SECTION 3 - NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

BDP

3.1 AMATEURISM

All athletes competing in a GCG sanctioned event must abide by the regulations of GCG, FIG and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) governing amateur status.

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3.2 ELIGIBILITY

a) A athlete participating in a WAG national level competition (see 5.1) must:
- be a female gymnast;
- be duly affiliated member of her P/T association and of GCG; membership must be with the province of residence;
- be member in good standing (not currently being sanctioned) with GCG and her P/T Association;
- be an amateur according to the rules of the IOC, the FIG and GCG;
- be a Canadian Citizen OR have permanent resident status OR have been a full-time resident of Canada for at least two (2) years prior to the date of the competition;
- not compete or not have competed internationally for a country other than Canada.

In special cases and after consultation with the P/T Association, GCG may authorize a HP athlete who is not in good standing with her P/T association to compete at a WAG national level competition/event. The intent is to protect the athlete's right to compete in a situation where she is not personally at fault or she has no control over the situation.

b) A Canadian citizen living outside Canada who wishes to compete at National level competitions must be a member of a club affiliated with a P/T Association. The athlete must follow the provincial and national rules regarding participation at the National level competitions.

c) A Canadian citizen who has dual citizenship and competes internationally for a foreign country may not receive High Performance, National Team or Carded athlete status. Upon request from the foreign country, she may compete out-of-competition in the Qualification of the Canadian Championships only. She may not compete in or out of competition at Elite Canada.

d) A foreign athlete not representing or not having represented her own country at an international competition and who has resided in Canada for at least 12 months in a row but has not yet resided for at least two years before her request may compete out-of-competition at Elite Canada and the Canadian Championships provided that she has:
- submitted a written request to the AG PD;
- satisfied the requirements of her P/T related to the screening activity for Elite Canada;
- obtained the permission of the AG PD;
- have competed at the preceding Elite Canada to compete at the Canadian Championships.

e) A foreign athlete not residing in Canada may be permitted to take part in a WAG national level competition if approval is granted by the AG PD. Only an official request made to GCG on behalf of the athlete by her National Federation will be considered. The athlete could be allowed to take part in the Team, All-Around and/or Apparatus Finals competition(s) in addition to the Canadian athletes. She is eligible for All-Around and/or Apparatus Finals duplicate rankings and medals. This is valid also for an athlete who resides in Canada for less than 16 months and intends to return to her country at the end of the (up to) 16 month period.

For purpose of WAG selection - HP lists, NT lists, Carded athletes lists, international competitions, etc. - the foreign athlete will be considered as an out-of-competition athlete and her results tabulated separately.

f) A coach or a judge residing permanently in Canada participating in a WAG national level competition must be:
- duly affiliated members of his/her P/T association and of GCG (based on the province of residence unless a special dispensation has been given by the JDWG for a judge);
- member in good standing (not currently being sanctioned) with GCG and his/her P/T Association.

g) In special cases and after consultation with the P/T Association, GCG may authorize a HP coach or Brevet judge who is not in good standing with his/her P/T association to participate in a WAG national level competition/event. The intent is to protect the coach's or judge's rights in a situation where he/she is not personally at fault or has no control over the situation.

h) A judge assigned to a WAG national level competition must be listed as active on the current GCG Judges List.

i) A coach wishing access to the training, warm-up or competition floor at a WAG national level competition must be certified NCCP Level 3. A coach who is employed on a full time basis by an organization based outside Canada is exempted from this requirement. Refer to section 6 of the WAG Program Manual for detailed information.

j) Exceptionally, the WAG Program Committee may authorize an underage athlete to attempt to earn HP status in the Novice category at Elite Canada if:
- a request is made by her club and her P/T Association;
- the application is supported by the WAG National Team Director who will state that this athlete is exceptionally talented and is physically and mentally ready to compete in the HP Novice category;
- the athlete has met the screening standard and requirements in effect.

3.4 HIGH PERFORMANCE (HP) PROGRAM

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3.4.1 Purpose

To identify and contribute to the development and preparation of HP athletes who will represent Canada at international events and rank among the best athletes in the world.

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3.4.2 High Performance Status

HP status is given to:

- Senior, Junior and Novice athletes and their coaches who have been identified according to the process and criteria in place;
- clubs of HP Senior, Junior and/or Novice athletes.

Note The calendar year, the years of birth and the competitions' years have been increased by one in the articles below to take into consideration the new calendar year. These changes are done automatically every year and do not have an annotation in the left margin.

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3.4.3 Identification

a) There are two means to enter the HP Senior, Junior or Novice Program:

- *Elite Canada;*
- *Petition granted by the HP Program Petition Working Group*

TR

3.4.4 Age Eligibility

3.4.4.1 Senior

a) The minimum age is 14 years old in 2016, i.e. born in 2002 or before.

