



**GYM**nastics  
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**CANADA**

**Rhythmic Gymnastics  
2018 Commonwealth Games  
Selection Process**

*September 2017 - FINAL*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by the Rhythmic Gymnastics (RG) Program of Gymnastics Canada to select the athletes and coach to the 2018 Commonwealth Games (CG), 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 Event – Team Medal
- Individual – AA Medal
- Two gymnasts in top 8 AA
- Four Individual Apparatus Medals

### 1.2 DELEGATION SIZE AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Canadian RG Team will be composed of:

- 3 Gymnasts
- 1 Coach

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

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

### 1.3 KEY DATES

Feb. 1 - 4	Elite Canada
Feb. 5-6	Training for up to 4 Sr. athletes
March 1	Entry deadline to Commonwealth Games Canada
March 10	Control Training
March 16	Final Entry deadline
March 25	Village opens
March 27	Depart Canada for Sofia World Cup (2 gymnasts & official coach) (TBC)
March 30 – April 1	Sofia World Cup (TBC)
April 2 – 4	Training in Sofia (TBC)
April 4	Opening Ceremonies
April 5	RG Arrival in Brisbane
April 10	RG Podium Training
April 11	Team Final & Individual Qualification (11:00 – 14:00 & 17:00 – 20:15)
April 12	Individual All-Around Final (14:45 – 18:00)
April 13	Apparatus Finals (10:00 – 12:15)
April 15	Closing Ceremony
April 16	RG Departures (TBC)

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## 2.0 DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

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The RG National Team Director (NTD), in consultation with the High Performance Director and RG Program Committee (RGPC) 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 gymnasts and coach to be selected will be the responsibility of the RG Selection Working Group. The Working Group will be comprised of:

- RG Program Coordinator (RG-PC) – Chair (Non-voting)
- RG National Team Director (NTD)
- NTCC Representative or designate
- CWG assigned Judge

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

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## 3.0 ELIGIBILITY

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

- they are a Canadian Citizen and have a passport that is valid until at least to the end of October 2018;
- they are born in 2002 or before;
- they are a Senior NT athlete or a Junior NT athlete turning Senior in 2018;
- they are in compliance with all relevant FIG requirements for eligibility including possessing a valid FIG licence with an expiry date no earlier than the end of the Commonwealth Games;
- they, and their coaches have signed the Commitment form. The form must arrive at the National Office to the attention of the RG-PC no later than **Dec 6, 2017**.
- they have completed all required submissions of documents

A coach will be eligible for selection provided that they:

- are the personal coach associated with the top ranked selected athlete
- have signed the Coach Commitment form. The form must arrive at the National Office no later than **Dec 6, 2017**. The form states, among others, that:
  - the coach has read, understood and accepted the selection process and the conditions associated with the selection
  - the coach will fully take part in all planned activities related to these Games unless exempted by the RG NTD and in all GCG promotional activities associated with these activities unless exempted by the RG NTD.
  - the coach will abide by all GCG policy and procedures and its code of ethics.
- is certified NCCP L3 or higher
- is a coach in good standing with GCG.

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## 4.0 SELECTION PROCESS

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The selection process has been developed to select the athletes with the greatest potential to meet the stated objectives. Only three athletes will be selected for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Four (4) Senior Individual gymnasts will be selected to the pool on the basis of:

1. All Around (AA) scores and rankings attained at 2018 Elite Canada. AA scores from Elite Canada will be calculated as follows:  
Competition A scores (4 routines) + Competition B scores (4 routines) = Final Total for AA ranking.

AND

2. Demonstrated potential will be assessed based on results obtained at Senior domestic and FIG international competitions between May 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018. Results obtained at the 2017 World Championships, the 2017 World Cups/Challenge Cups and the 2017 Pan American Championships will be considered as additional indicators of demonstrated potential. Past international competition experience is an advantage.

The SWG will analyze all results from competitions listed above. This analysis will include the development of predicted scores for each athlete and the following (though not limited to) factors:

Competition results will be ranked in importance according to:

- Frequency of obtaining the highest scores (having more occurrences is more important)
- Date of competition (more recent is more important)
- Ability to perform personal best under pressure as demonstrated in competition and model trainings
- Current health status of the athlete and 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.

Up to 4 gymnasts will be identified following Elite Canada using the selection process above with the final nomination of 3 to be made prior to March 16. A control training in early March may be used as a final step in the selection process.

### 4.1 RESERVE ATHLETES

The SWG will identify a reserve athlete for the Commonwealth Games team although there is no obligation to name a reserve. The reserve 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 reserve athlete will not have the status, privileges and obligations of a team athlete and is not anticipated to travel with the team to the Games or pre-Games training camp.

### 4.2 ATHLETE SUBSTITUTION AND VERIFICATION

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 the decision, at the level that warranted their selection.

The SWG has the authority to exercise its discretion in the case of an athlete who is experiencing a minor injury.

***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 by the reserve athlete.***

The GCG named Team Leader and named RG Team Coach will assume the responsibilities for the RG Commonwealth Team when the delegation departs from Canada.

#### **4.2.1 ATHLETE VERIFICATION**

Verification of athletes will be on-going after February 28th, 2018. Specific dates, locations and means of verification will be at the prerogative of the RG NTD 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 the Commonwealth Games. They must perform their usual routines with full difficulty (at a minimum, the level of difficulty that was demonstrated during the 2017 Canadian Championships and/or 2018 Elite Canada as determined by the SWG) in a simulated competition environment.

If an athlete cannot participate in a competition due to injury, or other unforeseen circumstance, then the NTD, in consultation with the SWG, will determine if a substitution should be made. If it is decided that the athlete should be replaced, the NTD, RG-PC or named coach will submit the official request for change.

The NTD-RG 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
- they omit to provide the required information in case of illness or injury as per the deadline stated in the section below.

#### **4.3 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 NTD –RG 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 NTD-RG by email, with acknowledgement of a read receipt from the NTD-RG **within 24 hours**, if their athlete is injured or ill in a way that jeopardizes their participation or the quality of their performances at competitions, 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.

**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 (documented by a physician, not by a therapist) including whether or not this is a new, overuse or chronic injury;
- ability to pursue full training and to compete 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 RG NTD, 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.

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## 5.0 SELECTION OF COACH

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### 5.1 SELECTION

The SWG will confirm the selection of the coach at the same time as the athletes. The Coach must meet the eligibility as set out above and 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:

- The originally selected coach no longer has an athlete on the Team;
- The originally selected coach is not meeting the expectations associated with the roles, responsibilities and tasks of a coach as assessed by the NTD-RG and the RG-PC;
- The originally selected coach has missed scheduled activities - including meetings and related GCG promotional activities - during the preparation camps unless exempted by the RG NTD.

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

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## 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION OF ATHLETES AND COACHES

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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.

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

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### 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 SWG will then review the request and make a decision. The NTD-RG shall give written reasons for the decision to the athlete within two working days from 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 to 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 coach 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 NTD-RG 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 gymnasts in 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-RG may take into consideration any factor or circumstance they deem 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.

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## 8.0 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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Failure to comply with FIG and/or GCG rules, regulations, policies or directives will be addressed by GCG RG NTD and/or the GCG High Performance Director (HPD) who will follow with proper action or sanction before, during and/or after the competition.

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).

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.

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 coach's recognition funding.

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## 9.0 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

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In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the Team selection criteria to be fairly and objectively applied, Gymnastics Canada's NTD-RG 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.