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CANADA

**Women's Artistic Gymnastics
2017 Individual World Championships
Selection Process**

April 2017 - Final

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Program of Gymnastics Canada to select athletes and coaches to the Montreal 2017 World Championships, with the goal of selecting the best possible gymnasts to help meet the objectives for the program.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objective of this selection process and procedures is to select the best possible delegation for these championships who will be capable of achieving the following targets:

- Win a medal in an apparatus or All Around final
- One athlete in top 8 AA
- A second athlete in the top 16 AA
- Finalists in two apparatus finals

Consideration will be given to ensuring that at least one athlete competes on four apparatus in the Qualification therefore is eligible for the All-Around Final.

1.2 DELEGATION SIZE AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The maximum number of athletes in the delegation is four. A maximum of three athletes per country may compete on each apparatus in the Qualification. **It is expected that at the 2017 World Championships all athletes from the same country will compete in the same group.**

Maximum two athletes per country in a final.

The Canadian WAG Team will be composed of:

- up to 4 travelling competing athletes; no travelling reserve athlete
- 1 coach per club
- 1 or 2 judge(s)
- NT Director, Therapist and WAG Program Manager

Participation is fully funded if a participant meets the usual obligations.

1.3 KEY DATES

Feb 2-5	Elite Canada
May 23-28	Canadian Championships
July 2-8	Senior Camp and final verification of delegation, Sarnia, ON
September 4	Nominative Registration World Championships
September 20-26	Final Preparation Camp – Sarnia, ON
September 28-Oct 2	Training Days Worlds
Oct 2-8	World Championships
Oct 3-4	WAG Qualifications
Oct 6	WAG All Around Final
Oct 7-8	Apparatus Finals

2.0 DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

The Program Director (PD) – Artistic Gymnastics and the WAG National Team Director (NTD), in consultation with the Women's Program Committee (WPC) are responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for World Championships. The final process incorporates feedback submitted during a period of consultation prior to its final publication.

The selection of the athletes and coaches to be selected will be the responsibility of the WAG Selection Working Group. The Working Group will be comprised of:

- Program Manager - Artistic Gymnastics (PM-WAG) (Chair) – Non voting
- WAG National Team Director (NTD)
- WPC appointed Coach Representative
- JDWG appointed Brevet judge

NT coaches with athletes being considered for selection will not be eligible for membership on the Selection Working Group due to conflict of interest.

3.0 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

The athlete will be eligible for selection to the Team provided that:

- she is a Canadian Citizen and has a passport that is valid until at least the end of April 2014;
- she is born in 2001 or before;
- she is a Senior NT athlete in 2017 or is a former Canadian National Team member currently training and competing for an American University and registered with a Canadian club;
- Be in compliance with all relevant FIG requirements for eligibility including possessing a valid FIG license with an expiry date no earlier than December 1, 2017;
- she, her coaches and her parents have signed the Commitment form. The form and payment must arrive at the National Office attention of the WAG PD no later than **June 6, 2017**.

4.0 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process has been developed to select the athletes with the greatest potential to meet the stated objectives. Demonstrated potential will be assessed based on results obtained at Senior domestic and FIG international competitions between January 1, 2017 and June 1, 2017. Results obtained at previous World Championships (2015), 2016 Olympic Games and 2016 World Cups will be considered as additional indicators of demonstrated potential.

Following Canadian Championships 2017, a pool of 6 athletes will be identified based on the following:

- Prior international competition experience and results with the timeline above
- Likelihood that the athlete will make an apparatus final at the Worlds 2017 based on:
 - a) recent national and international competition results including D scores, E scores
 - b) potential for increase of E scores and decrease of the Artistry and neutral deductions between May and the end of September 2017
 - c) demonstrated competitive stability and consistency of performance
 - d) demonstrated ability to perform under pressure

A specific preparation plan - including the number of apparatus the athlete must prepare on - will be put in place for these athletes by the NTD in conjunction with the athlete and her coaches.

Final selection will take place following model training sessions to take place during the July 2017 NT Camp.

