



USA GYMNASTICS.

Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee

August 16-17, 2017 * Anaheim, CA

Minutes

Meeting called to order, 8/16/2017 at 12:15pm PDT

1. Role Call:

Carisa Laughon, APCC
Nicole Barrilleaux, Athlete Rep
Sarah Thomas, NJOCC
Ronda Francis, NECC
Kari Duncan, NTCC **Participated in meetings on 8/16/2017 only*
Ryan Ward, Program Director (non-voting)

2. Welcome/Opening

The meeting opened with a welcome from Ryan Ward. He thanked the Program Committee for traveling to Anaheim.

3. Strategic Planning

Carisa started the meeting by reiterating the need to focus on the big picture during these meetings. She recognized the progress made over the last year with the help of a new Program Director, an organized Program Committee, and more united community. She motivated the committee to have open discussion and affirm/adjust our three to five-year program goals, then utilizing those goals to drive our detailed planning and decision making. Carisa took the task to update the Acrobatics Program's strategic plan based on discussions from these meetings.

4. International Updates

Carisa updated the committee with information gathered during the 2017 World Games and other international events this year. She communicated that the USA was not included in the top 3 countries in any of the disciplines, and outlined the need to focus and prepare our athletes to meet this higher standard. The committee discussed international trends and the USA's strengths and weakness in relation to those trends.

Ryan and Carisa provided the committee with a brief update on the status of acrobatics in the Pan American Gymnastics Union. Acrobatics is officially considered a discipline in PAGU with an assigned interim Technical Committee. Tonya Case (USA) is serving as the

TC-President. Riguin Zengotita (PUR) and Axel Ruiz (MEX) are serving as TC Members. This committee is intent on seeing the development of the Acrobatic Program grow within the Pan American countries.

Youth Olympic Games update is that the USA Acrobatic Gymnastics program will not receive athletes' slots to compete at the 2018 Games.

5. Technical Committee Updates

The committee discussed various technical and judging concerns from the past year. The program's strategic planning should include more opportunities for judges' education, both in live settings and in the classroom; continued development of new judges, especially in start-up areas of the country; and retain athletes in the judging community.

Discussion also took place regarding the need for greater collaboration between coaches and judges and ways to allow that to occur in a professional and productive way. A starting point is to encourage coaches to attend the National and Regional Judges Clinics, and find other settings outside of competition to engage in constructive discussions with judges. The APC will continue to look for ways to provide coaching and judging education together and foster more collaborative environments.

The APC requested the Nation Technical Committee to create proposals on the following for consideration by the APC, due November 30, 2017:

- Guidelines for assignment of international judges and process for tracking assignments and experience
- Amend the judging progression process to 1) allow "fast track" solution for previous Acrobatic Gymnastics athletes wishing to become certified to judge, and 2) eliminate the National Superior rating for judges, 3) review/adjust requirements for new local judges

In smaller/developing states and regions, Meet Directors, working closely with their Regional Technical Chair and Regional Judges Coordinator, may petition the National Technical Committee Chair to run a local competition with a smaller judges' panel or with less experienced judges, than required by the R&P. The NTCC will evaluate the circumstances on a case-by-case basis and work in a timely manner to determine a reasonable panel of judges.

- X The committee recognizes the importance of the upcoming World Team Trials selection event. There was a review and discussion of judge panel size. No determination of judges or size of panel will be determined until budgetary concerns are worked through.

The APC plans to submit a proposal to USA Gymnastics to increase the number of judges at USA Gymnastics Championships to 2 panels of eight (8) judges each, plus two (2) meet referees. This will allow for four artistry and four execution scores so the high and low

scores can be dropped and the two middle scores averaged in the exercise total calculations. The number of invited judges will be determined following a response to this proposal and judging invitations for USA Gymnastics Championships will be extended in February 2018. There will likely be opportunities for other judges to volunteer to fill panel assignments in several sessions throughout championships.

The following are approved clinicians for regional judges' clinics/courses: Kari Duncan (Reg 1), Julie DuPree-DeSantis and Selena Peco (Reg 3), Ronda Francis (Reg 4), Trisha Leveque and Carisa Laughon (Reg 5). Kari will explore options to develop a clinician in Region 7.

