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CANADA

**Women's Artistic Gymnastics
2018 Commonwealth Games
Selection Process**

October 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 2018 Commonwealth Games, 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:

- Team ranked in top 3
- Win a medal in an apparatus and/or the All Around final
- Two athletes in top 8 AA
- Finalists in two apparatus finals

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

1.2 DELEGATION SIZE AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Canadian WAG Team will be composed of:

- 5 travelling athletes
- 2 Team coaches, with possible 3rd coach to be confirmed pending Commonwealth Games Canada decision on additional accreditations. Priority will be given to the NTD for an additional accreditation should one become available.

The team competition format is 5, 4, 3.

Travel, meals, accommodation and clothing expenses will be covered by Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC) and/or Gymnastics Canada Gymnastique

CGC will provide medical and therapy service through their Health Care Team while onsite at the games. A WAG program therapist may be travelling with the team if an accreditation becomes available. The Organizing Committee (OC) has invited Canada to nominate two judges whose expenses will be covered by the OC.

1.3 KEY DATES – MAY BE REVISED AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE

Jan 31-Feb 4	Elite Canada
March 1	Entry deadline to Commonwealth Games Canada
March 5-11	NT Camp / Gymnix (verification)
March 16	Final Entry deadline
March 25	Village opens / Training begins
March 28	Depart Canada
April 4	WAG Podium Training Opening Ceremonies
April 6	WAG Team CI
April 7	WAG All Around CII
April 8	WAG Vault and Bars finals
April 9	WAG Beam and Floor Final
April 11	Departure

2.0 DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

The Program Manager (PM) – Artistic Gymnastics and the WAG National Team Director (NTD), in consultation with the High Performance Director and Women's Program Committee (WPC) are responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for the Commonwealth Games. 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 ELIGIBILITY

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

- the athlete is a Canadian Citizen and has a passport that is valid until at least the end of October 2018;
- the athlete is born in 2002 or before;
- the athlete is a Senior NT athlete in 2018 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 licence with an expiry date no earlier than June 1, 2018;
- the athlete, their coaches and their parents have signed the Commitment form. The form must arrive at the National Office attention of the PM WAG no later than **Dec 6, 2017**.

A coach will be eligible for selection provided that he/she:

- has an athlete on the Team; a coach employed by an American University may not be accredited under GCG.
- is the coach associated with the athlete on a regular basis and has coached her at the 2018 Elite Canada.
- has signed the Coach Commitment form. The form must arrive at the National Office no later than **Dec 6, 2017**. The form is in appendix and states, among others, that:
 - the coach has read, understood and accepted the selection process and the conditions associated with the selection for both competitions.
 - the coach will fully take part in all planned activities related to these Games unless exempted by the NTD WAG and in all GCG promotional activities associated with these activities unless exempted by the PM WAG.
 - the coach will abide by all GCG policy and procedures and its code of ethics.
- is certified NCCP L4 or has obtained an exemption from the PM WAG;
- is a coach in good standing with GCG.

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 competitions and **any** FIG **sanctioned** international competitions between January 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018.

The athletes will be selected by the Selection Working Group for the Commonwealth Games prior to the final deadline for team nomination to the Commonwealth Games based on the following criteria:

Priority 1: demonstrated ability to win a medal in the all-around or on an apparatus

Priority 2: demonstrated ability to make all-around or apparatus finals.

Priority 3: demonstrated ability to contribute to the team achieving a score that will place them in the top-3;

* Demonstrated ability is based on proven success in competitions of a similar calibre and a comparison of current results against recent and available competition results from leading countries relative to the competition and as compared against annual NT targets set for international competitions. Past international competition experience is an advantage.

An athlete being identified by the above does not guarantee selection to the team. The Selection Working Group will analyze the results from the identified athletes to select the complete team with the greatest potential to meet the stated objectives. This analysis will include the development of best potential team scores, predicted scores for each athlete and will consider the following (and potentially additional) factors:

1. Frequency of an athlete obtaining the highest scores (having more occurrences is more important)
2. **Demonstrates target final and target D scores**
3. Performance in more recent competitions **and percentage of hit routines**
4. Number of athletes that can participate on each apparatus (balance of team by event)
5. Ability to perform their personal best under pressure as demonstrated in competition and model trainings
6. Current health status of the athlete and their recent injury history

To be considered, an injured athlete must provide a medical certificate that states that the athlete has returned to full training by January 10, 2018.