Selection to the delegation will be based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated potential to win a medal in an apparatus final at the 2017 World Championships;
2. Demonstrated potential to make an apparatus final and/or place in the top 15 in an All Around final at the 2017 World Championships;
3. Demonstrated potential to make a contribution towards the stated objectives and have met the minimum D and final score stated in Table 1 below in the following priority order taking into consideration the maximum number of athletes permitted to compete for Canada per apparatus at the World Championships:
 - as an athlete strong on 4 apparatus;
 - as an athlete very strong on 2, preferably 3, apparatus

Table 1: Minimum D and E score deductions (Based on review in March 2017)

For Apparatus Specialists

	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor
D score minimum	5.2 Second vault min 4.6	5.4	5.4	5.2
Total Score	≥ 14.00 average	≥ 13.60	≥ 13.60	≥ 13.40

For All Around

	D score Total	All Around
Total Score	≥ 20.00	53.00

4. If there are still places available, the SWG will decide whether to select athletes who will offer the strongest performances at the Worlds 2017 from among the remaining athletes. Should the remaining athletes be too far from the targets above, the SWG has the right to reduce the number of athletes who will represent Canada at the World Championships.

The Selection Working Group will analyze all results from competitions listed above. This analysis will include the development of predicted scores for each athlete in the pool.

Competition results will be ranked in importance according to:

1. Frequency of obtaining the highest scores (having more occurrences is more important)
2. Date of competition (more recent is more important)

To be considered, an injured athlete must provide a medical certificate that states that the athlete has returned to full training by June 20, 2017. The medical certificate must be provided to the GCG PM-WAG, no later than 17:00 on June 23, 2017.

5.4 RESERVE ATHLETES

There is no obligation to name a reserve. The SWG may identify one non-travelling reserve athlete on or after August 26th. She will be identified based on the criteria used for the selection of the athletes on the team at the discretion of the SWG. The reserved athlete will not have the status, privileges and obligations of a team athlete.

5.5 ATHLETE SUBSTITUTION AND VERIFICATION

Following the athlete selection the following conditions must be met as of July 30, 2017:

- the athlete is still eligible for selection; and
- the athlete is healthy and able to compete, and
- the athlete is able to perform, at the time of the decision, at the level that warranted her selection; and
- the athlete is successfully verified according to the process described in 5.5.2.

The SWG has the authority to exercise its discretion in the case of an athlete who is only slightly injured. Failure to meet one of the above conditions as assessed by the SWG may result in the athlete being removed from the team or being replaced as the reserve.

The WAG NT Director and the PM-WAG will assume the responsibilities of the SWG when the delegation departs Canada.

5.5.2 Athlete Verification

Verification of athletes will be on-going after July 15th. Specific dates, locations and means of verification will be at the prerogative of the WAG NTD or PM-WAG and will be arranged when deemed necessary.

At the time of verification, the athlete must not be injured or ill, in a way which prevents her from continuing a training program at the level expected of an athlete preparing for the World Championships. She must perform her usual vault(s) and one complete exercise with full difficulty (at a minimum, the level of difficulty that was demonstrated during the Canadian Championships and/or the July NT camp as determined by the SWG) in a simulated competition environment in line with FIG equipment standards. At the discretion of the NTD, modified landing mats may be permitted during a verification.

If an athlete cannot participate in a competition due to injury, or other unforeseen circumstance, then the NTD, in consultation with the PM-WAG, will determine if a substitution should be made. If it is decided that the athlete should be replaced the coaching staff, team manager or the PM-WAG will submit the official request for change.

The NTD-WAG may substitute an athlete if, following the verification or at any time up to the date of departure:

- she is unable to meet the expectations stated for the Verification, and/or
- she omits to provide the required information in case of illness or injury as per the deadline stated in the section above.

5.6 INJURIES

An athlete injured or ill at the time of the 2017 Canadian Championships must provide an official medical report/certificate no later than **June 9, 2017** to the PM-WAG. The report must include the information stated in Steps 1 and 2 below.

An athlete who becomes injured or ill after June 9, 2017 must follow the directives stated below. Failure to do so may result in the athlete's name being withdrawn from the list.

Step 1. The athlete and her club's head coach must inform the PM-WAG by email **within 24 hours** if his/her athlete is injured or ill in a way to jeopardize her participation or the quality of her performances at either competition and provide the following information:

- date when the injury/illness occurred;
- means taken to have the injury/illness evaluated by a physician or specialist;
- date at which a written detailed report will be provided.

Notification of such an injury should require acknowledgement or a read receipt from the PM-WAG. See 5.5 regarding failure to meet this requirement.