6. JO Committee Updates

The APC discussed the importance of the National JO Committee and National Technical Committee collaborating and agreeing on changes/updates/clarifications affecting the JO Code of Points. Furthermore, the **Technical Update** will serve as the official document which amends or clarifies the JO Code of points. **Technical Updates** may be published periodically throughout the season on the USA Gymnastics website, and only information in these documents may be enforced as the "rule" at sanctioned acrobatics events. This update is in an effort to provide clear rules and updates to all participating coaches and clubs in our acrobatics community.

JO Code of Points:

JO Code of Points document will remain the same for the quad (2017-2020). Minor updates to skills or rule clarifications may be made annually and will be published in a **Technical Update**. Program Committee reviewed and recommended clarifications to be made to the most recent JO Code of Points. Sarah was tasked with discussing the following with the NJOC and submitting proposals back to the PC for final approval:

- Updates to qualifying scores
- Adding more/newer compulsory skill and exercises videos online for coaching education

APC discussed the progress and introduction of JO Levels 1-4 to assist in progression of younger athletes. Levels 2-4 will be compulsory competitive levels. JO Levels 1-4 will be published end of Fall/beginning of winter.

The APC discussed participation levels at USA Gymnastics Championships. For 2018, levels 6-10, AG 11-16, JE 12-18 and 13-19, and senior elite will compete at USA Gymnastics Championships.

Recommendation to eliminate Level 6 from competition at the USA Gymnastics Championships beginning in 2019, therefore making Regional Championships the highest level of competition for level 6 starting in 2019.

Motion: Carisa

Second: Sarah

Passed unanimously

The committee discussed the purpose, structure, and clinicians for the upcoming Future Stars and Open Camps. APC determined clinicians for the camps and asked Sarah to develop/finalize the schedule.

The idea of more coaching and judging education was discussed and the APC agreed to explore ways to provide more education. Information on education events will be published as soon as finalized and we strongly encourage coaches and judges to attend these educational opportunities.

Meeting adjourned, 8/16/2017 at 6:30pm PDT

Meeting called to order, 8/17/2017 at 3:15pm PDT (Kari was absent)

7. Safe Sport

The committee was joined by Toby Stark, USA Gymnastics' Director of Safe Sport and Luan Peszek, Vice President Program Development. Toby discussed the new Safe Sport Policy. Toby provided the committee with a brief overview of the changes to the Safe Sport Policy, formerly the Participant Welfare Policy. The committee had the opportunity to ask questions to better understand how the new policy affects our program, events, and participants.

Toby and Luan left the meeting following the Safe Sport discussion.

8. Elite Committee and Elite Pipeline

The committee discussed concerns regarding the grouping of athletes at the February 2017 National Team training camp. APC provided input to be used by the National Coaching Staff when determining training groups for the upcoming camps, and discussed the criteria to attend a national team training camp and adjustments may be made on registration eligibility for future camps, with new partnerships requesting invitations instead of guaranteed a spot at camp.

The APC discussed the need for more training opportunities with the National Coaching Staff at a reasonable cost for national team athletes across the country. Planning has begun for regional training camps for National Team pair/groups and their coaches at various regions and dates in the coming months.

Elite Committee put forth two proposals for APC to consider regarding skills testing. After consideration of both proposals, the APC selected one to move forward with.

Recommendation to eliminate all skills testing at the elite levels, with the expectation that coaches will make safe and prudent decisions related to skills and competitive levels for

their athletes, and implement a minimum difficulty requirement for the Junior and Senior Elite levels.

