Independent Observer Report  
USA Gymnastics Men’s Program Committee (MPC) Meetings  
February 27-28, 2021

Attendees:

Mike Serra – Chairman of MPC & Junior Coaches’ Representative (in person both days)  
Justin Spring – Senior Coaches’ Representative (in person Feb. 27; via Zoom Feb. 28)  
Randy Jepson – Senior Coaches’ Representative (via Zoom both days)  
Kip Simons – Athlete Representative (in person both days)  
Sergei Pakanich – Junior Coaches’ Representative (in person both days)  
Paul Ruggeri – Athlete Representative (via Zoom both days)  
Brett McClure – HPD (voice, no vote) (in person both days)  
David Klein – MDPC Chairman (voice, no vote) (in person Feb. 27; via Zoom Feb. 28)  
Mike Juszczyk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote; in person Feb. 27 only)  
Jason Woodnick – Men’s VP (voice, no vote) (in person both days)  
Dusty Ritter – MDP Coordinator (voice, no vote) (in person both days)  
Raj Bhavsar – MDP Assistant – (voice, no vote) (via Zoom both days)  
Michelle Pujals – Independent Observer (process voice, no vote) (via Zoom both days)

The Meetings were held in Indianapolis, IN, where the 2021 Winter Cup was held.

February 27, 2021

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman Mike Serra at 10:31 a.m. (ET).

I. Tie-Break Procedure for MPC

There was a discussion of a tie-break procedure in case of a tie between voting members of the MPC. There are no current tie-break procedures for the MPC, and the MPC was directed by USAG to decide upon such a procedure. The determined procedure will not be permanent because new charters are being created for the both the MPC and the Selection Committees, which will include specific tie-break procedures for each committee.

The MPC discussed giving the deciding vote to the High-Performance Director (HPD) Representative or the National Gymnastics Judges Association Representative. They determined that the HPD Representative would be a more appropriate choice because that individual has intimate knowledge of the Program and is fully entrenched with the elite athletes. The Athlete Representative joined the Meeting near the end of this discussion. As a result, he was provided a full update on the topic and the resulting discussion. The MPC voted unanimously to select the HPD Representative as the individual to make the deciding vote in case of a tie in a vote of the members of the MPC.
II. Winter Cup 2021/Men’s Senior National Team Selection

As set forth in the current MPC selection procedures, the first six spots on the Senior National Team were given to the top six athletes in All-Around rank from Day 1 of the Winter Cup (listed by rank):

- Cameron Bock
- Riley Loos
- Yul Moldauer
- Shane Wiskus
- Allan Bower
- Paul Juda

It was noted that, as set forth in the selection procedures, the next four spots on the Senior National Team would be given to the top four athletes by rank from the 20-point program from Day 1 and 2 of the Winter Cup (and who had not already been named to the Team). In addition, the MPC may select eight additional athletes to the Senior National Team; however, only two of these spots will be funded by the USOPC. The MPC acknowledged that it wants to have more than twelve athletes on the Team (i.e., more than the funded athletes) due to the need for a larger pool of athletes to participate in certain important upcoming events.

The MPC discussed the procedures for selecting the additional members of the National Team in which Winter Cup participants and athletes submitting petitions for the Winter Cup will be considered (which were referenced in the Winter Cup directives). The MPC made clear its intent to rely on appropriate data for the selection of Team members, and, for future selections, the goal will be to more clearly define the performance results to be used in the selection of the National Team. Specific criteria for the consideration of athletes’ petitions to events should also be created. The MPC had a discussion concerning the standard for accepting petitions under the current “injury, illness or unusual circumstances” criteria, including whether the recent Texas winter storm should be considered an “unusual circumstance” under that standard. It was noted that current (pre-Winter Cup) National Team athletes and coaches were involved in the process of creating the current Selection Procedures.

