



**Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Minutes  
National Training Center – Huntsville, TX  
November 4, 2010**

**1) 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 (excused)  
Tonya Case – USA Gymnastics International Technical Consultant (Non-voting)  
Carisa Laughon – Interim Acro Program Manager (Non-voting)  
Elizabeth Millard – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Manager (Non-voting)

**2) National Office/Program Staffing**

Following a conference call with Steve Penny, Bob Meier was able to announce to the Program Committee that Elizabeth Millard was promoted to the position of Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Manager. This position fills the vacancy left by Tom Housley's departure. Steve also indicated that an additional support position, such as Acro Program Assistant, would be forthcoming. The Program Committee congratulated Elizabeth on her promotion.

The Program Committee discussed at length the need for additional administrative, training, and developmental support for our elite program, in particular the creation of a part-time role such as National Team Coordinator. The committee felt this was a missing piece in the advancement of Team USA. However, before moving forward it was agreed that it was important to develop a job description for the position and solicit additional input from the elite coaching community regarding their needs.

Recommendation: To form a working group (named the Elite Development Working Group), which is a subset of the National Elite Committee, to 1) assist in preparing a job description for National Team Coordinator, 2) identify 2-3 coaches to be named National Coaching Staff, who would participate as often as possible in national training camps, and 3) develop a draft training and competition plan for the National Team for 2011-2012. The following elite coaches would be asked to serve as part of the working group: Ivaylo Katsov, Marie Annonson, Yuri Vorobiev, Tonya Case, and Ronda Francis.

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Selena Peco

PASSED

**3) Program Operating Parameters**

Bob addressed the committee reinforcing the committee's role and responsibilities, discussing future meeting dates/times, to reviewing the importance of communication within the group and with the acro community. The Program Committee and office staff are striving toward the goals of increased forward planning and consistency. These are important aspects to allow the committee to function optimally and address the needs and concerns of the acro program.

The committee agreed to three face-to-face meetings in 2011. They will be held:

1) February 2011 – in conjunction with the Acro Cup (Huntsville, TX)

2) May 2011 – TBD

3) November 2011 – in conjunction with the National Team Training Camp (Huntsville, TX)

\*The Program Committee will also meet as needed during National Championships.

The Program Committee reviewed the 2011 budget with Carisa and Elizabeth. Minor changes were suggested for entry fees and athlete funding for international competitions and training camps.

**4) Events**

**Freedom Cup:** The Program Committee discussed feedback provided during the elite coaches meeting regarding the announcement that Freedom Cup would not be held in 2011. The elite coaches were disappointed, but also understood the situation. Discussion followed about having a club team host the event in 2011, but the committee

decided that it was likely too late for international countries to add this event to their 2011 schedule and to the best of the committee's knowledge there was not a club with the current infrastructure to host such an event.

**National Championships:** Carisa presented a bid from the city of San Jose to host the 2011 National Championships. The committee agreed that this was a strong bid and was comfortable with Carisa moving forward to finalize arrangements with the city. Preliminary information regarding the dates and location of the 2011 National Championships will be announced to the coaches during the National Team Training Camp.

Feedback was presented to the committee from the elite coaches meeting regarding the schedule of National Championships. The majority of coaches liked the 5-day schedule. If possible, adjustments to the sessions will be made to have the Level 5 athletes compete on Monday and have the Level 8 athletes finish competition prior to the last session so that the JO National Team can be announced in the competition venue. Selena Peco recommended scheduling the National JO Committee Meeting on the first training day of National Championships so preliminary information can be given to coaches by the end of Nationals regarding rule changes for the following year.

A survey will be sent to clubs regarding possible changes to the rules for team awards. The Program Committee felt that these rules should be updated, but would like feedback from the acro clubs. A proposal from Region 1 will also be shared during this survey process.

Recommendation: to update the Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules & Policies to reflect the following changes to annual awards presented at National Championships. The recommended award changes will bring greater prestige to the awards given and streamline our awards presentation.

JO Annual Awards\*

JO Coach of the Year  
Rookie Coach of the Year  
Most Improved Team  
Glenn Sundby Award for Outstanding JO P/G Performance  
Most Original Skill – JO  
Most Outstanding Top  
Most Outstanding Base

Elite Annual Awards

Coach of the Year  
Athletes of the Year  
Sportsperson of the Year  
Glenn Sundby Award for Outstanding Elite P/G Performance  
Most Original Skill – Elite

The Star Service award and the Janet von Barga award for judges will continue to be given at National Championships.

(The following awards will be eliminated: Highest Flying Tumbler – JO & Elite, Courageous Spirit, Most Difficult Skill – JO & Elite, Best Choreography – JO & Elite, High Score of the Meet – JO, Most Flexible Top – JO, Outstanding Top – Elite, and Outstanding Base – Elite, Best Door Decorating Contest\*\*.)

\*JO awards – only one award will be given for all JO levels.

\*\*The Best Door Decorating Contest Award will no longer be considered an annual award. However, it will remain as an activity with National Championships and a prize will be given to the winning room.

Motion: Bob Meier  
Second: Ivaylo Katsov  
PASSED

The Program Committee also discussed ways to recognize Jola Jones for her outstanding service and commitment to the acrobatics program, such as naming an award after her, etc. Further discussion is needed.

