

**USA GYMNASTICS**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2008 OLYMPIC GAMES - BEIJING, CHINA**  
**MEN'S ARTISTIC**  
**October 18, 2007**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1. Citizenship:

Athletes must be U.S. Citizens at the start of the 2008 Visa Championships and, at the time of nomination, hold a current U.S. Passport valid through March 2009. Eligibility rules may be found in the Men's Rules and Policies at [www.usa-gymnastics.org](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org) (Click on Men, then Rules).

2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

The minimum age requirement will follow International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) statutes which for artistic men's gymnastics are 16 years old by December 31, 2008.

3. Other requirements (if any):

Must be an USA Gymnastics Athlete member.

B. Provide a brief summary outlining how an athlete is selected as a nominee to the Team (include maximum team size).

Six athletes will make up the 2008 Olympic Games Team. Athletes may qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games Team in one of three ways:

1. Place first or second in the all around at the conclusion of the 2008 Olympic Team Trials using the final results as defined in section I.D. To be eligible for automatic selection, an athlete must be a participant in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials. In addition, to be eligible for automatic selection, the first or second place all around athlete must have placed in the top three on three of the six events using the final results. Athletes who place first or second in the all around, but do not place in the top three



on three different events may be selected to the team as provided for in I.B.2.

2. Be chosen by the Olympic Games Team Selection Committee as one of the remaining, up to six, athlete members for the 2008 Olympic Games Team. To be eligible, an athlete must be a participant in both the 2008 Visa Championships and 2008 Olympic Team Trials as defined in Section I(D), with the exception of the athlete whose petition to the Olympic Team is accepted.
3. Petition to the 2008 Olympic Games Team through the petition process described in I (D).

C. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process.
  - The 2008 Visa Championships will be conducted on or about May 22 - 24, 2008 at a site to be determined (and posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days prior to the event).
  - The 2008 Olympic Team Trials will be conducted on June 19-22, 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

These two events will be referred to as the Selection Events.

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any "preliminary or qualifying" events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in C. 1 (if any).

Athletes may qualify to compete in the 2008 Visa Championships through the following methods:

- 2007-2008 Senior National Team members who are named following the 2008 Winter Cup Challenge being held on or about February 7 to 9, 2008. (posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days prior to the event).
- Qualify to the 2008 Visa Championships based on the National Points Ranking System from the 2008 National Qualifier to be held on or about April 18 to 19 at a site to be determined (posted on the USA Gymnastics web site a minimum of 45 days prior to the event). The minimum number of athlete positions available from the qualifier will be a total of 14 athletes.



- The Men's Program Committee may invite up to 12 athletes who participate in the 2008 NCAA Championships, being held April 17 to 19, based on the determination that their performance at the 2008 NCAA Championships would make them competitive with the field at the 2008 Visa Championships. This determination will be carried out in the following manner:

1. The athlete must submit a video of his competition from one complete session of competition at the 2008 NCAA Championships (may not include routines performed in separate sessions). To be eligible for consideration the athlete's video must be addressed to the Men's Program Director and received at USA Gymnastics within 72 hours of the completion of the 2008 NCAA Championships.
2. A minimum of two representatives of the MPC, who hold an FIG Brevet rating, will judge the submitted routines using current FIG rules.
3. Scoring from all submitted 2008 NCAA Championships athletes will be subjected to the National Points Ranking System. The final points ranking will be used to approve up to 12 athletes, in rank order points results, to compete at the 2008 Visa Championships.
4. The final scores and points ranking derived from the submitted 2008 NCAA Championships video taped routines will be compared to the scoring results and points ranking of the 2008 National Qualifier to insure that the 12 athletes would be competitive with the field of athletes from the 2008 National Qualifier. Based on this review the MPC may determine to approve fewer than 12 athletes from the 2008 NCAA Championships to the 2008 Visa Championships.
5. If less than 12 athletes from the 2008 NCAA Championships are approved to compete at the 2008 Visa Championships, then any unused positions will come from the rank order point's results of the 2008 National Qualifier.

