

**USA GYMNASTICS  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2012 OLYMPIC GAMES  
Rhythmic Gymnastics  
October 7, 2011**

***Important Note:** Due to circumstances related to the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) Qualification System and the clarifying information received after the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway (the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships held September 19-25, 2011), these procedures went through several stages of revision and approval delaying the ability to post the finalized Athlete Selection Procedures. Thus, the procedures are written to acknowledge the outcome and results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway.*

**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 citizen of the United States at the time of nomination and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire prior to March 2013.

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

Athlete must be 16 years or older by December 31, 2012.

All individual athletes must have participated at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships and/or the Olympic Games Test Events.

Only countries which had a Group entered at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships and/or the Olympic Games Test Event will be eligible to earn a group quota place.

All athletes must have reached the minimum technical standard established by FIG ([www.fig-gymnastics.com](http://www.fig-gymnastics.com)).

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

Must be a USA Gymnastics Athlete Member and hold a current FIG Athlete License.

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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway: 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships – held in Montpellier (FRA) from September 19-25, 2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway: Olympic Games Test Event – to be held in London (GBR) from January 10-18, 2012

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).

Athletes were selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway – 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships based on results from the 2011 Visa Championships in Saint Paul, Minn., August 17-20, 2011, as well as based on performance at a selection camp held in September 2011.

Athletes qualify for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway – Olympic Games Test Event based on results from the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships (see below).

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).

The maximum team size may be comprised of up to two (2) Individual athletes and six (6) Group athletes who will be nominated to the USOC, dependent upon Olympic berths earned. The FIG Qualification System can be found at <http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,5187-188050-205272-nav-list,00.html>.

Individual:

An individual athlete may either qualify herself by name or qualify the country for an Olympic berth through the FIG Qualification System.

Individual gymnasts must rank 1-15 in the Individual all-around Finals at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, in order to qualify the country for an Olympic berth.

There were no U.S. athletes who ranked 1-15 in the Individual all-around Finals at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, so it will not be possible for the U.S. to qualify an Olympic berth by country.

In addition, gymnasts ranked 16-24 in the Individual all-around Finals and the next 11 gymnasts (to include host country and following criteria of only 2 gymnasts per country) who were ranked highest in the Individual all-around Qualification Competition at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships will earn the country participation rights to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway (Olympic Games Test Event). Athletes will qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games by name at the Olympic Games Test Event by ranking in the five (5) highest place finishes outside of any gymnasts who already qualified at the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway. Gymnasts may also qualify an Olympic berth by name if the total continental presence is not guaranteed after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathways. In this case, the best ranked gymnast from the continent as per the Individual ranking of the all-around Qualification Competition at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships will qualify to the 2012 Olympic Games by name.

There were no U.S. gymnasts ranked 16-24 in the Individual all-around Finals. However, there was one U.S. gymnast ranked high enough in the Individual all-around Qualification Competition at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships to earn participation rights to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway – Olympic Games Test Event, and was also the highest place finisher from the Americas continent. Therefore, it is possible for the U.S. to qualify either by a top-5 result at the Olympic Games Test Event, or through the minimum continental representation pathway; either way, the Olympic berth for the U.S. to participate in the Individual all-around competition at the 2012 Olympic Games could only be qualified by name at this point.

Group:

Groups of 6 gymnasts ranked 1-6 at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, as per the Group Ranking results of the General Competition, will qualify an Olympic berth by country for the Group competition. In addition, Groups ranked 7-12 at the 2011 Rhythmic

Gymnastics World Championships will earn participation rights into the Olympic Games Test Event (2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Qualification Pathway), where Groups that finish in the top 4 will also earn an Olympic berth by country for the Group Events.

The U.S. finished in 20<sup>th</sup> place at the 2011 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in the Group Ranking results of the General Competition. Therefore, the U.S. did not earn participation rights into the Olympic Games Test Event. In addition, the U.S. finished behind another country from the Americas continent, so the U.S. will not be eligible under the minimum continental representation qualification pathway and is unable to earn an Olympic berth for the Group competition at the 2012 Olympic Games.

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

- 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any): N/A
- 2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any): N/A
- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles: N/A
  - 2.3.1. Any member of the committee that has a conflict of interest (to include, but not limited to, an athlete or a coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the Team) must declare a conflict of interest, recuse him/herself and not influence others regarding the discussions, meetings and voting.

## **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the NGB has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NGB may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NGB:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB CEO/Executive Director.

- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics (Attachment A).
- 3.1.4. Violation of the Rhythmic Team Responsibility Manual (Attachment C).
- 3.1.5. Inability to follow the training plan as directed by the USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Program Director.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Gymnastics Bylaws (Article 10) or 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 NGB Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply.
- 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:

Since it is no longer possible for the U.S. to qualify Olympic berths by country for either Individual or Group competition at the 2012 Olympic Games, a replacement procedure is unnecessary. Replacement athletes would only be determined by the FIG for any Olympic berths earned by name.

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See Section 4.1.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See Section 4.1.

## **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 the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics (Attachment A)  
National Team Agreement (Attachment B)  
Rhythmic Responsibility Manual (Attachment C)

## **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. NGB Web site: [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org)

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: Notice of where procedures can be found on-line will be published in *USA Gymnastics Magazine*. In addition, a hard copy will be mailed to all national team members and age eligible athletes qualified to the 2012 U.S. Rhythmic Championships.

## **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:

18 June 2012, by 5 pm Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

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

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

Olympic Team Training Camp - the dates and locations will be determined no later than 30 days prior to training and posted on USA Gymnastics' website. Nominated athletes will be required to attend any preparatory camps as determined by USA Gymnastics.

## 10. 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.

## 11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

International Elite Committee

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
International Elite Committee	Nataliya Kiriyyenko	Chair
International Elite Committee	Olga Kutuzova	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Natasha Klimouk	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Lucy Kerznerman	Coaches Rep
International Elite Committee	Jessica Howard	Athlete Rep

## 12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The 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, IPC, 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, IPC, 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 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

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

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

#### 15. 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.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President/ CEO	Steve Penny		10/17/11
Nat. Program Director	Caroline Hunt		10/17/11
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	David Durante		10/17/11

\* 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/PSO/HPMO, 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/PSO/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.



## **Attachment A - USA GYMNASTICS CODE OF ETHICS**

### **I. Introduction**

The mission of USA Gymnastics is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of gymnastics. USA Gymnastics grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn by USA Gymnastics at any time where USA Gymnastics determines that a member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in gymnastics, USA Gymnastics has adopted the Ethical Code which follows. This Code is not intended to establish a set of rules that will, by inclusion or exclusion, prescribe the appropriate behavior for USA Gymnastics' members in every aspect of their participation in the sport. Rather, the Code offers general principles to guide the conduct, and the judicious appraisal of conduct, of all USA Gymnastics' members (including employees and agents of USA Gymnastics) in situations that have ethical implications.

This Code cannot further ethical conduct in the sport of gymnastics; that can only come from the personal commitment of the participants in the sport to behave ethically. This Code is offered instead to guide and to affirm the will of all of USA Gymnastics' members to safeguard the best interests of the sport by acting ethically at all times.

### **II. Elements of the Code**

#### **A. Participant Relationships.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are charged with the responsibility for contributing to an environment which makes participation in the sport a positive and rewarding experience. In order to achieve that result, each professional member has a special obligation to make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Fail to follow the safety guidelines established by USA Gymnastics, or otherwise knowingly subject a participant to unreasonable physical or emotional risk.
2. Engage in conduct which unfair including, in particular, is attempting to injure, disable or intentionally interfere with the preparation of a competitor.
3. Engage in conduct toward another participant in the sport which is abusive. USA Gymnastics recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and each athlete, but it is nevertheless incumbent on everyone involved in the sport to support the development and use of motivational and training methods that avoid conduct which is, or is likely to be perceived as being, abusive.
4. Discriminate in the provision of resources or opportunities to any member or prospective member on the basis of race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin or mental or physical disability.
5. Attempt to intimidate, embarrass or improperly influence any individual responsible for judging or administering a competition.
6. Engage in business practices directed toward another member which are determined by a court, or other similar adjudicatory body, to be unethical, illegal or a breach of contract.

## **B. Participation.**

Any USA Gymnastics' activity or event should be open to any member properly qualified under the rules of that activity or event, and every member participating in a USA Gymnastics' activity or event has an obligation to participate to the best of their abilities. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Restrict the ability of a member to qualify for or participate in competition because of the member's association with a particular organization or individual or because of that member's race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin or mental or physical disability.
2. Participate as a judge, coach, athlete or administrator in any activity where that judge, coach or athlete is inadequately prepared, unable to participate or fails to participate to the best of his or her ability.
3. Engage in behavior which is so disorderly or inappropriate as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the activity or other members' participation in, or enjoyment of, the activity.

