



## **ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

### **FACE TO FACE MINUTES**

**December 12-14, 2008**

#### **1. Role Call**

Bob Meier – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Chairman  
Tonya Case – Acrobatic Gymnastics Vice Chairman (conference call)  
Selena Peco – Junior Olympic Committee Chairman  
Kari Duncan – National Technical Committee Chairman  
Ivaylo Katsov – National Elite Committee Chairman  
Michael Rodrigues – National Athlete Representative  
Tom Housley – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director

#### **2. Review of Agenda**

The Committee reviewed and approved the agenda. Agenda stands.

Motion: Bob Meier  
Second: Tonya Case  
Passed

#### **3. Review Program Development Goals**

The Program Committee reviewed the April 24-25, 2008 Face to Face minutes in Indianapolis, IN to measure the progress of program development, and if necessary, reevaluate goals and initiatives to ensure obtaining set goals by December 2009. Based on current numbers, the Acro Program has exceeded total new clubs with over 40 new clubs registered within the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program and 60+ new introductory athlete members. Progress has been contributed to the development and implementation of the Pre-team Program and the hard work done on behalf of each committee and sub-committee.

Additional 5 new clubs (in addition to the 40 new clubs in 2008) – continue with the Pre-team Program

Introductory Athletes – continue to engage and utilize the Program Development Task Force to market the benefits of the Acro Pre-team Program

Judges – sending the goal to the regions, develop online local judge certification – 20 additional judges

Athlete Members – increase based on new introductory memberships

Expect more athletes once the competition season is closer

Motion: Kari Duncan  
Second: Selena Peco  
Passed

#### **4. Acrobatic Gymnastics Mission Statement, Vision and Values**

A recommendation was made to develop a mission statement for the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee.

Mission Statement: Encourage participation and growth in all aspects of acrobatic gymnastics, support athletes in their pursuit of competitive excellence, and generate public awareness.

Vision Statement: To become a premier discipline of USA Gymnastics.

Values: Leadership, Trust, Commitment, Collaboration, Integrity, Dedication, Passion, Discipline

Motion: Bob Meier  
Second: Michael Rodrigues  
Passed

## **Program Committee Minutes (continued)**

### **5. 2009 Strategic Plan**

Program Committee reviewed the 2009 Strategic Plan and provided feedback within each area of their respective committees.

### **6. Old Business**

Program Committee approves the National Elite Committee minutes from November 24, 2008 with the following amendments:

Without a formal selection event, the Program Committee trusts the coaches to make the appropriate choices about their athletes keeping in mind the importance of quality representation for your club and the USA. Regardless of team affiliation athletes are still a reflection on the USA program. It is expected that all pair/groups will be able to cleanly execute the exercise requirements for the level they are competing and that the coach understands the international competition requirements and rules. A target score is to be used to gauge the readiness of their athletes. Coaches are encouraged to utilize the target scores to determine if athletes will represent the USA or individual club adequately. If athletes do not meet target scores, program committee reserves the right to decline video review therefore athlete participation.

Athletes wishing to participate in World Cup must obtain a qualification score of 78 for three exercises at State or Regional Championships.

Motion: Ivaylo Katsov  
Second: Selena Peco  
Passed

### **7. Operating Code – Athlete Selection Committee (ASC)**

Program Committee recommends implementing a three member Athlete Selection Committee (ASC) based on the recommendation of USA Gymnastics. Each member is to be unaffiliated\*, fulfill criteria of the respective position, and obligated to:

- i. Make athlete selection for all international competitions
- ii. Review and make decisions on all athlete selection to Junior Olympic National Team and National Team

\*Affiliated is defined as the immediate family of the athlete, an owner or paid employee of the athlete's club, a team member or coach of the athlete or immediate family member of coach who has athletes competing at the selection event.

Member 1: USA Gymnastics International Technical Consultant (FIG rep.)  
Alternate: National Technical Committee Chairman

Member 2: National Elite Committee Chairman  
Alternate: High level international coaching experience

Member 3: National Athlete Representative  
Alternate: High level international experience

The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee will assign alternates to the ASC as needed. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Operating Code will be updated upon approval of USA Gymnastics President, Steve Penny.

Motion: Bob Meier  
Second: Michael Rodrigues  
Passed

## Program Committee Minutes (continued)

### 8. USA International Judges Course, Los Angeles, CA

The Program Committee recommends inviting the following judges to attend the 2009 International Judges Course in Los Angeles, CA and test to obtain an international rating:

- a. Jola Jones
- b. Linda Ocmant
- c. Carisa Laughon
- d. Ronda Francis
- e. Anatoliy Solodar
- f. Trisha Stewart
- g. Mindi Katsov
- h. Selena Peco
- i. Jurek Pol
- j. Nancy Davis
- k. Lisa Kidd
- l. Michelle Caviness
- m. Courtney LeJuene
- n. Anna Smirnova
- o. Vladimir Vladev
- p. Sharon Giamanico
- q. Karen Duncan
- r. Marcia DeGuire
- s. Karen Sprague
- t. Linda Porter
- u. Valere Binet

Motion: Kari Duncan  
Second: Bob Meier  
Passed

The Program Committee recommends inviting the following judges to attend the 2009 International Judges Course in Los Angeles, CA and audit\* the course:

- a. Tom Guiel
- b. Jackie Latino
- c. Sarah Thomas
- d. Brandi Lewis
- e. Sharise Beavers
- f. Elite Coaches (limited to first 10 registrants, based on first-come first serve)

\*Individuals who are selected to audit the course may not test at the course.