- An athlete who is unable to participate in the 2008 National Qualifier may petition to compete in the 2008 Visa Championships using the process described in I(D) unless that athlete was a participant at the 2008 NCAA Championships.

Athletes may qualify to compete in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials through the following method:

- Qualify to the 2008 Olympic Team Trials by being named to the 2008-2009



Senior National Team following the 2008 Visa Championships. The process for earning a position on the 2008 – 2009 Senior National Team will be published a minimum of 45 days prior to the start of the 2008 National Qualifier.

- An athlete who is unable to participate in the 2008 Visa Championships may petition to compete in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials using the process described in I(D).

3. Provide the event name, dates and locations of additional trials that will be used to determine “start positions” (if any).

none

D. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees.

Process for selection of the six team members and up to three replacement gymnasts for the 2008 Olympic Games Team.

1. Qualify to the 2008 Olympic Team Trials by being named to the 2008-2009 Senior National Team following the 2008 Visa Championships. The process for earning a position on the 2008 – 2009 Senior National Team will be published a minimum of 45 days prior to the start of the 2008 National Qualifier.
2. Place first or second in the all around at the conclusion of the 2008 Olympic Team Trials using the final results as defined in 4.a below. To be eligible for automatic selection, a Team Member must be a participant in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials. In addition, to be eligible for automatic selection, the first or second place all around athlete must have placed in the top three on three of the six events using the final results. Athletes who place first or second in the all around, but do not place in the top three on three different events may be selected to the team as provided for in I.D.3-6.
3. Selected athletes will be chosen from among the 2008 Olympic Team Trials competitors or from petitions to the 2008 Olympic Games Team.
4. The 2008 Olympic Games Team Selection Committee will consider the following factors when selecting the remaining four to six Olympic Team members and potential replacement athletes:
  - a. The Final Results will be determined using all results from the 2008 Visa Championships and 2008 Olympic Team Trials. The results from the 2008 Visa Championships and the 2008 Olympic Team Trials may be weighted (i.e. 40% - 20% for day one results



and 20% for day two results - for the Visa Championships and 60% - 30% for day one results and 30% for day two results - for the Olympic Trials). An athlete who is not able to complete the 2008 Visa Championships or the 2008 Olympic Team Trials will have his scores count equally for all sessions competed. (i.e. - two days of competition would count 50% + 50% = 100%). The Men's Program

Committee will determine and publish any weighting of the results a minimum of 45 days prior to the start of the 2008 National Qualifier. Note: An athlete who fails to complete the Visa Championships must qualify to the 2008 Olympic Trials through the petition process.

- b. The percentage of hit routines by the gymnast in the selection competitions.
  - c. Start values (A Score) on each apparatus from the 2008 Olympic Games selection events.
  - d. Execution (B Score) on each apparatus from the 2008 Olympic Games selection events.
  - e. Points ranking system derived from the 2008 Olympic Games selection events competitive results. The points ranking system will be published no less than 45 days prior to the 2008 National Qualifier.
  - f. Past domestic and international performance and experience including type, frequency and level of domestic and international competitions and routine hit percentage in those events.
  - g. Demonstrated professional attitude and ability to positively contribute to the team dynamic.
  - h. Any physical, training or performance factor which might inhibit peak performance at the 2008 Olympic Games.
5. The 2008 Olympic Games Team Selection Committee will consider the information noted in number 4 above in the following prioritized manner.
- a. The results from the 2008 Olympic Games selection events 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 in the preliminary team competition and also for the six man team, three athletes compete and all three scores count in the team finals format.
  - b. The start values (A Score) of all potential team members will be factored into the process of selecting the final team.
  - c. The execution (B Score) of all potential team members will be factored into the process of selecting the final team.
  - d. The remaining factors, the points ranking system, past domestic and international experience and other factors as listed above 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.

