



Program Committee Meeting

Program Committee Chair	Patti Conner	Voting
Elite Committees Chair	Chelsea Rainer	Voting
Technical Committees Chair	Deanna Hanford	Voting
Development Committees Chair	Nuno Merino	Voting
Athlete Selection Representative	Michael Devine	Voting
T&T Program Director	Jacqui Godfrey	Non-voting

Meeting called to order by Patti Conner on Sunday June 25, 2023.

Program Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

All attendees were asked to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest based on a review of the agenda.

- It was agreed that all committee members have conflicts of interest as a result of being athletes, coaches, judges and/or club owners and/or receiving compensation at times from the T&T program. Except in the case of items bulleted below, the individuals and committee share the view that members are able to act impartially and for the benefit of the program, and recusal is not necessitated for any other items.
- No other specific Cols were declared.

2. Medical Injury Policy

The updated medical policy was submitted for review. The committee agreed to add this to the R&P.

3. Hall of Fame Update

The HoF committee has come up with a transparent points-based process to determine eligibility for nomination to the HoF, including competition results and National Team inclusion. There is greater parity across disciplines than previously. 7 people will be added to the HoF every year across all disciplines. Teams winning a gold medal at World Championships will go in automatically after 10 years (in addition to the seven individuals). Data collection has been a challenge; however, this should become easier after the first year.

4. New Quad 2024 or 2025

All committees agreed to introduce the new USAG CoP in 2025, for the 2025-2026 season. The goal is to meet the following deadlines:

- Make additional changes as needed and work with other Committees on rules.
- Proposed routines ready for presentation at 2024 USA Gym Champs and Stars & Stripes.
- Subcommittees make additional changes as needed.
- Final routines ready for presentation at 2025 USA Gym Champs and Stars & Stripes.
- New CoP takes effect August 1, 2025.

5. 2024 Calendar

The 2024 draft calendar was presented. The committee agreed to publish this as draft & tentative.

6. **2025 Selection Procedures**

The committee discussed ideas to include in the 2025 selection procedures. It was agreed that the following recommendations from the Elite Committee should be followed:

- World Championships: Only SE athletes be considered (IE not eligible).
- World Cups: Only SE athletes be considered (IE not eligible).
- National Team: IE athletes named to Senior National Team are required to compete SE the following season (e.g., if an athlete is named to SNT in July 2024, they would be required to compete SE from September 2024).
- IE athletes qualifying to the Premier session at USA Gym Champs be allowed to decline this and compete in the afternoon session.
- A summary of the judges' selection process be added into the event selection procedures.

Motion that only SE athletes be eligible for selection to 2025 World Championships and 2025 World Cups.

- **Motion:** Mike
- **Second:** Deanna
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Motion that IE athletes named to Senior National Team are required to compete SE the following season.

- **Motion:** Alex
- **Second:** Patti
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Motion that IE athletes qualifying to the Premier session at USA Gym Champs be allowed to decline.

- **Motion:** Alex
- **Second:** Patti
- **Vote:** Unanimous

7. **Meet Director Certification**

The Programs Council recently discussed the idea that a Meet Director Certification course be created in all disciplines (specific to each discipline). The Committee agreed that this is necessary. It was agreed that the certification should last a finite period, not for perpetuity.

8. **Elite and Development CoP**

8.1. New Life Vs Cumulative

The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of cumulative vs new life finals. Currently, the Development Program uses cumulative, and the Elite Program uses new life. It was agreed that this can cause confusion, and if there was one strategy across all levels this would reduce errors.

The item was tabled for the EC and DP to discuss with their committees.

8.2. Saluting in qualifications

The committee agreed that saluting (to gain a 0.000) in qualification in the case of less than 8 athletes and thereby qualifying to finals, is not in the spirit of competition. It was agreed to refer this to the EC and DC for voting.

8.3. Synchro finals

It was discussed that Synchro finals are not performing their intended purpose. The committee agreed to reformat Synchro events to just the qualification round, with awards given based on placings after this round (no finals).

Motion to remove finals from Synchro competition for the 2024-2025 season.

- **Motion:** Alex
- **Second:** Nuno
- **Vote:** Unanimous

9. Elite Program

9.1. Skill cap

The committee discussed the skill cap currently in the WAGC CoP for 17-21. It was agreed that this cap would not be included in the USAG program, as the intent was to have IE and SE using the same rules.

