

Men's Development Program Committee Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023 – Session 1

Meeting called to order at 9:00am CDT

Kevin White presented with 40-year Service Award.

Roll Call

MDPC Chairman: David Klein

Region 1: Tim Klemphauer

Region 2: Eli Richardson

Region 3: Jerit Pogue

Region 4: Dale Bullivant

Region 5: Kevin Chope

Region 6 (Interim): Craig Thibaudeau

Region 7: Bob Lundy

Region 8: Kevin White

Region 9: Mark Bogoger

Athlete Rep: Joseph Buselmeier (**Absent**)

Athlete Rep: Eric Hoe

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 (voice, no vote)

NGJA Representative: Peter Wiegand (voice, no vote)

High performance Director: Brett McClure (voice, no vote)

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

Voting members: 11

Non – Members Present

Chief Programs Officer- Stefanie Korepin

MPC Chairman – Mike Serra

Reports Section

USAG Report: Jason Woodnick

- New USA Gymnastics website live. Still working to iron out glitches and finalize updates.
- Sr National Team Camp and Selection camp. FIG MTC President Arturs Mickevics was special guest at the camp. Great opportunity for athletes and coaches to interact
- USAG in hiring freeze and not yet able to hire a Development Program Director.
- Stressed the importance of not changing scores post competition. USAG membership can be revoked if a member is found guilty of changing scores.
- David Klein has opened up discussions for process to assist athletes in reaching qualification status as a Junior Elite athlete in lieu of score adjustment. Possibility of allowing Regions to have discretionary qualification spots for athletes to be qualified into a championship competition. More discussion to determine criteria, though the criteria needs to be uniform across the country.

Motion: to form a working group to formalize a regional discretionary qualification process:

Members would be Jerit Pogue, Kevin Choje and Craig Thibaudeau.

Motion: Mark Bogoger

Second: Kevin White

Unanimous

*Note - Jason, Raj, and / or Brett are available to assist with integrating discretionary spots, criteria that is already being utilized for National Team selections.

NGJA Report: Peter Wieging

- Judging Panels at Development Nationals did an outstanding job. Stats had yet to be finalized but there were fewer than 50 inquires throughout the entire weekend. Anecdotal feedback from many of the coaches was quite positive as well.
- Stefanie addressed Grievances filed to USAG by NGJA members. The Ethics & Grievance Committee have asked for Task Force to address the NGJA's relationship with USA Gymnastics and to review the judging assignment and selection process in Men's Program. Invitations for Task Force are going out shortly.
- Straw poll of chairman having issues with assignment procedures was taken. Two chairmen expressed issues with assignment process within their local area:

- Mark Bogoger would like to see more collaboration in making sure the officials assigned are qualified for the meets / sessions they are assigned to.
- Jerit Pogue expressed his concerns over assigning process and selections. He would like to modify R&P to reflect that meet hosts should have final say over judging selections. This led to a thorough discussion around process for assigning and confirming judges at the local level.

MOTION: To recommend modifying the USAG R&P to read: “The local meet host(s) must collaborate and reach an agreement with respective local judging associations in assigning local USAG sanctioned competitions. State Chairmen must collaborate and reach an agreement in the assigning of the State Championships. Regional Chairperson must collaborate and reach an agreement with the local judging association president / representative and the NGJA Regional Development Director for their respective region to assign judges for the Regional Championships. Final approval for judging assignments falls to the local meet host, the State Chairperson, or the Regional Chairperson, respectively.

Motion: Mark Bogoger

Second: Kevin Chope

Unanimous

*Stefanie reminded the committee that this proposal is a recommendation that will now be sent to the MPC for discussion and vote. If approved by the MPC the recommendation goes to USAG for final acceptance / approval.

- Dev Program Newsletter / Interpretations doc needs to go out no later than Feb. 1.
- Video submissions for inquiries.

MOTION: To allow video review at championship competitions.

