

National Judges' Selection Committee

January 2026

Electronic correspondence

National Judges' Representative:	Olga Kutuzova
VP of Rhythmic Program:	Caroline Hunt
Athlete Representative:	Masha Krakovskaya
Replacement Athlete Representative:	Lily Avila

The committee discussed the nomination of judges for the 2026 Rhythmic Challenge and Invitational.

The dates available to host this competition at The Arena at Innovation Mile in Indianapolis conflicted with two large national Invitationals, which was known at the end of 2025. USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Program may every effort not to invite any judge already assigned (with the exception of one elected committee member) in respect of the two organizers of those events. The judges' lists for both of those events were given to the national office to review so as not to create an conflicts of judge assignments.

Given that, judge availability was very limited.

As this is an international selection event, the committee discussed criteria to ensure the most qualified judges, given availability, were nominated.

Criteria 1: Cat 2 with international experience last year (2025) with this Code of Points.

Proposal to accept the criteria:

1. Lily
2. Olga

Criteria 2: National Experience at Gym Champs and Elite Qualifier plus exam scores (notably a high score in a specific component) and availability for the remaining 3 judges.

Olga was recused for this discussion

Proposal to accept criteria: Caroline

Second: Lily

In case a nominated judge was unavailable, the committee considered the same criteria in the same order to fill the position(s).

There was a request to ensure that judges representing all areas of the country were included and that no panel would have two judges from the same Region. Additionally the committee discussed moving to the use of a draw system, using the same principles as the FIG, for the panel, noting no panel with only 2 judges will have both judges from the same region.

Proposal: Lily

Second: Olga

Passed