9.2. Elite reinstatement

The Elite Committee recommended that the cost for elite reinstatement and foreign athlete elite verification be the same as elite mobility.

Motion to update the R&P as above.

- **Motion:** Nuno
- **Second:** Chelsea
- **Vote:** Unanimous

9.3. Elite warm up

It was requested and agreed that the warmup options in the R&P be called warm up options A / B / C for easier identification.

9.4. Tie Breakers

The Elite CoP General 7.5.1 incorrectly states that *Ties in the finals will not be broken*. This should be updated to reference the FIG Technical Regulations.

10. Elite Challenge Debrief

The committee discussed the long lines during warmups. Jacqui and Patti presented potential solutions. The item was tabled.

11. USA Gym Champs Debrief

11.1. Timing of arena sessions

There was confusion when the arena sessions run late. It was agreed that this issue was exacerbated by having the bus running, and this should not be as problematic in 2024 when we are in the same vicinity.

11.2. Qualification numbers

Numbers at USA Gym Champs have been rising consistently over the past 4 years. We are at a point where we are struggling to fit the requirement competitions into the schedule, particularly in the Development Program and Level 8. Increasing a day is not an option. The committee asked that the Development Committee address this issue with a short-term solution for 2024, and a long-term solution for the 2025 quad. Patti will put together data committees showing numbers and breakdown of disciplines and levels. The item was tabled for the August 15 DC meeting.

11.3. Regional Champions automatic qualification

The Elite Committee was asked to consider removing the automatic qualification for Regional champions in Elite levels, as often the numbers are not sufficient to warrant the advantages seen in the Development Program. The item was tabled.

12. Elite Mobility

Nuno presented the Elite Committee's discussions regarding the updated Elite Mobility process. The EC is intending to

- Film videos examples (pass / fail) at July National Team camp

- Provide written criteria following July National Team camp
- Extend the final mobility window to February 1, with March 1 as an additional month for redo opportunities only.
- Publish the final process (including videos) September 1

13. Extenuating circumstances for unfunded assignments

The committee discussed the current system whereby athletes are required to submit a request for extenuating circumstances for both funded and unfunded National Team activities.

The committee agreed that it is beneficial to understand why an athlete may decline an activity (for example, spotting trends or identifying a specific problem). The athlete reps expressed that they feel the current system is working well and that it is important for the athlete reps to be looped into the system. It is useful to have athletes become familiar with the system at the Junior level.

It was agreed that the current process of extenuating circumstances should be retained for National Team camps and domestic activities (e.g., selection meets), but not for non-funded international assignments. It was suggested that this could be better administrated by requiring a reason for declining on the assignment form for camps.

14. DMT Equipment

A complaint was received from a Regional meet where the mats had shifted, and an athlete landed between the mats and DMT. In receiving the complaint, USAG agreed to consult the PC on potential solutions for the future.

The committee discussed that it is normal for mats to move, and that it expected that coaches and judges monitor the equipment and pull in mats where required. Equipment providers should be approached via the Meet Director when there is a problem, but they are unlikely to be stationed at every event to monitor mat movements.

The option of straps was suggested. This was previously used by Ross, but now that we have the cover the handles were removed.

The need for coaches and judges to constantly monitor all equipment for safety will be added to the T210.

15. Inquiry form

The committee discussed the changes to the inquiry form:

- Credit cards are no longer accepted
- Space to enter each member of the Jury of Appeal
- Option to mark as challenging Difficulty, Penalty, or Landing.

It was clarified that the video must clearly show what is being appealed – Appeals will not be accepted if the video does not clearly show the infraction. This clarification will be added to the R&P.

16. Disciplinary Procedures

The committee discussed disciplinary procedures for dealing with non-compliant non-athlete team members on international assignments. The item was tabled, Jacqui will talk to Debbie Shon re how this relates to the USAG Code of Ethical Conduct.

17. T210

Patti presented the draft list of topics for the T210. Additional items will be accepted through August 16.

18. R&P

18.1. 2023-2024 update

The R&P will be updated at the next PC meeting. Committee members were asked to review their relevant sections with their subcommittees and submit any points for changing by August 16.

18.2. State & Region Technical & Coaches Rep details

This information does not appear to be in the current version of the R&P. Patti will have a look at previous versions and re-add that information at the August meeting.

19. Final 1-Final 2 Score Changes

It was agreed to update the R&P to say that if there is a change in score between F1 and F2, the CJP should immediately notify the coaches involved.

Meeting adjourned.