



Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Minutes October 16-18, 2009

1) Call to Order

Friday, October 16 – 12:34pm New York, New York Hotel, Suite - 367

2) Roll Call:

Bob Meier – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Chairman
Kari Duncan – National Technical Committee Chairman
Ivaylo Katsov – National Elite Committee Chairman
Selena Peco – National Junior Olympic Committee Chairman
Michael Rodrigues – National Athlete Representative
Tonya Case – USA Gymnastics International Technical Consultant (10/17/09)
Tom Housley – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director

3) Program Committee Reviews and Approves Agenda and Schedule

Motion: Ivaylo Katsov
Second: Bob Meier
Passed

4) Chairman's Opening Remarks

Bob Meier opened the first day of meetings with a very sincere "thank you" to the entire committee and Program Director for the hard work put forth thus far. He continued in stating the tremendous amount of growth development achieved over the last two years and encouraged each member of the committee to focus on the goals of the acrobatic program -- As a committee, we represent the entire community of acrobatic coaches, judges and athletes. Bob thanked the Program Director for the wonderful accommodations, conference room, and detailed schedule and agenda.

5) 2010 Acrobatic Gymnastics National Plan

The Acrobatic Gymnastics National Plan is a top-level document to provide vision, direction and call-to-action for the various committees and sub-committees in the discipline of acrobatic gymnastics and to achieve three main goals:

1. Continue success in international competition
2. Promote and develop acrobatic gymnastics at the grassroots and national level through use of the athlete development pipeline
3. Increase educational initiatives and opportunities for professional members including judges and coaches

Section I is the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan line-items each goal of the National Plan and by what means of completion. To disseminate the various initiatives and tasks, each of the National Committee Chairmen, in coordination with the respective sub-committees, created a National Committee Work Plan. The National Committee Work Plan line-items each national committee, the respective goals of the committee and initiatives as it pertains to the Strategic Plan.

Section II is the National Development Plan. The National Development Plan is the process pair-groups compete, qualify and prove readiness to compete at the next level of national or international competition respective to the competitive program (i.e. Pre-team, Junior Olympic or Elite Program). A flow-chart illustrates the series of events for each competitive program. The final portion of Section II includes three spreadsheets including each level of the program, list of key events in the respective year and eligibility of pair-groups to compete per the Rules and Policies.

Section III is the National Team Plan. The National Team Plan allows coaches to set short-term and long-term goals for each pair-group by documenting key events in the respective year and goals of Team USA.

**Implementation of the 2010 Acro National Plan - The 2010 Acro National Plan will be emailed to each member of the Elite Committee providing an opportunity for feedback. A conference call is to be scheduled including all members of the Elite Committee to discuss what, if any, changes, and modifications are recommended*

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Following the conference call, the Program Committee will make one final review. At that time, the Program Committee will motion to approve the document, immediately following implementation for the 2010 season.

6) National Committees Work Plan

To aid in the dissemination and completion of the various initiatives and tasks for the respective year, each of the National Committee Chairmen, in coordination with the Program Director, produced a National Committee Work Plan. The National Committee Work Plan line-items each national committee, the respective goals of the committee and initiatives as it pertains to the Strategic Plan.

Administrative Committee

Goals/Tasks	Completion Date	Meetings
1. National Program Development Project	Dec 2010	10/16-18/2009
2. Regional Athlete Clinics, invite new clubs	2010	
3. Market Region AcroBasics Clinic, invite new coaches	Dec 31, 2010	-
4. Online Issue & Proposal Form	Dec. 1, 2009	Bob Meier
5. Create Post-event survey		SC, JON, NADC, NTTC, VISA, RAC
6. Re-organize web-site for JO Code of Points, Elite Program	Dec 31, 2009	NADC – Tom Housley

Athlete Committee

Goals/Tasks	Completion Date	Meetings
1. Open lines of communication with Regional Athlete Representatives & National Team athletes	Dec 31, 2010	JON, NADC, NTTC, VC
2. Create Post-event athlete survey	Dec 31, 2009	JON, NADC, SC, RAC, NTTC, VC
3. Non-Financial Incentives (lapel pin)	December 1, 2009	NTTC
4. Create Distribution List	August 31, 2009	-
5. Athlete Calendar (fundraiser for NT athletes)	June 2010 (Dec 2010)	-

Elite Committee

Goals/Issues	Completion Date	Meetings
1. Review current requirements of National Team	National Team Plan	F2F
2. Selection Criteria – NADC, NTTC, WC, WAGC, IC	National Team Plan	F2F
3. Athlete Selection Committee – Process	National Team Plan	NTTC, WTT, VISA, NEQ
4. Review International Calendar, events		F2F, NADC, JON, VISA
5. Develop coaches/judges training/review prior to competitions		NADC, NTTC, JONTTC
6. Sub-group for Elite Program: 11-16 to Junior Elite	Oct 31, 2009	NADC
7. Elite Skills Testing – 11-16 – Junior Elite (11-19)*	Dec 14	Conference Call

