

MPC Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2023

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Serra at 11:10am ET.

Members present:

Chair – Mike Serra

Randy Jepson – Sr Coaches Rep

Sergei Pakanich – Jr Coaches Rep

Pavel Sargsyan – Jr Coaches Rep

Kip Simons – Athlete Rep

Sam Phillips – Athlete Rep

Brett McClure – High Performance Director (voice, no vote)

Raj Bhavsar – Jr HP Coordinator (voice, no vote)

David Klein – MDPC Chair (voice, no vote)

Mike Juszczuk – NGJA Rep (voice, no vote)

Jason Woodnick – VP Men's Program (voice, no vote)

Members not present:

Justin Spring – Sr Coaches Rep

I. Reports

a. National Office – Woodnick

- i. The men's program was unable to hire a Development Program Director due to budgetary constraints in 2023.
- ii. Many major discussions happening all at once, including possible regional realignment and a new vision for the Future Stars and Technical Sequence Programs, and how they work within the Development Program holistically.
- iii. The Pictor Group continues to make strides in growing NCAA Men's Gymnastics. They have meetings set up with two schools and conference leaders who are all very interested in starting men's gymnastics programs. However, Pictor's contract ends in March. Funding for the third year of this project will need to be determined, but we do not want to lose the momentum that we have right now.
- iv. The relationship between USAG and the NGJA is also being reviewed to ensure that there is alignment between NGJA bylaws and USAG Rules & policies in order to establish a beneficial long-term relationship.

b. High Performance – McClure

- i. The combined Level 10 & Sr National Team camp in December was extremely successful and very motivating. We will hold the same camp in December 2023.
- ii. A member of the USOPC's Sports Performance Team who specializes in data and analytics has been working with our HP staff to collect data and determine what metrics and tools can be useful for future team selections.

- iii. The Men's Program received a grant from the USOPC to pilot a scouting program. We will send one FIG judge and the USOPC data and analytics professional to both the European Championships and Asian Championships to collect and analyze competitor data, judging data, and trends being performed by the countries participating in those events.
  - iv. The 2023 Winter Cup will be a selection event for the Sr National Team as well as World Cups in both Baku and Cairo. The DTB Team Challenge and Mixed Team Cup will also be assigned from Winter Cup. Once we have the new National Team named, we will need to determine a selection process for the Sr Pan Am Championships in May. It appears that we will likely use the May Sr National Team camp for selection, in some capacity.
  - v. We will be sending the entire Senior National Team, excluding the Sr Development Team, to France for a training camp in June. We will train at our 2024 pre-Olympic training site in Arque as well as the training center in Antibes.
- c. Junior High Performance – Bhavsar
  - i. The HP program mission to increase D score has shown to be successful over the past year.
  - ii. The Jr HP Coordinator reviewed the Jr World Championships selection process with the Committee, with Winter Cup/ETC results playing a part in selection.
  - iii. The December combined Level 10 & Senior camp was refreshing for the Junior athletes and coaches. We will do a similar combined camp with the Level 8/9's and level 10's in October.
  - iv. The Junior program is utilizing more Team V support for the athletes in areas such as sports psychology, sleep, nutrition and data analytics
  - v. The Level 10 National Team will be heading to Japan in July for a training camp in Funabashi. They will train alongside members of the Japanese junior team.
  - vi. The Future Stars & Technical Sequence programs are being updated for the 2024-2025 season. The goal is to make Future Stars more accessible and create more exposure for the program itself.
- d. Development Program – Klein
  - i. The main update regarding the Development Program is the potential for regional realignment, with the overall goal to create parity with resources among all men's regions.
  - ii. Many discussions have been had across the country. The MDPC agrees that less regions will allow us to create more parity, but the number of regions has yet to be determined.
  - iii. A working group has been created with MDPC representation from the East & West as well as the MDPC Chair and a Coaching Representative. Their objective is to create the detailed proposal for realignment. There is not a set timeline of events, but the hope is to have the proposal out to the

community by the end of March and be voted on at the MDPC meeting following Development National Championships.