## **C. Responsibility.**

A member of USA Gymnastics has a responsibility to the sport of gymnastics and the rules and regulations which govern it. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Knowingly misrepresent the policies or actions of USA Gymnastics or its authorized representatives.
2. Fail to resort in the first instance to the established procedures for challenging a competitive result, contesting a team selection decision, complaining about the conduct of another member, or attempting to reverse a policy adopted by USA Gymnastics.
3. Breach the duty to maintain appropriately established confidences of USA Gymnastics or its members.
4. Knowingly make false certifications on membership or event sanction applications or otherwise regarding the involvement of persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership with regard to club, event, or advertised activities.

## **D. Communication.**

Members of USA Gymnastics have a duty to communicate honestly and openly with the organization and its members. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Misrepresent competitive achievements, professional qualifications, education, experience, eligibility, criminal record or affiliations.
2. Knowingly disseminate false or misleading information about another member.
3. Withhold from athlete members information or resources likely to enhance the athletes' enjoyment of the sport or reduce their risk of injury or illness.
4. Fail to consult with or inform fully the athlete or the athlete's parents about opportunities made available to the athlete involving competitions, commercial activities or recognition.

5. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to decline an invitation to participate in or withdraw from a competition assignment, training camp or other similar activity.
6. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to participate in (or cause an athlete to participate in) a competition, training camp or other similar activity when such participation is inconsistent with the appropriate medical response to the injury.

**E. Alcohol and Drug Abuse.**

Members of USA Gymnastics must ensure that the sport is conducted in an environment free of drug or alcohol abuse. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Use or provide to a third party any drug proscribed by applicable federal, state or municipal law.
2. Assist or condone any competing athlete's use of a drug banned by the International Olympic Committee, United States Olympic Committee, Federation Internationale de Gymnastique, USA Gymnastics, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, or, in the case of athlete members, to use such drugs or refuse to submit to properly conducted drug tests administered by one of those organizations.
3. Provide alcohol to, or condone the use of alcohol by, minors, abuse alcohol in the presence of athlete members or at USA Gymnastics' activities or, in the case of athlete members, consume alcoholic beverages while a minor.

**F. Criminal Conduct.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are expected to comply with all applicable criminal codes. This obligation is violated by any member who has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment involving sexual misconduct, child abuse, or conduct that is a violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors, and, depending on the nature of the crime, may be violated by any member who has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to any felony charge or indictment involving conduct other than that specifically described above.

**G. Sexual Misconduct.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are expected to promote a safe environment for participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff in all gymnastics disciplines, which includes an environment free from sexual misconduct. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.
2. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of a professional member's position as coach, judge or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete or participant.
3. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

**H. Sexual Relationships.**

Professional Members of USA Gymnastics must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by avoiding sexual relationships with athletes except where the capacity and quality of the athlete's consent to enter that relationship is beyond question.

#### **I. Professional and Athletic Development.**

Members of USA Gymnastics should strive to increase their level of proficiency and skill. To fulfill this obligation professional members should:

1. Participate in continuing education programs such as Safety/Risk Management Certification or other curriculum made available by USA Gymnastics University.
2. Remain current on safety, health and training developments relevant to the sport and seek advice and counsel of colleagues and experts whenever such consultation is in the best interests of the athlete.

#### **J. Conflict of Interest.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are responsible for avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of business on behalf of the organization. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Use, or be perceived as using, USA Gymnastics' properties, services, opportunities, authority or influence to gain private benefit.
2. Fail, as an employee, director, officer or committee member of USA Gymnastics, to complete an annual conflict of interest of form, or fail to complete that form accurately.
3. Incur expenses in furtherance of USA Gymnastics' business which are unreasonable, unnecessary, or unsubstantiated.
4. Participate in the deliberation or decision making process about any issue for which the member has a direct financial interest.

### **III. Enforcement of Code**

Compliance with this Code depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action.

Any individual who believes that a member of USA Gymnastics has failed to meet his or her obligations under this Code is, under all but the most egregious circumstances, encouraged to first address that concern directly to that member. If that action does not result in a satisfactory resolution, the individual may file a written complaint with the President, program director or other appropriate staff member of USA Gymnastics. That complaint must be signed and state specifically the nature of the alleged misconduct. Upon review of the complaint and, where appropriate, additional discussions with the complainant and/or member who is the subject of the complaint, the President may:

1. Determine that the complaint does not merit further action,
2. Counsel the member who is the subject of the complaint and record both the complaint and the nature of the counseling in the member's permanent record,

3. Refer the complaint, as appropriate, to the state or regional chairs/committees or affiliated organization, or
4. Process the complaint under the member misconduct or grievance procedures of USA Gymnastics' Bylaws.

