

USA GYMNASTICS
RHYTHMIC ATHLETE & COACH SELECTION PROCEDURES
2022 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sofia, Bulgaria
June 23, 2022

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

A. Overall Goal:

The overall goal for individual athletes selected to the 2022 World Championships Team is to qualify two individuals for the all-around finals and for the Group to finish in the top 24 Groups. The Selection Committee may select two (2) or three (3) individuals with the objective of giving Team USA the best chance to achieve the overall goal.

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a citizen of the United States at the start of the World Selection Event and at the time of selection and hold a current U.S. Passport valid at least 6 months following the conclusion of the World Championships.

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

- Athlete must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31, 2022
- Hold a valid FIG Athlete License at the time of 2022 World Championships accreditation.

3. Other requirements (if any):

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

B. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

USA Gymnastics Championships (Elite), Des Moines, Iowa: June 23-26, 2022 ("**USA Gym Champs**")

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any "preliminary or qualifying" events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the trials, events or camps listed above in B. 1.

Qualification for USA Gym Champs:

Individual

- By results of the 2022 Elite Qualifier, May 21-22, 2022, Grand Rapids, MI (the "**2022 Elite Qualifier**"):

- 25 seniors from the Elite Qualifier will advance to the USA Gym Champs. Athletes may qualify through placement at the 2022 Elite Qualifier or through the exemptions below:
 - a. Qualifying Exemptions:
 - i. The top 6 seniors in the all-around from the 2022 Rhythmic Challenge will automatically qualify to the USA Gym Champs.
 - ii. Current senior National Team members unable to compete at the 2022 Elite Qualifier due to (1) injury or illness verified by an examining physician, or (2) extenuating circumstance verified and approved by the Vice President of the Rhythmic Program and the Rhythmic Program Committee, may advance to the USA Gym Champs by petitioning as set forth in Section I(D)(1).
 - iii. Any gymnast who meets the above criteria and chooses not to compete at the 2022 Elite Qualifier must notify the Vice President of Program prior to the start of the 2022 Elite Qualifier so that a final number of remaining open spots can be communicated to other potential 2022 Elite Qualifier participants prior to the start of the competition.

Group

A maximum of three (3) FIG-level Groups will advance to the USA Gym Champs.

If a senior FIG-level Group(s) has/have been assigned to an official FIG international competition following the 2022 Rhythmic Challenge, this Group automatically advances to the USA Gym Champs. The top Group by all-around results at the 2022 Elite Qualifier, in addition to the above-named Group, shall advance if there are Senior FIG Groups competing at the Elite Qualifier.

1. If no Group is assigned to official FIG competition following the 2022 Rhythmic Challenge, the top 3 Groups by All-Around results at the 2022 Elite Qualifier will advance to the USA Gym Champs.

- C. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team members (including maximum team size).

1. Individual

The process for qualification/selection to the 2022 World Championships Team—comprised of 2-3 athletes -- is a combination of the results from USA Gym Champs and the Discretionary Selection procedures.

- a. The top ranked individual from three days of competition at the USA Gym Champs will be automatically named to the 2022 World Championships Team. The number of events this individual will compete at the 2022 World Championships shall be determined prior to the start of the 2022 World Championships.
- b. The Athlete Selection Committee (“**ASC**”) will name up to two (2) additional individuals to the 2022 World Championship Team and one (1) non-traveling alternate utilizing the Discretionary Selection Procedures as set forth in Section II(B). The additional individual(s) and the non-traveling must have finished 2nd through 6th at the USA Gym Champs in the all-around.

2. **Group**

a. Selection of the Group

- The top-ranked Group at the USA Gym Champs will be named to the 2022 World Championships Team.

b. Selection of the Group's Athletes

Groups are comprised of six (6) athletes, five (5) of whom compete on each of the Group's two events. More than six (6) athletes may be training with a Group; therefore, once the Group has been selected, the six (6) athletes who will be named to the 2022 World Championships team will be identified by that Group's head coach at the conclusion the USA Gym Champs for approval by the ASC. The ASC shall consider the Discretionary Selection criteria set forth in Section II to determine which athletes will be selected to the Group.

