



**Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Houston, TX  
October 7-9, 2005**

**I. Roll Call**

Jola Jones, Chair  
Ivaylo Katsov, NECC  
Selena Peco, NJOCC  
Linda Ocmand, NTCC  
Sharise Beavers, NAR (proxy for Arthur Davis)  
Tonya Case, FIG Representative and USAG Vice-Chair, non-voting  
Carisa Laughon, AGPD, non-voting

**II. Acrobatic Gymnastics Vice Chairman**

Recommendation: The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee puts forth Tonya Case for the position of Acrobatic Gymnastics Vice Chairman on the Executive Committee of USA Gymnastics.

Motion: JJ  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

**III. Junior Olympic National Team**

Junior Olympic National Team members, who are continuing in the sport with different partners, will retain their individual benefits as team members. Pair/groups with one or multiple partner changes will lose their pair/group ranking on the Junior Olympic National Team and alternates may be moved onto the team.

Recommendation: Alternates to the Junior Olympic National Team, identified from the 2005 National Championships, who are still working in the same partnerships, are invited to fill vacancies on the 2005-06 JO National Team.

Motion: LO  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

**IV. Freedom Cup**

a. Recommendation: USA Delegation Selection – Junior and Senior National Team Members are invited to be part of the USA delegation for Freedom Cup. JO National Team Members and other pair/groups interested in competing at Freedom Cup must participate in the selection process. The selection process will be held on Monday, November 14 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, MD. At that time, pair/groups will be selected to compete for the USA delegation. Those pair/groups not selected for the delegation will be invited to compete at Freedom Cup for their club team. The selection process will work as follows:

1. Pair/groups must meet the following requirements to compete at Freedom Cup – either for the USA Delegation or their club team:

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- i. 9-17 age group: must have one salto and fulfill special requirements as listed in the FIG IAG 11-16 Rules.
  - ii. 10-19 age group: must have two saltos and meet all special requirements as listed in the FIG IAG 12-19 Rules. Minimum difficulty is Balance & Combined = 85 and Dynamic = 55.
  - iii. Seniors: must have two saltos and meet all special requirements as listed in the FIG Code of Points. Minimum difficulty is 110 for Balance, Dynamic & Combined.
- 2. Athletes will perform each of their routines during a morning training session on Monday, November 14. The Program Committee will evaluate the exercises, looking at execution, special requirements, difficulty, and presentation and will select the members of the USA delegation.
- 3. Up to four pair/groups per event per age group can be selected for the USA delegation.
  - Motion: SP
  - Second: SB
  - Unanimous
- b. Recommendation: To adjust the senior age group to allow athletes 11 and over to compete in this age group.
  - Motion: SP
  - Second: LO
  - Unanimous
- c. Recommendations for Freedom Cup Delegation Officials:
  - Head of Delegation: Ronda Francis
  - Head Coach: Ivaylo Katsov
  - Assistant Head Coach 10-19 age group: Selena Peco
  - Assistant Head Coach 9-17 age group: Raisa Galper
  - Team Manager 11+: Pam Meier
  - Team Manager 10-19: Sharise Beavers
  - Team Manager 9-17: Linda Porter
  - Alternate for Team Manager if any of the candidates cannot accept: Mindi Blankenship
  - Chaperones 11+: Valentina Solodar, Olivia Solo
  - Chaperones 10-19: Marie Annonson, Diane Floyd
  - Chaperones 9-17: Resi Buell-Size, Sarah Thomas-Binet
  - Motion: LO
  - Second: JJ
  - Unanimous\*
  - \*SP, IK, SB abstained on decisions related to personal assignments*
- d. Recommendation for the Superior Jury of the Freedom Cup:
  - Tonya Case, FIG TC-Acro Vice President
  - Linda Ocmand, National Technical Committee Chair
  - Carisa Laughon, Freedom Cup Event Director
  - Motion: JJ
  - Second: SP
  - Unanimous\*
  - \*abstention by LO*
- e. Recommendation for USA Judges:
  - CJP: Kari Duncan, Janet Von Bargaen

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DJ: Sharise Beavers, Jola Jones

Panel Judges: Linda Porter, Ronda Francis, Pam Meier, Nancy Davis, Selena Peco (during age group competition), Raisa Galper (during junior and senior competition), Jennifer Hess, Diane Dougall, and Trisha Stewart.

