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Sports Acrobatics Program Committee MEETING MINUTES

New Orleans , LA
November 5-7, 2004

1. Roll Call

Jola Jones, Program Committee Chair
Ivaylo Katsov, Elite Committee Chair
Selena Peco, JO Committee Chair
Linda Ocmand, Technical Committee Chair
Arthur Davis, Athlete Representative 1
Tonya Case, FIG Representative 2 (non-voting)
Dr. Jay Binder, USAG Membership Director (non-voting)
Carisa Laughon, SAPD (non-voting)

*1 Participated by conference call for portions of the meeting. Participated in voting as indicated.
2 Participated by conference call for portions of the meeting.*

2. Program Committee Structure and Responsibilities

Jola and Carisa expressed their sincere gratitude to the Program Committee members who have completed their terms, Jay and Alexa. Their tremendous efforts and tireless work is greatly appreciated. The newly elected committee members, Ivaylo, Selena, and Arthur, were warmly welcomed. Jola, Carisa, and Jay provided the new program committee members with an orientation of the Program Committee 's structure and responsibility. Committee responsibilities were officially transferred to the new members.

3. 2005 Budget & Strategic Plan

The Program Committee gave their recommendation for the approval of the 2005-08 Acrobatics Gymnastics Strategic Plan and 2005 Acrobatic Gymnastics budget by email in October.

The completed 2005-08 USA Gymnastics Strategic Plan and 2005 Acrobatic Gymnastics budget were distributed to the committee and briefly reviewed again. It was noted that additional funds are being directed towards funding of athlete international travel and coach education.

4. 2005 Events

- Super Clinic

The annual Super Clinic will be held January 15-17, 2005 . Carisa is exploring options to have the clinic in Indianapolis . The clinic will focus on coach and judge education and will not include an athlete clinic. There will be educational training for experienced and new judges and coaches. For judges, educational focus will include new international and USA competitive rules, use of the Tables of Difficulty, judge certification, re-certification and upgrade testing. For coaches, educational focus will include new international and USA rules, athlete conditioning & flexibility, skill technique, drills, and athlete nutrition. Specific sessions will also be conducted for new coaches instructing them on starting a program,

partnering athletes, and training the compulsory routines and skills.

- Belgium Selection Camp

A selection camp will be held either February 26-27 or February 19-20, 2005 to select athletes to attend the 2005 Flanders Acro Cup and World Cup in Belgium . The selection camp will consist of training time including informal judge critiques and scheduled competition environment. All National Team and elite athletes are invited. Additionally level 8-10 athletes meeting the age requirements for the Flanders Acro Cup are also invited to participate. No awards will be presented.

- National Team Training Camp

National Team and elite athletes are invited to participate in a training camp which will take place the Monday after the Belgium Selection Camp. National Team Members and elites and their coaches will participate in training sessions, judges' critique, and team building activities during this time. All National Team Members are encouraged to attend.

- Flanders International Acro Cup

The Flanders International Acro Cup will be held in Puurs , Belgium from March 28- April 3, 2005 . Athletes will be selected from the Belgium Selection Camp to attend this event. Competition will be conducted at the IAG 11-16 level, IAG 12-19 level, senior level, and World Cup.

- Fast Track Clinics

The third part of the first fast tracks coaches' clinic will be conducted in the Fall of 2005. The Fast Tracks clinics focus on coach education for a small group of developing optional coaches. This clinic session will focus on skill technique. Options for international clinicians are being explored.

- World Games

World Games will be held in Duisburg , Germany from July 14-24, 2005 , with the acro competition scheduled for July 14-17. The USA has qualified one Mixed Pair and one Women's Trio into the event.

- National Championships

National Championships is targeted to be held immediately following World Games from July 20-28, 2005 . Host cities in the Midwest are still being explored.

- National Team Trials

National Team Trials are scheduled for Aug 10-13 in Indianapolis . This competition will take place with the USA Gymnastics Championships for Women's and Men's Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics. National Team Trials is the second of two events used in the selection of the Junior and Senior National Teams. Therefore all elite athletes are invited to attend. Additionally, National Team Trials will also be used as the selection competition for the Freedom Cup. Level 8-10 athletes meeting the Freedom Cup age requirements are invited to attend.

- Freedom Cup

The Freedom Cup is targeted to be held November 9-13, 2005 in the Washington , D.C. area. The USA will send a national team and international countries will be invited to attend with club teams and/or national teams. It is planned for part of the competition to be a World Cup B event. The selection of USA athletes will be done at National Team Trials.