Junior Olympic Committee

Goals/Tasks	Completion Date	Meetings
1. Sub-group to L4 Choreography, Music, Cut music per choreography	Dec 31, 2009	JON, NADC, NTTC
2. Meeting Calendar		NADC, SC, JON, JONTTC
3. L4, 5, 6 MG & Level 7 Coaching Videos	Dec 31, 2009	NADC
4. Sub-group – JO Code of Points – Finalize	End of Nov	National Office
5. Level 4 Choreography – Film, Method of Teaching (Voice-over)	Dec 2009	NADC
6. Review Junior 11-16 – include on web-site: Re-Organize, Terminology	Dec 2009	NADC
7. Skill Revisions – Level 6, 7, 7 Men's Group	Dec 2009	Bob & Tom
8. JO Skills testing – Level 9 to Level 10 to Elite – Selena & CP		

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Technical Committee

Goals/Tasks	Completion Date	Meetings
1) Judges Analysis: Regional, National (Data entry person) – in R&P need procedures for each region	Dec 31	SC, VISA, NTTC
2) Compulsory Judge Certification	Dec 31, 2009	F2F, NADC
3) Judges Progression/Upgrades		SC, VISA
4) Financial Incentive Program for Unaffiliated Judges		JON, VISA, SC
5) National Congress Tracks, RTC Meeting, Assign clinicians for next season	Aug 31, 2010	
6) Create Post-event survey (same as coaches)	Dec. 31, 2009	
7) Lapel Pin (Years of Service) different colors for each respective milestone	Dec 2009	National Office - SC
8) National Superior Upgrade Criteria (add code of conduct)	Add to R&P	
9) Region 4 Clinician –	Dec. 1, 2009	
10) Online Tariff Sheet Submission	Oct 23, 2009 (images)	NADC, SC, NTTC
11) Procedure for Online Tariff Sheet Submission	End of October	

Motion: Selena Peco
Second: Michael Rodrigues
Passed

7) Level Mobility – Skills Testing

The Program Committee recommends requiring the Junior Olympic Committee Chairman or Elite Committee Chairman serve as the lead evaluator for skills testing including Level 9 to Level 10 and Level 10 to Junior Elite. The two remaining skill evaluators are per the Rules and Policies for Skills Testing, page 23.

Skills testing may take place at any point throughout the season.

The new proposal also requires all skills testing to be video recorded. The video is to be submitted to the National Office including all required paperwork.

Motion: Ivaylo Katsov
Second: Kari Duncan
Passed

8) Elite Committee Sub-Group Follow-up – Level Mobility: Skills Testing 11-19

The Program Committee reviewed the elite committee sub-group proposal for level mobility from Junior 11-16 and Junior Elite. Overall, the Program Committee was very pleased with the proposal. The Elite Committee Chairman will continue to work directly with the sub-group to finalize the proposal. The proposal bridges the gap between Junior 11-16 and Junior Elite by means of skills testing.

9) 2010 Event Calendar

The Program Committee recommends the following events, camps, and clinics for the upcoming 2010 season in the discipline of acrobatic gymnastics:

a) National Team Training Camp and International Competition Selection Camp (JONT, JNT, SNT)

Junior Olympic, Junior National and Senior National Team Members are invited to participate in the National Team Training Camp. The camp will focus on routine preparation, skill development, execution, artistry, and preparation for international competition. The camp will focus on preparing for international competition.

Pair-groups will prove readiness at the National Team Training Camp for the international event in which they are eligible to attend. Routines will be judged. The Athlete Selection Committee will review scores to evaluate readiness.

The National Team Training Camp will also determine the top senior mixed pair and women's group who will represent USA Gymnastics at the Pacific Rim Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

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b) International Competition – USA Delegation (JNT, SNT)

The Program Committee recommends sending an official delegation to an international competition in preparation for the 2010 World Age Group Competition and World Championships. The Elite and Program Committee are considering several high-level events with focus placed on maximum exposure and number of participating countries participating at each event.

The Program Committee recommends inviting Junior and Senior National Team athletes selected at the International Competition Selection Camp, to represent the USA at the international competition of choice by the Program and Elite Committee. International events considered are included on the calendar.

