

**2006 Artistic World Championships**  
**Team Selection Procedures**  
Approved by Men's Program Committee 2-3-06

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

Selection for the 2006 World Championships Team

Athletes may qualify for the 2006 World Championships team in one of two ways:

- A. Be a gymnast chosen by the World Championships Team Selection Committee as one of the six athlete members of the World Championships Team. To be eligible, a Team Member must be a participant in the 2006 Visa Championships as defined in Section II.
- B. Petition to the 2006 World Championships Team through the petition process identified in Section III.

**II. SELECTION PROCESS**

Selection for the 2006 World Championships Team will be handled by the World Championships Selection Committee.

- A. World Championships Selection Committee composition:
  - 1. Chairman, Men's Program Committee
  - 2. USA Gymnastics Men's Program Director
  - 3. Senior National Team Coordinator
  - 4. Athlete Representative
  - 5. Coach – This individual will be selected by the Men's Program Committee and may not have an athlete in contention for the 2006 World Championships Team.
- B. World Championships Team Selection Committee Roles and Responsibilities:
  - 1. Selection of the six team members for the World Team.
  - 2. Selection of a minimum of two replacement athletes for any World Team member that cannot compete due to injury, illness, or other circumstances that would necessitate replacement.
  - 4. Accept or reject petitions onto the 2006 World Team (see Section III).
  - 5. The Men's Program Committee will name a replacement committee member in the event that a Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with an athlete in contention for the 2006 World Championships Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the Selection Committee for any reason.
- C. Process for selection of the six team member gymnasts for the 2006 World Championships Team.

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1. Athletes will be chosen from among the 2006 Visa Championship competitors or from petitions to the 2006 World Championships team (see Section III).
  2. The World Championships Team Selection Committee will also identify a minimum of two potential replacement(s) to the World Team who may or may not travel to the World Championships.
  3. These selections are subject to the approval of the President of USA Gymnastics who will certify that the Selection Procedures were followed.
  4. The World Championships Team Selection Committee will consider the following factors when selecting the six World Team members and potential replacement athlete(s):
    - a. All results from the 2006 Visa Championships
    - b. The percentage of hit routines by the gymnast in the selection competition.
    - c. Start values (A Score) on each apparatus from the Visa Championships
    - d. Execution (B Score) on each apparatus from the Visa Championships
    - e. Points ranking system derived from the 2006 Visa Championships competitive results. The points ranking system will be published a minimum of 30 days prior to the Visa Championships
    - f. Past domestic and international performance and experience including information such as type, frequency and level of domestic and international competitions and routine hit percentage in those events.
    - g. Other applicable factors
  5. The World Championships Team Selection Committee will consider the information noted in number 4 above in the following prioritized manner.
    - a. The results from the 2006 Visa Championships will be used to identify the teams which would produce the highest team score for the six man team, five athletes compete, four scores count team preliminary competition and also for the six man team, three athletes compete and all three scores compete team finals format. Priority will be given to the 6:3:3 competition format.
    - b. The start values of all potential team members will be factored into the process of selecting the final team.
    - c. The execution of all potential team members will be factored into the process of selecting the final team.
    - d. The remaining factors, including the points ranking system, past domestic and international experience and other applicable factors, will be considered by the committee only in the event that a final decision identifying the team members cannot be reached using the competition results, start values and execution factors.
- D. The announcement of the World Championships team members will take place within 48 hours from the conclusion of the 2006 Visa Championships.

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### **III. PETITIONS**

- A. Petition Rights: Accordingly, USA Gymnastics will allow athletes to petition USA Gymnastics for the right to:
1. Enter the 2006 Visa Championships, as considered by the Men's Program Committee.
  2. To be selected to the 2006 World Championships Team, as determined by the World Championships Team Selection Committee.
- B. Petition Procedures and Requirements
1. A petition to enter the 2006 Visa Championships or to be placed on the 2006 World Championships Team may be submitted by any athlete. Petitions to the 2006 Visa Championships will be considered for approval by the Men's Program Committee. All petitions to the Visa Championships must be received by August 1, 2006 to be considered. Petitions directly to the 2006 World Championships Team will be considered for approval by the World Championships Selection Committee.
  2. A petitioning athlete who is selected as one of the six 2006 World Championships Team members will be required to prove competitive readiness. This display of readiness may be executed at a location and time to be determined by the 2006 World Team Selection Committee, but will occur no later than September 24, 2006. If the athlete is unable to demonstrate competitive readiness, one of the selected alternates would be placed on the 2006 World Championships Team.
  3. In order to be considered by the World Team Selection Committee, petitions must be submitted in writing to USA Gymnastics' national office as soon as practical after the athlete becomes aware of his inability to participate in the applicable competition and no later than the conclusion of the 2006 Visa Championships. The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance, which prohibited the athlete from participating in the competitive process. In the case of a petition based upon an injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a physician's statement, and the nature and extent of that injury or illness is subject to verification by one or more doctors selected by USA Gymnastics.

