



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
Athlete Support Representative	Alex Renkert	Replacement athlete voting
T&T Program Director	Jacqui Godfrey	Non-voting
Chief Programs Officer	Debbie Shon	Guest
Chief Legal Officer	Stefanie Korepin	Guest
Programs Council	Scott Lineberry	Guest
Programs Council	Konstantin Gulisashvili	Guest
	Laurie Cavarretta	Guest
	Billie Willis	Guest
	Juwan Young	Guest
	Paul Bretscher	Guest
	Becky Brown	Guest

Meeting called to order by Patti Conner at 10:00am PDT on Thursday August 24, 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.
- Deanna indicated a Col with item 3 and recused.

2. Regional Chairs

The Committee received a proposal that Regional Chairs must live in their respective Region. The Committee discussed the pros and cons. Different Regions have different needs; therefore, it was agreed that this option be open to Regional Committees to decide on whether to apply the rule in their R&P. If a region chooses to enforce this restriction, it must be in writing and published as soon as possible and prior to the next election.

Motion to update the R&P to say that Regions may choose to designate that Region Chair nominees must reside in the Region at the time of election.

- **Motion: Chelsea**
- **Second: Deanna**
- **Vote: unanimous**

It was noted that this would apply for the next election, and that all Regional Chairs will be grandfathered in for the remainder of the current term.

3. State & Regional Committee Election Tie Breakers

3.1. State Committee Election Tie Breaker

A question has been submitted asking who breaks a tie in a State committee election (Technical Representative and Coach Representative). It was agreed that the State Committee election tie breaker policy will be:

1. *Tied nominees submit a resume and letter of interest, a runoff revote is taken.*

3.2. Regional Committee Election Tie Breaker

A question has been submitted asking who breaks a tie in a State committee election (Technical Representative and Coach Representative). It was agreed that the Regional Committee election tie breaker policy will be:

1. *Tied nominees submit a resume and letter of interest, a runoff revote is taken.*
2. *If still a tie, the Regional Chair and non-conflicted current committee members plus an athlete representative from a National Committee make the final decision.*

Motion to update the R&P with the verbiage above.

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

4. Apparel

4.1. Coach shorts

Motion to add to the Development CoP a requirement for coaches' shorts to have a minimum of 3" inseam.

- **Motion: Chelsea**
- **Second: Deanna**
- **Vote: unanimous**

4.2. Athlete shorts

Motion to add to the Development CoP a requirement for athletes' shorts to either:

- **Be a solid color to match the leotard**
- **Match the leotard**
- **Be black**

And to update the Elite CoP to match this verbiage.

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

4.3. Piercings

Motion to amend the verbiage in the in the Development Code of Points and Elite Special Requirements to say *"All piercings should be removed; alternatively, if piercings are not removed, they must be completely covered. If outside of the leotard, the covering must be tape affixed to the body, and be tan, black, or white. "Untaped or uncovered piercings would constitute a major violation and the athlete would not be allowed to start."*

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

5. Athlete Representatives

Alex updated the Committee on the current status of the new system to name State & Regional athlete. The next meeting of the Athletes Council is September 8. The committee was asked to submit additional ideas to Alex prior to that meeting.

Unfortunately, all T&T Athlete Representatives are currently lapsed. It was requested that a process be provided to provide T&T with interim Athlete Representatives while this project takes place.

6. Coaches Awards

A request was received to discuss the method that annual coaches' awards are calculated. These were previously decided by vote, but for the past 4 years they have been decided by points. The committee discussed pros and cons. It was agreed that the current system is still the preferred options, but it is hoped to add additional awards, for example up-and-coming coaches or recognition of coaches of National Team athletes (certificate or plaque, on the website., and/or in membership profiles). The item was tabled.

Chief Programs Officer Stefanie Korepin and Chief Legal Officer Debbie Shon joined the meeting.

7. USA Gymnastics Update

Stefanie Korepin and Debbie Shon provided some operational updates.

Stefanie left the meeting.

8. Tumbling Floor Specifications

A submission was received regarding the setup of the tumbling floor at Stars & Stripes and the West Palm Beach World Cup. It was noted all equipment at these events were set up according to FIG specifications, and approved by the FIG Technical Delegate.