Motion: Eli Richardson

Second: Jerit Pogue

Motion rescinded.

MOTION: There is no video review allowed except at championship level competitions.

Motion: Kevin White

Second: Craig Thibaudeau

Unanimous

MPC Report – Sergei / Pavel

- Highlight the recent success of the Jr NT at International competitions in Stuttgart, Berlin, and Jr World Championships. May need to re-evaluate the over emphasis on D score and strike more balance between D & E score, based on the experiences from Jr Worlds.
- Discussion about how to cultivate and foster further development of the entire team.

MOTION: to Adjourn for lunch:

Motion: Bob Lundy

Second: Jerit Pogue

Meeting adjourned at 12:14pm CDT

Session 2 -

Meeting reconvenes at 1:00pm CDT

Jr High Performance Coordinator report – Raj Bhavsar

- Raj provided a historical perspective of the continuing development of the Junior National Team program. Current trend was a major push for D score. Now the focus needs to shift to further technical mastery to increase E score with the increased difficulty. Raj would like to strengthen the tracking of athlete progress from camp to camp, and even in between, to better monitor progress and development. He'd also like to invite judges to JNT camps again, to assist in the refinement of E score.
- Continued emphasis and utilization of sports psychology to build and strengthen the athletes. Also further leveraging new technologies and data analytics to further educate coaches and athletes, as well as mitigating injuries.
- Highlighted the success of recent camps and the future plans to continue doing combined 8/9 camps, as well as the combined LV 10/ SNT camps.
- Touched on the final Future Stars camp; this year will be the last of its kind as we move towards reinventing the FS Program and integrating it into the Development Program.
- JNT will be travelling in July for a training camp in Japan. Experience should be invaluable for the development of our athletes and coaches.
- High Performance Plan has been successfully followed by coaches and athletes and proved to be fruitful. Team USA Junior Team had the 2nd highest D score at Jr Worlds, which marked a significant improvement from the previous Jr Worlds.

NGF Report – David Klein

- Call scheduled for June/July. Deadline for applications is May 15. Review of financials and use of funds.
- Discussion about reviewing / modifying the criteria for awarding scholarships.
- With the current state of the NGF Scholarship Funds, and the increasing requests for funding there is a potential for the elite training scholarships to go away after this year. Ideas floated for amending the process for determining award timing and how to better track if the funds are being awarded to athletes that are actually going to continue training.

Special Orders

- Nomination period still open for both the Frank Cumiskey and Dusty Ritter awards.

Pictor Group update – Jason Woodnick

- A lot of discussions and momentum were being had between the group and universities, and even a collegiate conference, about adding gymnastics. Women's program has been brought in (WCGA) to partner with our group to strengthen communication between the groups and to foster further growth in both programs.
- USA Gymnastics has stressed to the CGA that this year (Year 3) will likely be the last year that NGF will fund the continued relationship with the Pictor Group. Continuing funding past this year will have to come from the CGA.

Regional Reorganization

- A preliminary straw vote of committee members was done prior to the discussion to see where the committee stood: 5 in favor, 5 opposed. One abstention. Now the MDPC will open discussions to address the reasons for opposition.
- Dale Bullivant has asked for the possibility of more time in order to collect more information and opinions for members within Region IV as members felt there wasn't enough time to digest and come up with adequate questions during the championship season, with travel being the #1 concern from his constituents.
- Tim Klemptner would like the committee to continue to discuss and seek input from coaches before making such a seismic change.
- There were a couple of Chairpersons who were in favor, but their constituents were either majority opposed or split 50/50. Those Chairs did not want to go against their communities.
- One of the biggest factors was the questioning of increased resources. What does that mean? Is it only money? On paper, with this reorganization, each region would increase revenue, athletes, coaches, venues, judges, and administrative support. However, it is up to each region how they will use those additional resources.
- A second straw vote was conducted following the discussion: 7 in favor

MOTION: to accept the [Regional Reorganization group's proposal](#) as written.

