

MPC Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2024

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 1:04pm ET.

Members present:

Mike Serra – Chair (voice, no vote)  
Randy Jepson – Sr Coaches Rep  
Mark Williams – Sr Coaches Rep  
Sergei Pakanich – Jr Coaches Rep  
Pavel Sargsyan – Jr Coaches Rep  
Kip Simons – Athlete Rep  
Sam Phillips – Athlete Rep  
Jason Woodnick – VP Men’s Program (voice, no vote)  
Brett McClure – High Performance Director (voice, no vote)  
Raj Bhavsar – Jr High Performance Coordinator (voice, no vote)  
David Klein – MDPC Chair (voice, no vote)  
Mike Juszczuk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Determine the final qualifiers to the 2023 Winter Cup

42 athletes have qualified to the 2023 Winter Cup. Six spots are available to reach the maximum 48 athletes for the competition. The six remaining spots may be approved via:

- a. Petition for injury or extenuating circumstance
- b. Petition for an Individual Event specialist who achieves a D score at one of the designated qualifying competitions that would have ranked within the top eight (8) finalists from the 2023 World Championships Qualifications
- c. Any remaining spots will be filled by the point program final rankings from the 2023 Xfinity US Championships for non-qualified athletes.

The MPC received four petitions for injury/extenuating circumstance and 16 Individual Event petitions.

The Committee wanted to first establish parameters for approving petitions. The group felt that in an Olympic year, they want to ensure that the athletes with the best chance to compete for National Team and possible Olympic spots are competing at our Championship events. The group also agreed that athletes who are approved to compete at Winter Cup through IE petition should only be able to compete on their petitioned event.

Randy, Mark and Sam all recused themselves for the remainder of the discussion surrounding petitions due to Conflict of Interest This left the group with three voting members with 1/3 being an Athlete Representative.

The Committee first looked at injury petitions. After a thorough evaluation of each petition, no voting members put forth a motion to approve any of the injury petitions. Therefore, no injury petitions will be approved.

The Committee, then looked at the IE petitions. While each IE petitioned athlete did achieve the required D score to submit, the Committee found it difficult to separate them as they were all very similar petitions. One criterion that helped create a benchmark for the petitions was to look at the D score requirements to achieve one of the IE spots through the National Team selection process from Winter Cup, as follows:

- *Up to two athletes that meet the minimum benchmarks below:*
  - *Must be the event winner (determined by 2-day total)*
  - *Achieve a FIG D score on either day of competition which would have placed within the top three highest ranked D scores on that event from IE finals at the 2023 World Championships, as listed below. Vault must be a 2-score average of both vaults from each day.*
    - *Floor: 6.4*
    - *Pommel Horse: 6.5*
    - *Rings: 6.3*
    - *Vault: 5.6 Avg.*
    - *Parallel Bars: 6.4*
    - *High Bar: 6.2*

Two athletes achieved these D scores at their Winter Cup Qualification Event. Patrick Hoopes and Brandon Dang each achieved a 6.5 D score on Pommel Horse.

**Motion: To approve Patrick Hoopes and Brandon Dang to compete on Pommel Horse at the 2023 Winter Cup via D score petition.**

Motion: Kip Simons

Second: Pavel Sargsyan

Passed 3-0 (3 recused votes)

The Committee looked at different metrics for the remaining IE petitions, including E scores and Final Scores from each of the Qualifier competitions, previous Championship results, 2023 World Championship results, and evaluating which events the US men need to add depth. Pavel felt that Javier and Crew both stood out with their D scores, their previous US Championship experience and their strengths being on events where the US Men could add depth.

**Motion: To approve Javier Alfonso (Rings) and Crew Bold (High Bar) to compete at the 2023 Winter Cup via D score petition.**

Motion: Pavel Sargsyan

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Motion withdrawn

Pavel chose to amend his motion for Javier only.

