



**Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Saint Paul, MN
August 18-20, 2006**

I. Roll Call

Jola Jones, Chair
Linda Ocmand, NTCC
Selena Peco, NJOCC
Ivaylo Katsov, NECC
Sharise Beavers, Athlete Representative
Tonya Case, FIG Representative & Acro Program Vice-Chair
Carisa Laughon, Program Director

Observers: Dr. Jay Binder, Tom Housley, Jennifer Hess

II. Program Director Transition Plans

Carisa Laughon has resigned her position as the Acrobatic Gymnastics Senior Program Director to take a position as the USA Gymnastics Director of Educational Services. Carisa expressed to the committee her sincere thanks to the committee for their support throughout her tenure as Senior Program Director. It was a pleasure to work with the acro program and such a talented and dedicated group of athletes, coaches, judges, and volunteers.

Steve Penny and Ron Froehlich addressed the Program Committee, providing reassurance that the needs of the acrobatics program would be met during the transition process and with the hiring of a new Program Director. Steve considered it a priority to establish the transition plan in order to minimize the effect to the acrobatics program. Carisa, and the Program Committee working with Carisa, will play a role in the transition process and the hiring of a new Program Director.

III. Program Committee Chair & National Technical Committee Chair

The Program Committee, on behalf of the acrobatics program, expressed enormous thanks to Jola Jones for her service and leadership as Program Committee Chairman. Jola has been the Chair of the Program Committee from 2002-2006. Additionally, Jola has worked as a volunteer with acrobatics for nearly 20 years, is a brevet rated judge, and has held a number of leadership positions. The acro program is greatly appreciative of all that Jola has done for the sport in the USA and internationally. At the conclusion of her term, Jola is retiring as the Chair of the Program Committee, but still plans to be active within the acrobatics program. Thank you Jola and best wishes on your retirement!

Linda Ocmand was elected by acclamation as Chair of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee. Linda's term of office begins September 1, 2006. Congratulations Linda! The Program Committee and the acrobatics program are looking forward to your continued leadership within the program.

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When Linda officially takes office on September 1, she will vacate her position as the National Technical Committee Chairman. Per the Operating Code, the Program Committee Chairman is responsible for appointing a new National Technical Committee Chairman to complete the remainder of the term, which run until August 31, 2007. During the meeting the Program Committee Chair discussed with the committee the criteria, qualifications, and potential candidates for the National Technical Chair position. **The Program Committee made the recommendation to appoint Jennifer Hess to the position of National Technical Committee Chair.**

Motion: LO

Second: JJ

Unanimous

At a previous meeting, the Program Committee recommended changes to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code, including changing the term of National Committee Chairman to four year terms. **The Program Committee would like to recommend the following amendment to the election years and term lengths in order to stagger the terms appropriately. Below is a proposed schedule of elections:**

YEAR	POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED (Length of term)
2006	Program Committee Chair (2 years), Athlete Director (4 years)
2007	National Technical Chair (3 years), National JO Chair (3 years)
2008	Program Committee Chair (4 years), National Elite Chair* (4 years)
2009	No elections
2010	National Technical Chair (4 years), National JO Chair (4 years), Athlete Director (4 years)
2011	No elections
2012	Program Committee Chair (4 years), National Elite Chair (4 years)
<i>Elections would continue every other year with the Program Committee Chair and the National Elite Chair elected in the year of the Olympic Games each for four-year terms and the National Technical Chair, National JO Chair, and Athlete Director elected two years following the Olympic Games each for four-year terms.</i>	

*** In order for the National Elite Committee Chairman election to be held in 2008, the Program Committee is recommending the length of the current term be extended one year. Therefore, Ivaylo Katsov would serve a three-year term in his current position, instead of a two-year term.**

Regional Committee Chairman term lengths will remain at two years. The schedule of elections for regional positions will remain the same.

Motion: JJ

Second: LO

Vote: 4 – in favor, 1 abstention (IK)

IV. Disciplinary Action

Acrobats in Motion violated USA Gymnastics' Code of Ethics during the 2006 National Championships. They will be written a letter of warning and future violation will result in sanctions against the club and/or coaches.