**Exhibitions & Acrobatics:**

The Program Committee supported conducting Acrobatics lectures as part of National Congress and up to two Regional Congresses. The Acro Program would also like to be involved in exhibitions at Visa Championships if invited. The 2011 budget includes funding to support both of these program development initiatives.

**Acro Cup:** The Program Committee discussed feedback from the elite coaches and agreed the timing of the Acro Cup fit well with our season. The Acro Cup & Training Camp will be held Feb 10-16, 2011 at the National Training Center (Karolyi's) in Huntsville, TX.

The Program Committee determined aspects of the event as detailed below:

- Competition will be open to 11-16, Junior elite, and Senior elite competitors. Selection and assignments for international competition will be made from these categories.
  - Current National Team pair/groups must attend to show proof of readiness for international assignments.
  - If athletes are selected for international competition assignments (Team USA) and are not already members of the national team, they will be added to the team at this time.
  - Athletes at 11-16, Junior Elite, and Senior Elite, not considered ready for National Team and Team USA international assignments, may be considered for approval to attend a designated club meet.
  - All pair/groups in these categories are expected to stay for the training camp immediately following the Acro Cup competition.
  - Athletes and coaches will stay onsite at the ranch.

- A National Invitational will also be held with the Acro Cup, which will be open to all pair/groups in Levels 8-10.
  - This is an opportunity for Level 8-10 athletes to have high-level national-competition early in the season.
  - Scores from the Acro Cup fulfill one of the local meet requirements.
  - Competitors will not be divided into age categories within each level.
  - Athletes and coaches will stay in local hotels and do not stay for following training camp.
- Medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be awarded in all competition categories.
- Eight (8) judges are needed for the competition. There will be one 8-judge panel for the 11-16, Jr & senior competition and 2 4-judge panels for the Level 8-10 competition. Judges honorariums will be paid per the Rules and Policies. Meals and accommodations will also be paid for the judges. Judges must pay for their own flights/mileage.
- Skills testing opportunities will be available.

A tentative schedule for the event is as follows:

Thursday, Feb 10 – arrivals, open training in the afternoon, skills testing

Friday, Feb 11 – open training, skills testing

Saturday, Feb 12 – Senior, Junior, 11-16, Levels 8-10 competition (balance & dynamic)

Sunday, Feb 13 – Senior, Junior, Level 10 competition (combined), awards, training camp in afternoon/evening

Monday, Feb 14 – morning training camp (senior, junior, 11-16), 11-16 departures, afternoon training camp (senior, junior)

Tuesday, Feb 15 - training camp (senior, junior)

Wednesday, Feb 16 – morning training camp (senior, junior), afternoon departures

As per the Operating Code, the Athlete Selection Committee for the Acro Cup will consist of Kari Duncan, National Technical Committee Chairman; Ivaylo Katsov, National Elite Committee Chairman; and Michael Rodrigues, National Athlete Representative. (If Michael is unavailable, Mallory Henthorn will be asked to serve as Athlete Representative.) The Athlete Selection Committee will determine additions to the National Teams (Senior, Junior 12-19 and Junior 11-16) as well as international assignments for Team USA and international club meet approvals.

**International Competitions:** The program committee reviewed the list of international competition invitations for 2011.

Recommendation to plan to send USA Delegations to the following competitions:

- World Cup & Flanders International Acro Cup (Puurs, Belgium) – April 14-17, 2011
- World Cup Poland (and age group competition if available) (Zielona Gora, Poland) – August 31 – September 4, 2011
- World Cup Russia (and age group competition if available) (Vityazevo, Russia) – September 14-18, 2011
- Coordinate a training camp in Russia between the Poland and Russia World Cup competitions.

Recommendation to designate the following competitions as club competition open to pair/groups approved at the Acro Cup.

- Geneva International Acro Cup (Geneva, Switzerland) – April 15-17, 2011
- International Chmielewski Tournament (Swidnica, Poland) – April 29 – May 1, 2011

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Selena Peco

PASSED

The 2010-2011 National Team Selection Procedure will be used for National Team selections and international assignment determinations at the Acro Cup. Existing National Team partnerships are showing proof of readiness for international competition. The Athlete Selection committee will also approve pair/groups for international club meets.

## 5) **National Teams**

Recommendation: to review the National Team selection procedures, in particular the target scores, to be sure they fall inline with goals and objectives of the acro program and national team program. Also be sure they are consistent with international scoring. Changes to be implemented for the 2011-2012 selection procedures.

Motion: Ivaylo Katsov

Second: Kari Duncan

PASSED

The following items were addressed by PC and voted on by email after the November 4, 2010 Program Committee Meeting:

**Rules & Policies change:**

- R&P – page 66, #2 - The \$25 fee for taking the judging test has been removed.
- R&P – page 70, b.2 – Where it refers to Meet Referee and Assistant Meet Referee pay for “national level competition” this shall mean National Championships only.

**International Judges' Course**

It was recommended that Selena Peco, Nancy Davis and Anna Smirnova be invited to attend the International Judges' Course in Estonia in January, 2011. Each judge who attends will receive \$300 funding.

Steve Penny

Approval

January 11, 2011

Date