Freedom Cup age categories include: 9-17 years of age, with maximum difference of 7 years competing with 11-16 IAG rules; 10-19 years of age, with maximum difference of 8 years competing with 12-19 IAG rules; 12+ years of age competing with senior international requirements; World Cup – 15+ years of age competing with senior international requirements.

5. National Team Selection Procedures

Recommendation of selection to the Senior National Team as follows:

- Only senior elite athletes are eligible.
- Athletes must fully participate in the National Championships and National Team Trials competitions.
- The first two pair/groups in each discipline, determined by the sum of total scores from National Championships and National Team Trials, meeting the minimum difficulty and score requirements are automatically selected.
- A third pair/group in each discipline will be selected by the program committee from among pair/groups meeting the minimum difficulty and score requirements. The third selection is at the discretion of the program committee and does not necessarily need to be the third ranked pair/group.
- Provisional minimum difficulty is: 100 for tempo and 130 for balance and combined. Minimum difficulty is calculated for each exercise.
- Provisional minimum scores are: 54.0 for three exercises and 90.0 for five exercises for a total of 144.0. Minimum scores are calculated as the sum of the execution and artistry score less performance related arbiter deductions. Comparison to minimum requirement is done for the total score from both National Championships and National Team Trials.
- Provisional minimum difficulty and score will be evaluated through the start of the competition season. Final difficulty and score minimums will be published by April 15, 2005 .

Motion: JJ
Second: IK
Unanimous 1

Recommendation of selection to the Junior National Team as follows:

- Only junior elite athletes are eligible.
- Athletes must fully participate in the National Championships and National Team Trials competitions.
- The first two pair/groups in each discipline, determined by the sum of total scores from National Championships and National Team Trials, meeting the minimum difficulty and score requirements are automatically selected.
- A third pair/group in each discipline will be selected by the program committee from among pair/groups meeting the minimum difficulty and score requirements. The third selection is at the discretion of the program committee and does not necessarily need to be the third ranked pair/group.
- Provisional minimum difficulty is: 80 for tempo and 110 for balance and combined. Minimum difficulty is calculated for each exercise.
- Provisional minimum scores are: 54.0 for three exercises and 90.0 for five exercises for a total of 144.0. Minimum scores are calculated as the sum of the execution and artistry score less performance related arbiter deductions. Comparison to minimum requirement is done for the total score from both National Championships and National Team Trials.
- Provisional minimum difficulty and score will be evaluated through the start of the competition season. Final difficulty and score minimums will be published by April 15, 2005 .

Motion: SP
Second: LO
Unanimous

- *Junior Olympic National Team*

The Program Committee spent time discussing the establishment of a Junior Olympic National Team for

level 8-10 athletes. The purpose of the Junior Olympic National Team is to recognize top JO competitors and encourage them to continue in their competitive development towards the elite level. This level of national team would greatly benefit the athletes, coaches, and program in the US. Junior Olympic National Team athletes would be invited to attend special training camps and international competitions and the coaches would receive additional development opportunities. Requirements of and selection procedures to the Junior Olympic National Team are yet to be developed.

6. General International Competition Selections

Unless a special selection camp or competition is scheduled, the Program Committee will review performance at the most recent national-level competition (i.e. National Championships or National Team Trials), national athlete clinic or training camp, and/or international competition in order to select athletes for international assignments. National Team pair/groups have priority for international assignments.

7. International Judges' Course

The committee discussed the possibility of hosting an International Judges' Course in conjunction with Freedom Cup in November of 2005. Participation in the International Judges' Course is by invitation.

8. Sports Acrobatics Program Name Change

The Sports Acrobatics program will change its name to Acrobatic Gymnastics effective January 1, 2005. This change is made in an effort to follow the direction of the FIG.

9. Petition Process

Recommended changes to the petition process:

- In order to submit a petition for National Championships, pair/groups must have competed at either a state or regional championships with the same partners, and have earned the respective Nationals qualification score.
- For National Championships, all petitions must be submitted within one week (post-marked) following the last regional championships competition.
- For all States and Regionals, petitions must be submitted to the Regional Administrative Chair within one week (post-marked) after the last qualification competition.
- Each Regional Administrative Committee Chair must submit a list of all petitions within their region to the National Office within one week following Regional Championships (post-marked).
- For injury or illness petitions, doctors' notes submitted as documentation must include the date of injury/illness and diagnosis of condition.
- For injury or illness petitions, coaches must present a doctor's clearance to the Regional Administrative Chair or the Sr. Program Director before the petitioned pair/group can begin competition.