Motion: Jerit Pogue

Second: Kevin White

- Dale Bullivant has asked that the group consider keeping WI in Region IV and not be moved to Region V
- The new regional map was reviewed. If passed, the new regions would have a year from now to prepare for the new alignment in the 2024-25 season.

- Jason was asked and confirmed that there would only be one regional account per region.

VOTE: 7 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstain. 3 not present. MOTION PASSES

(Following the MDPC meeting, two of the three voting members who were not present at the meeting submitted their vote via email and both voted in favor of the Motion).

Future Stars (FS) changes – Raj Bhavsar

- Junior National Coaching Staff (JNCS) and other interested / experienced parties were invited to do a review of the FS Program and how to best grow the program, with the goal being to integrate the program into the MDP season.
- East / West Nationals would replace the FS National Championship.
- How do we best continue to utilize the FS program as the pre-eminent talent identification system?
- Upon completion, working group is asking the MDPC and the NGJA to review the new FS routines, the current LV 6, and the new Technical Sequence routines.
- Idea is to have a JE LV 6 and a compulsory track LV 6.
- Goal is to have the new routines rolled out at the 2024 DP Nationals for use in the 2024-25 season.
- How do we address the loss of the coach's education piece from the National Future Stars Championships? Initial idea would be to add the Coach's Workshop to the Future Stars camp.

MOTION: The MDPC supports the continued work of the JNCS working groups assigned to implement the Future Stars program into the MDP Level 6 National Track and we recognize that this may affect the current Level 6 compulsory routines.

Motion: Mark Bogoger

Second: Kevin Chope

Unanimous

2024 Elite Team Cup (ETC)

- Competition will be held with Winter Cup in 2024.
- There are questions about the event continuing with Winter Cup in the future.
- What are the biggest reasons for USAG maybe not continuing with the ETC at Winter Cup? The ETC session is very long and does not drive revenue. USAG is considering reducing the event by one day to save facility costs. USAG is exploring the possibility of partnering Winter Cup with an existing competition to help drive up revenue via ticket sales.
- How do we reduce costs? Too much expense for both USAG and the Regions to support the ETC competition.

East / West Championships

- Westerns was awarded to Chandler, AZ, Easterns was awarded to Cleveland, OH in 2024
- P & L Statements from East/West Championships are due 45 days following event completion.
- Need to update the bid packets for these events and ensure that they have a “Championship” feel.
- Concern that the entry fee for East / West is the same as Dev Nationals but the athletes do not receive equal participation packages

MOTION: to adjourn

Motion: Jerit Pogue

Second: Tim Klempnauer

Unanimous - Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm CDT.

MDPC Meeting

Session 3 – Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am CDT

Roll Call

MDPC Chairman: David Klein

Region 1: Tim Klempnauer

Region 2: Eli Richardson

Region 3: Jerit Pogue

Region 4: Dale Bullivant

Region 5: Kevin Chope

Region 6 (Interim): Craig Thibaudeau

Region 7: Bob Lundy

Region 8: Kevin White

Region 9: Mark Bogoger

Athlete Rep: Joseph Buselmeier (**Absent**)

Athlete Rep: Eric Hoe

Athlete Rep: Alexander Castro-Perez

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

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

MPC Representative: Paul Sargsyan (voice, no vote)

MPC Representative: Sergei Pakanich (voice, no vote)

NGJA Representative: Peter Wiegand (voice, no vote)

High performance Director: Brett McClure (voice, no vote)

