* 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 USA Gymnastics, 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, USA Gymnastics must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.