**Motion: To approve Javier Alfonso to compete on Rings at the 2023 Winter Cup via D score petition**

Motion: Pavel Sargsyan

Motion not seconded

The Committee continued discussion for each IE petition, but could not come to a clear consensus on approval. No further motions were put forward for the IE petitions.

With four spots still remaining, those spots will automatically go to the next four non-qualified athletes via final points rankings from 2023 US Championships. Those athletes will be permitted to compete all-around at Winter Cup. The next four athletes are Crew Bold, J.R. Chou, Connor McCool and Javier Alfonso. Each of those athletes also submitted a D score petition, showing that they are performing international level gymnastics.

The recused members of the Committee returned and were informed of the athletes who were approved to compete at Winter Cup.

II. Junior Elite Qualification & National Team Selection Chart

The [JE chart](#) was approved by the Junior Selection Committee and needed approval from the MPC.

**Motion: To approve the JE Qualification & National Team Selection Chart**

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Kip Simons

Passed 6-0

III. MPC Meeting agenda at Winter Cup

The MPC will meet at Winter Cup. Two key agenda items include:

- Discussing the current 18 year old Junior National Team spot, and if that spot should be moved to the Senior Development Team
- Qualification processes for Winter Cup, US Classic and US Championships for 2025-2028

Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm ET

Immediately following the MPC meeting, Men's Program leadership was made aware of two additional scratches from the list of Winter Cup qualifiers. The MPC elected to fill those spots via a meeting on Feb. 5.

MPC Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2024

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 1:02pm ET.

Members present:

Mike Serra – Chair (voice, no vote)  
Randy Jepson – Sr Coaches Rep  
Mark Williams – Sr Coaches Rep  
Sergei Pakanich – Jr Coaches Rep  
Pavel Sargsyan – Jr Coaches Rep  
Kip Simons – Athlete Rep  
Sam Phillips – Athlete Rep  
Jason Woodnick – VP Men’s Program (voice, no vote)  
Brett McClure – High Performance Director (voice, no vote)  
Raj Bhavsar – Jr High Performance Coordinator (voice, no vote)  
David Klein – MDPC Chair (voice, no vote)

Members not present:

Mike Juszczuk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Fill the two open spots for the Winter Cup competition

The MPC looked to fill the two open spots at Winter Cup via the same process as the meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The spots would be filled by either:

- a. Petition for injury or extenuating circumstance
- b. Petition for an Individual Event specialist who achieves a D score at one of the designated qualifying competitions that would have ranked within the top eight (8) finalists from the 2023 World Championships Qualifications
- c. Any remaining spots will be filled by the point program final rankings from the 2023 Xfinity US Championships for non-qualified athletes.

Randy Jepson, Mark Williams and Sam Phillips recused themselves from the discussion. This left the group with three voting members with 1/3 being an Athlete Representative.

The remaining members discussed how to distinguish from among the IE petitions. Final scores from the qualifying events were suggested as a key metric in showing how the athlete is currently performing.

Ignacio Yockers had the next highest D score of the IE petitions and also finished with the highest final score of all the IE petitions on Pommel Horse, including the two athletes who had already been accepted to compete on Pommel Horse via D score petition.

**Motion: To approve Ignacio Yockers to compete on Pommel Horse at the 2023 Winter Cup via D score petition.**

Motion: Sergei Pakanich  
Second: Kip Simons  
Passed 3-0 (3 recused votes)

The group discussed the events where the US Men could use added depth. Rings and High Bar were highlighted as two of those events. Jack Freeman was the next highest D score on High Bar, but separated himself by scoring the highest final score of all IE petitions on High Bar.

**Motion: To approve Jack Freeman to compete on High Bar at the 2023 Winter Cup via D score petition.**

Motion: Sergei Pakanich  
Second: Kip Simons  
Passed 3-0 (3 recused votes)

The recused members were brought back into the meeting and explained the final selections.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm ET

  
MPC Chair

February 12, 2024

Date