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

Voting members: 11

Non-Members Present

Mike Serra – MPC Chairman

Development Nationals – Update

- Qualification document update: 2 groups (MDPC & MPC) need to expand the Qualification Procedures document for athletes attempting to qualify for USA Championships from Development Nationals. USA Championships qualification procedures should be added to the document.
- Suggestion to the office to make the Qualification document available as a web page that can be updated every year, rather than a document that has to be manually updated and sent out via email every year
- Petition Process - Still lingering confusion over the procedures for JEs to petition to Dev Nationals. Which scores (Optionals and/or Technical Sequences) can come from the current season and which score can come from the previous season? Intent was originally for only TS scores to come from the previous season; does that need to be clarified? Or allow both scores to come from previous season? And does the athlete need to submit one or two Optional scores?
- There is a concern over allowing petitions due to a lack of readiness on the athlete's part.
- Question regarding how the petition process affects JE LV 8s. How can they petition if they don't have TS scores if they're new JE 8s?

MOTION: To clarify the Junior Elite petition process to require an athlete to submit one Optional score and one Technical Sequence score from the current or previous season.

Motion : Jerit Pogue

Second : Tim Klempnauer

Unanimous

- The idea has been suggested that scores for JN petitions must be from championship events and restricted to Senior age LV 10s only. One score can be from the current season from any competition, and if the score(s) come from the previous season they must be from a championship event.
- Another suggestion has been to make things as easy and clear as possible. Why not keep the criteria the same between the JEs and the JNs? And why not allow LV 9s that have moved up to LV 10s?
- Concern that by easing the criteria there will be a marked increase in the number of petitions that are submitted that the Petition Committee will have to consider.

MOTION: Adjust the verbiage in the current Junior National Level 10 petition procedures to add “the current competitive season or the previous championship season (States, Regionals, East/West, or Dev Nationals). The scores must still fall into the top 50% for the level in which the athlete is trying to petition.”

Motion: Tim Klempnauer

Second: Bob Lundy

Unanimous

Tangential topic raised by Mike Serra: MPC is discussing requiring JE 10s in the 18-19 division at DP Nationals to compete using Senior FIG rules, and not the MDP rules. Concern that there isn't enough time for athletes to adjust to the increase in skill demand (8 parts vs. 10 parts) between Regionals and Dev Nationals.

- Petition Timeline needs to be clarified as it is not clear in the Petition Procedures document. Jr High Performance Coordinator and some chairmen have expressed concerns that the process has been abused and would like the process tightened up. MDPC Chair has asked the Petition Committee to continue to work on clarifying the process and language and bring updated verbiage back to the MDPC.

Development Nationals Format – Jason Woodnick

- Idea being presented that the JN 10s only compete one time at MDP Nationals. USAG VP presented several compelling points for changing the format. Several members voiced support for bringing back Event Finals at Dev Nationals. Further discussion is recommended.

MDP 2025 – 2028

- MDPC suggested that the MDP Manual remain relatively unchanged going into the next quadrennium, save for the merging of the Future Stars Program into the MDP Program at the LV 6 JE division, and perhaps slight modification to certain exercises at certain levels.
- MDPC Chairman has proposed to keep the current Working Groups together with adjustments to existing members and adding new members as well as keeping the current Committee Liaisons in place.
- Tom Meadows has been suggested to take over as the new Elite Track Liaison.

MOTION: To appoint Tom Meadows as the Liaison for the Elite Track working group.

Motion: Kevin White

Second: Mark Bogoger

Unanimous

A new Interim Secretary needs to be named until the next election for the MDPC Chairman in 2024.

MOTION: To name Kevin Chope as the Interim Secretary for the MDPC until the next election cycle in 2024.

Motion: Tim Klempnauer

Second: Dale Bullivant

Unanimous

Compulsory Routine Review – Tom Meadows

- Proposal for the compulsory program to return to 10.0 score system.
- Additional comment that making this change could potentially make the Development Program materials more marketable internationally.
- Next step is for the idea to be shared and feedback solicited from the community.

MOTION: to adjourn.

Motion: Kevin White

Second: Kevin Chope

Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am CDT.

David A Klein

David A Klein
MDPC Chairman

June 22nd, 2023

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by Peter Wieging, MDPC acting Secretary