6. The Olympic Games Selection Committee will name a minimum of two members of the Olympic Team at the 2008 Olympic Team Trials immediately following the conclusion of the final day of competition. These two members will be the automatically selected athletes based on the all around ranking or, in the case that the all around athletes do not qualify for automatic selection, up to two selected members. The remaining Olympic squad members (equal to the remaining four team positions and replacement positions) will be named within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Men's 2008 Olympic Team Trials. The designation of the remaining four competing Olympic team members and up to three replacements from the Olympic squad will be made by the USOC nomination date of July 1. The Selection Committee reserves the right to name the additional four competing Olympic Team members and up to three replacement athletes within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Men's 2008 Olympic Team Trials.

## PETITIONS

1. Petition Rights: Accordingly, USA Gymnastics will allow athletes, with a specific injury, illness or unusual circumstance, which prohibits the athlete from participating in the competitive process, to petition USA Gymnastics for the right to:
  - a. Enter the 2008 Visa Championships or the 2008 Olympic Team Trials as determined by the Men's Program Committee (MPC).
  - b. To be selected to the 2008 Olympic Games Team, as determined by the 2008 Olympic Games Team Selection Committee.
2. Petition Procedures and Requirements
  - a. Only athletes who meet the following criteria may submit a petition:
    - A petition to enter the 2008 Visa Championships may be submitted by any athlete.
    - A petition to enter the 2008 Olympic Team Trials may only be submitted by an athlete who is or has been a Senior National Team Member in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
    - A petition directly to the 2008 Olympic Team may only be submitted by an athlete who was an Olympic or World Team member in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, or 2007 or by an athlete who has participated in at least 50% of the selection events and is in the first, second or third position in the 2008 National Points standings based on completed competition.
  - b. Petitions to the 2008 Visa Championships or the 2008 Olympic Team Trials will be considered for approval by the Men's Program Committee and



must be received by the Men's Program Director no later than April 13, 2008 for the 2008 Visa Championships or May 24, 2008 for the 2008 Olympic Team Trials.

- c. Petitions directly to the 2008 Olympic Games Team will be considered for approval by the 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee. In order to be considered by the 2008 Olympic Games Committee, petitions onto the 2008 Olympic Games Team 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 competition at the 2008 Olympic Team Trials.
- d. A 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. Athletes must also be able to demonstrate through past competitive results from USA Gymnastics or FIG sanctioned events that they are highly competitive in the field with other athletes qualified for the 2008 Olympic Games selection events.
- e. An athlete who successfully petitions to the Olympic Team will be required to demonstrate readiness at the 2008 Olympic Team Preparation Camp noted in Section IX. The criteria for demonstrating readiness are:
  - The Selection Committee will inform the athlete on which events he must show readiness at the preparation camp. The athlete must perform full routines at the preparation camp on those events (he may also perform routines on the other events)
  - All of the athlete's routines will be judged by a minimum of two judges who participated as judges at the 2008 Olympic Team Trials.
  - The Selection Committee will use the scores from the routines the athlete performed at the Preparation Camp and apply the selection criteria described in I D to evaluate the athlete's performance to assess whether the athlete would have been named to the Olympic Team.
  - If the Selection Committee determines that the athlete's performance is not at the level necessary to remain on the Olympic Team, then the athlete will not have shown readiness and will be removed from the Olympic Team.
  - Replacement of the athlete will follow the guidelines described in Section IV.

E. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the



selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.

Men's Program Committee

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Men's Program Committee	Yoichi Tomita	Chairman
Men's Program Committee	Russ Fystrom	Senior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Kurt Golder	Senior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Steve Butcher	Junior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Bill Foster	Junior Representative
Men's Program Committee	John Roethlisberger	Athlete Representative
Men's Program Committee	Jay Thornton	Athlete Representative

2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee	Yoichi Tomita	Chairman, Men's Program Committee
2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee	Dennis McIntyre	USA Gymnastics Men's Program Director
2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee	Ron Brant	Senior National Team Coordinator
2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee	TBD	Athlete Representative
2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee	TBD	Coach Representative

**II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of gymnastics is subjectively judged event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely by the rank order to be competitive for both team and individual event medals. The current rules do not require athletes to compete on all events, which necessitate evaluating relative event strength and contribution to total team or event scores.

