

MPC Meeting Minutes
2024 U.S. Championships
May 31, 2024

Meeting called to order at 9:00am CT by Chair, Mike Serra.

Members present:

Mike Serra – Chair (voice, no vote)

Randy Jepson – Sr Coaches Rep

Mark Williams – Sr Coaches Rep

Pavel Sargsyan – Jr Coaches Rep

Sergei Pakanich – 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)

Jon Corbitt – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

Tom Meadows – Junior National Coaching Staff & MDPC member

Jerit Pogue – MDPC member

Nalani Cook – Senior Selection Committee member

Akash Modi – Senior Selection Committee member

To open the meeting, the floor was given to Tom Meadows to share concerns from the Junior coaching community. Several key concerns, include the following:

- Only three 18/19 year old Level 10’s qualified to U.S. Championships. We left international medalists out of the competition, with no chance to earn a National Team spot. This was a direct result of the 2024 Olympic Qualification Procedures, which lowered the number of qualifiers from Development Nationals. Those athletes deserved to be on the floor at U.S. Championships.
- It is not necessary for all athletes to qualify to U.S. Championships via the same rules. We have many groups who qualify, including NCAA, GymACT, Level 10, etc. They should be able to qualify through their own processes and rules.
- Regarding the Senior Development Team, if we are allotting five spots, then we should fill all five spots.
- There is frustration that the Junior rules changed throughout the season. Rules were changed mid-season to require athletes to compete Jr & Sr FIG rules at the Development National Championships. Rules should never change once the season has started.

- We should be looking to motivate, incentivize and foster the Junior Program and bring it closer to the Senior Program. Currently, it feels as if the Junior Program is being pushed further away from the Seniors. This is not good for the program as a whole.

I. Reports

a. National Office – Woodnick

- i. New partners for USAG – Samsonite & Skippy Peanut Butter
- ii. Stellar Development National Championships. Many compliments for the event as a whole
- iii. The 2025-2028 Junior Competition Manual has been published and an informational session was held last week (200+ registrants). Several clarifications were brought up, but overall, very positive feedback.
- iv. Main focus is on Paris Olympics. Logistics are all in place. Training camp at Arques is set. Just waiting for a training schedule.
- v. USAG is retaining the Pictor Group for a fourth, and final year. The agreement is modified from previous years and there are two main objectives in year four: 1. To bring on at least one more NCAA program. 2. To establish a plan to continue this work once USAG support ends in 2025.
- vi. The 2025-2028 High Performance Plan is being reviewed now by USAG leadership for feedback. The full HPP must be submitted to the USOPC in June.
- vii. The 2025-2028 FIG Code of Points has been published. There were some errors, including an oversight on the Vault values. The FIG MTC is meeting the first week of June to review. There will likely be a new version of the COP in the coming months.

b. High Performance – McClure

- i. Successful international season
- ii. Several Senior athletes chose to decline international assignments in order to focus fully on Olympic preparation.
- iii. Athletes pulled out of the Doha World Cup, but luckily we were still able to send Peter Wiegand as a neutral judge.
- iv. Pacific Rim Championships was a very challenging competition. Great experience for those athletes to be able to overcome so many challenges.
- v. Senior National Team camp in May was focused on recovery and ensuring everyone has the plan for Paris.

c. Senior Coach Reps – Jepson & Williams

- i. There is a desire to evaluate the process for making the Senior Development Team
- ii. Mark enjoyed the DTB & Mixed Cup competition. He credited the team strategy in creating a successful event for all athletes.

d. Junior Program – Bhavsar, Klein, Pakanich, Sargsyan

- i. The Junior National Teams are entering their training camp season. The push for D score has been successful. Now we will start to shift the emphasis to increase E score as well.

- ii. Very successful international season – 40 medals overall
- iii. We want to keep the D score bonus system for the new quadrennium
- iv. In echoing Tom Meadows’ messaging, there is disappointment that some of our top Junior athletes are not competing at U.S. Championships due to Olympic Selection Procedures.
- v. Sergei and Pavel voiced that the combined camps have been great for the Junior athletes and we want to continue those.
- vi. There was mixed feelings about the JE Level 10 18/19 year olds competing Senior FIG rules at Development Nationals. Some coaches were happy with that decision, since those athletes will compete the same rules at U.S. Championships. Some coaches did not like those rules at Dev Nationals.
- vii. David Klein highlighted some items for the upcoming Development season:
 - All compulsory levels are now out of a 10.0, including Future Stars and Technical Sequences
 - The Future Stars level is now Level 6 Junior Elite
 - The format for Development Nationals is not changing, after a lengthy discussion at the last MDPC meeting
 - With the new regional structure (6 regions), the Elite Team Cup will now be a 8-8-6 competition format.
- e. Athlete Reps – Simons & Phillips
 - i. The athletes appreciate the snacks on the floor at U.S. Championships.
 - ii. Concerns with inconsistent judging
- f. NGJA Report – Corbitt
 - i. Jon Corbitt is the newly elected NGJA President. Former President, Mike Juszczuk was present at the meeting and wanted to express that he has had an incredible judging career, spanning 45 years. He has been very fortunate and has always maintained the goal of improving judging in the U.S. The MPC appreciates all of Mike’s hard work and dedication to the Men’s Program.
 - ii. The focus for top judges is executing at U.S. Championships and Olympic Trials.
 - iii. The NGJA regions have changed to align with the new USAG Men’s regions (6 regions)
 - iv. Jon highlighted one major area he would like to improve upon within the NGJA is stakeholder relations. He also wants to generate more opportunities for judges and develop the education system.

