

USA Gymnastics

Rhythmic Group Athlete Selection Procedures

2026 World Championships

- Publication Date: [June 2, 2026](#)

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for nomination to the 2026 World Championships for USA Gymnastics. The maximum Team size can be 6 female athletes and 1 traveling reserve female athlete.

SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of USA Gymnastics Championships that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the 2026 Senior World Championships.
2. Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Requirements:
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the LOC.
3. World Gymnastics (IF) Requirements:
 - Comply with all IF eligibility requirements which will be posted here once available:
<https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/events/detail.php?id=17544&type=sport#loaded>.
4. USA Gymnastics Requirements:
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics National Team Athlete Agreement.
https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Pressbox/selection/2526_natlteam_agreement.pdf
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics Code of Conduct
https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/code_ethical_conduct.pdf
 - Comply with the USA Gymnastics Safety and Response Policy
<https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/safesport/policy2025.pdf>
 - Athlete must have an active USA Gymnastics membership.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in a sanctioned event.
 - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in a sanctioned event.
 - Athletes age 18 and over must complete a background screen and US Center for SafeSport education training as required by the USA Gymnastics Safety and Response Policy.
5. Other minimum requirements to be eligible for the team
 - Agree to be bound by and adhere to all IOC, WADA, IF, 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 the IOC, WADA, IF, 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, USOPC, and/or IF.

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SECTION 3: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

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

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
June 25-27, 2026	The nomination of the World Team will be made following USA Gymnastics Championships based on the Discretionary Criteria

SECTION 4: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the IF Qualification System.

4.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

One Group of 6 gymnasts per country and 1 traveling reserve.

4.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

Qualification to USA Gymnastics Championships is outlined in the [Rhythmic Rules and Policies](#), Chapter 3: FIG Groups: The US National Senior Group will compete in the USA Gymnastics Elite Championships.

4.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

The nomination pathway is established in the [Charter of the Group Athlete Selection Committee](#): The duty of the committee: Confirming recommendations for the Group Senior National Team and international assignments by the Head Coach per established criteria listed in Section 5.2. The Head Coach determines the final line-up.

Six (6) gymnasts will be named to the Team; one traveling reserve athlete from amongst the Senior Group National Team may additionally be named to the team if that position is needed to support the 6 named gymnasts in case of injury or unforeseen circumstance.

SECTION 5: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

5.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:

A Group competition performance is dependent not only on the individual preparation level of each gymnast but the successful inter-working of the team as a unit. The ability to assess both factors effectively requires an analysis of evaluative criteria in both training and competitive environments; a single performance could not accurately provide that assessment.

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5.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

The discretionary criteria below will be used in selecting the Group, considered holistically:

1. Execution of Body Difficulties in daily training, at 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships, and officially assigned competition.
2. Execution of Tosses in daily training, at 2026 USA Gymnastics Championships, and officially assigned competition: accuracy, consistency, technique.
3. Physical ability to execute the training plan
4. Reaction to an unexpected challenge: ability to think and react quickly on the Field of Play to an unexpected situation and to make a performance decision in the best interest of the team
5. Ability to contribute to the team dynamic through a demonstration of: personal responsibility, open communication, willingness to receive coach feedback, and initiative for self-improvement
6. Ability to execute the elements on the correct musical accents (demonstrate an understanding of the musical timing of elements with accents and musical phrases).

5.3 DEFINE THE PETITION PROCESS

The Senior National Group is automatically qualified to the USA Gymnastics Championships.

If a member of the current Senior National Group is injured or ill at the time of the Championships, she may petition the RGG ASC for consideration to the World team; the committee would use the discretionary criteria to evaluate the petition.

5.4 SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

Committee Name: RGG Selection Committee

- Senior National Group Head Coach
- Brevet Judge
- 10 Year Athlete Representative
- Vice President of the Rhythmic Program (voice, no vote)
- Independent Observer (process voice, no vote)

SECTION 6: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

The 6 gymnasts named to the World Team will compete in the Milan World Cup, July 9-12, 2026. If a 7th gymnast is named as a replacement athlete, she will not travel to Milan and will continue to train during this time.

Group Team Training Camp in Germany prior to the start of the SR World Championships: 6 named gymnasts participate in a training camp in Schmiden, Germany from August 4-13 and then travel to Frankfurt for the World Championships. Should a 7th gymnast (replacement) be named, she will participate in the final training camp in Germany and the Head Coach will make the final line-up decision by the time of the final nominative

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deadline of World Gymnastics from amongst the gymnasts at the final training camp based on the same criteria used for the team selection.