A maximum of three per event per age category will be able to attend. In the year of the World Championships, international travel is designated for athletes meeting FIG age.

c) Pacific Rim Championships (SNT)

The Program Committee recommends sending an official delegation to the Pacific Rim Championships. The Pacific Rim Championships is the third Olympic event for acrobatic gymnastics. The committee proposes one senior mixed pair (fully funded) and one senior women's group (self-funded) are allowed to participate in this prestigious event. The top in each event will be determined at the National Team Training Camp. (Level of support pending approval of 2010 Budget).

Pair-groups competing at Pacific Rim are not required to attend the World Team Trials per the Rules & Policies USA – International Policy. All World Team members are required to attend the USA World Camp. Final results and overall performance will be reviewed by the Athlete Selection Committee for placement to World Team.

d) World Team Trials, May 21, 2010 (Open)

The World Team Trials is an open event for all pair-groups meeting age for FIG Age Group 11-16, Age Group 12-19 and Senior (15+) competition. Selection procedures for the 2010 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships and World Age Group Competition will be drafted by the Elite Committee with final approval by the Program Committee. The World Championships and World Age Group Competition teams will be selected based on athlete performance at the 2010 World Team Trials and Training/Selection Camp. The Athlete Selection Committee will select Team USA.

A maximum of two pair-groups in each age category and event will represent the United States at the 2010 World Age Group Competition and World Championships.

Pair-groups participating in the World Team Trials, the personal coach may use scores to be used as means of qualifying the pair-group to the next level of competition taking place at the same time of World Team Trials.

e) USA World Camp, May 22-25, 2010 (World Team)

The top two pair-groups in each age category and event, in addition to alternates, will participate in the World Camp. Participation is mandatory for all athletes selected to represent the United States at the 2010 World Age Group Competition and World Championships. Delegation officials will be assigned for each delegation once the World Team is named. (Level of support pending approval of 2010 Budget).

f) World Age Group Competition, July 6-12, 2010 (Wroclaw, Poland)

Schedule and Work Plan not available.

Due to the timing of 2010 World Age Group Competition, pair-groups are not required to attend the National Elite Qualifier for means of qualification to Visa Championships. World Team members automatically qualify to compete at Visa Championships.

g) World Championships, July 13-19, 2010 (Wroclaw, Poland)

Schedule and Work-Plan not yet published.

Due to the timing of 2010 World Championships, pair-groups are not required to attend the National Elite Qualifier for means of qualification to Visa Championships. World Team members automatically qualify to compete at Visa Championships.

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h) **National Elite Qualifier, July 23-25 (Kissimmee, FL)**

Junior 11-16, Junior Elite and Senior Elite pair-group are eligible to compete at the National Elite Qualifier. The top five finishers in each event and category will qualify to compete at the 2010 Visa Championships. In order to compete at Visa Championships, athletes must participate and meet qualification scores at the National Elite Qualifier.

The Athlete Selection Committee reserves the right to use one wild card for Junior 11-16, Junior Elite and Senior Elite to a pair-group not making the top five to compete at the Visa Championships. Wild cards are optional and used if appropriate.

- o Competition Format
- o Junior 11-16: 1 Balance, 1 Dynamic (All-Around)
- o Junior Elite: 1 Balance, 1 Dynamic, 1 Combined (All-Around)
- o Senior Elite: 1 Balance, 1 Dynamic, 1 Combined (All-Around)

World Team members automatically qualify to compete at Visa Championships and are not required to attend the National Elite Qualifier.

i) **Junior Olympic National Championships, July 25-28 (Kissimmee, FL)**

All qualified Level 5-10 pair-groups will compete to be crowned the 2010 Junior Olympic National Champion. The Junior Olympic National Championships will serve as the selection event for Level 8, 9, and 10 athletes's vying for a spot on the Junior Olympic National Team. Members of the Junior Olympic National Team are eligible to attend Team USA camps and clinics as they continue to prepare for the elite program. Pair-groups must qualify per the Rules and Policies and Junior Olympic National Team Selection Procedures.

j) **Visa Championships, August 11-14 (Hartford, CT)**

The top five Junior 11-16, Junior Elite and Senior Elite pair-groups in each event, from the National Elite Qualifier, will compete to earn the right to be named the best in the country and be crowned National Champion.

The Visa Championships is the selection event for athlete's vying for a spot on the Junior and Senior National Team. The National Team is comprised of the top athletes participating in the discipline of acrobatic gymnastics in the United States and will receive international assignments to represent USA on the international scene.

The Junior 11-16 will compete two routines (1 Balance, 1 Dynamic). The sum of both routines determines the Junior 11-16 National Champion in each event.