**Attachment B - USA GYMNASTICS  
2011 NATIONAL TEAM  
FUNDING AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is entered into between USA GYMNASTICS (USA Gym), a not-for-profit corporation designated by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the national governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States and \_\_\_\_\_ (referred to as "I," "me," or "you" throughout), an athlete member of USA Gym who has been selected to the USA Gym's National Team.

**Recitals**

1. In order to meet its obligation as the national governing body for the sport of gymnastics (including fielding teams to represent the United States in international competition), USA Gym selects, trains and funds National Teams. As part of that process, USA Gym desires to provide to me, as a member of its National Team (the "Team"), various forms of support designed to assist me in my training and competitive efforts.
2. I am a member in good standing of USA Gym whose performance in USA Gym competitions qualifies me for the Team, and I desire to be a member of the Team. As a member of the Team, I am willing to devote my best efforts to use the support provided by USA Gym to develop my full potential as a gymnast.

Now, therefore, USA Gym and I agree as follows:

**I. Athlete's Obligations**

In consideration for the support provided by USA Gym to me as a member of the Team, I agree to be bound by each of the following:

1. General Responsibilities. I recognize that as a member of the Team, I am serving as a representative of the thousands of gymnasts participating in gymnastics throughout the United States who are members of USA Gym, and I will conduct myself accordingly. I accept the responsibility, therefore, to comply at all times with USA Gym's Code of Ethics (a copy of which is attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A) so long as the provisions or application of that Code of Ethics is not inconsistent with or superceded by the standards established by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act or the policies of the United States Olympic Committee.
2. Testing. I will participate in all required physical and psychological testing conducted by USA Gym.

3. Competition. Recognizing the critically important role played by USA Gym's events in generating the funds necessary to support the Team, I will use my best efforts to participate in those national or international competitions and exhibitions to which I am invited or assigned by USA Gym. Notwithstanding the foregoing, I will not be obligated to participate in any competition or event if I am not medically fit to do so, or if such participation would create a risk of injury based on an existing condition. Further, USA Gym will consult with me before determining the competitions to which I will be assigned.

When I accept an invitation to compete in an event as a member of the Team, I will make every effort to perform to the best of my ability. I will participate for the full duration of the event unless I am excused by the Head of Delegation or Program Director. I also acknowledge that I understand that my participation in gymnastics competitions, exhibitions, and/or events that are not sanctioned by USA Gym or the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) may jeopardize my eligibility to participate in competitions sanctioned by the FIG.

4. Other Team Selection. During the course of this Agreement, I recognize that I may have the opportunity to qualify for teams selected by USA Gym to compete in such international events as the Olympic Games, World Championships, Pan American Games and World University Games. I acknowledge that these teams are selected in accordance with written selection procedures which will be published in USA Gym publications and/or web-site and provided to me as a member of the Team. I further acknowledge my obligations to make myself familiar with and to be bound by those selection procedures.
5. Banned Substances. I will not use any chemicals, drugs or other banned substances, or violate policies and procedures established by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the FIG, the IOC, the USOC, or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). I acknowledge that the list of banned substances, policies and procedures may change during the course of this Agreement and that I have an obligation to stay informed about changes communicated to me by any of the aforementioned organizations. I further agree to submit to periodic unannounced drug tests as required by WADA, USADA, the USOC, IOC or the FIG. *USADA website:* [www.usantidoping.org](http://www.usantidoping.org).
6. Eligibility. I will maintain my eligibility to compete in national and international gymnastics competition under the eligibility rules established by USA Gym or FIG. I understand, however, that the eligibility rules of USA Gym or FIG may not be consistent with the eligibility requirements of high school or collegiate athletic associations, and I accept full responsibility for keeping myself informed about, and to the extent I desire, in compliance with the eligibility requirements of those athletic associations.

7. Use of my Image. I grant to USA Gym the non-exclusive right to use, license, assign, sell or otherwise use my name, image, likeness, voice or performance as a member of the Team for the purpose of:
- a. Promoting the sport of gymnastics, my achievements as a gymnast, and the work of USA Gym,
  - b. Promoting events sponsored or sanctioned by USA Gym, provided, however, that this right shall not extend to events in which I am not scheduled to participate or events having a title or presenting sponsor that is a competitor of a company with which I have an endorsement relationship,
  - c. Producing educational or safety materials,
  - d. Producing television broadcasts, recordings or other factual accounts of the performance of the Team and its members,
  - e. Raising funds for USA Gym through the sale of merchandise (including photographs, posters, and prints) featuring images of the Team or any images or collection of images featuring three or more members of the Team, or
  - f. Allowing a company to identify itself as a national sponsor or official supplier of USA Gym in advertising or promotions approved by USA Gym. This grant is subject to the following conditions:
    - (1) such advertising or promotion incorporates a minimum of three (3) athletes of the same sex in an advertisement or promotion that is clearly team-themed and does not suggest that I have a relationship with the sponsor; or
    - (2) each athlete whose name, picture, image or performance is used provides his or her written consent.

