

MPC Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2024 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 3:04pm ET 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  
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)

Members not present:

Sam Phillips – Athlete Rep  
Jon Corbitt – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Non-members present:

Lisa Mendel – Men’s Program Manager

I. Selection Committee Coach Rep Elections

Candidates have been nominated for Coach Reps on both the Junior and Senior Selection Committees. The MPC votes for these positions and briefly wanted to review the candidates prior to voting. Conflict of Interest may be prevalent in many of the candidates as they will likely have athletes competing for National Team spots at our National Championship events. If these individuals have a conflict of interest with regards to athletes involved in National Team selection and/or international assignments, then these individuals will need to be recused from the selection process. The intent in having non-conflicted selection committees was to remove the need for recusals and allow for complete committee discussions and selections. Potential conflict of interest should be considered when voting for these positions.

The MPC also discussed the need for candidates who have experience within the entire program who can see how selection decisions have a greater impact on the program’s future, including the development of our athletes.

II. Winter Cup Qualifications – FIG Senior age athletes on the Junior National Team

In the MPC meeting on [February 24<sup>th</sup>](#), the MPC determined the qualification procedures for the 2025 Winter Cup. As part of those procedures, it was decided that all FIG Senior age athletes on the Junior National Team will automatically qualify to the Winter Cup. This means that they would not compete in the Elite Team Cup (ETC). Since that discussion, there have been questions as to whether these athletes have the choice to decline their invitation to the Winter Cup in favor of competing in ETC.

From a High-Performance perspective, these athletes are in the pool of athletes who will be competing for the Olympic Team in 2028. They will be required to compete Senior FIG rules at US Championships in August, where they will attempt to make the Senior National Team or Senior Development Team. The thought is that we need them preparing to perform Senior FIG routines immediately. By competing at ETC instead of Winter Cup, they are potentially delaying their preparations for the Senior level. Additionally, for these athletes specifically, Winter Cup is a low-risk, high-reward opportunity to get Senior level experience. If these athletes do not make the Senior National Team at Winter Cup, they will still maintain their status on the Junior National Team to U.S. Championships and will likely get at least one international assignment in the Spring.

The MPC does not want to create a mandate for these athletes and wants to allow them to have a choice in which competition they elect to compete in. However, the Committee does want to add incentive to competing at Winter Cup. The Committee felt that these athletes should only be eligible for international assignments if they compete in Winter Cup. If they elect to compete in ETC instead, then they will be ineligible for international assignments. This allows the athletes to choose, but also creates an incentive to gain experience competing at the Senior level.

**Motion: All FIG Senior age athletes on the current Junior National Team who compete in the Elite Team Cup instead of Winter Cup will be ineligible for international assignments as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team.**

**Motion: Randy Jepson**  
**Second: Mark Williams**  
**Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)**

The MPC would like for this to be upheld throughout the new quad. This will ensure consistent messaging that Junior National Team athletes who are FIG Senior age should prepare to compete in the Senior level at Winter Cup each year.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59pm ET.



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MPC Chair

August 20, 2024

Date