The Junior and Senior Elite pair-groups will compete three routines (1 Balance, 1 Dynamic, 1 Combined). Individual awards will be given for the top three balance routines, top three dynamic routines with the National Champion determined by the combined routine.

k) **National Athlete Development Camp, (Oct-Dec 2010)**

During the National Athlete Development Camp pair-groups with new national team partnerships are required to run routines to vie for an open spot on the respective national team. A panel of judges will score each routine. The respective national team will be chosen by members of the Athlete Selection Committee per the respective National Team Selection Procedures (See Rules and Policies).

The National Athlete Development Camp is an opportunity for athletes to skills test from Level 9-Level 10, Level 10-Elite, or Junior 11-16—Junior Elite (pending approval of Elite Committee and Program Committee).

The focus of this camp will be on preparation and training of the Junior Olympic Compulsory Program (Levels 4-7) and Junior Olympic Optional Program (Levels 8-10) and technique for higher skill development. The National Athlete Development Camp will be open for all athletes Levels 4-10 (Min. age is 9 in the calendar year).

*Acrobatic J.O. Committee members will select clinicians for Levels 4-6
Acrobatic Elite Committee members will select clinicians for Levels 8-10*

The National Elite Chairman will serve as the lead clinician for the National Athlete Development Camp. Coaching lectures and athlete activities will be held in the evenings. Coaches are highly encouraged to network with other acrobatic coaches, take notes and participate in coaching lectures.

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l) **Junior Olympic National Team Training Camp, (Oct-Dec 2010)**

The Junior Olympic National Team members are invited to participate in the Junior Olympic National Team Training Camp. The camp will focus on routine preparation, skill development, execution, artistry, and preparation for the Elite Program (Level of support pending approval of 2010 budget).

10) **2010 Acrobatic Gymnastics Junior and Senior National Team**

The Program recommends adding two alternates per event and age category for the Junior & Senior National Team. In the event a current pair-group retires or changes partnership, the alternate will be automatically moved to the team. Alternates are not required to be named to the team.

Motion: Selena Peco
Second: Kari Duncan
Passed

11) **US Acrobatic Gymnastics International Club Meet Policy**

A motion to restrict participation in international club competition (non official USA Delegation events).

Motion: Michael Rodrigues
Second: Kari Duncan
Passed

12) **USA Acrobatic Gymnastics International Consultant**

Tonya Case asked the Program Committee Chairman to address the Program Committee.

Due to the many responsibilities and expectations of her role as FIG Technical Committee Acro President and the importance of the world-wide development of acrobatic gymnastics, she must make the FIG the priority in terms of travel and time. This may prevent her from attending various USA Gymnastics events in the upcoming year. She will notify the Program Director and Committee on an event by event basis.

13) **Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code**

Athlete Selection Committee

Based on committee minutes number 12 above, the Program Committee recommends the following changes to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code:

- Member 1: USA National Technical Chairman
- Alternate: High level judge with international experience appointed by the Technical Chairman*

- Member 2: Elite Committee Chairman
- Alternate: High level coach with international experience appointed by the Elite Committee Chairman*

- Athlete Representative: Michael Rodrigues
- Alternate: Mallory Henthorn*

*The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee must approve the alternate of the appointed chairman. Each member of the Athlete Selection Committee is to be unaffiliated, when possible.

Due to the large number of athletes vying for a spot on the Junior Olympic National Team, Junior and Senior National Team and USA Delegations, the Program Committee recommends adding the below members to the Athlete Selection Committee as non-voting members.

- Program Committee representative (non-voting)
- Program Director (non-voting)

Motion: Selena Peco
Second: Kari Duncan
Passed

14) The Program Committee motions to approve the 2010 Event Calendar

Motion: Michael Rodrigues
Second: Bob Meier
Passed

15) Petition Process

A motion to require all medical documentation to be submitted on official letterhead of the treating physician. Medical documentation is subject to verification by the USA Program Physician.

Motion: Selena Peco
Second: Ivaylo Katsov
Passed

16) Online Issue/Proposal System

The Program Committee recommends an online form for acrobatic gymnastics community members to provide feedback, comments and present issues or propose changes to improve the program. The Online Issue/Proposal form will be a drop-down menu on the Judges/Coaches link.

Motion: Bob Meier
Second: Selena Peco
Passed

17) Athlete Funding

As the 2008 World Championships silver medalist and 2009 World Games gold medalist, the Program Committee recommends the following athletes be funded in the amount of \$500.00 per month for December 2009 – July 2010. In August, the committee will review the funding on the future endeavors of these athletes (*pending approval of 2010 budget*).

Michael Rodrigues
Kristin Allen

Motion: Bob Meier
Second: Selena Peco

18) Next Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Meeting

February 26-28, 2010: Face-to-Face – Las Vegas, NV

Approved by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee 11/12/2009
Approved by the President of USA Gymnastics, Steve Penny 12/01/2009