Step 2. The athlete and her club's head coach must provide the following typewritten information **within 5 days following step 1:**

- detailed nature of the injury (document by physician, not by therapist) including whether or not this is a new, overuse or chronic injury.
- ability to pursue full training and to compete (all apparatus/some apparatus), as recommended by the physician or medical specialist
- recovery/rehabilitation measures
- recommendation(s) regarding pursuing training and ability to train and/or compete as expected
- expected date for return to partial (specify) and complete training

The coach must provide a written report stating the nature and the amount of training the athlete will do each week for the next four weeks.

If requested by the WAG NT Director, the coach must provide an updated training plan for the next four weeks.

The SWG reserves the right to have the athlete examined by a physician or medical specialist selected by the SWG at the expense of the athlete and by the timelines set by the SWG.

6.0 SELECTION OF COACHES

6.1 Selection

The SWG will confirm the selection of the coaches at the same time as the athletes. Coaches must meet the requirements set out within the National Team Handbook and be certified at NCCP Level 3.

6.1 SUBSTITUTION OF A COACH

Substitution of a coach with another coach may take place if one of the following situations occurs:

- i) a coach no longer has an athlete on the Team;
- ii) a coach is not meeting the expectations associated with the roles, responsibilities and tasks of a coach as assessed by the WAG NT Director and the PM-WAG.
- iii) a coach has missed scheduled activities - including meetings and related GCG promotional activities - during the preparation camps unless exempted by the WAG NT Director and/or the PM-WAG.

Substitution is possible within the parameters set by the FIG and GCG.

7.0 RECONSIDERATION, INTERNAL REVIEW OR APPEAL AND MODIFICATION TO THE PROCESS

7.1 RECONSIDERATION

An athlete who is in disagreement with a decision made in the application of the process may request reconsideration by the SWG. The request must be made in writing no more than two working days from the day of circulation of the decision. It must include the rationale supporting the request and the alleged errors in the application of the process. The WAG NTD and the PM-WAG will then review the request and make a decision. The WAG NTD shall give written reasons for the decision to the athlete within two working days from the receipt of the written request.

Coaches and athletes agree to abide by the decisions made once the reconsideration period or process has passed to ensure a positive team atmosphere.

7.2 INTERNAL REVIEW/APPEAL:

A request for review or appeal will be dealt with according Section 39 – Appeals of the GCG Policies and Procedures Manual in effect at the time of the dispute. The request must be made no more than two working days from the day of announcement of the list of athletes and coaches who have been selected or two days following the decision rendered as a result of a request for reconsideration as set out in 7.1. It must include the rationale supporting the request and the alleged errors in the application of the process.

7.3 MODIFICATION TO THE PROCESS

The WAG NTD reserves the right to make changes to this document to ensure the identification of the best delegation possible for the 2017 World Championships in case of:

- major change to the information provided by FIG
- injuries to several athletes of the selection pool
- unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of GCG
- an exceptional situation which has a significant impact on any step of the selection process which will prevent the NTD from fairly applying the process as written. The NTD may take into consideration any factor or circumstance he deems relevant.

Any changes to this document must be endorsed by the High Performance Director or President/CEO of Gymnastics Canada and will be communicated directly to the coaches and athletes involved in the process.

8.0 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- a) Failure to comply with FIG and/or GCG rules, regulations, policies or directives will be addressed by GCG WAG NTD and/or the GCG High Performance Director (HPD) who will follow with proper action or sanction before, during and/or after the competition
- b) The nature and extent of the infraction will determine the severity of the sanction. In each case a due and fair investigation will be conducted and an opportunity for defense offered to the respondent(s).
- c) Sanctions could include but are not limited to: verbal warning or reprimand, written warning or reprimand, suspension from some team functions or activities during the competition, and early return to Canada.
- d) After the competition, sanctions could include but are not limited to: written warning, written reprimand, suspension of international representation/ participation on behalf of Canada, National Team benefits and services, and suspension of access to athlete or coaching or judging support funding and services including but not limited to athlete, coach and/or club funds, coaches recognition funding and international

achievement coaches recognition funding.

9.0 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the Team selection criteria to be fairly and objectively applied, Gymnastics Canada's WAG NTD and the GCG High Performance Director or President/CEO will rule on an appropriate course of action. In any case of discrepancies between the English and French versions of this document, the English version will take precedence.