

**USA Gymnastics**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2016 Olympic Games**  
**Women's Artistic Gymnastics**  
**August 28, 2015**  
[Amended February 1, 2016](#)

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

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

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the PASO Statutes (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

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

- Athlete must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age by December 31, 2016.
- Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2016 Olympic Games nomination.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Gymnastics.

## 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.

- The 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships: June 23-26, 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri.
- The 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics: July 7-10, 2016 in San Jose, Calif.

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 may qualify for the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championship in the following manner. Scores are listed on the 2015-2016 Elite Qualification Chart at <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Women/ElitePre-Elite/16elitechart.pdf>.

- By score from the American Classic (May 14, 2016 in Houston, TX) or Secret U.S. Classic (June 4, 2016 in Hartford, CT) competitions; or
- By score from a national qualifying meet (dates and locations TBD and will be posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days prior to each meet); or
- By score from a national team assignment at an international competition in the Fall of 2015 or Spring of 2016; or
- By score from a Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 verification or selection training camp (full routines on hard surfaces) for current national team members or invited gymnasts; or
- By being one of the six (6) members of the 2015 World Championships Team or traveling alternate; or
- Accepted petitioned athletes (See below).

### Qualification to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics

- The top 8 athletes in the combined all-around rank order at the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships will qualify to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics.
- Based on their ability to be competitive for a slot on the 2016 Olympic Team, the Selection Committee may add additional athletes from among those athletes who competed in the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships or petitioned athletes to attend the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics.

## 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 2016 Olympic Games Team because of her previous competition results to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process.

### 1. Petition Procedures

A. Procedures for petitioning into the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships are listed in the 2015-2016 Women's Rules and Policies

([http://www.usagym.org/pages/women/pages/rules\\_policies.html](http://www.usagym.org/pages/women/pages/rules_policies.html))

B. Procedures for petitioning into the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Gymnastics

i. Petitions into the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Gymnastics will be considered by the Selection Committee (see 2.3.), in consultation with the Sr. Vice President of Women's Program, for any member of a previous Olympic or World Championships Team and from any athlete who has competed at either the 2016 Secret U.S. Classic, the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships, or an international assignment after the conclusion of the 2015 P&G Gymnastics Championships and prior to the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships.

ii. Athletes petitioning into the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Gymnastics due to injury are required to attend the 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships and (at a minimum) participate in the training sessions.

iii. In order to be considered by the 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 2016 P&G Gymnastics Championships.

2. Petitions 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 selected by USA Gymnastics.

3. Athletes may not petition directly onto the 2016 Olympic Games Team.

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).

1.3.1. The U.S. Olympic Team is defined as the five (5) athletes who will be nominated to the USOC following the conclusion of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics. Up to three (3) replacement athletes will also be nominated at the same time. Nominations to the USOC will be made by July 10, 2016.

1.3.2. The individual all-around champion from the combined two-day competition at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics will be automatically qualified to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team.

1.3.3. The remaining four (4) athletes and up to three (3) replacement athletes will be determined by the Selection Committee from among the competitors at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics, utilizing the discretionary criteria outlined in Section 2.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

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

The sport of gymnastics is a subjectively judged event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely by the rank order to be competitive for both team and individual event medals. The current rules, which do not require athletes to compete on all events, necessitate evaluating relative event strength and contribution to total team or event scores.

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

The Selection Committee will use the following criteria when selecting members for the 2016 Olympic Games Team and replacement athletes:

- Team needs and medal potential
- Composite strength of all the Olympic Team Members
- Past domestic and international competitive performances

- The start values (difficulty scores) of all potential team members on various events
- The execution (execution scores) of all potential team members
- Consistency (percentage of hit routines) shown by the gymnast in the competitions and camps
- World Class presentation
- Competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance
- Physical capability to fulfill the training plan as directed by the National Team Coordinator
- Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic

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:

Selection Committee Members:

National Team Coordinator  
 Director of Elite Athlete Programs  
 Athlete Representative

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 a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2016 Olympic Games Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Selection Committee or continue for any reason, a replacement will be named by the International Elite Committee.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations 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 as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the President of USA Gymnastics.

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. Violation of USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct, National Team Agreement, or Women's Responsibilities Manual:  
[https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/selection\\_procedures.html](https://usagym.org/pages/women/pages/selection_procedures.html).
- 3.1.4. Inability to follow the training plan as directed by the National Team Coordinator.

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 an athlete nomination is accepted 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:  
<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Resources/Code-of-Conduct>  
<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, 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:

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

Should a Team Member need to be replaced, the replacement athlete will be selected by the Selection Committee from among the up to three replacement athletes previously named, using the Discretionary criteria outlined in Section 2 and based upon the needs of the team.

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

See 4.1.1

**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**

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2016 Olympic Games and can be found online at:

USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct  
Women’s Responsibilities Manual  
National Team Agreement

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

**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:

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

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: Direct distribution to age-eligible national team members and their personal coaches.

**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:

July 10, 2016

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

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

There will be a mandatory Olympic Team Training Camp for the Olympic Team Members and replacement athletes to be held in Houston, Texas, prior to departure to Rio de Janeiro. Date TBD in July 2016 and will be announced no less than 45 days in advance of the start of the camp.

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

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, 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, 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:

The International Elite Committee drafted these Selection Procedures:

Committee Chairman	Mihai Brestyan
Coach Representatives	Mary Lee Tracy Liang Qiao Kim Zmeskal-Burdette
Athlete Representative	Terin Humphrey
National Team Coordinator	Martha Karolyi, Voice no Vote
Director of Elite Athlete Programs	Steve Rybacki, Voice, no Vote

#### **12. USA GYMNASTICS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
<https://usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/usag-bylaws.pdf>

#### **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC, 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, 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, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at [Kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

**15. USA GYMNASTICS SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the 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 President/CEO	Steve Penny		2/1/16
Sr. Vice President of Women's Program	Rhonda Faehn		2/1/16
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	David Durante		2/1/16

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