

MPC Meeting
2024 Winter Cup
February 24, 2024

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 11:01am 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 – Development Program Director (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

Guest:

Jordan Gaarenstroom – Assistant Coach, University of Michigan

- I. Due to time restraints, Jordan was given the floor to discuss his proposal regarding future domestic National Championship qualification procedures. This will be an agenda item later in the meeting. Key points in Jordan's proposal include:
 - a. There are currently different processes and standards for qualification to our National Championship events. We should be maintaining a consistent process for each event.
 - b. We currently require D score standards for Individual Event petitions, but there are no requirements for all-around qualifiers. There should be AA difficulty standards put in place to align the IE standards.
 - c. We should rely on the most recent Championship event for determining the majority of our qualifiers to the next event.
- II. Reports
 - a. National Office – Woodnick
 - i. Athlete Rep elections this year for all Men's Committees

- ii. Currently one Athlete Rep short on the Athletes Council. No responses to two calls for nominations.
 - iii. Brandon Wynn was re-elected to his BOD seat as MAG Athlete Rep – wants to set up regular meetings with athletes
 - iv. Programs Council in need of 2 MAG Reps
 - v. Raj Bhavsar has been promoted to Dev Program Director – able to work fully within the Dev Program & Jr High Performance
 - vi. Judging Taskforce – Group is presenting findings and recommendations at Winter Cup to limited stakeholders. Practicality and feasibility will be determined.
 - vii. Olympic Tour – There will be a tour. USAG is a supporter, but not a sponsor. The tour will include men.
 - viii. 2024 Olympic Selection Procedures have been approved and posted. The USOPC is looking to overhaul selection procedures and allow them to be easier to understand.
 - ix. Pictor Group Update and plan for 2024-2025 – waiting to see if potential schools progress over the next 1-2 months before committing to another contract for 2024-2025
 - x. Planned quadrennial review at 2024 December camp. Stakeholders from National Team and various Men's Committees will be invited
- b. Senior High Performance – McClure
 - i. Briefly covered results from international events and wanted to thank MPC for their support throughout 2023.
 - ii. The Level 10 & Senior National Team camp in December was another highly successful and motivational event for the athletes and coaches
- c. Senior Program – Jepson & Williams
 - i. The Seniors have showed great results internationally throughout 2023
 - ii. The Pictor Group continues to do a great job within the NCAA space. Both new programs, Simpson and Greenville have been extremely successful in their first two years.
- d. Junior Program – Bhavsar, Klein, Pakanich, Sargsyan
 - i. Successful combined camps in 2023. We held the first combined Level 8, 9 and 10 National Team camp. We should evaluate if this is the proper type of camp for the level 10's.
 - ii. There are questions surrounding the future of junior events, such as ETC and Development Nationals. USAG will be having those discussions soon but will look to the program leadership to provide their desires and goals for these events.
 - iii. Raj is thankful for the support he's received in his new position.
 - iv. The 2025-2028 Junior Competition manual is being finalized. The compulsory programs are complete, and that portion of the manual is being created and formatted. The optional/elite portion is still being worked on. The goal is to have the new program out to the community by May 1 and to hold two

virtual presentations for the entire men's community on May 22 and May 24, which will outline the new Junior program.

- v. The Men's Program Staff are working on revamping the Future Stars Camp for 2025 to include more athletes and combine with our National Coaches Workshop. The plan will be for this event to be held in the Summer of 2025.
 - vi. The Format Working Group is evaluating the format of Easterns & Westerns to include the new Level 6 JE (Future Stars) levels as well as the format for Development Nationals in 2025.
 - vii. The suggestion was made to standardize ETC selection procedures as each region's process is different. However, the Committee also agreed that each region is different and has different needs. The Committee felt that we should allow for the new regional realignment to occur and new governance structures to take effect as there may be more consistency across ETC selections within the new regions.
- e. Athlete Reps – Simons & Phillips
- i. The athletes are requesting one-minute of transition time between rotations during podium training and timed warm ups for Championship events. This will be added to the US Championships schedule.
- f. NGJA – Juszczuk
- i. The NGJA will be adjusting to the new regional realignment (6 regions)
 - ii. The NGJA is looking forward to the report and recommendations from the Judging Taskforce
 - iii. Regarding FIG:
 - 1. The 2025-2028 Code of Points are complete and likely will be published following the Olympic Games. The current draft is approximately 90% correct.
 - 2. The FIG Executive Committee will be voting on in-person judging courses vs. online courses. The next Intercontinental Course is planned for November/December. This will be a Category 1 course by invitation only. The next Continental Course will likely be in early January. Would encourage the USA to host.
 - iv. NGJA recommendations:
 - 1. Work to add timing functions to the display monitors at each apparatus at Championship events.
 - 2. Need to find solutions to elevate the Rings judges so they are more level with the rings
 - 3. 6-judge panels for Winter Cup & US Championships in the next quad
 - v. Elections for NGJA President will occur in April. This will be Mike Juszczuk's last in-person MPC meeting as NGJA President.

III. Winter Cup Qualifications

The MPC reviewed proposals from Jordan and Rustam Sharipov. **Rustam's proposal introduced a single qualifier event for all athletes attempting to qualify to Winter Cup to be held in late January.** The Committee agreed that Rustam's proposal of a single-event qualifier is ideal, but logistically, it would be incredibly challenging for collegiate and club programs. Therefore, we cannot move forward with this proposal.