III. Pan American Championships and Tokyo Olympics

The Pan American Championships are expected to be in Brazil in early June, although the date and location has not been finalized. An early June date would conflict with U.S. Championships. If that conflict, in fact, occurs, the Selection Procedures for the Tokyo Olympics may need to be amended by the MPC.

It was noted that the deadline for submitting names for Olympics to the USOPC is June 28, 2021; therefore, the team must be named at Olympic Trials. As a result, the Olympic Team Camp in July would be used to make the final team selection (if necessary). The MPC also discussed the difference between funded and unfunded spots for the National Team.
IV. **Tokyo Test Event**

One participating athlete and one reserve athlete will be sent to the Tokyo Test Event. Since Winter Cup results are too far in time from this event, the MPC suggested that it should use a virtual event closer to the competition to select these two athletes. The event would be open to all Senior National Team members and would be required for consideration for the event. The MPC also agreed that strict standards will be provided to participants to ensure video consistency (e.g., camera angles and landing surfaces). A motion was made (and seconded) to require that the Tokyo Olympic Test Event selection be done through a virtual video submission from April 4-17, 2021, with the submissions being judged, on April 18, by a panel of judges from the 2021 U.S. Championships. The motion was passed 5-0-1 (Randy Jepson was not on Zoom at the time of the vote). A motion was then made (and seconded) to select both athletes for the Tokyo Olympic Test Event by the All-Around rank order from the April 2021 virtual video submissions. This motion was also passed 5-0-1 (Randy Jepson was not on Zoom at the time of the vote).

V. **Olympic Selection Committee**

Finally, the MPC discussed the current members of the Olympic Selection Committee and the full makeup of the Committee.

VI. **Adjournment**

Due to the time, the MPC did not discuss all items on the circulated agenda. On a passed motion, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. (ET).

**February 28, 2021**

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman Mike Serra at 8:31 p.m. (ET).

I. **Selection of First Ten Senior National Team Members**

At this MPC Meeting, the Committee was tasked with selecting the Senior Men’s National Team through to the U.S. Championships. The first six USOPC-funded spots were allocated the day before based upon the All-Around results from Day 1 of the Winter Cup. The next four USOPC-funded spots were given to the following athletes based upon the 20-point program results from Day 1 and 2 of the Winter Cup combined (listed by rank):

- Adrian De Los Angeles
- Vitaliy Guimaraes
- Isaiah Drake
- Genki Suzuki
II. Selection of Additional Senior National Team Members

The MPC went on to discuss the naming of additional athletes under the selection procedures. They are able to add up to eight more athletes to the National Team, with two spots funded by the USOPC and up to six spots unfunded. The MPC determined that it would consider the needs of each potential international assignment over the next six months, taking into account the athlete results from Winter Cup Day 1, Day 2, and combined, the 20-point program final results, and the athletes who have submitted petitions for the Winter Cup. The MPC received eleven petitions to the Senior National Team (with six coming from members of the most recent Senior National Team). It is an unprecedented number of petitions, due primarily to the pandemic and the recent winter storm in Texas. The MPC decided that petitions based upon these two issues would be accepted, and that, as a result, the athletes would be discussed during the selection process. The MPC reviewed individual competition results to provide additional performance data for all considered athletes. (It was noted that the specific requirements for petitions to events and data points that may be used for consideration for athletes whose petitions have been accepted should be more clearly defined in the future.)

A. Last Two Funded Spots

In determining the last two funded spots, the MPC recognized that its first priority is the four-man team for the Tokyo Olympics, with a focus on All-Around athletes. The MPC reviewed the athletes who competed at Winter Cup and the athletes who submitted petitions for the Winter Cup. It was determined that Sam Mikulak and Akash Modi should be named as National Team members in the two remaining funded spots based upon their previous performance results. A motion was then made (and seconded) to select both athletes for these spots, and the motion passed 5-1.