- iv. There was some discussion around providing financial support for Regional Chairs as they are tasked with a significant job in a volunteer role. It was explained that there are Regional Chairs who do receive payment either from their Regional budget or from hosting their Regional Championships. The Committee felt that they if there were to be some payment as agreed to by their Regional Board, it should be standardized across the country and made public.
- e. Senior Coaches Report – Jepson
  - i. The December camp was great for team cohesion and unity.
  - ii. The Pictor Group has been invaluable within our NCAA landscape. We need to find a way to contract them for a third year as this is a very critical point for us.
  - iii. We need to look at the Senior Coaches' representation on the MPC. It is imperative for those representatives to be able to attend meetings regularly.
  - iv. The coaches are asking for USAG to extend communication to athletes and coaches who may have been on recent national teams but may not be presently. This will allow for consistency and ensure coaches aren't falling out of the loop with important updates.
- f. Athlete Rep Report – Phillips & Simons
  - i. An idea was brought forward to eliminate the broadcasting of our D score bonus system and only use it for selection National Team. The thought is that it may be adding to the complicated scoring system and making it harder for viewers to understand what they are seeing as well as the results being shown. In general, the Committee understands this perspective, but also wants to be very transparent with our scoring. We do not want it to appear that we are hiding scores or making selections based on a second set of results that no one sees. The Committee felt that we have only had one year with the bonus system, and it will take some getting used to for everyone.
  - ii. The athletes commented that they would like to have snacks and fruit available on the floor for future domestic championship events.
- g. NGJA Report – Juszczuk
  - i. NGJA leadership met with USAG leadership in January to work towards formalizing a working relationship between the two organizations.
  - ii. The first judges & coaches meeting in December was a success. Lots of clarifications provided for coaches. There will be another meeting in March/April.
  - iii. There are four new D1 judges on our Championship panels in 2023.
  - iv. The NGJA is contributing to the growth of men's NCAA gymnastics by reducing judging expenses for any new programs for their first two years of competition.

II. 2024 Winter Cup Qualifier Events

- a. Nine competitions submitted applications to host a 2024 Winter Cup Qualifier, including:
  - Beach Blast Invitational
  - GAA Invitational
  - Houston National Invitational
  - Jokers Wild Invitational
  - Navy Challenge
  - Rocky Mountain Open
  - Stanford Open
  - West Point Open
  - Windy City Invitational
- b. The question was brought up if we wanted to continue with four qualifier competitions or add a fifth. This would provide more opportunities for athletes to qualify, but potentially reduce the number of petitions accepted for injured athletes or individual event specialists.

**Motion: To have five Winter Cup Qualifier competitions in 2024, with the top three all-around athletes from each competition qualifying to Winter Cup**

Motion: Sam Phillips

Motion is not seconded

At this point, Kip Simons recused himself due to conflict of interest

The Committee looked at each event's location and date with the goal of providing a qualifier competition in different regions of the country. This discussion still entailed only four qualifier competitions.

**Motion: To approve West Point Open, Windy City, Rocky Mountain Open and Stanford Open as the four 2024 Winter Cup Qualifiers**

Motion: Randy Jepson

Motion is not seconded

The Committee discussed changing the format for appointing Winter Cup Qualifier competitions in the future. There is some thought around the MPC sending invitations to specific competitions, but that discussion involves more thought.

Kip Simons was brought back in as the discussion, again, turned to the number of Winter Cup Qualifier competitions rather than the actual meets themselves.

**Motion: To approve five 2024 Winter Cup Qualifier competitions.**

Motion: Sam Phillips

Second: Pavel Sargsyan

Passed 5-0 (1 absent vote)

Kip recused himself again as the discussion turned back to which qualifier events would be designated. A thorough discussion of each applicant ensued.

**Motion: To approve Beach Blast, Rocky Mountain Open, Stanford Open, West Point Open and Windy City as the five 2024 Winter Cup Qualifiers.**

Motion: Pavel Sargsyan

Second: Sam Phillips

Passed 4-0 (1 absent vote, 1 recused vote)

During the discussion phase, the NGJA Rep noted that all Winter Cup Qualifiers should follow NGJA bylaws and the Men's R&P regarding judge assignments. This was agreed upon by the Committee.

Kip was brought back into the meeting.

The remainder of the agenda will be tabled due to time.

**Motion to adjourn at 2:07pm ET**



4.1.2023

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MPC Chair

Date