



2026 Combs La Ville Selection Guidelines

A. Introduction

This document outlines the process that the Women's Athlete Selection Committee of USA Gymnastics will use to nominate athletes for the 2026 Combs La Ville Junior and Espoir teams in Paris, France.

B. Objectives

The objective of these processes and procedures is to nominate the best possible delegation that will be capable of achieving the following targets:

1. Finish in the top 3 in the Team competition.
2. Finish in the top 3 in the All-Around competition.

C. Delegation Size and Financial Considerations

Combs La Ville

The maximum number of athletes in the delegation is nine (9). The Combs La Ville delegation will be composed of:

1. Up to six (6) Junior athletes ages 14 or 15, and up to three (3) Espoir athletes, age 13 or lower.
2. Up to nine (9) personal coaches.
3. 2 team leaders
4. 1 medical staff
5. 2 judges

USA Gymnastics/the LOC fully funds participation for junior athletes. The Espoir athletes are self-funded.

D. Key Dates Combs La Ville

1. 2026 September Selection Event – September 9-10, 2026 – Crossville, TN.
2. Depart for Paris October 26, 2026
3. Return to the U.S. November 2, 2026

E. Eligibility

Athletes are eligible for selection to the Team provided that:

1. She is a national of the United States at the time of selection and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of Combs La Ville.
2. Junior athletes are 14-15 years old in 2026, born in 2011 or 2012.
3. Espoir athletes are 13 years or younger, born in 2013, 2014, 2015.
4. Junior Athletes are National Team athletes and have signed the NT Agreement.
5. Athlete holds a valid World Gymnastics License that does not expire before the end of the Combs La Ville competition.
6. She is a member in good standing with USA Gymnastics.



F. Athlete Selection

The members of the 2026 Combs La Ville Teams will be named by the Women's Athlete Selection Committee as follows:

1. Provide the event names, dates, and locations of all trials, events, and camps to be used as part of the selection process.
 - a. 2026 American Classic – June 26-27, 2026 – Minneapolis, MN.
 - b. 2026 Hopes Classic – June 26-27, 2026 – Minneapolis, MN.
 - c. 2026 U.S. Classic – July 17-18, 2026 – Hartford, CT.
 - d. 2026 Hopes Championships – July 17-18 – Hartford, CT 2025
 - e. 2026 U.S. Championships – August 6-9, 2026 – Phoenix, AZ
 - f. 2026 September Selection Event (Hopes only) – September 9-10, 2026 – Crossville, TN.
 - Hopes and Junior athletes qualified to the 2026 Hopes Classic, American Classic, Hopes Championships, U.S. Classic, U.S. Championships.
<https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Hopes/26hopeschart.pdf>
<https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/elite/26elitechart.pdf>
2. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum team size).
 - a. The members of the 2026 Junior Combs La Ville delegation will be selected at the conclusion of the 2026 U.S. Championships.
 - b. The members of the 2026 Espoir Combs La Ville delegation will be selected at the conclusion of the 2026 September Selection Event.
 - c. Using the discretionary selection criteria listed in G, the Athlete Selection Committee will assign up to six (6) junior athletes ages fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) who participate in American Classic, U.S. Classic, or U.S. Championships to the Combs La Ville Team(s).
 - d. Using the discretionary selection criteria listed in G, the Athlete Selection Committee will invite up to eight athletes ages eleven (11), twelve (12), or thirteen (13), regardless of age division (Hopes 11-12, Hopes 13 yr, Junior 13 yr), who participate in American Classic, Hopes Classic, U.S. Classic, Hopes Championships, or U.S. Championships to the September Selection Event in Crossville, TN.
 - e. Using the discretionary selection criteria listed in G, the Athlete Selection Committee will name up to six (6) junior athletes and up to three (3) Espoir athletes to the 2026 Combs La Ville Team based on team needs and medal potential.
 - f. The final line-up determination will be announced at least 24 hours before Qualifications (Competition I). The traveling High Performance Team Leader or Team Leader will make this determination in consultation with credentialed coaching staff.
 - g. If there is no traveling High-Performance Team Leader, the Athlete Selection Committee will name a team leader to perform this function.

G. Criteria, data, and results considered by the Athlete Selection Committee

1. Composite strength of all the 2026 Combs La Ville Team Members.
2. Start values (D Score) on each apparatus of all potential team members **achieved at any 2026 qualifying event listed in Section F.**
3. Execution (E Score) on each apparatus of all potential team members **achieved at any**



2026 qualifying event listed in Section F.

4. Consistency (percentage of hit routines) shown by the gymnast at any 2026 qualifying event listed in Section F.
5. A hit routine is defined as a routine that does not include a large deduction or substantial deduction (as defined in the World Gymnastics Code of Points) on any single skill within the routine.
6. World Class presentation – the strength, endurance, technical execution standard and artistic components commensurate with World Championship presentation.
7. Readiness to compete - current health status and physical preparedness of each gymnast.
8. Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic.