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V. Program Initiatives

The Program Committee is placing a priority on grassroots development, program growth, and education initiatives. Program resources need to be focused in these areas in order to increase participation in the program and sustain the competitive success we have had. Ideas and materials are being developed to help promote our discipline with club owners, offer more technical videos for coaches at the beginning levels, and encourage the regions to help with the growth initiatives.

VI. Selection of National Team

The Program Committee received a petition for Mixed Pair Kristin Allen and Brian Kincher (WCA). The petition met the requirements and the pair was eligible for consideration for the Senior National Team.

The Program Committee recommends the following pair/groups for selection to the Senior National Team:

Men's Pair: Tyler Spray, Julian Amaro (WCA)

Mixed Pair: Clare Brunson, Michael Rodrigues (MH)

Xiau-Ling Wee, Andre Solodar (PTAG)

Kristin Allen, Brian Kincher (WCA)

Women's Group: Mariah Henninger, Tisa Penny, Allysha Kidd (WCA)

The Program Committee recommends the following pair/groups for selection to the Junior National Team:

Mixed Pair: Keliann Stankus, Ryan Ward (MH)

Motion: JJ

Second: IK

Unanimous

The Program Committee considered eligible Level 8-10 athletes participating at the National Team Trials to fill open slots on the J.O. National Team. No additional pair/groups were added.

VII. Review of National Technical Committee Minutes

The Program Committee recommends the approval of the policy proposals submitted by the National Technical Committee with the following amendments:

- a. Requirements for progression from Local to State rated judge – a judge is eligible to upgrade from local to state level after two consecutive seasons with minimum experience of two execution assignments and two artistry assignments over the two seasons **OR after one season if the following requirements are met: (1) judge at least six competitions each with a minimum of two hours of competition and (2) be assigned twice as an execution judge and twice as an artistry judge within the six meet requirement.**
- b. In regards to judge's progression or requirements to maintain certification levels:
 - i. **A national-level competition (i.e. National Championships, National Team Trials, World Team Trials, etc.) can be used in lieu of a regional or state competition requirement.**
 - ii. **Definition of "every two years" – is a rolling two year period. Meaning that a judge may not go two consecutive years without completing the requirements.**

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- c. The revised rules for judge's progression and certification maintenance will take effect January 1, 2007, with the following exception: a judge who has met the requirements to progress to the next level under the existing rules may do so through the end of the 2006-07 season.

Motion: LO

Second: SB

Unanimous

VIII. Review of National JO Committee Minutes

The Program Committee recommends the approval of the policy proposals submitted by the National J.O. Committee.

Motion: JJ

Second: SP

Unanimous

Recommendation to ask the FIG for use rights of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Tables of Difficulty so the drawings can be used for USA Gymnastics technical materials.

Motion: LO

Second: SP

Unanimous

The Specifications book, with the revisions proposed by the National J.O. Committee, will be in effect for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 competitive seasons. The next opportunity for revisions would be for the 2008-09 season.

Motion: SP

Second: SB

Unanimous

IX. 2006-07 Event Calendar

a. National Team Training Camp

Tentative dates of the camp are October 13-16 at Karolyi's National Team Training Center in Huntsville, TX. The training camp would be open to JONT, Junior and Senior National Team athletes in the same or new partnerships. There will be a selection competition for the delegation attending the British Open Tournament held in conjunction with the camp.

There will also be sessions for judges' education including extensive practical judging experience and open discussions.

b. Winterthur Cup (Switzerland)

This competition is designated as a club meet. Acro clubs with athletes on the J.O. National Team, Junior National Team and/or Senior National Teams are extended invitations to attend this competition. Coaches may choose to attend the Switzerland competition and have the option of taking their national team pair/groups as well as national team athletes in new partnerships and other pair/groups from their club team who may not be national team members.

Without a formal selection event, the Program Committee is trusting the coaches to make the appropriate choices about their athletes keeping in mind

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the importance of quality representation for your club and the USA. Although athletes will be competing for their club teams at the Winterthur Cup, they are still a reflection on the USA program. It is expected that all pair/groups will be able to cleanly execute the exercise requirements for the level they are competing and that the coach understands the international competition requirements and rules.