Note - Category IV judges will rarely be considered for an international assignment outside of the United States. USA Category IV judges may potentially receive an invitation, based on available number of USA judges on each panel, to attend the Freedom Cup as an official. All international assignments will be based on experience and current FIG international rating.

Judges' compensation is based on current USA rating.

Motion: Kari Duncan  
Second: Selena Peco  
Passed

### 9. National Superior – Judge Progression

Prior to taking the National Superior certification, an application for approval must be submitted to the Program Committee. National ratings will continue to be given at Super Clinic only. Date of implementation is 2010 Super Clinic.

Motion: Kari Duncan  
Second: Bob Meier  
Passed

## Program Committee Minutes (continued)

### 10. 2009 Elite Competition Schedule

A motion was made to consider additional high-level international competitions (i.e. World Cup) in preparation for 2009 World Games. Based on competitive performance at 2008 World Championships, USA Gymnastics has qualified one senior mixed pair to attend World Games.

Motion: Ivaylo Katsov

Second: Selena Peco

Passed\*

*\*Michael Rodrigues abstained from vote*

### 11. Internal Marketing and External Marketing

- a. Internal Marketing – Developmental Program
  - i. Frequently Asked Question Section on USA Gymnastics website – non-technical content
  - ii. 2009-12 Specifications Online Coaching Videos (Levels 5-6)
  - iii. Program Structure – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program (recreational, pre-team, compulsory, optional, elite)
- b. External Marketing - Program Development Task Force
  - i. A new initiative to increase exposure for acrobatic gymnastics is to encourage regional committees, by collaborating with the Program Development Task Force, to host acrobatic gymnastics events in conjunction with other gymnastics disciplines.
  - ii. Program Development Task Force - update
    - 1. Region 1 – Pam Meier / Nancy Davis
    - 2. Region 2 – Lee Hatfield
    - 3. Region 3 – Brandi Lewis / Selena Peco / Lorna Spellman
    - 4. Region 4 – Ronda Francis / Marcia DeGuire / Linda Porter
    - 5. Region 5 – Angie Layne /
    - 6. Region 7 - Sharise Beavers / LeeAnn Lenhart / Illya D.
    - 7. Region 8 – n/a

Tom Housley, Program Director is appointed chairman of the Task Force.

### 12. Acro Specifications and Rules and Policies

Updates were made with the above two documents. Documents will be published on the USA Gymnastics website no later than December 31, 2008.

### 13. National Team Tracking System

The purpose of the National Team Tracking System is to track athletes named to the Junior Olympic National Team, Junior National Team, and Senior National Team, year-to-year, to aid in presenting a full-team at the World Age Group Competition and World Championships. Athletes will be tracked by the Athlete Selection Committee and Program Committee as a means to continue identifying talent and endorsing partnerships who exhibit strong international potential. The Athlete Selection Committee will utilize the National Team Tracking Selection to select athletes for future national teams and international competitions.

A proposal is made to create the procedure to incorporate the system with the National Elite Coaches Committee and Athlete Selection Committee.

Motion: Bob Meier

Second: Ivaylo Katsov

Passed

### 14. Committee Communication

A recommendation is made to have regular meetings set with each sub-committee to follow-up on goals and current initiatives. Each respective chairman will conduct a brief conference call/email to obtain current and new program development numbers. A tentative schedule is as follows:

NEC – National Team Training Camp, JO Championships, May Conference Call

NJOC – National Team Training Camp, JO Championships

NTC – Super Clinic, JO Championships, April Conference Call

NAC – JO Championships, Fall Meeting, May Conference Call

AGPC – Face to Face, Super Clinic, April Conference Call, June Conference Call, Visa Championships

## **Program Committee Minutes (continued)**

### **15. Education**

Local judge online certification was discussed. Plans for 2010.

### **16. Skills Testing Revisions**

The following revisions have been made to Level Mobility rules - Skills Testing effective immediately:

1. A maximum of two hours per testing group (no more than 2 pair/groups)
2. Tariff sheets must be submitted to the lead evaluator, in-hand, 10 days prior to the skills testing date. Late tariff sheets are not accepted. If tariff sheets are not in-hand per the deadline, pair/groups are ineligible to skills test.
3. Minor Change Form must be submitted 1 hour prior to the start of testing.

Motion: Selena Peco

Second: Kari Duncan

Passed

### **17. Element Evaluation**

The Program Committee reviewed submitted element evaluations for USA rating. Coaches will be contacted directly via email with skill ratings.

### **18. Proposals**

Proposal 1 - The Program Committee reviewed the petition to attend additional international competitions not on the USA schedule. The request was considered. An email will be sent, from the National Office, regarding Program Committee's decision following the conclusion of the Program Committee meeting.

Proposal 2 - The required difference in total difficulty from JE to Elite is not significant enough (30 additional) to require a separate testing process. Testing is primarily in place to ensure athletes show a level of athletic competency. The safety of the athlete must be the top priority.

*Meeting adjourned – 7:17pm*

*Approved by Steve Penny, USA Gymnastics President*

*12/18/2008*