

Acrobatic Selection Procedures
12-18 & 13-19 Junior National Team (JNT) Additions - Spring 2024

I. Overview

Qualification/selection to the 2023-2024 Acrobatic Gymnastics Junior National Team will be open for pair/group additions. Additional selections to the team will be determined by a combination of results from the 2024 Winter Selection Event and selection criteria outlined (II).

A. QUALIFICATION:

Athletes will be added to the JNT in one of the following ways:

- i. Automatically qualify from the 2024 Winter Selection event per Section II.
- ii. Be selected using the discretionary criteria based on performances at the 2024 Winter Selection Event as defined in Section II.
- iii. Through a successfully approved petition onto JNT through the process set forth in Section III.

B. ELIGIBILITY:

- i. Only United States citizens may be named to JNT.
- ii. All athletes in the pair/group must meet FIG age criteria for the respective competitive age group (12-18 or 13-19) in 2024 or 2025
- iii. Athletes vying for Spring 2024 USA delegation assignments must compete at the 2024 Winter Selection Event and follow the selection process outlined, unless petitioning (see Sections II and III).
 - a. 2024 Winter Selection Event to be held from Jan 24-25 in Chandler, Arizona.
- iii. Athletes must be a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics.
- iv. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to complete USA Gymnastics' U110: US Center for SafeSport Core Course online training available at <https://usagym.org/pages/education/courses/U110/>.
- v. Athletes trying out for JNT must compete in the respective Junior Elite age category (12-18 or 13-19) at the 2024 Winter Selection Event to be considered.
- vi. An athlete may not be named to JNT in multiple disciplines (i.e., men's pairs and men's group).

C. SELECTION:

- i. The selection of additional pair/groups to JNT will be made by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (SC).
- ii. Selection will be made according to criteria outlined in Section II.
- iii. The selection process will be consistent with the standards outlined in USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest Guide for Athlete Selection.

D. TEAM COMPOSITION:

The composition of JNT may include a maximum of twenty (20) pair/groups (Women's Pair, Men's Pair, Mixed Pair, Women's Group, and Men's Group). SC is not obligated to fill all available spots of the age categories (12-18 & 13-19) or events. Please note JNT members named at 2023 Gym Champs will remain on 2023-2024 JNT until 2024 Gym Champs; therefore, availability of spots will be limited.

- i. Positions on JNT may require ranking.
- ii. Spring 2024 International assignments will be assigned based on criteria outline in section iv. Current 2023-2024 JNT members will remain on the JNT team but will be REQUIRED to perform routines at the 2024 Winter Selection Event in order to receive Spring 2024 USA delegation International competition invitations.
- iii. Current members unable to show proof-of-readiness due to illness/injury/extraordinary circumstances at 2024 Winter Selection Event will be REQUIRED to submit a petition for Spring 2024 USA Delegation assignments (Section III).
- iv. The SC will work closely with the High-performance coordinator to formulate assignments based on a variety of strategic factors (sec IV. E.)

- v. A maximum of two (2) alternate pair/group per event may be identified. Alternates are not members of JNT.
- vi. Alternates may be named to the JNT if vacancies become available in team positions. Decision to name alternates to the team will be based upon timing in the season, available international assignments, number of current JNT members, and pair/group's readiness for international competition (as determined by the SC).

II. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM (JNT) WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION TO JNT:

A pair/group will automatically qualify to the 2023-2024 Acrobatic Gymnastics JNT at the 2024 Winter Selection Event, if *all* the following criteria is met:

- i. The pair/group must finish in first place in their respective event.
- ii. The pair/group must earn minimum scores in all three (3) routines, as follows:
 - 8.75 Artistry
 - 17.5 Execution
- iii. The pair/group must achieve a minimum degree of difficulty in each of the three routines, as follows:

JNT	Balance	Dynamic	Combined
12-18	0.8	0.7	1.0
13-19	1.2	1.1	1.8

- iv. In the event of a tie, both pair/groups will be named as additions to the JNT.

B. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION CRITERIA:

In addition to automatic qualification to JNT, pair/groups may be added to the JNT based on discretionary evaluation of performances from the 2024 Winter Selection Event. Evaluation criteria for selection is outlined below. Note: Additions to JNT via the petition process will use the discretionary criteria below as well. All criteria are considered equivalent and will be evaluated.