It was agreed that in principle USA Elite domestic meets should use the same ideal equipment specs as FIG meets. In this case, this will include add the Tumbling limiter at 36 feet and include the FIG range of Tumbling floor lengths.

Motion to define the Tumbling runup in the R&P to match the FIG specifications.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Chelsea**
- **Vote: unanimous**

9. Change of Score Process

There was a situation at USA Gymnastics Championships where a score was changed after it was displayed, and the timing between F1 and F2 eliminated the usual opportunity for an inquiry.

The committee discussed potential processes to ensure the coach has the correct info to make an informed decision. It was agreed to take the following steps:

- Add a change of score process to the Development and Elite CoPs:
 - CJP submit Change of Score form to Meet Referee
 - CJP or Meet Referee informs coach
 - Meet Referee informs Scoring, Announcer, others who need to know.
 - Announcer to announce that there is a score change
- Add to the R&P:
 - F2 athletes are not announced until all F1 results are verified.
- Ask that rankings are displayed in the arena at USA Gymnastics Championships
- Schedule a break in the schedule between F1 & F2.

Motion to make the steps as above in the USA Code of Points to match the FIG specifications.

- **Motion: Nuno**
- **Second: Chelsea**

- **Vote: unanimous**

Debbie left the meeting.

10. **USA Gymnastics Championships**

The Committee discussed feedback received from this year's USA Gymnastics Championships. Some ideas for future events are as follows:

- Run synchro the previous night (noted; this will require the overall numbers to reduce).
- Awards run during warmups (noted; no solutions were proposed, and this is no different to other years).
- Add training for Juniors in the convention center (this may be possible; this will require the overall numbers to reduce).
- More medical people (noted, but the Committee felt that there were always many medical people available).
- People didn't feel safe in the city (this will be passed on to Events).
- Delay the bus for the arena if it is running behind (noted, a bus will not be required in 2024).
- Try not to split sessions for people competing against each other (noted; this will require overall numbers to reduce).

It was requested that Jacqui advise the Committee of the themes from the survey once this is provided to Programs.

11. **Development Committee**

11.1. Splitting Levels with Large Numbers

In previous quads it was possible able to split levels with high numbers. In the current quad, the rule does not allow this at the National level. The DC tabled this item.

11.2. New National Qualification Scores

Nuno updated the Committee on the USA Gymnastics Championships and Stars & Stripes scores submitted for the new R&P.

Motion to add the scores as submitted into the R&P.

- **Motion: Chelsea**
- **Second: Deanna**
- **Vote: unanimous**

11.3. Open 17-21

Nuno updated the Committee on the discussion around renaming Open 17-21 for the new Quad. It was agreed that additional education around Open with a link to the diagram on the website should be included in the T210. It was noted that athletes have recently suggested Open be reduced to a single age group, and this is another option for the new quad.

11.4. New Quad Routines

Nuno updated the Committee on the discussion around the new quad routine process.

12. **Elite Committee**

12.1. Qualification to the Premier session

Chelsea updated the Committee on the discussion in relation to the premier session at USA Gym Champs. It was agreed to monitor this for the remainder of the quad and assess for the new quad. However, it was agreed to allow Intermediate Elite athletes the opportunity to decline that spot and compete in the afternoon session.

The Committee noted the rule put forward by the Elite Committee, being:

"An Intermediate Elite athlete qualifying to a premier session may choose to decline that spot and compete in the afternoon session, at which time the next ranked athlete will be added to the

premier session. The deadline to decline a premier session spot will be one week after the publication of qualifiers.”

Motion to endorse and approve the rule as minuted above.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Nuno**
- **Vote: unanimous**

12.2. Saluting for Qualification to Finals

Chelsea updated the Committee on the clarification that the Elite program reverts to FIG rules unless there is an exception listed in the U.S. CoP – in this case there is not. Therefore, it is not permitted to qualify to Finals without performing a pass. Per FIG:

- *“Did not start” (“DNS”) indicates that the athlete did not perform a routine, or did not receive any score or any value(s) for the elements attempted.*
- *“DNS” only, without a score, will result in no ranking.*
- *May not proceed to any further round of qualifications, semi-finals, finals.*

12.3. Elite Mobility

Chelsea updated the Committee on the changes and additional resources for the elite mobility process. The resources are on target to be posted at the same time as the new R&P is published.

