

USA GYMNASTICS

Rhythmic Group Athlete Selection Procedures

2025 Junior World Championships

- Publication Date: 5/7/2025

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2025 Junior World Championships in Rhythmic Gymnastics. The maximum team size can be six (6) female Group gymnasts.

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of the Elite Qualifier that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the JR World Championships
2. LOC Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the LOC.
3. USA Gymnastics Requirements:
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics National Team Agreement.
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics [Code of Conduct](#).
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics [Safety and Response Policy](#).
 - Athlete must have an active NGB membership. Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.
 - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Games.

SECTION 3: OTHER MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEAM

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WADA, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of WADA, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable. Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, FIG and/or the Local Organizing Committee.

SECTION 4: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
May 17-19, 2025	Elite Qualifier
February 18-19, 2025	Rhythmic Challenge

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SECTION 5: SELECTION PROCESS

Outlined below

5.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

One Group per country

5.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

The Elite Qualifier is the qualifying event for the 2025 JR World Championships

Qualification to the Elite Qualifier is outlined in the Rhythmic Rules and Policies, Chapter 3:

Rhythmic Challenge: All current FIG Groups are eligible to compete.

Elite Qualifier: The Elite Qualifier is an annual competition which serves as the qualifying event into the USA Gymnastics Championships for USA Hopes, JR and SR and FIG Groups.

It is open to all FIG JR and SR Groups.

5.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

The top All-Around ranked JR Group at the Elite Qualifier will be named to the JR World Championships.

The Head Coach of the nominated JR Group will make the final line-up determination provided that the gymnasts have competed in the Elite Qualifier.

SECTION 6: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

6.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION: N/A

6.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED: N/A

6.3 DEFINE THE PETITION PROCESS:

- There are no Group petitions; the Group may use a reserve gymnast if someone becomes injured or ill during the Elite Qualifier.

6.4 SELECTION COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL ELITE COACH REPRESENTATIVE
BREVET JUDGE
ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE

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SECTION 7: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

5 day Team training camp in Bulgaria prior to the start of the JR World Championships

SECTION 8: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

NGB will nominate the Team on or before May 21, 2025.

SECTION 9: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

9.1 NGB JURISDICTION

- a. USA Gymnastics has jurisdiction over athlete nominees. An athlete who is nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USA Gymnastics' Chief Programs Officer and Vice President of the Rhythmic Program requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. Injury or illness which inhibits peak performance which shall be determined by an examining physician verified by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct: <https://usagym.org/about/governance/>
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USA Gymnastics National Team Agreement.
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 and Section 3 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the NGB SafeSport Policy, as applicable.

SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 10.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, the Athlete Selection Committee will accept the recommendation of the JR Group Head coach to replace a gymnast to fill the vacancy as long as the gymnast has been in training with the Junior Group in 2025.
- 10.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 2-3.

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SECTION 11: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Note that after submission of entries by name, Late Athlete Replacement procedures will apply, if applicable.

11.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, if allowed: same as above.

11.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Sections 2-3.

SECTION 12: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics' grievance procedures <https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/grievance.pdf> and the USOPC Bylaws (applies only for a Protected Competition), Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

SECTION 13: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Games:

- USA Gymnastics' National Team Agreement

SECTION 14: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FIG rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Gymnastics.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

SECTION 15: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 6.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 20) must comply with the USA Gymnastics' Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USA Gymnastics' Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About USA Gymnastics/Governance/coi_policy.pdf

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A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or maybe perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to USA Gymnastics' Ethics and Grievance Committee prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse themselves from the Selection Committee discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the NGB's USA Gymnastics' Ethics and Grievance Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting).

During its review, USA Gymnastics' Ethics and Grievance Committee may ask a Selection Committee member or an affected person for more information at its discretion. For example, if a Selection Committee member is required to recuse themselves from voting, USA Gymnastics' Ethics and Grievance Committee may still determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information related to athlete performance, such as a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide that information to the Selection Committee if the information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and if the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USA Gymnastics' Ethics and Grievance Committee at eandg@usagym.org. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the NGB Selection Committee appointment process.

SECTION 16: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

[Add NGB Contact Information and Team USA AC Contact Information below]

NGB

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures.

Name: Caroline Hunt

Position: Vice President of Rhythmic Program

Email: chunt@usagym.org

Phone: 317-829-5629

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Name: Natalie McGiffert

Position: Rhythmic Athlete Representative: Group

Email: natmcgiffert1@gmail.com

Phone: 310-922-7816

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 17: GRIEVANCES

The USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures can be found here: [https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About USA Gymnastics/Governance/grievance.pdf](https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/grievance.pdf)

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that they have been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>

SECTION 18: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USA Gymnastics have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or USA Gymnastics staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

Individuals may report concerns to the NGB by following the NGB's Whistleblower Policy located here <https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/speakup.pdf>

- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.

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- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 19: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Gymnastics will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the USA Gymnastics' Records Retention Policy.

SECTION 20: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Kameliya Dunavska	International Elite Coach Representative
Elena Savenkova	Judge Representative
Natalie McGiffert	Athlete Representative
Caroline Hunt (non-voting)	Vice President of Rhythmic Program

The following individuals approved these selection procedures and through their signatures, certify that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by PAGU. The following individuals further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Gymnastics and that these selection procedures will be posted on the USA Gymnastics website.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
USA Gymnastics President/CEO	Li Li Leung		13/05/25
USA Gymnastics Chief Programs Officer	Stefanie Korepin		12/05/25
USA Gymnastics Vice President of Rhythmic Program	Caroline Hunt	 Caroline Hunt (May 12, 2025 20:35 EDT)	12/05/25
USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Program Athlete Representative	Natalie McGiffert	 Natalie McGiffert (May 10, 2025 10:52 PDT)	10/05/25

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APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes' Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

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APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted to the USOPC by an NGB for participation in the Games.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- i. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USOPC to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

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APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.

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SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.org.

TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health> for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

RGG Junior Pan Am Games Selection Procedures

Final Audit Report

2025-05-13

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