4.1 RESERVE ATHLETES

The SWG may identify reserve athletes for the Commonwealth Games team although there is no obligation to name a reserve. The reserve - or reserves - will be identified based on the criteria used for the selection of the athletes on the team and will be named at the discretion of the SWG. The nomination of a reserve may take place at later date than the team selection.

The reserve athlete will not have the status, privileges and obligations of a team athlete. The reserve may receive a team body suit but will not be provided with Team Canada (Commonwealth Games) clothing packages unless they are called up to compete. It is not anticipated the reserve will travel with the team to the Games however it may be a consideration in the final stages of planning.

4.2 ATHLETE VERIFICATION

Verification of all athletes will be on-going after February 28th. 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 them from continuing a training program at the level expected of an athlete preparing for these Games. The athlete must perform their

usual vault(s) and one complete exercise with full difficulty (at a minimum, the level of difficulty that was demonstrated during the Canadian Championships) 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:

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

4.3 ATHLETE SUBSTITUTION

Following the athlete selection the following conditions must be met as of February 28, 2018:

- 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 a verification, at the level that warranted their selection; and
- the athlete is successfully verified according to the process described in 4.3.

The NTD has the authority to exercise their discretion in the case of an athlete who is slightly injured. Failure to meet one of the above conditions as assessed by the NTD may result in the athlete being replaced by a reserve.

If based on the above, an athlete cannot participate in a competition due to injury, or other unforeseen circumstance, then the NTD, in consultation with the Team Coach(es), the personal coaches, and the PM-WAG and/or HPD, will determine if a substitute, or if after departure from Canada, the reserve member of the team should replace that athlete. If time permits, and it is deemed to be beneficial for the team, a change will be made to the official coaching staff for the team.

4.4 DETERMINATION OF ATHLETE'S COMPETITIVE APPARATUS AND START ORDER

Determination of the athletes' competitive apparatus and start order is ongoing until the deadline to submit and is not determined at the time of selection. The results used for the team selection as well as those obtained in athlete verifications and model trainings will be used to determine which gymnasts, competing on what apparatus, will generate the maximum possible team score.

The NTD, together with the PM-WAG, will consult with the team coach(es) in deciding the start order. However, the final decision is the sole responsibility of the NTD.

As per FIG regulations, the competing team, and order of competition on each event, shall be decided no later than 24 hours prior to the competition.

4.5 INJURIES

An athlete injured or ill at any time leading up to the selection or once the team has been selected must provide an official medical report/certificate to the PM-WAG as set out below. Failure to do so may result in the athlete's name being withdrawn from the process or team.

Step 1. The athlete and their club's head coach must inform the PM-WAG by email **within 48 hours** if their athlete is injured or ill in a way to jeopardize their participation or the quality of their performances in 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.

Step 2. The athlete and their 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.

5.0 SELECTION OF COACHES

5.1 SELECTION

The NTD will confirm the selection of the coach at the same time as the athletes. Coaches must meet the requirements set out within the National Team Handbook.

5.2 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;

Substitution is possible within the parameters set by the Commonwealth Games Federation, FIG and GCG.

6.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION OF ATHLETES AND COACHES

The official announcement of team selection is the responsibility of Gymnastics Canada. All internal verbal or written communication to athletes, coaches, or member associations regarding team selection is considered an "unofficial notice" and is NOT for public distribution. Official notice of team selection occurs when GCG provides a formal public "release" announcing the team selection, or when GCG partners with a multi-sport organisation (i.e.: Canadian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Canada, U Sport) to formally announce a team.

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 2018 Commonwealth Games 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
- a situation which impacts any step of the selection process and prevents the NTD and SWG 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.
document, the English version will take precedence.