Motion to add the changes to the elite mobility process into the R&P as submitted, and to offer coaches the choice of both the old and the new options through to the December 2023 window.

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

12.4. International Coach Assignments

Chelsea updated the Committee on the clarification of coach assignment criteria in selection procedures. This project is underway, and the approved criteria will be included in 2024 selection procedures.

12.5. Foreign Athletes

Chelsea updated the Committee on the process for resident foreign athletes wanting to compete domestically in Senior Elite:

- *U.S. resident athletes competing in Senior Elite in another country wanting to compete Senior Elite as a resident athlete within the U.S. system (i.e., not as a foreign athlete) are required to go through the elite mobility drill submission process, however they will not be required to complete the score requirements. This process will be known as foreign athlete elite verification. Athletes who are already competing within the U.S. system will be grandfathered in.*
- *Add an exception to the R&P to the mobility window for foreign athlete elite verification.*

It was noted that additional rules for foreign athletes can be found in [Section 1](#) of the R&P.

Motion to endorse and approve the rules as minuted above.

- **Motion: Nuno**
- **Second: Patti**
- **Vote: unanimous**

12.6. Synchro Pairings

The committee agreed that a pairing of Junior and Intermediate should be allowed for Synchro. The Committee noted the rule put forward by the Elite Committee, being:

"One athlete is Junior Elite and the other is Intermediate Elite. The pair will compete in the Intermediate Elite Division."

Motion to endorse and approve the rule as minuted above.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Nuno**
- **Unanimous**

12.7. National Team Qualification

The Elite Committee has been discussing the pros and cons for adding a D Score requirement for qualification to National Team. There are different views within the EC as well as Cols, so the Program Committee was asked to provide guidance.

The Committee discussed the viewpoints brought forward. It was agreed that D Score should not be added at this time, but this should be monitored and potentially rel looked at in future years.

12.8. Regional Champions Qualification to Nationals

The EC recommended that Elite Regional Champions will not have automatic qualification to USA Gymnastics Championships, due to the smaller numbers in many divisions. The Committee agreed.

Motion to update the R&P to say that Elite Regional Champions will not have automatic qualification to USA Gymnastics Championships.

- **Motion: Nuno**
- **Second: Patti**
- **Vote: unanimous**

13. Spotting Positions

The Committee noted two rules put forward by the DC and EC, being:

- *"Coaches be allowed to spot, or stand with the intention to spot, from either side of the floor or landing area for Tumbling."*
- *"Coaches be allowed to spot, or stand with the intention to spot, from either side of the landing area for Double Mini. If the coach wishes to have a throw mat, this must be done from the opposite side to the judges."*

Motion to endorse and approve the rules for Development and Elite Programs as minuted above.

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

14. Technical Committee

14.1. Regional Champions Qualification to Nationals

The Committee noted the proposal put forward by the Technical Committee, being:

Qualification as a Regional Champion will not be achieved under the following circumstances:

- *The first-place athlete is a resident of a different region who was granted participation in a regional championship outside of their own.*
- *The athlete's score is listed as 0.0 or DNS in the results.*
- *The athlete competed out of session.*
- *The age groups are broken into smaller units.*

Motion to endorse and approve the rules as minuted above for the Development Program

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

14.2. Competition Cards

The Committee noted the rule put forward by the Technical Committee, being:

“Depending on the level of the competition, a designated time and place may be set in the competition directives as a deadline for competition cards. Any competition cards not turned in by the designated time and place will need to be submitted to the judging panel at the start of each athlete's specific flight of competition. Additional competition cards should be available at each judging panel for any athletes or coaches to complete if needed. Athletes at Levels 9+ will not be permitted to compete until the competition card has been received by the judging panel for that event.”

Motion to endorse and approve the rules as minuted above for the Development and Elite Programs.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Nuno**
- **Vote: unanimous**

14.3. Disciplinary Procedures

Deanna presented the disciplinary procedures proposed by the TC. The Committee discussed the proposal. Some minor changes were requested.

Motion to approve the disciplinary procedures pending the changes agreed.

