



Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Minutes  
Conference Call  
August/September 2010

The following minutes are reflective of a series of conference calls with the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee which took place on Thursday, August 19, 2010, Thursday, August 26, 2010, and Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

1) **Roll Call:**

Bob Meier – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Chairman  
Kari Duncan – National Technical Committee Chairman  
Ivaylo Katsov – National Elite Committee Chairman (excused for 9/1/10 call)  
Selena Peco – National Junior Olympic Committee Chairman  
Michael Rodrigues – National Athlete Representative (excused for 9/1/10 call)  
Tonya Case – USA Gymnastics International Technical Consultant (Non-voting)  
Carisa Laughon – Interim Acro Program Manager (Non-voting)  
Elizabeth Mallard – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Assistant (Non-voting) (excused for 9/1/10 call)

2) **2011 and 2012 Calendar**

**Freedom Cup:** The program committee feels that the Freedom Cup is an important event within the Acro Program calendar and would like to see the event held in 2011. Freedom Cup benefits the acrobatic program in the US by providing a stepping stone into international competition, a lower-cost option for international competition opportunities and experience, and educational and leadership experiences for up and coming coaches. The Freedom Cup also allows the US to continue to develop positive relationships with other international federations, especially those within PAGU. The Acrobatics Program has worked hard to establish the Freedom Cup over the last 7 years and feels it is important to keep it on the international calendar in the odd-numbered years.

Options were discussed to host the event with National Championships, as a stand alone event, or allow club teams to host. Based on budget and timing considerations, the committee agreed that the best option for 2011 would be to host Freedom Cup with the National Championships.

Options were also discussed to host a training camp in conjunction with or at the end of Freedom Cup for US and international athletes.

Request to consider hosting an international competition (Freedom Cup) in conjunction with National Championships in 2011.

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Selena Peco

PASSED

**Fall Training Camp:** November is a good time to have a training camp for national team and JONT athletes. This camp is considered a working camp with focus on skill development, technique refinement, and strategic planning for the upcoming international and domestic season.

Concerns was expressed that the junior and senior elite athletes were not receiving as great of benefits from the camp since it has expanded to include many more pair/groups. A solution would be to separate the elite training sessions from the JO sessions and only overlap one day at the training center. Ideas were also shared regarding grouping of athletes for training groups. Concern was also expressed that November is too early in the season for national team and international competition selections.

Recommendation to hold the fall training camp November 3-7, 2010 at the National Training Center in Texas. Senior, junior, 11-16, and JONT national team members in the same partnership or in new partnerships are invited to participate.

Motion: Selena Peco

Second: Michael Rodrigues

PASSED

The program committee agreed to extend invitations to the following individuals to participate as clinicians at the camp: Ivaylo Katsov, Tonya Case, Arthur Davis, Don Holms (tumbling). Additional clinicians may be identified as needed.

**Super Clinic / Acro Cup:** The program committee discussed the pros and cons of conducting the inaugural Acro Cup with the Super Clinic in 2011 and concluded that this was the best option. Sites for the Super Clinic / Acro Cup are being researched with the targeted dates of January 15-17, 2011. The Super Clinic will include education for judges (including certification testing), coaches and athletes along with the Acro Cup competition.

Recommendation to combine the Acro Cup and Super Clinic and hold in mid-January 2011.

Motion: Kari Duncan

Second: Bob Meier

PASSED

**International Competitions:** The program committee reviewed a preliminary list of international competitions scheduled for the 2011 season and discussed timing and options for selection and assignments. Further discussion is required to determine which competition to attend and which to designate as club meets.

Preliminary list of competitions:

- Stars Above the Boug River (Ukraine) – Feb 21-27, 2011
- Maia International Acro Cup (Portugal) – March 2-6, 2011
- Flanders International Acro Cup (Belgium) – April 14-17, 2011
- Acro Cup Albershausen (Germany) – April 26 – May 1, 2011
- Volkov / Machuga Cups (Russia) – May 2011
- Freedom Cup (USA) – July 2011
- Poland / Russia meets – September 2011

Recommendation to make assignments for international competition for spring 2011 from the 2011 Acro Cup. International assignments for fall 2011 competitions would be made from National Championships. Additional pair/group would be approved to attend designated club meets.

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Selena Peco

PASSED

### 3) **Acro Program Plan**

Following a request from Mr. Penny, the program committee has been working to review and streamline its overall program and plan to encourage increased participation and sustained competitive excellence. Bob Meier presented four key areas for immediate consideration and changes. These included:

- Moving elite championships from Visa Championships to the Acrobatics Gymnastics National Championships
- Review of the National Team Program purpose and goals, moving National Team selection from July (in conjunction with National Championships) to January/February and creating a new event called the Acro Cup
- Review 11-16 age group competition as part of the USA program
- Review and refocus the JO National Team Program

The program committee reviewed the proposed changes, considered various benefits and repercussions and developed a final plan for these key areas. The committee agreed that once this plan was adopted, details of implementation could then follow. Implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010 and concluded in early 2012.

Recommendation to adopt the revised program plan (see attachment).

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Selena Peco

PASSED

Steve Penny

Approval

October 2, 2010

Date