3.4.4.2 Junior

a) The minimum age is 12 years old in 2016, i.e. minimum born in 2004.

b) The maximum age is 15 years old in 2016, i.e. maximum born in 2001.

3.4.4.3 Novice

a) The minimum age is 11 years old in 2016, i.e. minimum born in 2005.

b) The maximum age is 13 years old in 2016, i.e. maximum born in 2003.

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3.4.5 Senior List

3.4.5.1 Maximum Number of Athletes

a) The 2017 HP Senior list may include up to 28 athletes

b) The maximum number may be superior to 28 if a tie cannot be broken by the current tie-breaking rules (article 3.4.5.2 a) and there are more tied athletes than the number of places available. In this case, all tied athletes will received High Performance status

3.4.5.2 Composition of Senior List

a) The list is composed in the following order of:

- *the carded athletes at the time of Elite Canada 2017 who must/will compete in the Senior category in 2017;*
- *the top six 2001 born All-Around Seniors at Elite Canada 2017, including 2001 born carded athletes, provided that they ranked in the top 14 All-Around, who wish to compete as HP Seniors in 2017;*
- *the top eight (absolute) ranked All-Around Seniors at Elite Canada 2017, who wish to compete as HP Seniors in 2017;*
- *the gold medalists in the Senior Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2017, who wish to compete as HP Seniors in 2017;*
- *the carded athletes who did not compete at Elite Canada 2017 who must/will compete in the Senior category in 2017 but are able to demonstrate they have achieved one of the standards listed in the Screening Standards for 2017 through verification or an approved screening activity or competition. These athletes will be reviewed and approved during the Petition Process.*
- *up to 8 non-carded athletes whose petition has been accepted by the HP Program Petition Working Group; preference will be given to Senior and Junior National Team members;*
- *the remaining top All-Around Seniors at Elite Canada 2017 provided that they have obtained, on day 1, an All-Around total superior by at least 1.50 points to the AA standard stated in 5.5.1 for the screening activity, who wish to compete as HP Seniors in 2017, up to the maximum allowed in 3.4.5.1.*

- *If the number of athletes is less than as stated in 3.4.5.1, additional athletes may be selected by the HP Program Petition Working Group, up to the maximum permitted, according to the following point system and the results in the Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2016 provided that they have obtained a minimum of 8 points:*

Silver	*20 Points*	*Bronze*	*18 Points*
4th	*16*	*5th*	*14*
6th	*12*	*7th*	*10*
8th	*8*		

The athlete(s) with the highest number of points will be selected.

In case of a tie in the result of an Apparatus Final, the points for the tied places are averaged. Each tied athlete will receive the averaged number of points.

In case of a tie in the point system to obtain HP status, the athlete(s) with the greater number of Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2016 among the tied athletes will be ranked higher. In case of a further tie, all tied athletes will be selected.

b) An athlete whose petition has been granted has full membership with all privileges attached.

c) A petition must be made on the form in Appendix and received at the National Office no later than five working days after Elite Canada. It must include the rationale for the petition, any relevant data and information, the fee if applicable and if necessary, the medical information stated in 3.4.9.2.

d) If the maximum number of athletes in the Senior category is not reached, additional petitions may be considered by the HP Program Petition Working Group if received no later than April 1, 2017.

e) The coaches of the eligible athletes must confirm the participation of their athlete(s) in the HP Senior Program by ensuring that the form provided in Appendix is received at the National Office no later than five days after Elite Canada.

TR ***3.4.6 Junior List***

3.4.6.1 Maximum Number of Athletes

a) The 2017 HP Junior list may include up to 24 athletes.

b) The maximum number may be superior to 24 if a tie cannot be broken by the current tie-breaking rules (article 3.4.6.3 a) and there are more tied athletes than the number of places available. In this case, all tied athletes will received High Performance status

3.4.6.2 Composition of Junior List

a) The list is composed in the following order of:

- *the carded athletes at the time of Elite Canada 2017 who will compete in the Junior category in 2017;*
- *the top six (absolute) ranked athletes following the All-Around Junior competition at Elite Canada 2017, who wish to compete as HP Juniors in 2017;*
- *the top three 2003 born Juniors at Elite Canada 2016 provided that they ranked in the top 12 All-Around, who wish to compete as HP Juniors in 2017;*
- *medalists (gold, silver or bronze) in the Junior Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2017, who wish to compete as HP Juniors in 2017;*
- *up to 8 athletes whose petition has been accepted by the HP Program Petition Working Group; preference will be given to Junior and Youth National Team members;*

- *the remaining top All-Around Juniors at Elite Canada 2017, provided that they have obtained, on day 1, an All-Around total superior by at least 1.50 points to the AA standard stated in 5.5.1 for the screening activity, who wish to compete as HP Juniors in 2016, up to the maximum stated in 3.4.6.1.*

  If the number of athletes is less than as stated in 3.4.6.1, additional athletes may be selected by the HP Program Petition Working Group, up to the maximum permitted, according to the following point system and the results in the Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2017provided that they have obtained a minimum of 8 points:

4th	*16*	*5th*	*14*
6th	*12*	*7th*	*10*
8th	*8*		

  The athlete(s) with the highest number of points will be selected.

