



2025 Women's Program Committee (WPC) Minutes
August 9, 2025 – New Orleans, LA

Meeting was called to order by Tom Koll (WPCC/NDPCC) at 4:00 pm CST on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Roll Call:

WPCC	Tom Koll	Non-voting*
NDPCC		Voting
NTCC	Linda Thorberg	Voting
NXCC	Claudia Kretschmer	Voting
NACC	Jennifer Krause**	Voting
IECC	Kittia Carpenter	Voting
Athlete Representative	Jessie DeZiel	Voting
Athlete Representative	Emily Schild**	Voting
VP – Women's Program	Annie Heffernon (ex-officio)	Non-voting
Development Program Director	Christy Naik (ex-officio)	Non-voting
Technical Director	Nichole Otterson (ex-officio)	Non-voting
Xcel Program Manager	Heather Ould (ex-officio)	Non-voting

*Casts a vote only in the case of tie or acclamation.

**Absent.

Reports:

National Development Program Committee Chair (NDPCC) – Tom Koll

Tom updated the WPC from the additional joint Development Program / Technical Committee meeting, held during this year's National Congress. Additional items discussed include the upcoming 2026 Development Program Code of Points and the importance of educating the next generation about committee roles, particularly in light of upcoming term limits.

National Technical Committee Chair (NTCC) – Linda Thorberg

Linda updated the WPC on upcoming Technical Committee projects as well as on the new judges' categories. Nichole Otterson, Women's Program Technical Director, also assisted in helping to provide updates to the group on the new judges testing platform, scheduled for implementation in 2026.

National Xcel Committee Chair (NXCC) – Claudia Kretschmer

Claudia updated the WPC on the upcoming [National Xcelebration](#), scheduled for 2027. Additional items discussed include upcoming Xcel Committee projects as well as the extension of the Xcel Code of Points to 2028.

International Elite Committee Chair (IECC) – Kittia Carpenter

Kittia updated the WPC with positive feedback from the Elite coach's community regarding USAG initiatives to help provide better premier event experiences. Additional items discussed include updates with the TOPS Program, with TOPS Regional Managers being established to help encourage and promote the TOPS program across the country.

National Administrative Committee Chair (NACC) – Jennifer Krause/Christy Naik

Christy updated the WPC in the NACC's absence regarding the 2025 State Administrative Committee Chair workshop, which took place in conjunction with National Congress.

Athletes' Council representatives – Jessie DeZiel & Emily Schild

Jessie updated the WPC on selection procedures, nominations received for the Spirit of the Flame Award, and the council's progress with athlete rep requirements for State and Regional committees.



Unless otherwise noted, the following clarifications and recommendations for change are effective for the 2025-2026 season, which began on August 1, 2025.

- I. Recommendation to update the [Women's Program Operating Code](#) and appropriate charters with the following proposals brought forward from the May committee meetings:
 - A. Recommendation to clarify eligibility criteria for volunteer leadership positions (elected and appointed) in cases of dual residency (e.g., living in one state and working in another):
 - Individuals must declare a single state affiliation and are only eligible to run for, be appointed to, and vote on one state committee.
 - B. Recommendation to update removal procedures:
 - Grant the National Administrative Committee Chair (NACC) the authority to collaborate with the Women's Program Committee Chair (WPCC) and the USA Gymnastics national office in the removal of a State Administrative Committee Chair (SACC) or Regional Administrative Committee Chair (RACC) in cases of financial negligence, egregious behavior, or similar serious misconduct.
 - C. Recommendation to remove the election requirement of an Assistant Committee Chairman and update to allow for an appointment.
 - If the State Administrative Committee Chair (SACC) deems it necessary, an Assistant Committee Chairman may be appointed by the SACC, with approval from the State Administrative Committee (SAC).
 - D. Recommendation to update appointment procedures for State and Regional committees:
 - Regional Committee Appointments: Additional members may be appointed by the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman (RACC) with approval from the Regional Administrative Committee (RAC).
 - State Committee Appointments: Additional members may be appointed by the State Administrative Committee Chair (SACC) with approval from the State Administrative Committee (SAC).
 - E. Recommendation to update language and add an option to the eligibility requirements for Regional Technical Chair: in addition to holding a National/Brevet rating,
 1. Must be a Brevet or hold a National rating for a minimum of two (2) cycles.
 2. Remove from the second requirement "in the previous 2 cycles" and **update** to read: Must have been assigned to judge Level 9 Easterns or Westerns and Level 10 National Championships **in the previous 10 years, OR:**
 3. Add option to #2: **Must have coached athletes that competed at Level 9 Easterns or Westerns and Level 10 National Championships in the previous 10 years and are actively judging.**

MOTION: Claudia Kretschmer (NXCC)

SECOND: Linda Thorberg (NTCC)

PASSED

DISCUSSION – NO ACTION TAKEN

The committee reviewed voting procedures for both National and Regional committee chairs.

NEW BUSINESS

National Office staff has identified multiple locations where the Operating Code does not address the Xcel Program; additional cleanup will take place to include Xcel in all relevant places throughout the document.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Jessie DeZiel (AC)

SECOND: Kittia Carpenter (IECC)

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm