

Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures 2026-2027

12-18 & 13-19 Junior National Team (JNT)

I. Overview

The process for qualification/selection to the 2026-2027 Acrobatic Gymnastics National Team is a combination of the results from the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships and selection criteria outlined (II).

A. QUALIFICATION:

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

- i. Automatically qualify from the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships per Section II-A.
- ii. Be selected using the discretionary criteria based on performances at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships as defined in Section II.
- iii. Through a successfully approved petition onto JNT through the process set forth in Section III.
- iv. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee (SC) reserves the right to select additional pair/groups for JNT at selection events during the 2026-2027 competitive season. The criterion for selection is outlined in Section II.A and Section II.B.

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 (Youth 12-18 or Junior 13-19) by 2028.
- iii. Athletes must compete at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships and follow the selection process outlined, unless petitioning (see Sections II.A. and III).
 - o USA Gymnastics Championships to be held from June 22-27, 2026 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- iv. Athletes must be a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics.
- v. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to complete USA Gymnastics' U110: US Center for SafeSport Core Course online training available [here](#).
- vi. Athletes trying out for JNT must compete in the respective Junior Elite age category (Youth 12-18 or Junior 13-19) at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships to be considered.
- vii. 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 the 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 (Youth 12-18 & Junior 13-19) or events.

- i. Positions on JNT may require ranking. The SC will determine ranking.
- ii. Ranking may be adjusted throughout the competitive season and will be evaluated at selection competitions (i.e., Acro Cup, National Qualifier, USA Gymnastics Championships) or training camps-

- in closest proximity to the international assignment.
- iii. The SC will work closely with the High-Performance Manager to formulate assignments based on a variety of strategic factors (sec IV.E.)
- iv. A maximum of two (2) alternate pair/group per event may be identified. Alternates are not members of JNT.
- v. 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 2026-2027 Acrobatic Gymnastics JNT at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships, if *all* the following criteria is met:

- i. The pair/group must finish in first place in qualifications, semi-finals (if applicable), and finals in their respective event.
- ii. The pair/group must earn minimum scores in each routine in qualifications, semi-finals (if applicable), and finals as follows:
 - 8.75 Artistry
 - 17.5 Execution
- iii. The pair/group must achieve a minimum difficulty value in each routine in qualifications, semi-finals (if applicable), and finals, as follows:

JNT	Balance	Dynamic	Combined
12-18	90	80	110
13-19	120	110	165

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

B. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION CRITERIA:

i. In addition to automatic qualification to JNT, pair/groups may be added to the JNT based on discretionary evaluation of performances from the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships. Evaluation criteria for selection are outlined below. Note: Additions to JNT via the petition process or 2026-2027 future selection events will use the discretionary criteria below as well. All criteria are considered equivalent and will be evaluated.

- **Score(s) and ranking(s)** from the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships. Note that any received bonus credit(s) are removed prior to score and rank evaluations.
- **Elements Performed.** During the elements performed evaluation process, additional consideration will be given those pair/groups that compete all routines within a few values, at, or above the respective minimum difficulty values listed below at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships.

	Difficulty values Youth 12-18	Difficulty values Junior 13-19
Balance	80	110
Dynamic	70	100
Combined	100	150

- Total exercise difficulty will be compared against the target difficulty. Target difficulty is the difficulty score before CJP deductions and prior to any Bonus credit additions.

- Bonus elements and other high-quality elements successfully performed in competition. High-quality elements defined as showcasing difficulty, creativity, or innovative entrance/exits 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.
- 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 within the last two (2) years. Pair/group professionalism, and consistency will be taken into consideration.
 - Consistency -Percentage of hit routines at any official international assignment or selection event during the 2024-2026 competitive seasons.
 - A hit routine is defined as a routine that does not include a very large deduction (as defined in the [FIG Code of Points](#)) on any single skill within the routine.
 - Mental and physical competitive readiness that allows for maximum performance.
 - Demonstrates confidence and consistency in all aspects of training and performance at 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - Readiness to compete – current health status and physical preparedness of the pair/group.
 - 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 2026-2027 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. Qualified to compete at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships.

- ii. Registered to compete at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships.
 - iii. 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. The video should follow the 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 the floor should be visible in the video.
 - vi. The video should 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 must be of the most 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 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships in the event a petition would be required.

Petition form: [Appendix A-12](#)

IV. TEAM OBLIGATIONS

- A. Pair/groups selected to JNT remain on the team until the 2027 USA Gymnastics Championships.
- B. JNT members must sign all documents in accordance with the USA Gymnastics National Team Handbook.
- C. JNT athletes are required to attend National Training Camps and strongly encouraged to attend Regional Training Camp opportunities.
- D. JNT athletes must attend a mandatory team meeting on Sunday, June 28th. Time and location TBA
- E. The High-Performance Manager with input from the Director of Acrobatics Program will formulate the calendar of events and delegation sizes. The SC will work closely with the High-Performance Manager 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.
 - i. Assigned competitions will inherently vary and therefore, the weight of above criterium 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.
 - ii. JNT pair/groups may or may not be given an assignment during the 2026-2027 competitive year.
 - iii. Pair/groups who do not accept assignment/s offered may not receive another assignment.
 - iv. Assignments may be determined during training camps (accompanied with video review to SC) in addition to designated selection events.
 - v. Funding may or may not be provided and is dependent upon availability of funds and athlete eligibility.
 - vi. USA warm-ups will be provided to JNT athletes prior to their first international competition assignment as Team USA.
- F. Pair/groups named to JNT team are required to continue their training (at the same level of intensity, hours of training, and number of days/week) and fully participate in any proof-of-readiness events, or competitions for the remainder of the 2026-2027 competitive season leading up to any JNT international assignments to maintain their level of preparation.
- G. The following documents are required to be adhered to by athletes and coaches as a condition of being named to the 2026-2027 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.

- A. Coaches must promptly notify the High-Performance Manager and Director of Acrobatics Program 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.
- B. Coaches should make all attempts to notify the High-Performance Manager and Director of Acrobatics Program before the information is made public. This includes social media.
- C. 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 | Moraeah Arthur |
| • International Expert | Nicole Barrilleaux (non-voting) |
| • Acrobatics High-Performance Manager | Lanie Sherrick (non-voting) |
| • Director of Acrobatics Program | TBD (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://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Pressbox/Selection%20Procedures/conflictinterest.pdf>

**Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures Agreement 12-18 & 13-19
Junior National Team (2026-2027)**

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 June 10th, 2026** to the Director of Acrobatics Program and Acro High Performance Manager, Lanie Sherrick. ldavis@usagym.org.

**Selection for the teams listed will be conducted at the 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships.
Junior National Team**

Age eligible for 12-18 World Age Group Championships 2026?

Age eligibility is determined by the athlete's Age as of December 31, 2026

☐ 12-18 Youth: Age Eligible for WAGC 2026

☐ 12-18 Youth: **Not** Age Eligible for WAGC 2026

Age eligible for 13-19 World Age Group Championships 2026?

Age eligibility is determined by the athlete's age as of December 31, 2026

☐ 13-19 Junior: Age Eligible for WAGC 2026

☐ 13-19 Junior: **Not** Age Eligible for WAGC 2026

In the event the pair/group is not named to JNT, they will automatically be evaluated for the International Development Team (IDT). If you **DO NOT** want to be evaluated for IDT check this box ☐

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.**