- **Motion: Nuno**
- **Second: Deanna**
- **Vote: unanimous**

14.4. Online/Live Hybrid Judges Education

For the remainder of the quad, the Committee proposed that the new online test will cost \$15 with proceeds to go to USAG (including access to Understanding Scoring), and the in-person practical will cost \$30 with proceeds to go to the presenter. This proposal will be submitted to USAG Education for approval, and it will be asked if there be a combination price for multiple disciplines, and a google doc with Q&As that presenters can access.

Thanks were expressed to Sara and the TC for their work on the project.

14.5. HD Score

The Committee discussed options for coming up with an HD score if it is missed and there is no video available. The item was tabled.

14.6. Coach and Judge Assignments

The Committee agreed that the Technical and Selection Committees will work together when assigning to ensure that conflicting assignments are not offered. It was noted that the timeframes for judge and coach assignments may be different, and care will be taken to effectively communicate potential conflicts between the committees.

14.7. Inquiry Process

Deanna presented the inquiry procedures and form proposed by the TC. The Committee discussed the proposal. Some minor changes were requested, including the following:

- It was agreed to include in the T210 that coaches are encouraged to politely ask the CJP the reason for a penalty prior to making an inquiry.
- It was clarified that videos showing the skills in question will be accepted from any angle.

Motion to approve the inquiry process pending the changes agreed. This verbiage will be removed from Section IX Guide to Judging / Elite Special Requirements / R&P Section V, and included in R&P Section IX.

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

15. Hall of Fame

Patti provided the Committee with updated T&T Hall of Fame data. Thanks were expressed to Patti for her work on this project.

16. Feedback and Q&A

The Committee discussed feedback and edits received from the community for the current Codes of Points and Elite Special Requirements. The committee agreed on changes to be made for 2024, and other changes to be tabled and incorporated into new quad documentation. Clarification points will also be added to the T210. Nuno will ask the Development Committee to consider adding a 45 second time limit for Trampoline one-touch warmup.

Motion to add to the Elite Special Requirements the following:

“For safety reasons, covering the face or head is NOT allowed. However, if an athlete regularly trains in a face mask and chooses to wear this mask during competition, they will not be penalized so long as the mask is tightly secured. Athletes who require a head covering for religious reasons, may request an exception from the Program Committee.”

- **Motion: Chelsea**
- **Second: Alex**
- **Vote: unanimous**

Motion to update the Codes of Points with edits as presented and agreed.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Nuno**
- **Vote: unanimous**

17. Rules & Policies

Motion to accept [Section 1](#) of the R&P as presented.

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

Motion to accept [Section 2](#) of the R&P as presented.

- **Motion: Patti**
- **Second: Chelsea**
- **Vote: unanimous**

Motion to accept [Section 3](#) of the R&P as presented.

- **Motion: Chelsea**
- **Second: Alex**
- **Vote: unanimous**

Motion to accept [Section 4](#) of the R&P as presented.

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

Motion to accept [Section 5](#) of the R&P as presented.

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

Motion to accept [Section 6](#) of the R&P as presented.

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

Motion to accept [Section 7](#) of the R&P as presented.

- **Motion: Deanna**
- **Second: Nuno**
- **Vote: unanimous**

Motion to accept [Section 8](#) of the R&P as presented.

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

Motion to accept [Section 9](#) of the R&P as presented.

- **Motion: Nuno**
- **Second: Deanna**
- **Vote: unanimous**

18. New Quad Materials

The Committee noted and made minor updates to the planned schedule for development of the new quad routines and rules:

- September 1, 2023 – Provide membership with a feedback forum for suggestions, pros and cons of the current routines and rules.
- September 15, 2023 – Close feedback period.
- December 15, 2023 – 1st draft of Development Program routines and requirements based on need and feedback.
- May 2024 – FIG New code updates at Elite Challenge.
- June 2024 – Round table, 1st round of feedback, presentation of 1st draft of Development Program routines and requirements at Gym Champs.
- September 2024 – Feedback for proposed routines from sub committees for each discipline.
- October 1 2024 - 1st draft of requirements Elite and new rules.
- March 31, 2025 – Provide feedback form for mobility system.
- June/July 2025 – Presentation of new routines for last round table discussion and feedback.
- August 1, 2025 – Publish new routines.

It was noted that this timeline is a guide only and will likely change as the process continues.

19. Executive Session

The Committee went into an executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.