Motion: IK

Second: JJ

Unanimous

- Participation requirements

Recommendation to amend the Participation Requirements as follows:

- Pair/groups must compete at their own State and Regional Championships.
- Pair/groups may compete in other State and Regional Championships competition as wanted or needed.

Motion: JJ

Second: LO

Unanimous

- Inquiry/Appeals Process

Recommendation to permanently use the appeals process used at the 2004 National Championships with the revisions as indicated:

- The cost for an appeal is \$20. If a coach is not satisfied with the panel's decision to the appeal, for an additional \$20 the coach can request for the appeal to go to the Jury of Appeals.
- In order for the Jury of Appeals to change the decision of the panel, the video must be conclusive. If the video is inconclusive, the panel's decision will be upheld.

Motion: SP

Second: IK

Unanimous

- Competition Attire

Recommendation to revise the Sports Acrobatics Program's rules regarding competition attire to match the FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Points.

Motion: JJ

Second: LO

Unanimous

- Team Awards

Recommendation to amend the awarding of Team Awards at all events, including National Championships, as follows:

- Team awards will be given for levels 5-10 and Elite
- Minimum of two event entries to qualify as a "Team" for a designated level
- Competition placement will be converted into points (see table below). Teams earn points for one entry per event. The team with the highest point total will receive the first place team award. The team with the second highest point total will receive the second place team award. And the team with the third highest point total will receive the third place team award. Team awards are given for first through third place only.

1 st place = 5 points

2 nd place = 4 points

3 rd place = 3 points

4 th place = 2 points

5 th place and below = 1 point

- Ties in competition placement are awarded the same point conversion.
- Ties in team totals are not broken.

Motion: SP

Second: JJ

Unanimous

- Skill Evaluation Requests

Recommendation to amend the skill evaluation process as follows:

- April 1 st is the post-marked deadline for the submission of all evaluation requests. Requests submitted after this date will not be evaluated.

- All evaluation requests must be submitted on the USA Evaluation Form. Incomplete, illegible, or unclear forms will not be evaluated.
- A sub-committee of coaches and judges will be established to rate submitted elements for use in the US . The following individuals will be asked to participate on the committee: Tonya Case , Jola Jones, Ivaylo Katsov , Selena Peco, and Nancy Davis.

Motion: LO
Second: IK
Unanimous

All previous element supplements are no longer valid. Elements previously rated for US use that are not included in the 2005 FIG Tables of Difficulty will be re-evaluated, based on the new Tables of Difficulty, and published in a 2005 Element Supplement.

10. National Team and Elite Training Program

The Program Committee would like for the National Elite Committee to develop ideas and plans for an annual training schedule, including training camps, competitions and individual training programs that will be beneficial to the National Team and elite athletes.

- National Technical Committee

Recommendation to accept the National Technical Committee minutes from the July 25, 2004 in Palm Springs , CA as amended.

- Increase Local rated judge pay by \$2 for an hourly rate of \$14.
- All judges are required to complete a minimum of four hours of gym observation by July 31 st of each season. Gym observation can be done at a Super Clinic with athletes, athlete clinic, international competition, or during a training session at a gym. If four hours are not completed by July 31 st , the judge will not be permitted to judge the following season until the requirement is complete. Judges will keep track of gym observation time by completing a card including date and location of observation and head instructor's signature. Card will be periodically sent to the Regional Technical Chair for record keeping.

Motion: JJ
Second: SP
Unanimous

Recommendation to assign the panel judges at National Championships by draw. State rated and above judges are eligible to judge at National Championships. If additional judges are needed, Local rated judges with at least one year experience will be considered.

Motion: LO
Second: IK
Unanimous

The Program Committee would like for the National Technical Committee to discuss ideas and bring forth suggestions for the annual evaluation of judges' performance at National Championships.

- National JO Committee

Recommendation to accept the National JO Committee Minutes from the July 31, 2004 meeting held in Palm Springs, CA.

Motion: JJ
Second: SP
Unanimous

The Program Committee would like for the National JO Committee bring forth suggestions for the

sanctioning of coaches during competitions for inappropriate behavior.

Minutes approved by USA Gymnastics President, Robert Colarossi on December 1, 2004.