

Rhythmic Gymnastics
2009 World Championships Selection Procedures

I. OVERVIEW

The 2009 Rhythmic World Championships will be individual and group competition. The World Championships delegation will be comprised of two senior individual gymnasts, a senior group, personal coaches and a group coach.

The selection procedures for the team are as follows:

1. The highest ranked all-around athlete from the results of the 2009 Visa Championships will be named to the World Championships Team. This athlete's readiness must be verified by the Selection Committee at the Selection Camp.
2. The World Championships Selection Committee will select the additional team member from among the participants at the 2009 World Selection Camp.

II. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM - INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

A. Qualification to the 2009 Visa Championships:

1. Qualification to the Visa Championships is through the qualifying event, the National Qualifier, open to all Level 10 rhythmic gymnasts and those Level 9 athletes who qualify at the Junior Olympic Optional Championships, all of whom are registered athlete members with USA Gymnastics.
2. The qualifying event is scheduled to take place in July 2009.
3. The Visa Championships will take place in August 2009.

B. Petitions to the 2009 Visa Championships

1. Petitions to enter the Visa Championships will be accepted for any 2008-2009 National Team members unable to compete at the qualifying event because of injury, illness, or unusual circumstances.
2. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Rhythmic Program Director at the National Office as soon as practical after the gymnast becomes aware of the situation that makes her unable to compete. In the case of a petition based on illness or injury, the written petition must be accompanied by a physician's report specifying the nature or extent of the injury or illness. Petitions will be accepted or denied by the International Elite Coaches Committee, which includes an elected athlete representative.
3. An athlete accepted into the Visa Championships by petition will be in addition to other athletes who qualified into the Visa Gymnastics Championships through the processes identified in Section II. A. Above.

C. Qualification to the 2009 World Championships

1. The All-around results from the 2009 Visa Championships will determine the top four (4) senior athletes to be invited to the Selection Camp to be considered for a placement on the team.
2. Subject to the petition process as identified below, the Selection Committee, with final approval from USA Gymnastics' President, will determine the World Team who will represent the USA at the 2009 World Championships from those athletes.

- D. Petitions (due to injury or illness) to the 2009 World Championships Team
 1. Petitions to be considered by the Selection Committee will be limited to the top four (4) athletes at 2009 Rhythmic Challenge and/or the 2008 Visa Championships.
 2. In order to submit a petition to Selection Camp, the gymnast must submit a written petition to the Rhythmic Program Director as soon as practical after learning of her inability to participate or continue to compete in the Visa Championships. Petitions based on illness or injury must be accompanied by a physician's report indicating the nature and extent of the injury and illness. Petitions will be accepted or denied by the Selection Committee which includes an elected athlete representative.

- E. If an athlete who has been named to the 2009 World Championships Team is injured or becomes ill prior to the Competition and this injury or illness requires the athlete to withdraw from the Team prior to departure for the World Championship, the Selection Committee will decide if a replacement is needed. If the Selection Committee decides an additional athlete is needed on the Team, they will determine who that athlete will be with the approval of the President of USA Gymnastics.

- F. Removal:
 1. An athlete may be removed from the 2009 World Championships Team or from any steps of the process for selecting the Team if that athlete violates the terms of the USA Gymnastics' National Team Agreement (including the Code of Conduct incorporated in that Agreement).
 2. An athlete may also be removed in the event of injury or illness which inhibits peak performance at the World Championships. Verification of injury or illness will be by two doctors selected by USA Gymnastics.
 3. Removal may only occur with the approval of the President of USA Gymnastics after consultation with the Rhythmic Program Director and the Head Coach and an interview with the athlete and her coach. Any decision to remove an athlete or coach is subject to review through USA Gymnastics Bylaws and Grievance Procedures.

III. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM – GROUP COMPETITION

- A. The World Selection Committee may make a recommendation to the President of USA Gymnastics if they feel the 2009 Senior Group Champion has met the international standards to represent the USA at the 2009 World Championships.
- B. In the event a group is selected to represent the U.S. and participate in the 2009 World Championships, their participation will be partially self-funded.

The committee will consider the following areas prior to making the recommendation:

1. Results from the 2009 Rhythmic Challenge and the 2009 Visa Championships.
2. Results and consistency from any 2009 international events.
3. Achievement of a combined score that is equivalent to the score achieved internationally by the top 12 teams in 2009.

IV. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- A. The Selection Committee is comprised of the following individuals:
- Athlete Representative
 - RG FIG Technical Committee representative, Caroline Hunt
 - World Championships Judge, Elena Savenkova
- B. The Selection Committee will consider the following areas when selecting members for the 2009 World Championship Team.
1. Results from the 2009 Visa Championships and the qualifying event
 2. Consistency and results from past national and international events.
 3. Composition of strength among the team members.

V. COACH SELECTION

- A. The Coaches for the 2009 World Team will be the personal coaches of the team members, who demonstrate the following criteria:
- Proven team leadership ability
 - International experience
 - Fulfilling the necessary criteria established by USA Gymnastics including:
Professional Member in good standing
Attendance at required meetings

VI. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

Publication of the approved procedures will take place via the following distribution channels:

- Website: <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/>
- Email: direct email to 2009 Senior National Team and age-eligible Junior National Team.

These selection procedures have been reviewed and approved by USA Gymnastics.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Each athlete and coach participating in the process for selecting the Team as outlined in these Selection Procedures has carefully reviewed and understands the terms of these Procedures. That understanding is reflected by the signature of the athlete and coach on a copy of these Selection Procedures.

Coach Name

Date

Athlete Name

Date

Parent signature if athlete is 18 years
or younger

Date