H. Delegation Requirements

1. All USA Gymnastics Staff (coaches, team leaders, medical) must adhere to the following requirements:
 - a. Successfully pass the National Center for Safety Initiatives' (NCSI) background screen in accordance with the current USA Gymnastics Background Check Policy prior to nomination.
 - b. Should a nominee experience any event between the time the background check is conducted and the relevant event that may change his/her background check status, the nominee must inform USA Gymnastics.
 - c. Possess a valid passport that does not expire until at least six months after the conclusion of the 2026 Combs La Ville competition.
 - d. Have the ability to work effectively with the LOC (local organizing committee).
 - e. Have strong administrative, communication, and organizational capabilities/skills.
 - f. Be responsible for the team's adherence to all rules regarding discipline at the competition.
 - g. Fulfill all duties and requirements of the LOC, including attendance at required meetings.
 - h. Be available for the entire duration of each competition (if applicable).
 - i. Possess high-level, specific technical and tactical knowledge of the sport.
 - j. Have thorough knowledge and understanding of the World Gymnastics rules and regulations governing the sport.
 - k. Demonstrate ability to establish harmonious relationships with athletes and other Team personnel.
 - l. Be in good health and able to withstand the physical rigors of traveling with and working with the Team.
 - m. Must have successfully completed all registration requirements by stated deadline.
 - n. Be a USA Gymnastics Professional Member in good standing.
 - o. Successfully complete the U.S. Center for Safe Sport awareness training and education program.
 - p. In the event the Coach role is combined with the Team Leader function, that individual must fulfill the Team Leader responsibilities, as applicable.

I. Determination of athletes' competitive apparatus and start order

The competitive order and strategy will be determined by the traveling Women's High Performance Team Leader or Team Leader, in cooperation with the personal coaches. As



per World Gymnastics regulations, the order of competition on each event shall be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to the competition.

J. Petition Procedures and Requirements

1. Athletes may not petition directly to the 2026 Combs La Ville Selection Event.
2. Petitions to the 2026 American Classic may be submitted to the Women's Athlete Selection Committee by any eligible current junior elite athlete who was unable to attend any qualifying event listed in F.1. due to injury, illness, or extenuating circumstances. In order for petitions to be considered, they must be submitted by midnight EST, June 8, 2026, and the following must be included:
3. Petition procedures to American Classic may be found on page 5 of the *Women's Elite Rules and Policies*: https://static.usagym.org/PDFs/Women/Rules/rp/rp_elite.pdf
4. Documentation from medical staff in the event of injury/illness or documentation from the athlete/coach outlining why the athlete was unable to compete at the events listed in F.1. in the event of extenuating circumstances.
5. A letter of recommendation from the athlete's coach, including past results or data to support naming the athlete to the Combs La Ville Team.
6. The following factors may be reviewed by the Athlete Selection Committee when considering submitted petitions:
 - D scores, E scores, and overall performance from live video conference with the Athlete Selection Committee and a member of the High Performance Leadership Team. Performance requirements will be submitted to the participant by the Athlete Selection Committee upon receipt of the petition.
 - Contributions to the team score potential based off a live video conference with the Athlete Selection Committee and one member of the High Leadership Team. Performance requirements will be submitted to the participant by the Athlete Selection Committee upon receipt of the petition.

K. Removal of Athletes and Staff

USA Gymnastics has jurisdiction over potential nominees. An athlete or staff member who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Gymnastics may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics:

1. Voluntary withdrawal. Team member must submit a written letter to the Vice President of Women's Program of USA Gymnastics.
2. Injury or illness which inhibits peak performance as certified by a physician's statement, subject to verification by USA Gymnastics Medical Staff.
3. Violation of Women's Program National Team Agreement.
4. Inability to perform the duties required (staff).
5. Violation of USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy:
<https://www.usagym.org/pages/education/safesport/policy.html>
6. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.
7. A team member who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics' [grievance process](#) and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.



L. Athlete Replacement

1. If a Team Member is removed or withdrawn from the 2026 Combs La Ville Team, no replacement athlete will be selected.

M. Anti-Doping Requirements

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, PASO, WADA, World Gymnastics, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, PASO, WADA, World Gymnastics, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

N. Announcement of Selection of Athletes and Coaches

1. The official announcement of the 2026 Combs La Ville Team selection is the responsibility of USA Gymnastics and will be announced by the conclusion of the 2026 September Selection Event.
2. All internal verbal or written communication to athletes, coaches, or member associations regarding team selection is considered an “unofficial notice” and is NOT for public distribution. Official notice of team selection occurs when USAG provides a formal public “release” announcing the team selection, or when USAG partners with a multi-sport organization to formally announce a team.

O. NGB/HPMO Bylaws and Grievance Procedures

USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
<https://usagym.org/pages/aboutus/pages/governance.html>



P. SIGNATURES

Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the 2026 Combs La Ville Team as outlined in these selection procedures has carefully reviewed, understands, and acknowledges the terms of the selection procedures. That understanding and acknowledgment are reflected by the signature of the athlete and coach below.

Athlete

Date

Parent (if athlete is under 18 years of age)

Date

Coach

Date