The MPC continued with a very thorough discussion about Winter Cup and ETC. USAG is going to hold a review of these events following the 2024 competition and work with programs to create the plan for the next quad. The MPC ultimately wants these events to continue as is. Having Winter Cup mirror US Championships for the Senior athletes is imperative. Additionally, the ETC is one of the most important events within the Men's Program. It is a very special event for all of the athletes and coaches, and we do not want to lose it. If it moves out from Winter Cup, then we need to find a time and place for it to fit.

If the decision is made to reduce one day of competition for the men in 2025, then we would hold a 1-day Senior competition and a 1-day Junior competition. That may be ETC or a true Junior Winter Cup session. A Junior Winter Cup event would be better for selecting athletes for international assignments.

The Committee also spoke about the appropriate number of routines that we should be requiring at the Senior event. Currently, we qualify a maximum of 48 athletes to the Senior session of Winter Cup. However, we should be looking more at the number of routines per group/rotation. We want to maintain no more than eight routines on an event per rotation, which could allow for more athletes to qualify because many are event specialists. NBC would like the men's competitions to have no more than six routines per event per rotation, which would allow for a shorter competition and increase the ability to put a 2-hour TV package together. The Committee recognizes the desire for increased brand awareness and publicity, but also wants to be conscious of eliminating opportunities from athletes.

Turning to the Winter Cup qualification process, the Committee established that we should set parameters to ensure a minimum of 36 routines per rotation (6 per event) and a maximum of 48 per rotation (8 per event). We will not replace scratches until we drop below 42 routines per rotation (7 per event). With these parameters set, the following Qualification Process was established.

Motion: To accept the following qualification procedures to the 2025 Winter Cup:

- **All current Senior National Team & Senior Development Team members**
- **All Senior National Team or Senior Development Team members from the previous two (2) selection events (2024 US Championships & 2024 Winter Cup)**
- **All FIG Senior age-eligible athletes on the current Junior National Team**
- **The next five athletes by rank order from final Points Program results (combined 2-day total) from the 2024 Xfinity US Championships, who have not already qualified**
- **Top two (2) non-qualified all-around athletes from the four (4) designated Winter Cup Qualifier Events (must achieve a total D score standard*)**
- **The next three non-qualified all-around athletes from the combined rank order results from all four Winter Cup Qualifier Events (must achieve a total D score standard*)**

- Up to 12 Individual Event petitions with a maximum of two per event (must achieve a D score standard* and will only be qualified to compete that event)
- Up to two (2) petitions due to injury or unforeseen circumstance

***The D score standard for AA and IE spots will be determined at a later date.**

Motion: Mark Williams

Second: Randy Jepson

Passed 6-0

Sam Phillips had to leave the meeting following the Winter Cup discussion.

IV. D Score Bonus for the 2025-2028 quad

All members of the MPC are in favor of continuing the D score bonus system in the next quad. The HPD will connect with the Bonus Working Group to start putting those thoughts together.

V. FIG 18 year old Junior National Team spot

There have been strong recommendations to move the current FIG 18 year old spot on the Level 10 Junior National Team to the Senior Development Team. That athlete is most likely competing as a Senior so may be better served as a part of the Senior Team. The MPC would like to encourage this recommendation to the Senior Selection Committee when they create the Senior National Team Selection Procedures for the 2024 Xfinity US Championships.

Motion: To recommend to the Senior Selection Committee, that the FIG 18 year old Junior National Team spot be moved to the Senior Development Team starting at the 2024 Xfinity US Championships.

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Pavel Sargsyan

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

VI. Hall of Fame

Nominations for the next Hall of Fame class are upcoming. Membership will submit nominations, but the MPC may also submit nominations for anyone they feel should be considered.

VII. Setting the Programs Council Eligibility Criteria

Currently, the Men's Program has two vacant positions on the Programs Council. The MPC must determine the eligibility criteria for these positions before we can put out a call for nominations. The MPC reviewed the current criteria from the last election and felt that no changes were necessary.

Motion: To accept the eligibility criteria as follows for the two Men's Program representatives on the Programs Council:

a. General criteria

- i. Be a current USAG member in good standing of the respective discipline;
- ii. Meet the criteria, expectations and time commitment outlined in [USA Gymnastics' Leadership Eligibility and Service Policy](#).
- iii. Must share USA Gymnastics' commitment to athlete safety and well-being;

b. Discipline-specific criteria.

- i. **PC #1:** Individual must have coached a Level 10 Junior National Team member, Senior National Team member or been a member of the Men's Program Committee within the last eight (8) years. If a candidate does not meet the above criteria or no eligible candidates are nominated, the Men's Program Committee may nominate a candidate with demonstrated ability and suitability for the position.
- ii. **PC #2:** Individual must currently be working in a USA Gymnastics Member Club. In addition, this individual must have been an active personal coach for an athlete who competed at the Winter Cup or U.S. Championships within the last six (6) years.

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Kip Simons

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

Motion to adjourn at 2:20pm ET.



March 8, 2024

MPC Chair

Date