B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:

Refer to Section I(D).

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

1. Provide the name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.



## 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee

2. Provide a complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their USA Gymnastics role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity.

2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee composition:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Yoichi Tomita	Chairman Men's Program Committee
Dennis McIntyre	USA Gymnastics Men's Program Director
Ron Brant	USA Gymnastics Senior National Team Coordinator
TBD	Athlete's Representative
TBD	Coach Representative

The Men's Program Committee will name a replacement committee member in the event that a 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee member is currently affiliated with any athlete in consideration for the 2008 Olympic Games Team or is unable to fulfill the obligations of the 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee or continue for any reason.

### III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. Prior to acceptance of nomination by the USOC, USA Gymnastics has jurisdiction over potential nominees.  
An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Gymnastics may be removed from the Nominations for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Gymnastics.
  - Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Gymnastics CEO/Executive Director.
  - Injury or illness as certified by a USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USA Gymnastics physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
  - Violation of the USA Gymnastics National Team Agreement. (Attachment A)
  - Lack of performance in training which inhibits peak performance at the 2008 Olympic Games.
  - Failure to show readiness in the case of a petitioned athlete as described in I (D).
  - Removal may only occur by action of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Men's Program Director and the Athlete Representative, and an interview with the athlete and his coach. Any decision to remove an athlete or coach is subject to review through USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures.



An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Gymnastics Constitution and Bylaws ((Article 10)) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

- B. After acceptance of nomination by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

An athlete may be removed from the team because of an injury or illness which prohibits peak performance as defined by the USOC Code of Conduct.

An athlete may be removed from the team if, in the case of a petitioned athlete, he fails to show readiness as described in I (D).

A USOC approved team member is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- C. An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, FIG, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

#### **IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

The 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee will also identify up to three potential replacements to the 2008 Olympic Games Team who may or may not travel to the 2008 Olympic Games using the criteria described in Section I (D).

- B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:
  - i. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

The 2008 Olympic Games Selection Committee will identify which replacement athlete will be selected to replace a previously nominated athlete using the Discretionary Selection criteria described in Section I(D).



- ii. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

The 2008 Olympic Games Team Selection Committee will identify which replacement athlete will be selected to replace a previously nominated athlete using the Discretionary Selection criteria described in Section I(D).

- C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

- i. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

See Section I(E).

- ii. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the team:

- a. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See Section I(E).

- b. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See Section I(E).

- c. During the Games:

Olympic Team Head coach (TBD), Senior National Team Coordinator (Ron Brant) and the Men's Program Director (Dennis McIntyre)

## **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Gymnastics will retain all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Games.

## **VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination in the Olympic and are included as attachments:

National Team Agreement (Attachment A)

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



The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Gymnastics in the following locations and will include the USOC approval date:

A. NGB website: [www.usa-gymnastics.org](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

B. NGB Official Publication (if any):

Technique Magazine

C. Other: NA

## **VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION**

Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be submitted to the USOC on or before July 1, 2008.

## **IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

An Olympic Team preparation camp will be held following the Olympic Trials.

Athletes and coaches will be individually notified of the date and site of the camp 45 days prior to the start of the Visa Championships.

