

**Men's Development Program Committee Meeting
Conference Call via Zoom
Wednesday, February 15th, 2023**

The session was called to order, Wednesday, February 15th, 2023 @ 12:02 PM EST, by David Klein, MDPC Chair.

A. Opening Remarks

B. Roll Call

MDPC Chairman: David Klein

Region 1: Tim Klemptner

Region 2: Eli Richardson

Region 3: Jerit Pogue

Region 4: Dale Bullivant

Region 5: Kevin Chope

Region 6: Daniel Young

Region 7: Bob Lundy

Region 8: Kevin White

Region 9: Mark Bogoger

Athlete Rep: Joseph Buselmeier (Absent)

Athlete Rep: Eric Hoe (Absent)

Athlete Rep: Alexander Castro-Perez

Athlete Rep: Alexander Kotnik (Absent)

Athlete Rep: Andrew McGill (Absent)

Men's Program Manager: Lisa Mendel (voice, no vote)

VP Men's Gymnastics: Jason Woodnick (voice, no vote)

Junior National Coaching Staff Representative: Tom Meadows (voice, no vote)

MPC Representative: Paul Sargsyan (voice, no vote)

MPC Representative: Sergei Pakanich (Absent)

NGJA Representative: Peter Wiegand (voice, no vote)

High performance Director: Brett McClure (Absent)

Men's Junior High-Performance Coordinator: Raj Bhavsar (voice, no vote)

Voting members: 10

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the October 12th, 2022 Zoom Meeting

- **Motion: Kevin White**
- **Second: Kevin Chope**
- **Unanimous**

D. Allotment Tables

- All MDPC members received the tables. There are a few highlights and we need to make some decisions. A number of people have reached out with questions.
- The committee agreed to a deadline of Friday February 17th for making any changes to the numbers in the allotment tables for the JN divisions only.
- The JE final numbers will be compiled after State Championships as this is where the numbers will be derived from for the allotment tables.
- The Committee discussed the JE allotment tables for the 18 & 19 year olds as this is the first year they are being considered as single age years, instead of being combined. The Committee felt that it may be better to consider the percentage of athletes who may qualify to Development Nationals.
- We should try and make the percentages somewhat even. They are judged by the same set of judges. With the older age groups, we used to let a greater percentage of athletes qualify as it is likely their last year in the sport. Perhaps weight the 19s more than the 18s.
- The numbers need to be looked at a bit more closely in order to find a balance.
- The committee agreed that Jerit and Tim should work on the numbers to make the adjustments and then submit new allotment tables to the committee.

E. ETC/Winter Cup:

- The Committee discussed several logistical items for the upcoming Winter Cup/ETC, including parking and the planned trip for all ETC participants to the Kentucky Derby museum.
- The NGF Board approved an additional \$12,000 in regional support for 2023. Each Region will be receiving an additional \$1,333 for ETC funding from the NGF Men's Fund.

F. May Meeting:

The annual MDPC Fall meeting will be moving to the spring beginning this season and will be held on the Monday and Tuesday after Development Nationals.

G. Election of State Chairman:

Currently the Men's Program Rules and Policies states the following: "The coaches within each state (1club/1vote) nominate and elect the State Chairperson at the State Meet".

Questions have been raised by the community surrounding what constitutes a "club" for voting purposes. The committee discussed at length the various options for what constitutes a member club as well as allowing for inclusion of the Development Program, GymAct and Senior Program. This will allow more diverse voices to be heard in order to create a more unified approach to the MAG program.

MOTION: When voting for state chairman a "club" must meet the following criteria:

- **Must be a member club of USAG in good standing.**
- **Must have at least one Men's Professional member (competitive coach, judge, meet director, owner/managing director) of USAG in good standing.**
- **Must have at least one Men's Athlete member of USAG in good standing.**

- **No one individual may vote multiple times, even if they represent multiple clubs (i.e. a coach works in a club that houses a Men’s Development Program and a GymAct program with a different club number. That coach may not represent a vote for both clubs).**

Motion: Tim Klemptner

Second: Mark Bogger

Unanimous

H. Jewelry and Hair:

There have been some instances this season that have been brought forward regarding interpretation of the hair rule on page 32 of the Men’s Rules & Policies, which states the following:

- “For safety reasons, jewelry of any kind is NOT allowed during competition and is considered a uniform violation.
- For safety reasons, athlete’s hair must be secured away from the face so as to not obscure their vision of the apparatus.
- Failure to do so will result in a uniform violation.
- Uniform violations will result in a medium behavioral deduction of 0.3 on each event in which the infraction occurs. The judge will warn the gymnast that the deduction will be taken at each event.”
- These rules were put in place for the safety of the athletes, but there had been some confusion and inconsistency in how these rules have been enforced. Judges should not be put in a position to police this rule when there is no clear-cut definition of hair being too long.
- The majority of the Committee felt that the jewelry rule should stay as it is written and continue to be considered a uniform violation as it has been for many years within the Development Program.
- The majority of the Committee felt that since there is no way to apply the hair rule fairly across the country, that it should be taken out of the hands of the judges. The MDPC still strongly recommends tying back long hair so that it does not impede the athlete’s ability to see the equipment or the ground, but it was decided that this will no longer be a uniform violation with a built-in behavioral deduction.

MOTION: To amend the current verbiage in the R&P as follows:

- **For safety reasons, jewelry of any kind is NOT allowed during competition and is considered a uniform violation.**
- **Uniform violations will result in a medium behavioral deduction of 0.3 on each event in which the infraction occurs. The judge will warn the gymnast that the deduction will be taken at each event.**
- **For safety reasons, it is strongly recommended that an athlete’s hair be pulled back away from their face so as not to obscure their vision of the apparatus. No uniform violation or behavioral deduction will be enforced.**

MOTION: Kevin Chope

SECOND: Mark Bogger

8 YES, 1 NO – Motion Passes

I. Regional Restructuring

- Our goal in this meeting is not to deal with the little details. This is a bigger issue that needs more time. We will create a working group that will put together a more in-depth process for what it would look like if regional changes were to occur. This will also provide more time in terms of community feedback.
- The first document from Mark Bogoger that was put out was in the form of a proposal. The real intention was to ask questions and to determine if we, as an entire men’s program, could do things better than we are currently doing them. The conclusion that stemmed from that initial document was that everyone feels that some change could be beneficial for our program. The next step it to determine the goals we are trying to attain. Some may not like the document, but that is not the point.
- A working group will include the MDPC Chair, Regional Chairs from the East and West, as well as a coach representative. Everyone needs to be involved in the process, even if they aren’t part of the working group. Now is the time to put a real plan in place and see what potential issues may arise. Then, we can determine if and how it is possible to move forward.

MOTION: To name the working group, which will attempt to create the proposed plan for regional restructuring:

- **Mark Bogoger (West)**
- **Daniel Young (East)**
- **Kevin Chope (East)**
- **David Klein (MDPC Chair)**
- **Dale Bullivant (West)**
- **Tom Meadows (Coaches Rep)**

MOTION: Mark Bogoger

SECOND: Daniel Young

Unanimous

2:05 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Kevin Chope

SECOND: Dale Bullivant

David A Klein

**David A Klein
MDPC Chairman**

February 16, 2023

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by Daniel E. Young, Sc.D., MDPC Secretary