  In case of a tie in the result of an Apparatus Final, the points for the tied places are averaged. Each tied athlete will receive the averaged number of points.

  In case of a tie in the point system to obtain HP status, the athlete(s) with the greater number of Apparatus Finals at Elite Canada 2017 among the tied athletes will be ranked higher. In case of a further tie, all tied athletes will be selected.

b) An athlete whose petition has been granted has full membership with all privileges attached.

c) A petition must be made on the form in Appendix and received at the National Office no later than five working days after Elite Canada. It must include the rationale for the petition, any relevant data and information, the fee if applicable and if necessary, the medical information stated in 3.4.9.2.

d) If the maximum number of athletes in the Junior category is not reached, additional petitions may be considered by the HP Program Petition Working Group if received no later than April 1, 2017.

e) The coaches of the eligible athletes must confirm the participation of their athlete(s) in the HP Junior Program by ensuring that the form provided in Appendix is received at the National Office no later than five days after Elite Canada.

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3.4.7 Novice List

3.4.7.1 Maximum Number of Athletes

a) The 2017 HP Novice list may include up to 32 athletes.

3.4.7.2 Composition of Novice List

a) The list is composed in the following order of:

- the top 24 (absolute) ranked All-Around Novices after two days of combined results at Elite Canada 2017 who wish to compete as HP Novices in 2017, provided that they have obtained:
i) on day 1 ***or*** *day 2 an All-Around total equal or superior by at least 1.50 points to the AA standard stated in 5.5.1 for the screening activity, AND*
ii) an All-Around total after two days of competition equal or superior to twice the total needed on each day (screening standard plus 1.5 points).
- up to 8 athletes, whose petition has been accepted by the HP Program Petition Working Group; preference will be given to Youth National Team members.

b) An athlete whose petition has been granted has full membership with all privileges attached.

c) A petition must be made on the form in Appendix and received at the National Office no later than five working days after Elite Canada. It must include the rationale for the petition, any relevant data and information, the fee if applicable and if necessary, the medical information stated in 3.4.9.2.

d) If the maximum number of athletes in the Novice category is not reached, additional petitions may be considered by the HP Program Petition Working Group if received no later than April 1, 2017.

e) The coaches of the eligible athletes must confirm the participation of their athlete(s) in the HP Novice Program by ensuring that the form provided in Appendix is received at the National Office no later than five days after Elite Canada.

3.4.8 Change of Status and/or Transfer to a Category in the National Program

a) If an athlete wishes to relinquish her HP status and transfer to a category in the National Stream Program, the coach must submit a request in writing to the AG PD. Such a request must:
- include the signature of one parent, or legal guardian, if the athlete is under 18 years old;
- be RECEIVED at the National Office no later than April 1, 2017.

b) No request will be considered if received at the National Office after April 1, 2017.

c) The transfer may be granted a maximum of one time in the athlete's gymnastics career. The request will not be granted for a Carded Athlete or a National Team member.

d) Unless the request to change her status is granted by the WAG PC or the athlete retires, she will keep her HP status until December 31st of the year under consideration.

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3.4.9 PETITION PROCESS FOR THE HP LISTS

3.4.9.1 Working Group

a) The Working Group is composed of:
- Chair: WAG NT Director or designate
- Members:
  - i) AG Program Director or designate
  - ii) one individual, preferably a coach or a former coach, appointed by the AG PD and the WAG NTD or designate; he/she must not have any athlete petitioning and, preferably, was in attendance at the Elite Canada competition under consideration

3.4.9.2 Process

a) The COMPLETE PETITION, including form, rationale, relevant information and data, video of recent (3 months) performances if desired, must be RECEIVED at the National Office no later than five days after the completion of Elite Canada.

b) A petition for reasons of illness or injury at the time of Elite Canada must be supported by a detailed medical (physician) report and an official medical (physician) certificate stating:
- the exact date the illness started or the injury was incurred; this is very important if the injury incurred during Elite Canada
- the nature of the illness or injury
- that the illness or injury prevented the athlete from competing at Elite Canada or forced her to withdraw from Elite Canada
- the recovery protocol
- the expected dates at which partial and full training can be resumed.