## **X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FIG, USADA and USOC Rules.

## **XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:



## Men's Program Committee

Committee	Name	Title
Men's Program Committee	Yoichi Tomita	Chairman
Men's Program Committee	Russ Fystrom	Senior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Kurt Golder	Senior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Steve Butcher	Junior Representative
Men's Program Committee	Bill Foster	Junior Representative
Men's Program Committee	John Roethlisberger	Athlete Representative
Men's Program Committee	Jay Thornton	Athlete Representative

## XII. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found:

<http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/organization/usag-02bylaws.pdf>

## XIII. 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 USA Gymnastics. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

## XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Gymnastics may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman:

John W. Ruger by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.888athlete.org](http://www.888athlete.org)



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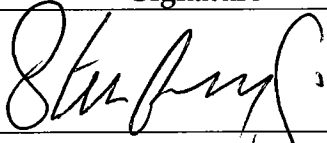

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#### XV. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF and/or CF (PAG only), if applicable, standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Gymnastics.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or Executive Director	Steve Penny		10/29/07
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Dennis McIntyre		10/22/07
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Larissa Fontaine		

\*If USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

#### USOC USE ONLY

Date Original Procedures Rec'd _____	Date of USOC Approval _____
Date Revision Submitted _____	



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Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or Executive Director	Steve Penny		
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Dennis McIntyre		
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Larissa Fontaine		11/13/07

\*If USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

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**Attachment A**

**USA GYMNASTICS  
2007 NATIONAL TEAM  
FUNDING AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is entered into between USA GYMNASTICS (USAG), a not-for-profit corporation designated by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the national governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States and \_\_\_\_\_ (referred to as "I," "me," or "you" throughout), an athlete member of USAG who has been selected to the USAG's National Team.

**Recitals**

1. In order to meet its obligation as the national governing body for the sport of gymnastics (including fielding teams to represent the United States in international competition), USAG selects, trains and funds National Teams. As part of that process, USAG desires to provide to me, as a member of its National Team (the "Team"), various forms of support designed to assist me in my training and competitive efforts.
2. I am a member in good standing of USAG whose performance in USAG competitions qualifies me for the Team, and I desire to be a member of the Team. As a member of the Team, I am willing to devote my best efforts to use the support provided by USAG to develop my full potential as a gymnast.

Now, therefore, USAG and I agree as follows:

**I. Athlete's Obligations**

In consideration for the support provided by USAG to me as a member of the Team, I agree to be bound by each of the following:

1. General Responsibilities. I recognize that as a member of the Team, I am serving as a representative of the thousands of gymnasts participating in gymnastics throughout the United States who are members of USAG, and I will conduct myself accordingly. I accept the responsibility, therefore, to comply at all times with USAG's Code of Ethics (a copy of which is attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A) so long as the provisions or application of that Code of Ethics is not inconsistent with or superceded by the standards established by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act or the policies of the United States Olympic Committee.
2. Testing. I will participate in all required physical and psychological testing conducted by USAG.
3. Competition. Recognizing the critically important role played by USAG's events in generating the funds necessary to support the Team, I will use my best efforts to participate in those national or international competitions and exhibitions to which I am invited or assigned by USAG. Notwithstanding the foregoing, I will not be obligated to participate in any



competition or event if I am not medically fit to do so, or if such participation would create a risk of injury based on an existing condition. Further, USAG will consult with me before determining the competitions to which I will be assigned.

**When I accept an invitation to compete in an event as a member of the Team, I will make every effort to perform to the best of my ability. I will participate for the full duration of the event unless I am excused by the Head of Delegation or Program Director. I also acknowledge that I understand that my participation in gymnastics competitions, exhibitions, and/or events that are not sanctioned by USAG or the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) may jeopardize my eligibility to participate in competitions sanctioned by the FIG.**