B. Initial Unfunded Spots

The MPC stated that its main goal is to earn an additional spot for the Olympic Team at the Pan American Championships, which is based upon All-Around qualifications. In fact, the MPC has determined that its first priority for additional positions should be on team medals (and All-Around athletes). Therefore, the MPC reviewed the additional All-Around athletes who are eligible for the Pan American Team; Winter Cup All-Around results, as well as previous average All-Around scores, were used to compare these athletes. The MPC determined that Brody Malone, Grant Breckenridge, and Colin Van Wicklen (who are all eligible for the Pan American Championships) should be added to the Senior National Team based on the relevant performance results. In addition to Winter Cup All-Around athletes, other All-Around athletes who submitted Winter Cup petitions were discussed, but not selected for these positions. A motion was made (and seconded) to select these athletes for the first three spots, and the motion passed 5-1.

Next, Donnell Whittenburg was identified as eligible for the Pan American Championships and a strong addition for the National Team (based on his Winter Cup results and previous performance results). A motion was made (and seconded) to select this athlete for the fourth unfunded spot, and the motion passed unanimously.
C. **Addition of Final Unfunded Spots**

Moving on to the remaining two potential spots, the MPC discussed whether the National Team needed All-Around athletes or Individual Event specialists. Before discussion of individual athletes occurred, Randy Jepson and Justin Spring left the meeting and recused themselves in light of their relationships with individual athletes that would be considered for selection. Looking to garner an individual event medal at the World Cup in Doha (as well as an additional spot for the Olympics), the MPC reviewed the current and previous scores for several Individual Event specialists. Given Stephen Nedoroscik’s current and prior scores, a motion was made (and seconded) to select him for the National Team, and the motion passed 4-0 (with recusals by Justin Spring and Randy Jepson, who were not present for the vote).

Randy Jepson then re-joined the meeting for the remaining discussion (as the discussion of the athlete with whom he has a relationship was completed), and was advised of the selection of Nedoroscik. The MPC had additional discussion about the need for All-Around athletes or Individual Event specialists and concluded that it should consider an athlete who could help the team as an All-Around athlete, as well as perform well on certain individual events. Trevor Howard was identified by previous performance results as such an athlete. A motion was made (and seconded) to select Trevor Howard for the final spot, and the motion passed 5-0 (with a recusal by Justin Spring, who was not present for the vote).

Justin Spring re-joined the meeting, and he was advised of the two final selections. On a passed motion, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m. (ET).

To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, this Report accurately reflects the actions taken by the MPC at its February 27 and 28, 2021 Meetings. In addition, I reviewed the content of the MPC Meeting Minutes for both February 27 and 28, 2021, and those Minutes (which were approved by the members of the MPC) are attached as Exhibit A to this Report.

Michelle Pujals
Independent Observer
EXHIBIT A

MPC Meeting
February 27, 2021

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 10:31am ET

Members Present:
Mike Serra – Chairman & Junior Coaches Rep
Justin Spring – Senior Coaches Rep
Randy Jepson – Senior Coaches Rep
Kip Simons – Athlete rep
Sergei Pakanich – Junior Coaches Rep
Paul Ruggeri – Athlete Rep
Brett McClure – HPD (voice, no vote)
David Klein – MDPC Chairman (voice, no vote)
Mike Juszczyk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)
Jason Woodnick – Men’s VP (voice, no vote)
Dusty Ritter – MDP Coordinator (voice, no vote)
Raj Bhavsar – MDP Assistant – (voice, no vote)

Non-members Present
Michelle Pujals – Independent Observer (process voice, no vote)

I. Discussion of tie-break procedure in case of a tie between MPC voting members since no current tie-break procedures exists (at the direction of USAG). The first suggestion was to give the High-Performance Director voting power in the event of a tie as he has intimate knowledge of the program and is fully entrenched with the elite athletes. There was concern regarding the optics of giving the HPD voting power, and giving the NGJA voting power was also discussed. It was noted that either way this is likely a short-term necessity as the new charters are being created for the MPC and Selection Committees (which will include specific tie-break procedures). The Selection Committees will oversee all National Team and International Selections once those committees are established, and the HPD will be a voting member of the Senior Selection Committee. The Athlete Rep joined the Meeting near the end of the discussion, and he was provided a full update on the topic and the resulting discussion.

