

USA GYMNASTICS
RHYTHMIC ATHLETE & COACH SELECTION PROCEDURES
2021 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – KITAKYUSHU, JAPAN - OCTOBER 27-31, 2021
MAY 24, 2021

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 World Selection Event and at the time of selection and hold a current U.S. Passport valid through May 1, 2022.
2. Minimum International Federation standards for participation (if any):
 - Athlete must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31, 2021
 - Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2021 World Championships accreditation.
3. Other requirements (if any):
 - Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Gymnastics.
 - Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to do a background check and complete a SafeSport course.

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, St. Louis, MO: June 25-27, 2021
World Selection Event, TBD: September 2021

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 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships:

Individual

- By results of the 2021 Elite Qualifier (May 15-16, 2021 Birmingham, AL):
 - 25 seniors from the Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic will advance to the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships. Athletes may qualify through placement at the 2021 Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic or through the exemptions below:

- a. Qualifying Exemptions
 - i. The top 6 Seniors from the 2021 Rhythmic Challenge will automatically qualify to the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - ii. Current National Team athletes in the Senior division unable to compete at the 2021 Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic due to injury or illness verified by a doctor approved by USA Gymnastics, or extenuating circumstance verified by the Vice President of Program and the Rhythmic Program Committee, may advance to the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships by petitioning (see 1.4).
 - iii. Any gymnast who meets the above criteria and chooses not to compete at the 2021 Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic must notify the Vice President of Program prior to the start of the 2021 Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic so that a final number of remaining open spots can be communicated to 2021 Elite Qualifier/L9 Senior Classic participants prior to the start of the Event.

Group

Three (3) Senior FIG-level Groups will advance to the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships (Elite Championships).

1. If a Senior FIG-level Group(s) has/have been assigned to an official FIG international competition following the 2021 Rhythmic Challenge, this Group automatically advances to the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships. The top Group by All-Around results at the 2021 Elite Qualifier, in addition to the above-named Group, advances.
2. If no Group is assigned to official FIG competition following the 2021 Rhythmic Challenge, the top 3 Groups by All-Around results at the 2021 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 2021 World Championships Team – (2-3 athletes) - is a combination of the results from 2021 World Selection Event and discretionary selection criteria.

- a. Qualified gymnasts to the 2021 World Selection Event:

1. 2021 Senior Individual National Team
2. 2021 Senior Group National Team
3. 2021 Senior Group National Prep
4. Any Group National Team member who was previously (2019-2020) a SR National Team member may compete as an Individual in this event

- b. The top ranked individual from two (2) days of competition at the 2021 World Selection Event will be automatically named to the 2021 World Championships Team.
- c. From among the gymnasts ranked 2-6 in combined rank order of two (2) days of competition at the 2021 World Selection Event and petitioned athletes, the Athlete Selection Committee (ASC) will name the remaining one (1) or two (2) 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
 - Any Group named to an official international assignment following the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships will advance to the 2021 World Selection Event.
 - The top-ranked Group at the 2021 World Selection Event will be named to the 2021 World Championships team.
- 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 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 2021 World Championships team will be identified by the Athlete Section Committee, in consultation with the Group's Head Coach at the conclusion the 2021 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 2021 World Championships following a review of the results of the 2021 World Selection Event, 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 or six 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 2021 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 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships are listed in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies:
https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html
2. In order to be considered by the ASC for the 2021 World Championships, petitions must be submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics national office as soon as practical after the athlete(s) becomes aware of her inability to participate in the process described above, but no later than the conclusion of the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships or World Selection Event.
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, which is subject to verification by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff.
4. In the case that an injury or illness occurs which prevents an athlete from competing in USA Gymnastics Championships or World Selection Event, she is able to submit a petition to the ASC for direct placement onto the World Championships Team.
5. In the case that an injury or illness occurs which prevents one (1) or more Group athletes from competing in USA Gymnastics Championships or World Selection Event, the entire Group may submit a petition to the ASC for direct placement onto the World Championships Team.
6. Any current National Team athlete may submit a petition to be directly placed on the World Championships Team.
7. 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, VP of Rhythmic Program (voice, no vote)
*Independent Observer of Procedure – (no voice, no vote)
Appointed by USA Gymnastics Board of Directors

2. Conflict of Interest

In the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2021 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 2021 World Selection Event, is being used to select the World Team. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a subjectively judged event, and an athlete or group can be severely penalized for a single error in competition.

Additionally, the 2021 Rhythmic training plan is designed for athletes to reach their peak performances in June-August, and in late September, some gymnasts may have already passed their peak for the season.

Group composition is six (6) athletes and more 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 equally weighted criteria, when selecting members for the 2021 World Championships Team:

Individual

- Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast
- Results from the 2021 World Selection Event
- Results from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships
- Consistency/percentage of hit routines in the following competitions:
 - 1) 2021 World Selection Event
 - 2) 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships
 - 3) Any official international assignment or national event during the 2021-22 competitive season
 - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss of apparatus or fall
- Evaluation of 8 individual event scores from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships
- Any previous proven international and national results
- World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation

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 at the following competitions:
 - 1) 2021 World Selection Event
 - 2) 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships
 - 3) Any official international assignment or national event during the 2021-22 competitive season percentage of hit routines competition
 - A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall
- Results from the 2021 USA Gymnastics Championships

- Any 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 Chief Programs Officer.
 - Injury or illness which inhibits peak performance as certified by a physician's statement, subject to verification by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff. If an athlete refuses verification of her illness or injury, 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 Program 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 Chief Programs Officer after consultation with the Vice President of the Rhythmic Program 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 Process. An athlete who may be removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Gymnastics [Grievance Process](#).
- B. An athlete may be removed from the team at any time for violation of WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC 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 2021 World Championship Team, as specified in II, B.

Group

Athletes presently training with the Group named to the 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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 Vice President of Rhythmic Program.

- B. Personal Coaches of the athletes selected as 2021 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 Chief Programs Officer
- Injury or illness which inhibits peak performance as certified by a physician's statement, subject to verification by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff. If a coach refuses verification of his or her illness or injury, 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 Program Manual.
- A coach shall automatically be deemed removed if the individual becomes ineligible for leadership pursuant to USA Gymnastics' Leadership Policy.
- 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 the USA Gymnastics [Grievance Process](#).

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 (6) months past the date of the conclusion of the 2021 World Championships.

A World Championship Athlete Selection Committee Report, outlining the work and decisions of the SC, 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 final selection event. The report will be approved and signed by the Independent Observer and will be made public on the USA Gymnastics website. USA Gymnastics retains the sole discretion to determine the contents and timing of the report.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to 2021 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 Program 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 (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 2021 World Championships team will be announced following the conclusion of competition at the 2021 World Selection Event.

X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

There will be a training and competition plan established for the World Team prior to the World Championships TBD

XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FIG, USADA and USOPC 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 USOPC 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)

Nataliya Kiriyyenko, Coach representative

Olga Kutuzova, Coach representative

Lyudmila Kerznerman, Coach representative

Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative

Natalia Klimouk, Coach representative: recused due to conflict of interest

Margarita Mamzina, Coach representative: recused due to conflict of interest

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 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 president of USA Gymnastics.

XV. SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and approved the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2021 World Championships Team.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Gymnastics President/CEO	Li Li Leung		June 2, 2021
Chief Programs Officer	Stefanie Korepin		June 2, 2021
Vice President of Rhythmic Program	Caroline Hunt		June 2, 2021
Athlete Representative	Rebecca Sereda	 <u>Rebecca Sereda (May 31, 2021 14:58 EDT)</u>	May 31, 2021

Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2021 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