### **IV. REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL PROCEDURES**

An athlete or coach may be replaced or removed from the 2006 World Championships Team for the following reasons:

- Violations of the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics (attached)

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- Injury, illness, lack of performance in training or other factor which inhibits peak performance at the World Championships. Verification of injury or illness will be by one or more doctors selected by USA Gymnastics.

A decision to remove an athlete is subject to USAG grievance procedures as prescribed in the USAG Bylaws.

### **V. QUALIFICATION EVENTS**

2006 Visa Championships National Qualifiers

- The 2006 U.S. Qualifier competition to the 2006 Visa Championships will be conducted July 15, 2006, at a site to be determined.
- 2006 Visa Championships – August 16 - 19, 2006, in St. Paul, Minnesota

### **VI. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

Publication of USAG Executive Committee approved procedures will take place via the following distribution channels:

- Website: <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/>
- Publication: *Technique* magazine
- Email: direct email to 2006 Junior and Senior National Team athletes

### **VII. Coaches Selection**

#### **A. Head Coach**

The Men's Program Committee will select the head coach following the announcement of the six athlete members of the 2006 World Championships Team. The head coach must come from among the personal coaches of World Championships Team members. The selection of the head coach will be based upon the following criteria and must be approved by the President of USA Gymnastics: this may take place after the team is selected as well

- proven team leadership ability
- international experience; and
- ability to communicate to the athletes and follow the established World Championships training plan.

#### **B. Assistant Coaches**

The 2006 World Championships Assistant Coaches will be selected by the Men's Program Committee and approved by the President of USA Gymnastics.

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The assistant coaches must come from among the personal coaches of World Championships Team members. The number of assistant coaches will be determined by the Men's Program Committee based on the number of available coaches' credentials at the 2006 World Championships and available funding for the event.

### **XI. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and/or FIG rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or FIG rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USAG. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.

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**ATHLETE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

These Selection Procedures have been reviewed and approved by USA Gymnastics. Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the team as outlined in these Selection Procedures has carefully reviewed and understands the terms of these Procedures. That understanding is reflected by the signature of the athlete and coach on a copy of these Selection Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_

Coach name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Athlete name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature if athlete is 18 years or younger

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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## **USA GYMNASTICS CODE OF ETHICS**

### **I.**

#### **Introduction**

The mission of USA Gymnastics is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of gymnastics. USA Gymnastics grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn by USA Gymnastics at any time where USA Gymnastics determines that a member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in gymnastics, USA Gymnastics has adopted the Ethical Code which follows. This Code is not intended to establish a set of rules that will, by inclusion or exclusion, prescribe the appropriate behavior for USA Gymnastics' members in every aspect of their participation in the sport. Rather, the Code offers general principles to guide the conduct and the judicious appraisal of conduct of all USA Gymnastics' members (including employees and agents of USA Gymnastics) in situations that have ethical implications.

This Code cannot further ethical conduct in the sport of gymnastics; that can only come from the personal commitment of the participants in the sport to behave ethically. This Code is offered instead to guide and to affirm the will of all of USA Gymnastics' members to safeguard the best interests of the sport by acting ethically at all times.

### **II.**

#### **Elements of the Code**

##### **A. Participant Relationships.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are charged with the responsibility for contributing to an environment, which makes participation in the sport a positive and rewarding experience. In order to achieve that result, each professional member has a special obligation to make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Fail to follow the safety guidelines established by USA Gymnastics or otherwise knowingly subject a participant to unreasonable physical or emotional risk.

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2. Engage in conduct, which is unfair including, in particular, attempting to injure, disable or intentionally interfere with the preparation of a competitor.
  
3. Engage in conduct toward another participant in the sport, which is abusive. USA Gymnastics recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and each athlete, but it is nevertheless incumbent on everyone involved in the sport to support the development and use of motivational and training methods which avoid conduct which is, or is likely to be perceived as being, abusive.
4. Discriminate in the provision of resources or opportunities to any member or prospective member on the basis of race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin or mental or physical disability.
5. Attempt to intimidate, embarrass or improperly influence any individual responsible for judging or administering a competition.
6. Engage in business practices directed toward another member, which are determined by a court or other similar adjudicatory body to be unethical, illegal or a breach of contract.

### **B. Participation.**

Any USA Gymnastics' activity or event should be open to any member properly qualified under the rules of that activity or event, and every member participating in a USA Gymnastics' activity or event has an obligation to participate to the best of their abilities. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Restrict the ability of a member to qualify for or participate in competition because of the member's association with a particular organization or individual or because of that member's race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin or mental or physical disability.
2. Participate as a judge, coach, athlete or administrator in any activity where that judge, coach or athlete is inadequately prepared, unable to participate or fails to participate to the best of his or her ability.
3. Engage in behavior, which is so disorderly or inappropriate as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the activity or other members' participation in, or enjoyment of, the activity.