In any instance where USA Gym raises funds through the sale of merchandise featuring my image pursuant to subsection 7(e) above, I will be compensated under mutually agreed upon terms. Whenever requesting my participation in a promotional activity, USA Gym will identify the financial terms (if any) associated with my participation, and commits to make sure that all funds made available by a sponsor to pay for athlete/coach appearances will be used only for that purpose.

8. Sponsors. This agreement does not limit my ability to enter into a commercial relationship with a third party, including third parties who are competitors of USA Gym's sponsors or suppliers. I recognize, however, the important role played by the sponsors of USA Gym, USA Gym events and the Team in helping to fund and promote the Team and my participation on the Team. Accordingly, when I am presented with a commercial opportunity I will, where I conclude in my sole discretion



that to do so will not jeopardize that opportunity, give to an existing USA Gym sponsor in the same product category the right, and a reasonable period of time within which to exercise the right, to match the terms and conditions of any offer made to me by a competitor of that sponsor. I understand that I am not permitted to convey to my sponsors any marketing rights associated with USA Gym or the Team. By way of example, I am not permitted to wear Team apparel or refer to my membership on the Team in advertising and promotions conducted by sponsors who are not sponsors of USA Gym. USA Gym has provided to me as Exhibit B to this Agreement a list of USA Gym's sponsors and suppliers.

9. Promotion of the Team. Consistent with my training and competition schedule, I recognize that all of us involved in USA Gym and the Team have an obligation to make a good-faith effort to participate in activities designed to teach gymnastics skills or promote the sport of gymnastics, the work of USA Gym, the Team, and USA Gym events. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, Team meetings, national and regional congresses, clinics, seminars, promotional appearances on behalf of USA Gym events and programs and sessions with members of the media.
10. Appearance. I will meet all prescribed guidelines for appearance whenever appearing or traveling as a member of the Team. I understand that those guidelines may also obligate me to wear certain types of competition, training and leisure apparel when appearing as a member of the Team, including opening and closing ceremonies of a competition. Those guidelines do not, however, limit my ability to use the competition shoes/socks, grips and wrist supports or other medical braces of my choice.
11. Travel. I will have in my possession a valid and current passport and be prepared to notify USA Gym of the passport number and place and date of issue. I will also maintain current passport style photos for use by USA Gym in applying for visas. I agree to meet all travel schedules set for me when traveling as a member of the Team, and understand that I may only change travel arrangements with the approval of USA Gym. I agree to be personally responsible for any additional cost resulting from changes to the travel arrangements made for me without the prior approval of USA Gym.
12. Medical Attention. I give my consent to USA Gym to provide, through a medical staff of its choice, customary medical care and athletic training, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted in the course of my participation as a member of the Team.
13. Retirement or Inability to Compete. I will notify USA Gym promptly if I decide to retire from the Team, or if I suffer any injury or illness which may prevent me from fulfilling my responsibilities as a member of the Team. In the event of such injury or illness, I agree to submit to all reasonable requests for examination or evaluation by medical personnel retained by USA Gym.

14. Waiver and Release. I AM FULLY AWARE OF AND APPRECIATE THE RISKS, INCLUDING THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC INJURY, PARALYSIS, AND EVEN DEATH AS WELL AS OTHER DAMAGES AND LOSSES, ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATING IN GYMNASTICS. I FURTHER AGREE THAT USA Gym, AND ITS SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OFFICERS, AND DIRECTORS (the "Released Parties") SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGES OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN GYMNASTICS, UNLESS THAT LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTS DIRECTLY FROM THE WILLFUL OR WANTON CONDUCT OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.

## **II. USA Gym Obligations**

In consideration for my agreement to be bound by the terms and conditions of Section I of this Agreement, I understand that USA Gym agrees to do each of the following for me:

1. Membership. USA Gym will provide me with a USA Gym team membership, including all insurance coverage and benefits associated with that membership as identified in Exhibit C.
2. Training. USA Gym's staff and/or clinicians will be available to work with me and my coach to establish a training program designed to assist me in my development as a gymnast. This assistance will include types and amounts of assistance as agreed upon by USA Gym and my coach. In addition, USA Gym will pay for the travel, lodging and meal expense associated with my participation in USA Gym training camps (if any) which I am required to attend.
3. Apparel. USA Gym will provide me with Team apparel if and when I am invited or assigned by USA Gym to participate in national or international competitions and exhibitions.
4. Funding. I will be eligible to participate in (and, where appropriate, have my coach and club participate in) those funding programs described in Exhibit D.
5. Competition. USA Gym will arrange for my participation in national competitions, international competitions and exhibitions subject to program policy, the availability of funding, other competitions, and the discretion of USA Gym,.
6. Travel. USA Gym will be responsible for all normal travel and meal and housing expenses directly associated with my participation in training camps, competitions, exhibitions and promotional appearances, if any, where such participation is at the request of USA Gym and as a member of the Team.