3. Line-up Determinations

a. **Individual**

The ASC may select the subdivision and events in which each gymnast will compete at the 2022 World Championships, if not already determine by the FIG, following a review of the results of the USA Gym Champs.

b. **Group**

The final line-up determination will be made by the Group's Head Coach prior to the final FIG registration deadline and may include up to six competing athletes.

D. Petition Procedures

Notwithstanding the foregoing selection procedures, USA Gymnastics recognizes that extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances may occur which would cause an athlete otherwise deserving of a spot on the 2022 World Championships Team because of her previous competition results to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process. Therefore, an athlete may be petitioned to the USA Gym Champs or the 2022 World Championships Team in accordance with the following:

1. Procedures for petitioning into the USA Gym Champs are listed in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/rules_policies.html
2. In order to be considered by the ASC for the 2022 World Championships, 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 (15 minutes from the end of the last routine) of the USA Gym Champs.

3. The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance which prohibited the athlete from participating in the competitive process. In the case of a petition based upon injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a statement by an examining physician.
The nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by a doctor approved by USA Gymnastics.
4. In the case that an injury or illness occurs which prevents an athlete from competing in the USA Gym Champs, she is able to submit a petition to the ASC for direct placement onto the World Championships Team.
5. Any current National Team athlete may submit a petition to be directly placed on the World Championships Team.
6. Petitions directly to the World Championships team will be evaluated by the Selection Committee utilizing the discretionary criteria listed in II.B.

E. Selection Committee Members

1. Names of Selection Committee Members and Titles

Natalya Kozitskaya, IEC Chair
Elena Savenkova, World Championships judge
Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative

2. Conflict of Interest

In the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2022 World Championships Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Selection Committee or continue for any reason, a replacement will be named by the IEC Committee.

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

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

One event, the USA Gym Champions, is being used to select the World Team. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a subjectively judged event, and an athlete can be severely penalized for a single error in individual competition.

Group composition is six (6) athletes and more athletes are in training with the National Team Group. Six (6) gymnasts will comprise the World Team for Group, although only five (5) gymnasts compete in each Group routine. In making the determination of the athletes who will comprise the Group for the World Team, as well as in making the determination of the final line-up for competition, it will be necessary to evaluate the best team composition.

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

The ASC will use the following criteria, when selecting members for the 2022 World Championships Team in the following order, with greatest consideration being given to item 1 and the least to item 8:

Individual

1. Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast
2. Results from the USA Gym Champs
3. Consistency/hit routines at USA Gymnastics Championships
4. A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall
5. Evaluation of 8 event scores from the USA Gym Champs
6. World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation
7. Previous proven international and national results in 2022, if available
8. The objective of each event and the ability of each athlete to meet that objective in the context of USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Program’s international strategy in the given year

Group

1. Readiness to compete—current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast
2. Ability to contribute to the Group dynamic
3. Consistency/hit routines at USA Gymnastics Championships
4. A “hit” routine: all Difficulty elements are completed without loss or fall
5. Results from the USA Gym Champs
6. Previous proven international and national results in 2022
7. World Class presentation: the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World and Olympic presentation

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. An athlete who is selected to the team by USA Gymnastics may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:
- Injury or illness **which inhibits peak performance** which shall be determined by an examining physician and verified by USA Gymnastics medical staff.
 - Violation of the USA Gymnastics’ Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct, National Team Agreement or the Rhythmic Program Manual, which can be found online at:
https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html
 - Inability to follow the training plan.
 - Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Chief Programs Officer, the Vice President of Rhythmic Program and the Athlete Representative, and an interview with the athlete and her coach. Any decision to remove an athlete or coach may be reviewed through the [USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures](#).

- B. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Gymnastics' Chief Programs Officer and VP Rhythmic Program.
- C. An athlete may be removed from the team at any time for violation of WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

Individual

The ASC will identify a non-traveling alternate athlete for the 2022 World Championship Team, using the discretionary criteria listed in Section II(B).

Group

Athletes presently training with the Group named to the 2022 World Championships team are eligible replacement athletes.

- B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:

Individual

If a 2022 World Championships Team Member is removed or withdrawn, the non-traveling alternate will be placed on the 2022 World Championships team. As a result of the new team dynamic, the ASC will determine whether to modify any line-up changes using the Discretionary Selection criteria set forth in Section II.