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### **C. Responsibility.**

A member of USA Gymnastics has a responsibility to the sport of gymnastics and the rules and regulations, which govern it. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Knowingly misrepresent the policies or actions of USA Gymnastics or its authorized representatives.
2. Fail to resort in the first instance to the established procedures for challenging a competitive result, contesting a team selection decision, complaining about the conduct of another member, or attempting to reverse a policy adopted by USA Gymnastics.
3. Breach the duty to maintain appropriately established confidences of USA Gymnastics or its members.

### **D. Communication.**

Members of USA Gymnastics have a duty to communicate honestly and openly with the organization and its members. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Misrepresent competitive achievements, professional qualifications, education, experience, eligibility, criminal record or affiliations.
2. Knowingly disseminate false or misleading information about another member.
3. Withhold from athlete members information or resources likely to enhance the athletes' enjoyment of the sport or reduce their risk of injury or illness.
4. Fail to consult with or inform fully the athlete or the athlete's parents about opportunities made available to the athlete involving competitions, commercial activities or recognition.
5. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to decline an invitation to participate in or withdraw from a competition assignment, training camp or other similar activity.
6. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to participate in (or cause an athlete to participate in) a competition, training camp or other similar activity when such participation is inconsistent with the appropriate medical response to the injury.

### **E. Alcohol and Drug Abuse.**

Members of USA Gymnastics must ensure that the sport is conducted in an environment free of drug or alcohol abuse. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Use or provide to a third party any drug proscribed by applicable federal, state or municipal law.

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2. Assist or condone any competing athlete's use of a drug banned by the International Olympic Committee, United States Olympic Committee, Federation Internationale de Gymnastique, USA Gymnastics, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, or, in the case of athlete members, to use such drugs or refuse to submit to properly conducted drug tests administered by one of those organizations.
3. Provide alcohol to, or condone the use of alcohol by, minors, abuse alcohol in the presence of athlete members or at USA Gymnastics' activities or, in the case of athlete members, consume alcoholic beverages while a minor.

### **F. Criminal Conduct.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are expected to comply with all applicable criminal codes. This obligation is violated by any member who has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment involving sexual misconduct, child abuse, or conduct that is a violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors, and, depending on the nature of the crime, may be violated by any member who has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to any felony charge or indictment involving conduct other than that specifically described above.

### **G. Sexual Misconduct.**

Professional Members of USA Gymnastics must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by avoiding sexual relationships with athletes except where the capacity and quality of the athlete's consent to enter that relationship is beyond question. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.
2. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of a professional member's position as coach, judge or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.
3. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

### **H. Professional and Athletic Development.**

Members of USA Gymnastics should strive to increase their level of proficiency and skill. To fulfill this obligation professional members should:

1. Participate in continuing education programs like the safety certification and professional development programs made available by USA Gymnastics.

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2. Remain current on safety, health and training developments relevant to the sport and seek advice and counsel of colleagues and experts whenever such consultation is in the best interests of the athlete.

### **I. Conflict of Interest.**

Members of USA Gymnastics are responsible for avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of business on behalf of the organization. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Use, or be perceived as using, USA Gymnastics' properties, services, opportunities, authority or influence to gain private benefit.
2. Fail, as an employee, director, officer or committee member of USA Gymnastics, to complete an annual conflict of interest of form, or fail to complete that form accurately.
3. Incur expenses in furtherance of USA Gymnastics' business, which are unreasonable, unnecessary, or unsubstantiated.
4. Participate in the deliberation or decision making process about any issue for which the member has a direct financial interest.

### **III.**

#### **Enforcement of Code**

Compliance with this Code depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action.

Any individual who believes that a member of USA Gymnastics has failed to meet his or her obligations under this Code is, under all but the most egregious circumstances, encouraged to first address that concern directly to that member. If that action does not result in a satisfactory resolution, the individual may file a written complaint with the President, program director or other appropriate staff member of USA Gymnastics. That complaint must be signed and must state specifically the nature of the alleged misconduct. Upon review of the complaint and, where appropriate, additional discussions with the complainant and/or member who is the subject of the complaint, the President may:

1. Determine that the complaint does not merit further action,
2. Counsel the member who is the subject of the complaint and record both the complaint and the nature of the counseling in the member's permanent record,
3. Refer the complaint, as appropriate, to the state or regional chairs/committees or affiliated organization, or

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4. Process the complaint under the member misconduct or grievance procedures of USA Gymnastics' Bylaws.