7. Health Counseling and Referral. As part of its commitment to maintaining the health of the members of the Team, USA Gym will have a trainer, nutritionist, sports psychologist and Team doctor available to assist the Team. In addition, USA Gym will assist me by identifying medical experts in other specialties or geographic locations with whom I might consult.
8. Representation. USA Gym has established and funds an Athletes' Council. That Council is charged under USA Gym's Bylaws with soliciting athlete input on pending policies and decisions and communicating to USA Gym the views of the Athletes on those issues. As a member of the Team, I am eligible to both serve on and elect representatives to the Athletes' Council.
9. Communication. USA Gym will give me the right to call the USA Gym national office without charge to me. In addition, USA Gym will provide me with copies of relevant selection procedures, information concerning my opportunities to participate in competitions or training and minutes from meetings of the Athletes' Council.
10. Public Relations. USA Gym will help to publicize my participation as a member of the Team by creating a special biography and individual file photograph of me for distribution to the media, and by issuing press releases to newspapers in geographic areas identified by me concerning my performance as a member of the Team.

### **III. Other Terms of the Agreement**

1. Term. This Agreement is effective from the date of the Athlete's/Parent's Signature to the conclusion of the the next re-ranking competition.
2. Suspension or Dismissal from the Team. I understand that any conduct by me which constitutes a significant material violation of any obligations under USA Gym's Code of Ethics may result in my suspension or dismissal from the Team and the termination of all benefits associated with my membership on the Team. No termination or suspension may be imposed, however, except by application of the procedures identified in Article 9 of USA Gym's Bylaws.
3. Other Sanctions. For matters which do not involve a significant material breach of my obligations under the Code of Ethics, I understand that USA Gym may respond to my failure to meet my obligations under this Agreement by imposing a sanction (including, for example, withholding all or part of any support or assistance outlined in Exhibit D) other than suspension or dismissal from the Team.

Before imposing any sanction under this Section III.3 , I understand that USA Gym will: a) provide me with written notification of the specific conduct which is the basis for withholding the support, b) identify the exact nature of the proposed sanction, c) give me an opportunity to be heard and d) inform me of the actions which must be taken by me (if any) to avoid the sanction. If I wish to challenge a decision by USA

Gym to impose a sanction in this manner, I understand that I must follow the grievance process identified in Article 10 of USA Gym's Bylaws.

- Dispute Resolution. All disputes arising out of or connected with this Agreement are subject to resolution exclusively through the procedures set forth in USA Gym's Bylaws, and/or, if appropriate, through the grievance procedures of the USOC.
- Governing Law. This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Indiana.

The signatures of the parties below indicate their willingness to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

Circle Appropriate Discipline: Men Women Rhythmic

Trampoline & Tumbling Acrobatic Gymnastics

Printed Name of ATHLETE \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of ATHLETE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

If athlete is under the age of 18:

As the legal parent and/or guardian for \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby verify that I fully understand and accept each of the conditions for permitting my child to participate as a USA Gym National Team member.

Printed Name of  
PARENT or GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of  
PARENT OR GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

USA GYMNASTICS

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President

## Attachment C – Responsibilities Manual

This manual includes the duties and responsibilities of the USA Rhythmic Team for the athletes, head coach, assistant coach, personal coaches, team manager, trainers, athlete representative and other support staff.

International competitions are a great opportunity that each of us has to contribute to our sport. Our performances in our various roles are highly visible to organizing committees and international observers and are critical to our overall impression. This manual will provide a list of duties and responsibilities that will allow us all to be prepared for the opportunity of a lifetime.

When competing as a team, understand that conformance with every aspect of these guidelines is essential to **show team unity and team goals. In order to compete successfully at the international level there are minimum requirements that must be met to conform to the usual training schedules of major team meets. These requirements will be outlined in this manual.**

All the athletes, coaches, and support staff must either alter their usual schedules prior to arrival or be prepared to function within these parameters so that all athletes feel they are preparing as a team. It will provide the system necessary for each individual to assume their responsibility and fully support the team concept.