Information provided by the coach or a therapist cannot be used to replace the medical certificate.

It is the responsibility of the coach making the petition to submit the relevant information. GCG will not request additional information if the medical certificate is incomplete. The penalty in the paragraph below will apply automatically.

AN ATHLETE WHOSE MEDICAL REPORT/CERTIFICATE DOES NOT STATE THE EXPECTED DATES AT WHICH PARTIAL AND FULL TRAINING CAN BE RESUMED MAY BE AT A DISADVANTAGE IF THERE ARE MORE PETITIONS CONSIDERED THAN PLACES AVAILABLE.

c) If the athlete was registered at Elite Canada, there is no cost for the petition. If the athlete was not registered, there is a $90.00 fee that must accompany the complete petition.

d) The petitions will be examined by the Working Group, which will work on a consensus basis. The Working Group is not obligated to accept the maximum number of petitions allowed by the Technical Regulations.

e) In each category, preference will be given to National Team members.

f) Notification with regard to acceptance or non-acceptance of the petitions will be made to each club no later than **February 25, *2017***.

3.4.9.3 Criteria for Current National Team Members (criteria to be used for selection among NT members when necessary)

a) The following criteria will be considered when ranking each current National Team member who petitioned:

- Absence from Elite Canada due to attendance at a GCG assigned international competition where acceptance of the petition was guaranteed before departure (priority #1);
- Athletes obliged to move up a category due to a combination of age and excellent All-Around rank at the previous Canadian Championships who did not rank well due to injury or illness;
- NT member now competing for an American university who has represented Canada at major international competitions and made a written commitment to represent Canada internationally in the next 12 months and to maintain the necessary level of difficulty for her vault(s) and/or routines;
- Espoir (La Relève) status (more months is better)
- Intent to remain a High Performance athlete as shown by:
  - entering and completing Elite Canada;
  - entering the competition but being unable to complete the competition due to injury or illness;

- On Novice, Junior or Senior HP list for the full year in the previous two years;
- Rankings (All-Around and Apparatus) at the current Elite Canada up to the point of withdrawing - top 6 All-Around excluding carded athletes is an advantage;
- Rankings (All-Around and Apparatus) at the immediately previous Canadian Championships in the Novice, Junior or Senior category - top 8 All-Around is an advantage;
- Very strong results on an apparatus based on recent national or international competitions
- National High Performance and International competition results (GCG assigned or competition recognized for petition purpose) in the previous 12 months;
- Potential to be selected for an international competition in the next 8 months;
- Expected date to resume full training if more than two months without regular training.

3.4.9.4 Criteria for Non National Team Members (criteria to be used for selection among non NT members when necessary)

a) The following criteria will be considered when ranking each non National Team member who petitioned. This is not listed in any priority order.

Status

1) Status as a National Team member or Espoir (La Relève) athlete in the past three years;
2) Status as Pre-Novice Canada athlete in the past two years;
3) HP Status as Novice, Junior or Senior for the full year in the previous two calendar years;
4) HP status previously granted following a petition (more than once in a category and more than twice total is a disadvantage);
5) Athlete who has represented Canada at major international competitions, is now competing for an American university, has made a written commitment to represent Canada internationally in the next 12 months and to maintain the necessary level of difficulty for her vault(s) and/or routines.

Results

6) Rankings (All-Around and Apparatus) at Elite Canada (up to the point of withdrawing) – top 10 Senior and Novice, top 8 Junior is an advantage;
7) Closeness to standard in given category;
8) Results at Elite Canada Screening Activity;
9) Junior or Senior category: Rankings (All-Around and Apparatus) at the immediately previous Canadian Championships – top 8 is an advantage;
10) Novice: Rankings at the immediately previous Canadian Championships at the apparatus competition – top 12 is an advantage;
11) Results in the Canadian Pre-Novice Elite category, if first year Novice.
12) Results at International competition in the previous 12 months;

Other	13)	Age of athlete: younger is an advantage;
	14)	Favorable assessment by NT Director;
	15)	Expected date to resume full training if more than two months without regular training.
Forms	16)	Forms / petition fully completed
	17)	Information provided on the medical certificate; typed (not handwritten) by physician indicating the nature of the injury, the recovery protocol, the expected date to return to partial and full training.

b) If the difference between some athletes is not significant based on the above-mentioned criteria and the number of available places is insufficient, the Working Group may decide that the athletes still under consideration will be ranked according to the results of a competition or of an evaluation by the WAG NTD at a camp or joint training session.