Motion: To give the High-Performance Director voting authority as the tie-break vote in the event of a tie for any motions on the floor.

Motion: Sergei Pakanich
Second: Kip Simons
Passed Unanimously
II. National Team Selection Winter Cup 2021

- Following the required selection procedures, the top 6 athletes by AA rank from Day 1 were named to the Senior NT (Cameron Bock, Riley Loos, Yul Moldauer, Shane Wiskus, Allan Bower, and Paul Juda). In addition, the top 4 athletes (not already named to the team) by rank from the 20-point program from WC Day 1 & 2 combined will be named to the Senior NT (as set forth in the selection procedures). This leaves up to eight spots available on the Senior NT, with only two spots designated for USOPC funding. These spots are chosen by the MPC through the selection procedures, referenced in the Winter Cup directives, which include petition considerations.
- The need for more than 12 athletes on the Senior NT is to ensure we have a bigger pool of athletes for the upcoming international events:
  - Senior Pan Am Championships which can earn the US a +1 spot for Tokyo
  - Tokyo Olympic Team
  - IF Specialists for +1 to Tokyo (in the event this spot is earned)
  - Tokyo AA Test Event (no longer Olympic qualifier)
- The purpose of this MPC meeting is to define the process for MPC selection to the NT, considering Winter Cup participants and submitted petitions. The intent is always to rely on data in team selection, and for future selections the goal should be to define the metrics more clearly for discretionary selection and also to create more specific standards for the consideration of athletes’ petitions. There was a discussion concerning the standard for accepting petitions under the “injury, illness or unusual circumstances” criteria. It was determined that the winter storm in TX falls into the “unusual circumstances” category.
- The NT athletes and coaches have been involved in the process of creating the Selection Procedures. They were able to review and provide feedback before the procedures were finalized. Moving forward, the suggestion was made to include more than the NT athletes and coaches, and to open up communication to all Senior participants from Winter Cup or US Championships so that more voices are heard.

III. Pan American Championships & Tokyo Olympics Discussion

- There are no directives, set dates, or location for Pan Ams. Current information indicates that they will be in Brazil in early June, which will likely conflict with US Championships. If this happens, it will impact our Olympic Selection Procedures, which may, then need to be amended.
- The FIG and IOC are determining if Pan Ams will continue to be an Olympic Qualification event. USAG has submitted a letter to FIG requesting clarification on the requirements for continental championships to be designated as Olympic qualifiers, and if those standards will be consistent across continents. There was also a discussion between funded and unfunded spots for the NT.
- The deadline for submitting names for Tokyo to the USOPC is June 28; therefore, the team must be named at Olympic Trials. However, the final team selection would be made at the Olympic Team Camp in July, if needed.
IV. Tokyo Test Event

- The plan is to send one athlete and one reserve athlete. We need to determine how the athletes will be named for this event. Winter Cup results will be too far from the event, and we should use a virtual event closer to the competition.
- We are looking at a two-week window to submit videos for consideration for the Test Event in April around NCAA Championships. The event would be for all interested Senior NT members and would be required for consideration for the event. Strict standards must be met to ensure video consistency (i.e., camera angles and proper equipment/landing surfaces).

Motion: The selection for the Tokyo Olympic Test Event will be done through a virtual video submission, April 4-17th, open to all senior national team members. On April 18th, videos will be evaluated by a judging panel from the 2021 US Championships.

Motion: Mike Serra
Second: Kip Simons
Passed: 5-0-1 (Randy Jepson did not vote)

Motion: The competing and replacement athletes for the Tokyo Olympic Test Event will be determined by the All-Around rank order from the April 2021 virtual video submissions.