- **Score(s) and ranking from the 2024 Winter Selection Event.**
- **Elements Performed**
 - Bonus elements and other quality elements successfully performed in competition. Quality elements defined as showcasing difficulty, creativity, or innovative entrance/exit successfully performed in competition.
 - Number of elements in each exercise to reach the total difficulty. Skills are combined when logical and possible to maximize flow of routine and minimize number of skill builds.
 - Total exercise difficulty will be compared against the target difficulty. Target difficulty is the difficulty score before CJP deductions.
 - Technical performance of elements including quality of body lines, exceptional amplitude and body shapes in balance and dynamic, and overall control and ease of elements. Individual elements are performed cleanly with limited technical deductions.
- **Artistry and Presentation**
 - Performance, Choreography, Musicality, Expression, and Partnership will be considered by the SC (per FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Points).
 - Intricacy, complexity, and creativity of choreography exhibited in exercises.
 - Effective use of music, entries/exits, or other artistry moments that create identity or

- memorability amongst large competitive divisions.
- Overall sophistication and performance of artistry and choreography will be considered. Routines are expected to be performed with full amplitude, polished timing, smooth transitions with elements, and ease on the floor.
- **International caliber and Overall performance**
 - International Caliber defined as strength, endurance, flexibility, and grace. Standards commensurate with world-level competitors.
 - Posture, presence, and poise entering and exiting the floor and during the performance of the exercise.
 - Previous competitive experience in current or past partnerships. Pair/group professionalism, and consistency will be taken into consideration.
 - Mental and physical competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance. Demonstrates confidence and consistency in all aspects of training and performance.
 - Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic and adhering to national team policies.

III. PETITIONS

Petition Procedures - Notwithstanding the process identified in the preceding sections of these Selection Procedures, USA Gymnastics recognizes that extraordinary circumstances may occur which would cause a pair/group otherwise deserving of a spot on the 2023-2024 National Team, because of their previous competition results, to be unable to participate in one or more steps in that process. For a petition onto the National Team to be considered, it must be submitted in writing to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director and meet the following requirements:

- A. Petitioning athletes must have:
 - i. Registered to compete at the 2024 Winter Selection Event.
 - ii. Signed and submitted selection procedures by the deadline.
- B. Petitions must be submitted immediately following the pair/group's inability to participate in the selection event and before the conclusion of the selection event.
- C. Petitioning athletes MUST submit a video for review following guidelines listed below.
- D. Petitions will be considered in the event of an injury, illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstances.
 - i. The petition must include the date and nature of the injury and/or illness, family death, or other extenuating circumstance.
 - ii. Petitions based upon injury or illness must be accompanied by a physician's statement. The injury or illness is subject to verification by a physician approved by USA Gymnastics. Additional documentation may be requested to validate unforeseen circumstances.
- E. Due to the interdependent nature of partnerships, a petition must be jointly submitted by all members of the pair/group.
- F. Petitions will be considered by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (SC) based on discretionary criteria listed (II.B).
- G. Petition Video Guidelines
 - i. All competition videos should be from the judge's viewpoint, as close to a normal judge's position as possible.
 - ii. Perspective should be from the front center of the floor.
 - iii. Recording device set up on table, or on tripod (preferred) slightly above height of table.
 - iv. Camera should be a reasonable distance from the floor and athletes, so all partners are visible, yet athletes do not appear too distant in the video.
 - v. If possible, all four corners of floor should be visible in the video.

- vi. The video should not be HD quality; standard HD (720 or 1080).
- vii. The video should be stable, without shaking or bumps. Use of a tripod is helpful.
- viii. Video should be captured using landscape perspective.
- ix. As much as possible, the camera should remain static. Camera should remain at a steady distance to see all athletes and skills and should only be moved from side-to-side if the entire floor is not visible. The camera should not be moved up and down to capture the routine.
- x. All partners must be visible at all times. This includes for high skills and tosses, as well as when the partners are spread around the floor.
- xi. Video must include the athletes' walk on at the beginning of the exercise, the complete exercise, and the walk off at the end of the exercise.
- xii. Music should be clear and loud enough on the video. Video must consist of all competition routines with all skills, full amount of difficulty, and artistry. Performances should be of recent competition or event, ideally within 4 weeks or less of USA Gymnastics Championships. Competition attire is required. Note: Coaches are encouraged to precautionarily take videos of performances leading up to the 2024 Winter Selection Event in the event a petition would be required.