4. Other Team Selection. During the course of this Agreement, I recognize that I may have the opportunity to qualify for teams selected by USAG to compete in such international events as the Olympic Games, World Championships, Pan American Games and World University Games. I acknowledge that these teams are selected in accordance with written selection procedures which will be published in USAG publications and/or web-site and provided to me as a member of the Team. I further acknowledge my obligations to make myself familiar with and to be bound by those selection procedures.
5. Banned Substances. I will not use any chemicals, drugs or other banned substances, or violate policies and procedures established by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the FIG, the IOC, the USOC, or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). I acknowledge that the list of banned substances, policies and procedures may change during the course of this Agreement and that I have an obligation to stay informed about changes communicated to me by any of the aforementioned organizations. I further agree to submit to periodic unannounced drug tests as required by WADA, USADA, the USOC, IOC or the FIG. *USADA website: [www.usantidoping.org](http://www.usantidoping.org).*
6. Eligibility. I will maintain my eligibility to compete in national and international gymnastics competition under the eligibility rules established by USAG or FIG. I understand, however, that the eligibility rules of USAG or FIG may not be consistent with the eligibility requirements of high school or collegiate athletic associations, and I accept full responsibility for keeping myself informed about, and to the extent I desire, in compliance with the eligibility requirements of those athletic associations.
7. Use of my Image. I grant to USAG the non-exclusive right to use, license, assign, sell or otherwise use my name, image, likeness, voice or performance as a member of the Team for the purpose of:
  - a. Promoting the sport of gymnastics, my achievements as a gymnast, and the work of USAG,
  - b. Promoting events sponsored or sanctioned by USAG, provided, however, that this right shall not extend to events in which I am not scheduled to participate or events having a title or presenting sponsor that is a competitor of a company with which I have an endorsement relationship,
  - c. Producing educational or safety materials,



- d. Producing television broadcasts, recordings or other factual accounts of the performance of the Team and its members,
- e. Raising funds for USAG through the sale of merchandise (including photographs, posters, and prints) featuring images of the Team or any images or collection of images featuring three or more members of the Team, or
- f. Allowing a company to identify itself as a national sponsor or official supplier of USAG in advertising or promotions approved by USAG. This grant is subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) such advertising or promotion incorporates a minimum of three (3) athletes of the same sex in an advertisement or promotion that is clearly team-themed and does not suggest that I have a relationship with the sponsor; or
  - (2) each athlete whose name, picture, image or performance is used provides his or her written consent.

In any instance where USAG raises funds through the sale of merchandise featuring my image pursuant to subsection 7(e) above, I will be compensated under mutually agreed upon terms. Whenever requesting my participation in a promotional activity, USAG will identify the financial terms (if any) associated with my participation, and commits to make sure that all funds made available by a sponsor to pay for athlete/coach appearances will be used only for that purpose.

- 8. Sponsors. This agreement does not limit my ability to enter into a commercial relationship with a third party, including third parties who are competitors of USAG's sponsors or suppliers. I recognize, however, the important role played by the sponsors of USAG, USAG events and the Team in helping to fund and promote the Team and my participation on the Team. Accordingly, when I am presented with a commercial opportunity I will, where I conclude in my sole discretion that to do so will not jeopardize that opportunity, give to an existing USAG sponsor in the same product category the right, and a reasonable period of time within which to exercise the right, to match the terms and conditions of any offer made to me by a competitor of that sponsor. I understand that I am not permitted to convey to my sponsors any marketing rights associated with USAG or the Team. By way of example, I am not permitted to wear Team apparel or refer to my membership on the Team in advertising and promotions conducted by sponsors who are not sponsors of USAG. USAG has provided to me as Exhibit B to this Agreement a list of USAG's sponsors and suppliers.
- 9. Promotion of the Team. Consistent with my training and competition schedule, I recognize that all of us involved in USAG and the Team have an obligation to make a good-faith effort to participate in activities designed to teach gymnastics skills or promote the sport of gymnastics, the work of USAG, the Team, and USAG events. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, Team meetings, national and regional congresses, clinics, seminars, promotional appearances on behalf of USAG events and programs and sessions with members of the media.
- 10. Appearance. I will meet all prescribed guidelines for appearance whenever appearing or traveling as a member of the Team. I understand that those guidelines may also obligate me to



wear certain types of competition, training and leisure apparel when appearing as a member of the Team, including opening and closing ceremonies of a competition. Those guidelines do not, however, limit my ability to use the competition shoes/socks, grips and wrist supports or other medical braces of my choice.