Motion: Justin Spring
Second: Sergei Pakanich
Passed: 5-0-1 (Randy Jepson did not vote)

V. Olympic Selection Committee

There was a discussion of the current members of the Olympic Selection Committee and the full makeup of the Committee. It was noted that, pursuant to the new USOPC By-Laws, the Committee must have 33% athlete representation.

Due to the length of our discussions, the MPC needed to end the meeting before discussing all items on the agenda.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:47pm ET

Motion: Mike Serra
Second: Kip Simons
Passed: 5-0-1 (Randy Jepson did not vote)
MPC Meeting
February 28, 2021

Meeting called to order at 8:31pm ET by Chair, Mike Serra

Members Present:
Mike Serra – Chairman & Junior Coaches Rep
Justin Spring – Senior Coaches Rep
Randy Jepson – Senior Coaches Rep
Kip Simons – Athlete Rep
Sergei Pakanich – Junior Coaches Rep
Paul Ruggeri – Athlete Rep
Brett McClure – HPD (voice, no vote)
David Klein – MDPC Chairman (voice, no vote)
Jason Woodnick – Men’s VP (voice, no vote)
Dusty Ritter – MDP Coordinator (voice, no vote)
Raj Bhavsar – MDP Assistant – (voice, no vote)

Members not Present
Mike Juszczyk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members Present
Michelle Pujals – Independent Observer (process voice, no vote)

The main purpose of this MPC meeting is to establish the 2021 Senior Men’s National Team through to the U.S. Championships. Ten USOPC-funded spots have been allocated from Winter Cup results as follows:
Cameron Bock (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Riley Loos (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Yul Moldauer (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Shane Wiskus (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Allan Bower (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Paul Juda (Top 6 AA from WC Day 1)
Adrian De Los Angeles (Next 4 from WC Day 1 & 2 Combined from 20-Pt. Results)
Vitaliy Guimaraes (Next 4 from WC Day 1 & 2 Combined from 20-Pt. Results)
Isaiah Drake (Next 4 from WC Day 1 & 2 Combined from 20-Pt. Results)
Genki Suzuki (Next 4 from WC Day 1 & 2 Combined from 20-Pt. Results)

The MPC is tasked with naming, under the selection procedures, up to eight more athletes to the National Team, with two spots receiving USOPC funding and up to six more unfunded. The MPC will consider the needs of each potential international assignment over the next six months taking into account the athlete results from Winter Cup Day 1, Day 2, and combined, the 20-point final results, and the athletes who have submitted petitions for selection to the NT. The MPC received 11 petitions to the Senior National Team with six coming from members of the most recent Senior NT. This is an unprecedented number of petitions, due primarily to the pandemic and the recent winter storm in Texas. The MPC decided that petitions based upon
these two issues would be accepted and that, as a result, the athletes would be discussed during the selection process. Individual competition reports were utilized to provide additional data to the discussion for all considered athletes, including, high scores, average scores, and trend lines from the quadrennium.

It was brought up that the criteria for considering submitted petitions need to be better defined, particularly to the National Team. The specific requirements for petitions themselves and data points that may be used for consideration for athletes whose petitions have been accepted should be better defined in the future.

I. Discussion on assigning the remaining two funded NT spots
   • The first priority is the 4-man team for the Tokyo Olympics, with the focus on the All-Around athletes. The MPC reviewed the athletes who competed at WC and the athletes who submitted petitions and determined that Sam Mikulak and Akash Modi should be named as Senior NT members in the two remaining funded spots. Sam Mikulak was a member of the 2017, 2018, and 2019 World Championship teams. He has also earned a World Bronze medal on HB in 2018. Akash Modi was a member of the 2018 and 2019 World Championship teams. No other submitted petitions or Winter Cup participants (not already named to the NT) achieved this criteria during this quad.