Motion: LO

Second: IK

Unanimous\*

*\*SP, SB, JJ abstained on decisions related to personal assignments*

- f. All USA athletes and coaches attending Freedom Cup will function within the delegation structure and work together as a team. All are required to stay at the host hotel and USAG will make room assignments for the delegation. This is the case regardless if the athlete is competing for the USA or their club team. This is a unique opportunity to bring together coaches and athletes from across the country and provide them with the experience of participating in international competition as well as a USA team.
- g. Awards
  - 1. Seniors –Balance and dynamic exercises awards based on scores from balance and dynamic preliminary competition. All-around awarded based on final combined exercise.
  - 2. Juniors - All-around awarded based on final combined exercise.
  - 3. AGAGC - All-around awarded based on final exercise (pair/groups have choice of competing balance or dynamic exercise).
  - 4. Maximum 12 pair/groups per age group per event can qualify for finals. No restrictions per club team or country.

### V. Program Summit

Recommendation to postpone the Program Summit scheduled for November 20 to a more convenient time.

Motion: JJ

Second: SP

Unanimous

### VI. International Judges Course

Since several USA judges invited to attend the International Judges Course were unable to attend because of effects of the hurricanes in the Gulf States, the Program Committee recommends rescheduling the course. The Program Committee proposes scheduling the course on January 14-17, 2006 in conjunction with the Acrobatic Gymnastics Super Clinic. This recommendation is pending approval by the FIG and coordination with course tutors.

### VII. 2006 Event Schedule

- a. Super Clinic – The dates for the Super Clinic are January 14-16, 2006. There are five tracks planned for the clinic which include an Acrobatics course for new coaches and clubs, a Fast Tracks Clinic for coaches moving into optional and elite level coaching, certification for new judges, re-certification and upgrades for current judges, and the International Judges Course.

Recommendation: To ask Sheri Reiakvam to work on a contract basis to organize, plan, and run the 2006 Super Clinic. A job description will be developed for the role and presented to Sheri for her consideration.

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Motion: JJ  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

- b. National Team / JONT Training Camp – a training camp is schedule for February. This will be a joint camp for the Senior National Team, Junior National Team, and JO National Team. There will also be one day of competition during the camp to select the delegation to attend the Flanders International Acro Cup in Belgium. Pair/groups in attendance at the camp, as well as other pair/groups interested in selection for Belgium, are invited to participate in the competition.
- c. World Team Trials – World Team Trials will serve as the selection for the World Championships Team as well as the International Age Group (12-19 & 11-16) Delegation. This event is tentatively scheduled for May 4-8, 2006 at the Texas Sports Ranch in Crosby, TX. The competition format includes one training day, two competition days, and one-day training camp following competition.
- d. World Championships and International Age Group Competition – The Program Committee began discussions on the selection procedures for the World Championships and IAG delegations. The procedures will be finalized and submitted to the USAG Executive Committee for approval in early December.
- e. National Team Trials – the Program Committee discussed ideas of using the National Team Trials competition to fill available slots on the JO National Team or name additional alternates to the team. Final selection procedures for the JO National team will be published in the 2006 Rules and Policies.

### VIII. National Junior Olympic Committee Minutes

Recommendation to approve the National Junior Olympic Committee Minutes from the July 29, 2005 meeting with minor changes in terminology.

Motion: JJ  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

The National JO Committee Chair presented additional discussion and proposals from the National JO Committee taken from recent email communications.

Recommendation to approve the following proposals from the National JO Program:

- a. No changes to Level 8
- b. Levels 9 & 10 – in the dynamic exercise, one element may fulfill multiple requirements.
- c. Level 9 – the allowance difficulty is raised to 20 points over maximum, which equals 80.
- d. Continue to include Level 5 pair/groups at National Championships and look at options to adjust the schedule based on the growing number of participants.
- e. Leave the warm-up procedures as defined in the *Specifications*.
- f. Include a requirement that obstructions within six feet of the competition floor must be indicated on the competition invitation and covered with matting during the competition.