It is **mandatory** for all national team members and their coaches to sign the agreement which will indicate that he/she agrees to all aspects of the Rhythmic Team Manual. This applies to the coaches who are designated as the Head Coaches, as well as those credentialed as personal coaches. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from duties at the event and/or ineligibility for consideration for any further involvement with the National Team

We owe our best effort to the American people, to our sport, to each other and, most of all, to ourselves. Let us all eagerly welcome and rise to the challenge.

### General Responsibilities

As a member of the USA Rhythmic Team, compliance with the guidelines established in this manual will be expected of **ALL MEMBERS for the full duration of training camps, competitions, or other activities sponsored by USA Gymnastics.** The national office will make every effort in arranging your transportation and housing needs. When traveling internationally, living environments, food, and competitive arenas are sometimes quite different than those in which we are accustomed. Please be prepared to accept these differences and make your best effort to adapt to the circumstances.

While we recognize that individuality is an important aspect of our culture, personal agendas and individual needs must become secondary to our team goals. Everyone included in our delegation is compelled to conduct his or herself in the most professional dignified manner for the duration of the event. Our mission is to represent our country, our

sport and ourselves at the highest level possible. These events should be considered as an honor and a responsibility. USA Gymnastics has assisted with your preparation and is funding this experience. Please understand that adherence to this manual is a requirement of all delegation members. Should any delegation member be dismissed or expelled because of non-compliance to the manual, they also may lose funding and benefits associated with team memberships.

Friends and families can provide a distraction for the team members. No visitation will be allowed until after team competition. Therefore, all visitations with parents will be designated by the Team Leader and Head Coach based upon the best interest of the team. When a team member is not qualified to All Around, or Individual Event competitions, she still must adhere to the daily schedule and all team rules. Family members of the coaching and support staff will not be housed with the team or join with the team on any occasion. Any distraction from the duties and responsibility of the team could be detrimental to the ultimate success.

### **Personal Coaches**

The personal coach (one) of each athlete will be invited, if approved by the RPC, to participate in all major competitions. It is believed that the coach deserves this recognition and has earned the right to experience these events with his/her athletes. Each personal coach is responsible for the conduct of their athlete(s). This includes their physical, mental and emotional performances. USAG will make every effort to obtain a credential for each of the coaches involved. If there are not enough credentials for all coaches the Senior Director of the Rhythmic Program will determine who will receive the credential. **We strongly recommend that only one coach per club travel with the delegation. While we recognize that most often two coaches are necessary to develop high level athletes, proper training in the final stage will allow the athlete to function optimally with one coach.**

- SUPPORT the decisions and be responsive to the Team Leader and/or Head Coach
- manage their athlete(s) according to the established team policies
- Voice all concerns within the coaches/team meetings
- Refrain from any conversations or activities which could be construed as inappropriate or divisive
- **Do not voice concerns, selection/competition results. or other information from training/preparation or selection camps to non-national team members via phone, email or other method**
- Attend all coaches/team meetings
- Attend all training sessions
- Adhere to daily schedule of activities as outlined by the Team Leader
- Be on time and in proper attire for all team functions
- Respect, communicate with and support all members of the delegation as needed
- Understand that each member's role and all decisions are made in the best interest of the USA Team
- Present a positive image at all times especially, when in public or dealing with the media/sponsors

- Remain focused on your duties
- Check the athlete's apparel and apparatus

### **Athletes**

As a member of the USA Rhythmic National Team, each athlete will be expected to assume the following responsibilities when representing the USA or at training camp. These responsibilities should be considered prior to your acceptance and/or qualification to the team. You are a selected representative of USA Gymnastics and your behavior must, at all times, be that of a National Team Member. Non-compliance of these requirements can result in dismissal from the team and removal of all credentials and privileges associated with the team.

- Attend **ALL** training sessions and demonstrate a willingness to successfully complete your assignments
- Get adequate rest/prompt lights outs - phone calls should be made prior to
- National Team nutritional guideline should be followed at all times. Need to be a good example to each other.
- Attend all team meals.
- Absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed
- Discuss any physical ailments with your personal coach immediately who will report those to the Team Leader
- Condition properly and follow-up with all physical therapy to maximize your performance
- Communication, respect and support for the designated coaches is required at all times
- You will be under the jurisdiction of the Team Manager, Your personal coach is in attendance as a member of the support team
- Respect and support your teammates, support staff and host country
- be prompt and attentive when called to address the Team Leader and/or the Head Coach formally before and after practice
- Responsible for extra copy of music, apparatus and necessary items for training and the competition. (I.e. Pre - wrap, tape, etc.)
- Be prepared for a "mock" meet or **verification** at any time. Training alterations due to injury or illness must be communicated by the Team Leader and/or Head Coach prior to workout.
- Follow the daily schedule set up by the Head Coach
- Appropriate public socializing will be planned activities. At no time should a male be in your room and visitation policies for parents must be followed.
- Have all the listed apparel with you, in good condition and properly fitted. Undergarments must not be visible during training or competition.
- Know and execute with excellence the National Team warm up and any National Team complexes.
- All athletes will remain a part of the team and adhere to the team schedule until all Individual and Team Competitions are completed