11. Travel. I will have in my possession a valid and current passport and be prepared to notify USAG of the passport number and place and date of issue. I will also maintain current passport style photos for use by USAG in applying for visas. I agree to meet all travel schedules set for me when traveling as a member of the Team, and understand that I may only change travel arrangements with the approval of USAG. I agree to be personally responsible for any additional cost resulting from changes to the travel arrangements made for me without the prior approval of USAG.
12. Medical Attention. I give my consent to USAG to provide, through a medical staff of its choice, customary medical care and athletic training, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted in the course of my participation as a member of the Team.
13. Retirement or Inability to Compete. I will notify USAG promptly if I decide to retire from the Team, or if I suffer any injury or illness which may prevent me from fulfilling my responsibilities as a member of the Team. In the event of such injury or illness, I agree to submit to all reasonable requests for examination or evaluation by medical personnel retained by USAG.
14. Waiver and Release. I AM FULLY AWARE OF AND APPRECIATE THE RISKS, INCLUDING THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC INJURY, PARALYSIS, AND EVEN DEATH AS WELL AS OTHER DAMAGES AND LOSSES, ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATING IN GYMNASTICS. I FURTHER AGREE THAT USAG, AND ITS SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OFFICERS, AND DIRECTORS (the "Released Parties") SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGES OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN GYMNASTICS, UNLESS THAT LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTS DIRECTLY FROM THE WILLFUL OR WANTON CONDUCT OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.



## **II. USAG Obligations**

In consideration for my agreement to be bound by the terms and conditions of Section I of this Agreement, I understand that USAG agrees to do each of the following for me:

1. **Membership.** USAG will provide me with a USAG team membership, including all insurance coverage and benefits associated with that membership as identified in Exhibit C.
2. **Training.** USAG's staff and/or clinicians will be available to work with me and my coach to establish a training program designed to assist me in my development as a gymnast. This assistance will include types and amounts of assistance as agreed upon by USAG and my coach. In addition, USAG will pay for the travel, lodging and meal expense associated with my participation in USAG training camps (if any) which I am required to attend.
3. **Apparel.** USAG will provide me with Team apparel if and when I am invited or assigned by USAG to participate in national or international competitions and exhibitions.
4. **Funding.** I will be eligible to participate in (and, where appropriate, have my coach and club participate in) those funding programs described in Exhibit D.
5. **Competition.** USAG will arrange for my participation in national competitions, international competitions and exhibitions subject to program policy, the availability of funding, other competitions, and the discretion of USAG,.
6. **Travel.** USAG will be responsible for all normal travel and meal and housing expenses directly associated with my participation in training camps, competitions, exhibitions and promotional appearances, if any, where such participation is at the request of USAG and as a member of the Team.
7. **Health Counseling and Referral.** As part of its commitment to maintaining the health of the members of the Team, USAG will have a trainer, nutritionist, sports psychologist and Team doctor available to assist the Team. In addition, USAG will assist me by identifying medical experts in other specialties or geographic locations with whom I might consult.
8. **Representation.** USAG has established and funds an Athletes' Council. That Council is charged under USAG's Bylaws with soliciting athlete input on pending policies and decisions and communicating to USAG the views of the Athletes on those issues. As a member of the Team, I am eligible to both serve on and elect representatives to the Athletes' Council.
9. **Communication.** USAG will give me the right to call the USAG national office without charge to me. In addition, USAG will provide me with copies of relevant selection procedures, information concerning my opportunities to participate in competitions or training and minutes from meetings of the Athletes' Council.
10. **Public Relations.** USAG will help to publicize my participation as a member of the





Athlete Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

If athlete is under the age of 18:

As the legal parent and/or guardian for \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby verify that I fully understand and accept each of the conditions for permitting my child to participate as a USAG National Team member.

Printed Name of  
PARENT or GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of  
PARENT OR GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

USA GYMNASTICS

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President