Judges who do not hold FIG judging brevets are normally allowed to judge at friendly international competitions, such as the Winterthur Cup. It is the club's responsibility to arrange for judges to travel with their team. The judges must have a current USA or international rating. The club must submit the judge's name to the national office for approval before the individual is allowed to judge at the Winterthur Cup.

Motion: JJ

Second: SP

Unanimous

c. **British Open Tournament (Great Britain)**

The Program Committee recommends attending this competition, sending a USA delegation. The following J.O. National Team, Junior National Team, and Senior National Team members were given automatic selections to the delegation. Assignments were made based on age eligibility and competitive level and performance from National Championships and National Team Trials. The automatic selections are for the designated age groups and are contingent on the athletes attending the National Team Training Camp and showing proof of readiness.

10-16 Age Group

Women's Pair: Tiana Terry, Monica Simikowski (ATA)
Maranda King, Megan Clemons (MAATT)
Cassidy Dolstra, Jordan Rozsa (WCA)
Hannah Vires, Maren Rey (XTR)
Men's Pair: Brandon McCallum, Cameron Carlson (WCA)
Mixed Pair: Madeline Bones, Kyle Bloom (ATA)
Women's Group: Haley Stalions, Lauren Speers, Camille Strawn (ATA)
Ariel Walsh, Amber Kottwitz, Kayla Huesgen (MAATT)
Chelcea Reigel, Ashley Hargis, Krissy Weidmaier (RSAC)
Ariel Hill, Ashleigh Walter, Jennyfer Herzfeld (TOPS)
Mariah Spray, Hannah Busha, Steffi Scheid (WCA)

11-19 (Junior) Age Group

Women's Pair: Savannah Shields, Mallory Henthorn (AE)

14+ (Senior) Age Group

Men's Pair: Tyler Spray, Julian Amaro (WCA)
Mixed Pair: Clare Brunson, Michael Rodrigues (MH)
Xiau-Ling Wee, Andre Solodar (PTAG)
Kristin Allen, Brian Kincher (WCA)
Women's Group: Mariah Henninger, Tisa Penny, Allysha Kidd (WCA)

National Team athletes in new partnerships, non-national team athletes, and pair/groups listed above wishing to be considered for a different age group have the opportunity to compete at a selection competition for consideration

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for the delegation. The selection competition is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the National Team Training Camp in October.

Motion: IK

Second: SP

Unanimous

d. Super Clinic

A Super Clinic is tentatively scheduled for January 12-15, 2007. The clinic will include judges' education, refresher and certification tests, in gym instruction for judges, entry-level coaching clinic, athlete clinic for Level 6-10 pair/groups (no National Team Members), and coaches in-gym lectures. The location is still being determined.

e. Australia Competition

The competition organizers in Australia are still in the planning phase for this event and have not yet sent complete event details. The USA plans to send a delegation to this event if possible.

f. Flanders International Acro Cup (Belgium)

The Program Committee recommends sending a delegation to the World Cup competition only. Priority selection will be given to Senior National Team members who meet the age requirements.

g. International H. Chmielewski Tournament (Poland)

The Program Committee tentatively recommends designation of this competition as a club meet, allowing club teams to participate in this competition. Based on the outcome of the Winterthur Cup club meet, the Program Committee will determine the best process to extend invitation to this tournament.

h. Machuga Cup (Russia)

This competition is for juniors and seniors only, no age group competition. The Program Committee did not make a decision regarding attendance at this competition.

i. Freedom Cup

Freedom Cup will be held just prior to National Championships in July 2007. The Program Committee plans to send only a USA delegation to this event.

j. J.O. National Championships and Elite National Championships

The Program Committee proposes that the Elite National Championships would be separate from the JO Championships and would be held during the Visa Championships with the US Championships for women's & men's artistic and rhythmic. During J.O. National Championships, the elite athletes may have a required qualifier or trials competition. This proposal will be discussed in greater detail with the Elite Coaches during the National Team Training Camp in October.