

USAG MPC Meeting – June 10, 2020
Meeting called to order at 1:04pm ET

Members Present:

Randy Jepson - Sr Coaches Rep
Kip Simons - Sr Coaches Rep
Mike Serra - Chairmen/Jr Coaches Rep
Joe Hagerty - Athlete Rep
Brett McClure - High Performance Director (voice, no vote)
Jason Woodnick - VP Men's Program (voice, no vote)
Dan Bachman - NJGA Rep (voice, no vote)
Dusty Ritter - JO Program Coordinator

Members not Present:

Sergei Pakanich - Jr Coaches Rep
Open – Athlete Rep

Non-members Present:

Lisa Mendel - Men's Program Manager

I. USAG/High-Performance Update from Jason and Brett:

Most gyms are back open and almost all National Team athletes are back training in some form.

Over the past 6-8 weeks Dave Durante and Dave Tilley have been conducting weekly online trainings with the Sr and Jr national teams. The feedback has been positive from the community and has helped with team cohesiveness during quarantine. We will plan to continue with online trainings throughout the next few months.

Furloughed USAG staff are starting to return slowly. Andriy Stepanchanko has returned to work effective June 8th. Independent contractors may be brought back in the coming months. Discussions are being had to determine each program's needs.

The JOPC continues to do excellent work on the new JO Program. The JOPC-in person meeting is scheduled for September, which will present the final product with the intent to have the new program rolled out at JO Nationals in 2021.

The new Jr. National Coaching Staff has been formed for the 2020-2024 cycle. Excellent group of coaches. Emeritus positions created for the first time. The updated Men's Program Directory can be found here: <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Men/Contacts/m-programdirectory.pdf>

Confirmed Event Dates: US Championships will be June 3-6, 2021 in Fort Worth, TX

II. Update on USOPTC

Guidelines and plans are changing frequently, but a late June re-opening looks realistic with strict re-integration protocols. The training center will be reducing the number of on-site beds available from 500 to 80. Each sport will be given a specific number of beds available and NGB's will determine how to use them. Many athletes, including some of our resident athletes, will be asked to move off campus, effectively no longer making them a resident athlete. Rent, food, training fees are all possible expenses that these athletes may incur as a result of leaving the training center. We have advised these athletes to apply for the NGF training scholarship, as their status as a resident athlete has changed.

USAG will likely not be able to hold any training camps at the Jr or Developmental level at the USOPTC for the remainder of 2020. Jr camps could be looked at virtually or at the regional level. We are still hopeful for Sr camps at the training center, but will look at other locations as well in the Fall.

III. Sr Coaches Update from Randy/Kip

Discussion on NCAA-cost cutting measures. Potential changes to Championships format, staffing, competition scheduling, team travel size, etc. Many schools have asked sports programs to make budget cuts. The return to school/training will be individualized to each school and state's guidelines. Still many discussions to be had and decisions to be made

IV. Jr Coaches Update from Mike S.

No new news as most athletes have not been training.

Discussion on Future Stars National Championships for 2020. This event could be done on a virtual platform, which could allow for more participants. National Coaches Workshop could also be done virtually. The content and directives of Future Stars aligns with the "return to training" guidelines as they focus on basic skills. This event will create excitement for coaches and athletes, as well as act as a test for future virtual events.

Action: Jason to look into requirements for virtual platforms for both Future Stars and Coaches Workshop

- V. USAG is supporting Dan Bachman in the election for a position on the FIG Men's Technical Committee. It has not yet been determined when the FIG election will be held. We expect an announcement by FIG on June 15, 2020.

VI. Men's Program Self-Funding Policy

Men's program self-funding policy was presented at the last MPC meeting. The document was reviewed by NT coaches for feedback. Jason turned policy into chart form to be added to new NT Handbook and updated Rules and Policies.

Motion to approve the self-funding chart

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Mike Serra

Passed: Unanimously

VII. Winter Cup 2021

Ongoing discussion at USAG regarding combining Winter Cup & ETC with Nastia Liukin Cup. Timelines are tight and the community needs confirmed date and location so they can put their 2021 competition schedules together. Senior athletes and coaches have voiced that they are prioritizing competing on a full podium and in an arena in order to mirror US Championships, Olympic Trials, and International competition as many times as possible for Olympic preparation. There may be the possibility of having a podium for all 6 events at the South Point if current WC/ETC dates and location remain unchanged.

Discussion on qualification procedures to Winter Cup:

May be possible to have qualifying competitions, but that will be dictated by local guidelines. Athletes are all coming back at different times and some may not be ready by January qualifiers. Video submissions are not ideal, but may be necessary. The MPC will need to create specific guidelines for video submissions, i.e. camera angles, deadlines for submissions, etc.

VIII. National Team selection

Next opportunity for NT selection is Winter Cup. HPD would like to have a larger Sr national team to be able to fill international assignments. This was a concern in 2019 and 2020. Potential increase from 12 to 15/16 athletes on the Sr NT could be considered following Winter Cup and US Championships. The additional athletes would not receive USOPC funding, but would be funded for training camps and international assignments.

Discussion on Jr NT selection:

No current Jr NT members have been removed from NT. Use of video submissions and Winter Cup/ETC results to add athletes to the Jr NT and assign international competitions, but a complete re-ranking will not occur until JO Nationals/US Championships.

IX. Olympics Update

FIG released updated qualification procedures. No major changes to procedures. We are still able to earn +2 spots for the Olympics through AA World Cup Circuit and Continental Championships. Jason will update the men's program Olympic selection procedures. Athletes and coaches were given an opportunity to review one final time.

We would like to name our Olympic Selection Committee within the next couple of months

Action: Jason to solicit input from coaches and athletes for the Olympic Selection Committee

Action: Jason to create a document outlining all qualification/selection procedures by the next MPC meeting for the following:

Winter Cup/ETC
US Championships
Olympic Trials
National Team

X. Program Structure

USOPC is creating new requirements for NGB's, mainly around required athlete representation. Once we receive the new guidelines from USOPC, the USAG Board will institute possible re-structuring of the programs. A re-structuring task force will be involved in creating recommendations to USAG. The new structure to be in place by January 2021.

Kip Simons (Sr. coaches rep) and Sergei Pakanich (Jr. coaches rep) positions on MPC are up as of 2020 US Championships, which did not take place. Online elections will need to take place for these positions.

MPC needs to create a "plan of action" or have in place an additional representative to step in if there is a conflict of interest with one of the committee members. We need to ensure there is full representation in absence of a committee member due to conflict of interest.

Motion to approve Kip and Sergei to continue in their respective roles on the MPC until such time as an election can be held

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Mike Serra

Abstentions: Kip Simons

Passed: Unanimously

Athlete Representative Update: Joey Hagerty and Paul Ruggeri are both stepping down from their Athlete Rep positions. USAG has put out a call to the community for nominations to fill both roles. Deadline for nominations is June 12th.

XI. NGJA Elections

Mike Juszczuk was elected as president of NGJA for a four-year term.

Jon Corbitt - International Vice-President

Craig Nesbitt - Technical VP

Peter Wieging - JO VP

No new business

Motion to adjourn at 3:23pm

Motion: Mike Serra

Second: Kip Simons

Passed: Unanimously