

# **Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Sacramento, CA**  
**February 26-27, 2005**

### **I. Roll Call**

- Jola Jones, Chair
- Linda Ocmand, Technical Committee Chair
- Ivaylo Katsov, Elite Committee Chair
- Selena Peco, JO Committee Chair
- Arthur Davis, Athlete Rep (participated by phone in areas indicated with \*)
- Tonya Case, FIG Rep (non-voting) - excused absence
- Carisa Laughon, SAPD (non-voting)
- Linda Porter, National Membership Director (invited guest)

### **II. International Assignments**

#### **a. Belgium**

Based on performance at the Belgium Selection Camp, the Program Committee recommends the following athletes and delegation officials to attend the Flanders International Acro Cup.

Junior Women's Group: Nicole Summer, Melissa Summers, Karilynn Rockhill (Skyview)  
Cassidy Dolstra, Allysha Kidd, Carleen daSilva (Wings)  
SAWAGG Women's Group: Marina Mihov, Ashley Welch, Jenna Tidwell (NCSA) Aerielle Ziegler, Selena Harms, Tori Harms (RSAC) Chrissy Graham, Courtney Olivencia, Gina Nicolo (Wings)

SAWAGG Women's Pair: Becky Lobosco, Erika Sundberg (Xtreme)

Head of Delegation: Carisa Laughon

Head Coach: Sheri Reiakvam

Assistant Coach: Linda Porter (alternate: Resi Buell-Size)

Team Manager: Resi Buell-Size

Chaperones: Tanya Ziegler, Lori Nelson Judges: Linda Ocmand, Janet Von Bargaen

#### **b. International Youth Sports Acrobatics Meeting\***

The International Youth Sports Acrobatics Meetings will be hosted by the German Sports Acrobatics Federation in Baunatal, Germany from May 4-10. This competition is a friendship event intended for younger, developmental-level athletes and is equivalent to our level 6 and 7 exercises. This event emphasizes culture along with competitive sports.

The Program Committee recommends supporting this event by sending a delegation of US competitors. The competition information will be posted on the web site for interested US acro clubs. If interested, a club can submit a registration form to the national office and two videos of the pair/group(s) performing exercises according to the competition requirements. One video will be sent to Jola Jones and one video will be sent to Selena Peco. The Program Committee members will evaluate the athletes' performances on the videos and make assignments for this event. Submissions are limited to Level 6 and 7 athletes who are between 6 and 18 years of age with a maximum of 8 years difference between partners.

#### **c. Machuga Cup\***

The Program Committee recommends sending a national delegation to the Machuga Cup to be held in Krasnodar, Russia from May 26-29. Invitations will be sent to National Team Members currently training with the same or different partners. National Team Members must show proof of readiness for international competition by competing a full competition at an upcoming local meet and be reviewed by available Program Committee members.

d. Poland

The Program Committee recommends allowing US club teams to attend the International H. Chmielewski Tournament in Poland from May 27-29. Clubs team must be approved by the Program Committee and gain permission from the National Office before attending this event. The Program Committee recommends approving specified athletes from Fliptastics and MAATT based on their performance at the Belgium Selection Camp. Other interested clubs can contact the national office for additional information and video submission procedures.

### **III. Freedom Cup\***

The Program Committee is excited about the opportunity of continuing the Freedom Cup event and offering a quality international competition in the US. The committee recommends the dates of November 7-13 for the event. The location of the event will be in the Washington D.C. area. Announcements will be distributed to the countries attending the Flanders International Acro Cup. Thought will be given to the idea of incorporating an international judges course and/or an athlete clinic with this competition.

### **IV. National Team Athlete Funding\***

The Program Committee recommends using the budgeted athlete support funds to provide \$500 towards international travel expenses per National team Member attending an international event this spring. There will likely be some funds remaining to help with support the 2005-06 National Team at international events in the fall. For future budgets, the Program Committee would like to spend additional time addressing our athlete funding budget and procedures and discuss new ideas to provide benefits to our athletes that are fair, motivational, and helpful to our National Team Athletes.

### **V. Junior Olympic National Team\***

The Program Committee recommends that beginning this season, a Junior Olympic National Team (JONT) be developed for the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program. The JONT will provide additional benefits, training and competitive opportunities, and encouragement to top pair/groups in the Junior Olympic Program. The Program Committee sees the importance in encouraging talented athletes and their coaches to stay in the sport and work towards Elite competition. The JONT will serve as an educational bridge between Junior Olympic and Elite level training and competition. The JONT criteria take into consideration the International Age Group ideals and ages as well as aspects of talent identification programs.

Criteria for the JONT will be as follows:

- a. SELECTION: selection will take place at National Championships
- b. AGE: there is no age minimum for the JONT, but the maximum age is 19
- c. LEVELS: selection if from level 8, 9, and 10
- d. OPENINGS: maximum of three per level per event (based on numbers of participation in certain events, not all opening will be filled)
- e. TERM: one year term on JONT from National Championships to the next National Championships
- f. SELECTION CRITERIA:

- i. Scores will be compared across all age groups within a given level and event.

- ii. The pair/group with the top score will receive automatic placement on the JONT. In order to be an automatic placement, the pair/group must meet the defined score and difficulty targets. If the targets are not met, the pair/group can still be considered by the Program Committee for selection to the JONT, but it is not automatic.

- iii. The Program Committee will serve as the selection committee to determine the pair/groups to fill the remaining slots. Pair/groups should meet the defined score and difficulty targets.

g. TARGET DIFFICULTY:

- i. Level 8 – minimum 25 difficulty value
- ii. Level 9 – minimum 35 difficulty value
- iii. Level 10 – minimum 60 difficulty value

h. TARGET SCORE: the target scores will be determined after the Program Committee has been able to evaluate scores during through the beginning of the competition season.

i. JONT BENEFITS:

- i. Each JONT member will receive a special warm-up donated by GK Elite Sportswear, a USA Gymnastics Sponsor.
- ii. Athletes on the JONT will have priority selection for international competitions throughout the year. International assignments are not guaranteed because of availability or age restrictions.
- iii. JONT members will be invited to attend, at their expense, a National Team Camp.

**VI. National Committee Chair Elections**

Elections for the following National Committee Chair Positions are to be held in odd numbered years and will be held this year at National Championships: National J.O. Committee Chair and National Technical Committee Chair. Nominations for these positions must be submitted by Acrobatic Gymnastics Professional Members by May 15th to the Sr. program Director.

Candidates' resumes will be posted in June and voting will take place at National Championships. VII. Upcoming Meeting Schedule\* Conference call to be scheduled for spring National Championships (Louisville, KY – date and time TBD) National Team Trials (Indianapolis, IN – Saturday, Aug 13 @ 5:00p)

*Minutes approved by USA Gymnastics President, Steve Penny on May 8, 2005*