



Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Procedures 2009-10 Senior National Team

I. Overview

- A. Athletes may qualify for the Senior National Team (SNT) in one of four ways:
 - i. Rank first under the evaluation system identified in Section III below;
 - ii. Be selected by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Athlete Selection Committee to be on the SNT as defined in Section III below;
 - iii. If positions on the team are available, be selected by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Athlete Selection Committee from the Acro Development Camp as defined in Section IV;
 - iv. Successfully petition onto the SNT through the process set forth in Section V.
- B. The selection of the athletes to the SNT will be made by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Athlete Selection Committee with final approval from the USA Gymnastics President.
- C. SNT selection consideration will be given to athletes competing at the Senior Elite level at Visa Championships. Elites must qualify to compete at the Visa Championships per the Participation Requirements of Competitions according to Section 8 in the *Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies*
- D. Minimum age requirements for the SNT are the same as for the Elite competitive level and are defined in Section 7 of *Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies*. There is no maximum age limit.
- E. The composition of the SNT is determined to be a maximum of three pair/groups per event (Women's Pair, Men's Pair, Mixed Pair, Women's Group, and Men's Group). The Athlete Selection Committee is not obligated to select pair/groups for all available positions.
- F. An athlete may be named to the SNT in multiple events (i.e. Men's Pair and Men's Group). However, this athlete will not receive duplicate benefits. (Note: the FIG imposes restrictions in international competition regarding participation in multiple events.)
- G. Only athletes who are United States citizens are named to the SNT. USA Gymnastics will verify citizenship before naming the team.
- H. Positions on the SNT do not carry ranking.

II. Qualification Process

- A. Qualification to participate in the Visa Championships:
 - i. A pair/group that meets the requirements to participate as Senior Elite, according to the rules published in *Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies* level may compete at the Visa Championships.

III. The Senior National Team will be selected as follows:

- A. Scores and performances from the Visa Championships;
- B. The pair/group with the highest score per event, determined by the cumulative score from Visa Championships, will automatically be placed on the SNT, provided they have met the target score and target difficulty requirements defined in Section III D. If target score and/or target difficulty are not met, the pair/group is not eligible for automatic placement on the SNT, but may still be considered by the Athlete Selection Committee for selection to the team;
- C. Selection for those places not filled automatically will be done according to the listed criteria:
 - i. Scores and placement from competition:
 - 1. Scores and placement from Visa Championships;
 - 2. Target Score – The target score is calculated using the sum of the execution average plus the artistry average less performance related CJP deductions (i.e. time faults, special requirements, minimum difficulty). The target score for three exercises is 52.5 and for five exercises the target score is 87.5.
 - ii. Difficulty of elements performed in competition:
 - 1. The types of elements and difficulty of elements performed in competition at Visa Championships will be considered;
 - 2. Total exercise difficulty will also be considered and compared against the target difficulty. Target difficulty is the difficulty score before CJP deductions. The target difficulty is V160 for the balance exercise, V140 for the dynamic exercise and V200 for the combined exercise.
 - iii. Artistry and presentation in exercises performed during competition:
 - 1. Presentation ranking by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Athlete Selection Committee members for the Visa Championships;
 - 2. Presentation ranking criteria will include but is not limited to the artistic judging criteria listed in Section 10.0 of the *Acrobatic Gymnastics Specifications*.

IV. Selection from Acro Development Camp

- A. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Athlete Selection Committee may add pair/groups to the SNT from the Acro Development Camp only if positions are available on the team;
- B. Total scores and performances from the Acro Development Camp will be reviewed by event. Total scores will be compared against target scores listed in Section III;
- C. The difficulty of elements performed will be considered and compared against target difficulty defined in Section III;
- D. Artistry and presentation of exercises performed will be considered.

V. Petitions

Petitions to enter the Visa Championships if injury, illness, or unforeseen circumstances keep athletes from fully participating in the qualification process must follow the rules outlined in *Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies*, Section 8.

For a petition onto the SNT to be considered by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee, it must be submitted in writing to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director and meet the following requirements:

1. A pair/group who fully participates in the process described above is not eligible to submit a petition;
2. A petition must be submitted to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director as soon as possible after the pair/group becomes aware of the inability to participate in the process described above, but no later than the conclusion of the National Championships competition;
3. Petitions will be considered for injury, illness, or unforeseen circumstances:
 - a. The petition must state the date and nature of the injury, illness or unforeseen circumstance that prohibited the pair/group from participating in the competitive selection process;
 - b. In the case of a petition based upon 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 a physician selected by USA Gymnastics.

Petitioning onto the SNT is subject to available slots. Pair/groups submitting petitions are considered by the Program Committee after selection decisions regarding pair/groups that have fully competed in both selection events.

VI. Team obligations

- A. Athletes who do not attend both the presentation of SNT and the USA Gymnastics SNT Meeting will not be placed on the SNT;
- B. Athletes selected to the SNT will remain on the team until the selection of the 2010-2011 SNT or until a partnership change occurs.
- C. Athletes must read and sign the USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics SNT Funding and Support Agreement before they are officially members of the team.

VII. Removal

A pair/group may be removed from the SNT if any of the members of the pair/group violate the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics or the SNT Funding and Support Agreement. Any decision to remove an athlete is subject to review through the USA Gymnastics Grievance Procedures.

VIII. Approval of the Selection procedures

These Selection Procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and the USA Gymnastics President.

IX. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Each athlete and coach participating in the selection process for the SNT as outlined in these Selection Procedures have carefully reviewed and understand the terms of these Selection Procedures. That understanding is reflected by the signatures of the athlete and coach on a copy of these Selection Procedures.

Signed Selected Procedures, one per pair/group, along with a copy of a birth certificate or passport for each athlete, to prove citizenship and age, must be submitted upon arrival at accreditation during the 2009 Visa Championships. Pair/groups will not be considered for selection to the SNT without signed Selection Procedures and birth certificate/passport.

_____ Coach Signature	_____ Date
_____ Athlete Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Signature (if athlete is under 18 years of age)	_____ Date
_____ Athlete Signature	_____ Date
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