II. 2025 Winter Cup Qualification

The MPC set 2025 Winter Cup Qualification procedures in their [February meeting](#), with several requirements including a D score standard for qualification. With the changing of the Code of Points, it will be difficult to determine an adequate D score standard prior to Winter Cup as there will be no data

to assist in that calculation. The Committee elected to remove the D score standard from the Qualification Procedures.

Motion: To remove the D score standards from the 2025 Winter Cup Qualification Procedures.

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Passed 6-0

Without a D score standard, the Committee needed to establish how an individual event specialist would qualify to Winter Cup. In previous years, they needed to meet a D score to submit a petition for qualification. The Committee decided that in order for an athlete to qualify as an event specialist, they should have to place in the top two at one of the Qualification Competitions.

Motion: In order to be eligible to submit a petition as an event specialist to the 2025 Winter Cup, an athlete must place within the top two (2) places at one of the Winter Cup Qualification Competitions.

Motion: Mark Williams

Second: Randy Jepson

Passed 6-0

Lastly, the Committee wanted to establish how to fill open spots for Winter Cup once all qualification procedures have been exhausted. If spots remain open, they will be filled through the Points Program final results from 2024 U.S. Championships. Once that list is exhausted, if spots still remain, then spots would come from the final all-around results at the 2024 U.S. Championships.

Motion: If there are open spots in the Senior session at the 2025 Winter Cup, they will be filled through the Points Program final results from 2024 U.S. Championships. Once that list is exhausted, if spots remain, they will be filled from the final all-around results at the 2024 U.S. Championships.

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Pavel Sargsyan

Passed 6-0

2025 Winter Cup Qualification Procedures will be updated and posted here: <https://usagym.org/men/elite/#selection>

Sam Phillips left the meeting.

III. Senior Development Team

The concept of the Senior Development Team (SDT) is unanimously supported by the Committee, however many coaches feel that the team should not be entirely based on D score. There should be an E score or Final score/ranking component. Different concepts were brought up, including a sliding scale based on total D + E score and the potential to have different requirements based on the athlete's age. The Coach Reps would like time to receive proposals from the community, and vet them before making a final proposal to the Senior Selection Committee by September. In this discussion, the Committee also felt that verbiage should be added to the MPC charter that states that the MPC evaluates proposals for selection and makes recommendations to the Selection Committees. The Committee decided to table the discussion until the Fall.

Motion: To table the Senior Development Team discussion until more proposals can be evaluated from the community.

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Mark Williams

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

IV. Junior Elite Discussion

Several concerns were brought forward at the last MDPC meeting following Development Nationals. One major concern is setting a standard for the Technical Sequences at State Championships. Smaller states don't have the numbers to fill a whole session for Technical Sequences, so there have been cases of allowing video submissions for those few athletes. Also, many athletes don't compete all six Technical Sequence routines at their State Championships. The R & P does not have a set score standard to move into the Junior Elite level, which allows athletes to compete the bare minimum to move on to Regional Championships.

The intent of performing Technical Sequences at State Championships is to get experience competing those routines prior to competing them at Regional Championships. A set of standards needs to be created by the MDPC, but generally, the MDPC is in favor of allowing video submissions at State Championships. However, they would like a set score standard, which would ensure athletes are competing all six routines. The MPC suggested a total score of 36.0 for the first year of the new quad.

Motion: To set a total score of 36.0 across all six Technical Sequence routines at State Championships to qualify to the Regional Championships in the Junior Elite division.

Motion: Sergei Pakanich

Second: Kip Simons

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

Motion: To approve the use of video submissions for Technical Sequence routines at State Championships.

Motion: Pavel Sargsyan

Second: Kip Simons

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

Motion: To recommend the MDPC create specific guidelines for video submissions of Technical Sequences at State Championships.

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

V. MDPC Charter

The MPC was sent a revised version of the MDPC charter prior to the meeting. The changes to the charter include the new committee structure based off the new regional alignment as well as specific guidelines for Regional Chair elections.

Motion: To approve the revised MDPC charter

Motion: Randy Jepson

Second: Sergei Pakanich

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

VI. MPC Elections

Sergei and Mark's positions on the MPC are up for election this year. Those elections will occur in September along with the elections for both Athlete Rep positions.

VII. Hall of Fame

A coach has been nominated by the Men's Program for the 2025 Hall of Fame class. The name will be made public if the individual is elected to the Hall of Fame.

VIII. Topics from the floor

Sergei brought forward one suggestion for the MPC to consider. He suggested naming the Level 10 Junior National Team at Development Nationals instead of U.S. Championships. This would allow those athletes the entire summer to improve for the next season. The plan would be to bring more 18 & 19 year old athletes to U.S. Championships to compete alongside the Seniors.

If we had two sessions of Seniors on Day 1, then the top ranked athletes from both sessions combined would qualify to one Finals session on Day 2. This was something for the group to consider as we look at planning for the next year.

Motion to adjourn at 12:06pm CT.



6.10.24

MPC Chair

Date