IV. TEAM OBLIGATIONS

- A. Pair/groups selected to JNT at 2023 USA Gymnastics Championships will remain on the team until the 2024 USA Gymnastics Championships in accordance with 2023-2024 USA Gymnastics Championships JNT selection procedures.
- B. Pair/groups added to the JNT at the 2024 Winter Selection Event will remain on the team until 2024 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- C. JNT members must sign all documents in accordance with the USA Gymnastics National Team Handbook.
- D. JNT athletes are expected to attend Regional and National Training Camps.
- E. The High-Performance Coordinator with input from the Program Director will formulate the calendar of events and delegation size.
 - i. The SC will work closely with the High-Performance Coordinator to formulate assignments based on a variety of strategic factors including, but not limited to: competition directives, competitive readiness of a pair/group, opportunity for international experience, age requirements, size of delegation, competitive history, and/or international success, as well as finals/medal potential.
 - ii. Assigned competitions will inherently vary and therefore, the weight of above criterion will vary and will be reflective of strategic goals for each event; and additionally, will take into consideration broader overall National Team competitive season goals.
 - iii. JNT pair/groups may or may not be given an assignment during the 2024 Spring competitive year.
 - iv. Pair/groups who do not accept assignments offered may not receive another opportunity.
 - v. Assignments may be determined during training camps (accompanied with video review to SC) in addition to designated selection events.
- F. Athletes may decline an international assignment due to funding.
- G. Funding may or may not be provided, and is dependent upon availability of funds
- H. USA warm-ups will be provided to JNT athletes prior to their first international competition assignment as Team USA.
- I. The following documents are required to be adhered to by athletes and coaches as a condition of being added to the 2023-24 JNT and can be found online at https://usagym.org/pages/acro/pages/acro_selection_procedures.html
 - i. USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy
 - ii. USA Gymnastics Code of Ethical Conduct
 - iii. National Team Agreement

iv. Program Manual

V. RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT

Pair/groups may choose to retire from competition or resign from the national team. Resignation is required if there is a change in partnership (1 or more partners) and/or a change in competition level.

- i. Coaches must promptly notify the High-Performance Coordinator and Program Director of changes in partnership status or level which may affect the pair/group's standing on JNT and/or ability to compete. This may include, but is not limited to, the retirement of athletes, changes in partnerships, changes in competition level, injuries, etc.
- ii. Coaches should make all attempts to notify the High-Performance Coordinator and Program Director before the information is made public. This includes social media.
- iii. Due to the interdependent nature of partnerships, removal, retirement or resignation of any single athlete will be effective for the entire pair/group.

VI. ACROBATICS SELECTION COMMITTEE

The following individuals serve on the Acrobatics Gymnastics Selection Committee, which is responsible for making discretionary selections:

Elite Committee Chair	Ronda Francis
Elite Coach Representative	Jennifer Banowsky
Athlete Representative	Jessica Renteria
International Expert	Nicole Barrilleaux (non-voting)
High Performance Coordinator	Lanie Davis (non-voting)
Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director	Kyla Knights (non-voting)

Note: In the event a selection committee member cannot attend the event due to extenuating circumstances, the selection committee will follow guidelines outlined in the selection committee charter.

USA Gymnastics Conflict of Interest Guide for Athlete Selection defines the process that is used to handle any potential conflicts of interest. <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Pressbox/SelectionProcedures/conflictinterest.pdf>

**Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures Agreement
12-18 & 13-19 Junior National Team 2024 Additions**

By signing this form, each coach, athlete, and (if athlete is under the age of 18) parent/legal guardian participating in the selection process is acknowledging and agreeing that you have carefully reviewed and understand the terms of the applicable Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures for the respective team. Please note, the parent's signature is required if the athlete is under 18 years of age. A copy of birth certificate or passport (color copy, jpeg format) for each athlete must be submitted with the Selection Procedures by **January 16, 2024** to the Acrobatics Program Director, Kyla Knights kknights@usagym.org

Selection for additions to the JNT team will be conducted at the 2024 Winter Selection Event.

Coach Name: _____ Coach Signature: _____

Club Name: _____ Abbr: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Event: _____ P/G ID: _____ Level: _____

Top's Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Middle's Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Base's Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Base's Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

*****Submit this document with a copy of your valid passport attached in PDF form. Your application will not be considered unless all required documents are submitted together by the deadline.**