

**Women's Artistic Gymnastics  
Athlete Selection Committee  
June 6 Meeting Recap**

Following the conclusion of U.S. Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, the Athlete Selection Committee met to determine which athletes would be named to the Senior Women's National Team and which athletes would go on to compete at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics at the end of June.

**Attendees**

1. Tom Forster, High Performance Director
2. Jessie DeZiel, Athlete Representative
3. Tatiana Perskaia, Brevet Judge
4. Annie Heffernon, Vice President of Women's Program (non-voting)

**Olympic Trials Selection Procedures**

Per Section 1.2(b) of the [Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2020 Olympic Games](#), the top 8 all-around athletes automatically qualified to Olympic Trials. The top 8 gymnasts were Simone Biles, Sunisa Lee, Jordan Chiles, Emma Malabuyo, Leanne Wong, Jade Carey, Skye Blakely and Grace McCallum.

Also per Section 1.2(b), the Athlete Selection Committee decided to add additional athletes to the slate of those competing at Trials, based on their ability to be competitive for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team. In determining other athletes to compete at Trials, the Athlete Selection Committee considered:

- Final results from Championships
- Medal potential and team needs
- Composite strength of the team
- Start values (D score) on each apparatus for all potential team members
- Execution (E score) on each apparatus
- Consistency
- World class presentation
- Any physical or performance factor which might inhibit peak performance at the Games

The Athlete Selection Committee originally planned to send approximately 16 athletes to the Olympic Trials. However, based on these considerations, and the small range of difference between those athletes finishing in the top 17 at U.S. Championships, the Athlete Selection Committee ultimately decided to allow all athletes that finished in the top 17 to compete at Trials.

**National Team Selection Procedures**

For the same reasons described above, the Athlete Selection Committee named all athletes selected to compete at Trials to the Women's Senior National Team.

**Petitions Considered**

Three petitions were received prior to the end of U.S. Championships, for Riley McCusker, Chellsie Memmel, and Morgan Hurd. The Athlete Selection Committee decided to accept Riley McCusker's petition based on the discretionary criteria described above and her performance on uneven bars at U.S. Championships.

While it was a tough decision, the Athlete Selection Committee ultimately decided not to approve the petitions from Morgan Hurd or Chellsie Memmel. Despite their athletic accomplishments, the Athlete Selection Committee did not feel the athletes would be competitive for a spot on the Olympic Team this year.

### **Petition Process**

Pursuant to the Athlete Selection Procedures, in order to be considered by the Athlete Selection Committee for entry into the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Women’s Gymnastics, petitions must have been submitted in writing to the USA Gymnastics national office as soon as practical after the athlete becomes aware of her inability to participate in the process described above, but no later than the conclusion of the 2021 U.S. Women’s Gymnastics Championships. The three petitions were received prior to the conclusion of U.S. Championships and were reviewed by the Athlete Selection Committee immediately following the event.

Prior to naming the team and making the announcement at the conclusion of U.S. Championships, Tom, Jessie, and Annie verbally conveyed the Committee’s decision to each of the athletes (or their coaches) that petitioned. However, formal written notification was not provided until later in the week.