### **Head Coach**

This individual was selected based upon their abilities to lead the team on the competitive floor. His/her ability to assume the following list of responsibilities will, in large, determine the overall success of the team. The actual on- floor coaching will be solely the Head Coach's responsibility. Personal Coach(es) responsibilities must become secondary when the individual assumes this new role.

- **Is responsible for all coaching decision that must be made on the competition floor.**
- Know all FIG Technical Regulations and communicate those to all support staff
  - know all competition details and specifications and communicate those to all support staff
  - Must address the team formally before and after practice
- Lead, motivate, inspire, and provide an example for all athletes and support team
- Discuss the team line-up with the national team coordinator
- Keep the line of communication open with every team and support team member
- Designate duties to Assistant Coach and personal coaches as necessary and as soon as possible
  - Team warm-up
  - Auxiliary equipment
  - Meal plan
  - Apparel checks and plan (sizing and alterations)
  - Team activities (in-house)
  - Submission of music, properly cued, labeled and timed (maintain extra copy)
  - Submission of Difficulty/Artistry forms
- Sign all official team documents on a timely basis
- Be responsible for the accuracy of all team documents
- Act as coach during podium training and all team competitions
- Act as coach during all "simulated competitive training" in the official training halls
- Direct the practice of "mock" meets
- Know the line-up and present it to the secretary of the event

### **Medical Staff**

A Trainer is sometimes included in the delegation. These individuals will provide a full range of support for the athletes, coaches and other staff. The responsibilities of the medical staff are as follows:

- Attend all training/competition sessions, unless dismissed by the team manager/head of delegation
- Be positive in all conversations with the athletes
- Attend to all physical needs of the athletes
- Provide treatments for injury or maintenance in a timely manner
- Report all treatments to the national team coordinator and team manager on a daily basis



- Report all suspected serious injury or illness to the national team coordinator and team manager/head of delegation immediately
- Be responsible for all medical supplies
- Be responsible for medical and emergency contact for all locations
- Carry contact numbers at all times
- Secure water and fruit for the athletes for training/competition if necessary
- Make any recommendations concerning athletes to the team manager
- Refrain from discussing problems or diagnosis of injury directly with the athlete
- Inform and counsel athletes regarding the drug testing regulations
- Monitor the water source for the athletes

#### **National Team Staff**

- Act as technical assistants to the National Team Coordinator and personal coaches
- Remain positive at all times
- Attend all training sessions
- Give observations to the coaches
- Report any problems to the National Team Coordinator and the team manager/head of delegation immediately

#### **Judges**

- Attend all competition functions as required by the FIG
- When requested and if possible, be available to the National Team Coordinator/Personal Coaches for advice
- When requested and available, assist with training
- First responsibility is to the team
- Representing the USA

#### **Team Manager/Head of Delegation**

- Know all FIG Technical Regulations and communicate those to all support staff
  - Know all competition details and specifications and communicate those to all support staff
- Coordinate transportation for all team and support team
- Assign all housing arrangements
- Coordinate and supervise all administrative personnel
- Act as liaison with the Organizing Committee for all team responsibilities
- Coordinate processing and accreditation
- Responsible for the conduct of all team and support team members
- Advise the Head Coach and the Personal Coach(es) of any medical concerns as soon as possible after the report from the trainer
- Responsible for compliance of all parties with the Selection Procedures, Rhythmic National Team Manual, USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics, and the USOC Code of Conduct
- Take appropriate action toward any team member who violates any of the above including, if necessary, removing any member of the team or the delegation for non-

compliance with the duties listed in this manual. Removal of any member must be approved by the President of USA Gymnastics.

- Organize meeting on the first day
- Provided travel apparel and a detailed attire list for each trip

#### **Athlete Representative**

- Attend all team functions
- Observe all training and competition
- Give input at meetings as requested by the Head Coach
- Remain neutral and equally support all team members
- Report any serious problems to the Team Manager
- Counsel team members as needed
- Act as liaison for team members with the coaching staff and team manager

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read, understand and agree to comply with the responsibilities of my position as outlined within this manual.