While waivers for mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, all athletes nominated to the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations in advance. Waivers will primarily be granted for injury or other similar incapacity or for a personal/family emergency. Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the Rhythmic Vice President/Director as far in advance as possible.

SECTION 7: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

The Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes by: June 30, 2026; the Head Coach will name the final line-up by the last deadline of World Gymnastics.

SECTION 8: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

8.1 NGB JURISDICTION

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USA Gymnastics 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 the Rhythmic Program Vice President requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. Injury or illness that inhibits peak performance, which shall be determined by an examining physician, with medical documentation, 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](#).
 - 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 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 IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Gymnastics Safety and Response policies, as applicable.
- c. Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics and the Rhythmic Athlete Selection Representative (or another Athlete Representative appointed by the USA Gymnastics Athletes' Council in the case of a conflict of interest) after consultation with the Selection Committee, and an interview with the athlete and his coach. An athlete who is removed from the 2026 World Championships Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per [USA](#)

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[Gymnastics Grievance policy](#) and the [USOPC Bylaws](#) (Section 9).

SECTION 9: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

[Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s)]

- 9.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the LOC, the Athlete Selection Committee will accept the recommendation of the SR Group Head coach to replace the gymnast to fill the vacancy from amongst the 7 gymnasts in final preparation for the World Championships (6+1 Reserve).
- 9.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

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

- 10.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the LOC, if allowed, same as above.
- 10.2 Any replacement of athletes must comply with these selection procedures in addition to World Gymnastics regulations including applicable Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policies.
- 10.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING

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

SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

- USA Gymnastics National Team Agreement

SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

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

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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 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 5.4) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 19) must comply with the USA Gymnastics' Conflict of Interest Policy https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/About%20USA%20Gymnastics/Governance/coi_policy.pdf to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USA Gymnastics' Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Name: Caroline Hunt

Position: Rhythmic Program Director/Vice President

Email: Chunt@usagym.org

Name: Natalie McGiffert

Position: USA Gymnastics Athletes' Representative

Email: natmcgiffert1@gmail.com

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 16: GRIEVANCES

The USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures can be found here <https://usagym.org/about/governance/>

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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 17: 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 USA Gymnastics by following USA Gymnastics' Speak Up Policy <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.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 18: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Gymnastics will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents from the selection process.

A Selection Committee report signed by the Independent Observer, outlining the work and decisions of the Committee, will be made available for distribution to all athletes and coaches who participated in the Selection Events at least 14 days before the nominative deadline for the event for which the team is being selected, unless the Selection Committee meeting occurs less than 30 days before the nominative deadline for the event for which the team is being selected, in which case the minutes will be published within a reasonable timeframe after the Selection Committee meeting under the circumstances. The report will be made public on the USA Gymnastics website. USA Gymnastics retains the sole discretion to determine the contents and timing of the report.

SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Kameliya Dunavska	Senior National Group Head Coach

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Catherine Yakhimovich	Judge Representative
Natalie McGiffert	10 Year 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 the IF. 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	Kyle Albrecht	 Kyle Albrecht (Jun 22, 2026 14:16:18 EDT)	06/22/26
USA Gymnastics Chief Programs Officer	Stefanie Korepin		06/22/26
USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Program Vice President	Caroline Hunt	 Caroline Hunt (Jun 21, 2026 15:46:35 EDT)	06/21/26
Athlete Representative	Natalie McGiffert	 Natalie McGiffert (Jun 21, 2026 10:16:08 PDT)	05/21/26

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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 Paralympic 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 a Delegation Event.

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.

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APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE LEGAL AID

The purpose of the Athlete Legal Aid Program is to assist elite athletes without sufficient financial means to seek aid for fees and costs associated with legal representation or the proceeding itself with respect to claims before an anti-doping organization, NGB, IF, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USOPC, IOC/IPC, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), or other sport-related tribunal within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/ombuds/athlete-legal-aid-program

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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

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 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

TEAM USA ATHLETE SERVICES

The USOPC helps support Team USA athletes from the start of their career to their retirement and beyond through direct funds, programs and services that help athletes excel in their day-to-day lives, on and off the field of play.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/athlete-benefits-and-resources

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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 www.usopc.org/mental-health for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at: go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

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.

2026 RGG Senor WCH athlete selection procedures

Final Audit Report

2026-06-22

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