Motion: To name Sam Mikulak and Akash Modi as the 11th and 12th members of the Senior National Team to receive USOPC funding (based on previous performance results)

Motion: Sergei Pakanich
Second: Randy Jepson
Passed: 5-1

II. Discussion on Unfunded Spots and Senior Pan Am Championships
   • The goal of this competition is to earn a +1 Olympic spot through the AA qualifications. The US intends to send five AA athletes with four competing in the AA qualification event. There is still uncertainty with this event as discussed in yesterday’s MPC meeting. In January, the MPC approved that the athlete who earns the +1 spot for the country will be automatically named to the Senior NT following US Championships.
   • The current NT members include eight athletes who are eligible for the 2021 Pan Am Championships. The 2019 World Championship Team Members are not eligible to earn the US the +1 Olympic Spot per the FIG Olympic Qualification System and will therefore not be considered for this event. It was noted that the priority for the men's program is to focus on team medals (and AA athletes) first and individual event opportunities second. Looking at competitive AA scores for the top two spots at Pan Am Championships, the MPC reviewed additional AA athletes who are eligible for the Pan Ams Team as several athletes may elect not to attend this event due to its timing and location. Winter Cup AA results and average AA scores across the quad were used to compare the next group of AA athletes being considered. The MPC determined that Brody Malone, Grant Breckenridge, and Colin Van Wicklen should
be added to the Senior National Team based on performance metrics, as they are all eligible for Pan Am Championships having not been members of the 2019 World Championship team.

• Other petitioned athletes were discussed and considered throughout this discussion

Motion: To name Brody Malone, Grant Breckenridge, and Colin Van Wicklen to the Senior National Team (based on previous performance results)

Motion: Randy Jepson
Second: Kip Simons
Passed: 5-1

Donnell Whittenburg was identified as eligible for the Pan Am Championships. He was the next ranked athlete by AA Finals and by the combined points total from Winter Cup who has not already been named to the National Team.

Motion: To name Donnell Whittenburg to the Senior National Team (based on WC results in addition to previous performance results)

Motion: Sergei Pakanich
Second: Justin Spring
Passed: Unanimously

III. Review of athletes to fill the two remaining NT spots
• The discussion for the remaining two spots turned to AA athletes vs. Individual Event specialists. At this point, Randy and Justin recused themselves for this discussion due to their relationship with individual athletes that would be considered for selection.
• With the hopes of a Doha IE World Cup in June as well as a +1 spot for the Olympics, the MPC decided to look at several IE specialists. The MPC reviewed current results and average scores across the quad.
• Stephen Nedoroscik posted the highest score of the entire Winter Cup competition (15.6 on PH). He has a high average score across the quad and his last full competition prior to 2021 Winter Cup resulted in earning a gold medal at the Melbourne World Cup in February 2020.

Motion: To name Stephen Nedoroscik to the Senior National Team (based on WC results in addition to previous performance results)

Motion: Paul Ruggeri
Second: Sergei Pakanich
Passed: 4-0
Recused members not voting: Justin Spring and Randy Jepson

Randy Jepson re-joined the meeting for the remaining discussion (as the discussion of the athlete with whom he has a relationship was completed)
The MPC had additional discussion about the need for AA or IE specialist and concluded that it should consider an athlete who could help the team (as an AA) and perform well on certain individual events. The MPC considered not selecting an 18th member of the NT, but as a 2019 World Championship team member, member of the most recent Senior NT, AA contributor, and event specialist, they decided to move forward with naming Trevor Howard to the last available position.

Motion: To name Trevor Howard to the Senior National Team (based on previous performance results)

Motion: Sergei Pakanich
Second: Paul Ruggeri
Passed: 5-0
Recused members not voting: Justin Spring

Justin Spring re-joined the meeting.

The MPC has named 8 additional athletes to the Men’s Senior National Team, in addition to the ten selected through WC result procedures.

Motion to adjourn at 11:12pm ET

Motion: Randy Jepson
Second: Sergei Pakanich
Passed Unanimously

Michael Serra
Print Name