Minimum difficulty requirements per exercise:

12-18: Balance – 55, Dynamic – 55, Combined – 55

13-19: Balance – 90, Dynamic – 80, Combined – 110

Senior: Balance – 110, Dynamic – 100, Combined – 130

**-1.0 deduction if difficulty value is below required minimum.*

Motion: Sarah

Second: Ronda

Passed unanimously

Carisa is tasked with creating the International Competition Request Form, which clubs with can use to request approval to compete at international club competitions, as well as, tracking requests and trips. Coaches interested in international club opportunities can contact Carisa for information. An updated list of international competitions can be found: <http://www.sportsacrobatics.info/calendar.htm>

9. Coaching and Judging Education

The APC discussed additional coaching and judging education needs and would like to explore options to include a full Acrobatics track at USA Gymnastics National Congress in 2018. This track would include important lecture sessions for existing coaches and judges, as well as, provide access to the other learning opportunities associated with National Congress.

APC also discussed hosting an FIG Coaching course and asked Ronda and the Elite Committee to explore options to do so.

10. National Coaching Staff

The National Coaching staff roles were discussed by the Program Committee. Committee decided that it was important to continue utilizing the knowledge and expertise of current National Coaching Staff members. The committee also discussed the possibility of filling the open position on the National Coaching Staff, but no person was named now.

Recommendation to USA Gymnastics to renew the contracts, continuing the positions and assigned roles for Youri Vorobiev and Valdimir Valdev as part of the Acrobatic National Coaching Staff for 2018.

Motion: Carisa

Second: Sarah

Passed unanimously

11. High Performance Administrator

Carisa recused herself from the discussion.

The committee discussed the continued need for this position and the coordination of the National Coaching Staff, National Team, and athlete development.

Recommendation to USA Gymnastics to renew the contract for the High Performance Administrator position to Carisa Laughon for 2018.

Motion: Sarah

Second: Ronda

Passed unanimously

Carisa rejoined the meeting.

12. Athlete Updates

The APC discussed concerns facing the athletes, most importantly monthly funding support for elite athletes and recognition efforts for all levels of national teams. Ryan explained that over the past year, the following benefits have been available to senior national team pair/groups: full travel funding for athletes and coach for 2 World Cup competitions and World Games, travel support for national team training camp, and bonus awards for medals at World Games. The same type of travel support funding and medal award bonuses is planned for PAGU Championships in 2017, 2018 World Championships, and 2017-2018 national team training camps.

Nicole was tasked with putting together a proposal for monthly athlete stipend funding to be considered by the APC at the end of September. If approved by the APC, the funding request will then be made to USA Gymnastics. Considerations for the proposal should include reason/need for funding, criteria for funding (i.e., elite level, age, accomplishments, etc.), and amount of funding.

13. Rules and Policies

The APC discussed the alignment of the states and regions for acrobatic gymnastics.

Recommendation to move the state of Colorado to Region 4, instead of Region 3, because of proximity and established associations.

Motion: Ronda

Second: Carisa

Passed unanimously

The 2018 Rules & Policies will be published by the end of October. Updates will include:

- o Qualification Scores
- o Skills Testing
- o Annual awards presented at USA Gymnastics Championships - updates to criteria and selection
- o Inclusion of Blocks Program

- Safe Sport updates
- Other changes based on approval of APC minutes

14. National and International Events 2018 – 2019

The APC briefly discussed major events on the 2018 calendar. Ryan will update the calendar online and continue to keep the acrobatic community aware of all events.

- World Team Trials – intended for selection for WAGC and WCH teams only, no other additions to the national teams
- Vegas Acro Cup
- WAGC/WCH training camps (tentative)
- World Age Group Competition and World Championships
- No International events scheduled for Fall
- Regional and National Training Camps for national team, future stars, open camp

Any AGT, Junior National Team, or Senior National Team pair/groups (in the same partnership and at the same level), who are not able to attend the PAGU Championships because of age restrictions, are eligible to submit a request to attend an international club meet this fall (please note, pair/groups are representing their club). Please use the forthcoming International Competition Request Form.

15. 2018 Elections

The APC discussed elections that will need to take place in 2018. The following positions are up for election in 2018. Please find information on the roles and responsibilities, terms, nomination and election processes in the Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code. All elections will be managed through the national office.

- Athlete Selection Committee
- Future Stars Selection Committee
- National Technical Committee Chair
- National JO Committee Chair
- All Regional Committee Chair positions

Meeting adjourned, 8/17/2017 at 9:30pm PDT