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- g. Level 5 – remove the choreography from the first element in the exercise for mixed pair and women's group.
- h. Level 6 – women's group # 3A&B – in the ½ column pyramid, the top can hold the middle's hands, arms, or shoulders.
- i. Level 7 – women's pair # 1B – support in arch handstand is on the hips, waist, or buttock. Credit is not given for the element if support is on the legs.
- j. Individual elements – double stag jump and double stag leap are not currently rated in the tables of difficulty. These elements will be submitted for evaluation.

Motion: JJ

Second: SP

Unanimous

Recommendation that the qualification process to move from level 9 to 10 and from level 10 to elite remain as defined in the *Specifications version 03-05*, with the exception of adjusting the required artistry score to 7.5 instead of 8.0.

Motion: JJ

Second: LO

Unanimous

~~Recommendation to keep the women's group platform to platform special requirement at level 9 and remove the requirement from level 10.~~

~~Motion: SP~~

~~Second: IK~~

~~Failed: 2 in favor, 3 against~~

### IX. National Technical Committee Minutes

Recommendation to approve the National Technical Committee Minutes from the July 29, 2005 meeting.

Motion: IK

Second: SP

Unanimous

Following the 2005 National Championships, analysis was done for judges' performance during the evening sessions of competition. The Program Committee has asked Tonya Case to complete this analysis and using the FIG model determine scores for the 23 judges who worked during the evening sessions. Once complete, this analysis will be presented to the Program Committee for approval.

Recommendation: The results and scores of the analysis will be presented to each judge individually. This is scheduled to occur during the Super Clinic in January. Judges, who attend the Super Clinic, will have the opportunity to discuss the results with Tonya and Linda Ocmand and utilize the educational time at the clinic to continue their judging development. Judges who cannot attend the Super Clinic will receive their results in the mail. They can also contact Tonya, Linda, or their Regional Technical Chair with questions.

The Program Committee proposes that evaluations continue to be conducted during the evening sessions of competition at the National Championships. The judges' analysis will serve several purposes including, identifying general areas of strength and weakness amongst our judges. National and regional clinics

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can then be modified accordingly to effectively develop and educate our judges. Additionally, with a formal evaluation process, our best judges can be identified and promoted. Starting this year, the Program Committee will identify a pool of approximately 20 judges who will be invited to judge during the evening competition sessions at 2006 National Championships.

Motion: IK  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

### **X. Sanctioning of Coaches and Judges**

The Program Committee reviewed a proposal from the National Technical Committee and the National JO Committee for disciplining coaches and judges exhibiting unsportsmanlike and/or inappropriate behavior during sanctioned events.

Recognizing the need for consistency between the disciplines in the area of discipline, the Program Committee recommends that this proposal be presented to the Standardization Task Force during meetings in November.

Motion: JJ  
Second: SP  
Unanimous

*\*\*Linda Ocmand left the meeting at 3:00p on Sunday, October 9.*

### **XI. 2006 Budget and Strategic Plan**

The Program Committee reviewed the 2006 acrobatic gymnastics budget and strategic plan as presented by the Sr. Program Director.

### **XII. Coaches' Education**

The Program Committee spent time discussing education initiatives of USA Gymnastics and the program. The USA Gymnastics University structure, developed by the Standardization Task Force, was presented to the committee. All agreed that this is a positive step for our organization and was pleased with the structure. The Program Committee would like further guidance before continuing with develop of certification courses, assignment of credit values to existing activities and course, and defining requirements for each certification level.

### **XIII. Regional Congresses**

The Program Committee has asked Selena to work on behalf of the committee, as a liaison between the National Office and the Acrobatic Gymnastics Regional Administrative Committee Chairs, to prepare and teach acro courses at Regional Congresses. One of the Regional Administrative Committee Chair's duties is to promote the sport within the region, including participation at Regional Congresses. Selena will be a resource for the RACCs helping them to develop courses and materials, identify clinicians, and promote the sessions.

Approved by Steve Penny, USAG President  
Signature, USA Gymnastics President

10/24/2005  
Date