Group

In the event a Group team member is removed or withdrawn, an athlete that is presently training with the Group may be named to the 2022 World Championships by the same process outlined in Section II(B).

- C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

Athlete Selection Committee

V. COACH SELECTION

- A. The coaches for the 2022 World Championships Team will be selected from among the personal coaches of the team members, based upon the following criteria:

Individual – one (1) personal coach per athlete (each, a “*Personal Coach*”).

Group – one (1) head coach (the “*Group Head Coach*”) shall be named. An assistant group coach may be named if they previously worked with the Group Head Coach to prepare the athletes for the World Championships.

Coaches will be confirmed by the ASC, in consultation with the Vice President of Program.

- B. Each Personal Coach selected for 2022 World Championships Team will be selected according to the number of credentials available to the team and limited to one (1) Personal Coaches per athlete.
- C. Removal of Coach
- Voluntary withdrawal. The Coach must submit a written letter to USA Gymnastics' Chief Programs Officer and VP Rhythmic Program.
 - Injury or illness **which inhibits peak performance** which shall be determined by an examining physician and verified by USA Gymnastics medical staff.
 - Violation of the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct or Rhythmic Program Manual.
 - A coach shall automatically be removed if they become ineligible for leadership pursuant to [USA Gymnastics Leadership and Eligibility Policy](#).
 - If an athlete is removed from the team pursuant to Section III, the personal coach of that athlete may also be removed. Factors that may be taken into consideration when evaluating removal may include timing of the removal, availability of credentials, status of a replacement athlete, or best interests of the team.
 - A coach may appeal their removal [through USA Gymnastics' Grievance Procedures](#).

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A World Team Selection Committee Report, outlining the work and decisions of the ASC, will be produced for distribution to all athletes and coaches who participated in the selection events within a reasonable amount of time after the conclusion of the 2022 World Team Selection Camp. The report will be made public on the USA Gymnastics website and will be signed off on by an Independent Observer approved by the Board of Directors.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to 2022 World Championships Team and can be found online at https://usagym.org/pages/rhythmic/pages/selection_procedures.html

- Safe Sport Policy
- USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct
- National Team Agreement

VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USA Gymnastics approved Selection Procedures will be posted/published by the USA Gymnastics in the following locations:

- A. USA Gymnastics Website: www.usagym.org
These procedures will be posted within five business days following the approval by the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors.
- B. Directly distributed to the age eligible National Team Members.

IX. DATE OF NOMINATION

The 2022 World Championships team will be announced following the conclusion of competition at the USA Gym Champs.

X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Training and competition plan in Bulgaria TBD based on approval from the Local Organizing Committee.

XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FIG, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

XII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:
Athlete Selection Committee

Natalya Kozitskaya, Coach representative (Chair)
Elena Savenkova, Judge representative
Rebecca Sereda, Athlete Representative

XIII. USA GYMNASTICS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
www.usagym.org

XIV. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

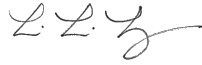



These procedures are based on IOC and/or FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or FIG rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Gymnastics. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, and resubmitted to the president of USA Gymnastics.

XV. SIGNATURES

X

I certify that I have read and approved the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2022 World Championships Team.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Gymnastics President	Li Li Leung		Jun 23, 2022
Chief Programs Officer	Stefanie Korepin		Jun 23, 2022
Vice President of Rhythmic Program	Caroline Hunt	 <small>Caroline Hunt (Jun 23, 2022 13:33 CDT)</small>	Jun 23, 2022
Athlete Representative	Rebecca Sereda	 <small>Rebecca Sereda (Jun 23, 2022 12:40 CDT)</small>	Jun 23, 2022

Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2022 World Championships Team as outlined in these selection procedures has carefully reviewed, acknowledges, and agrees to the terms of the selection procedures. That understanding and agreement is reflected by the signature of the athlete and coach below.

Athlete

Date

Parent (if athlete is under 18 years of age)

Date

Coach

Date











2022 SR World Championships SP RG-v2clean2


Final Audit Report

2022-06-23

Created:	2022-06-23
By:	Mary McDaniel (mmcdaniel@usagym.org)
Status:	Signed
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2022-06-23 - 5:34:43 PM GMT
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