

**2018 RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS PROGRAM ASSEMBLY****June 19 2018 – 19:00 ET****Minutes****1. Welcome****Provincial Representatives:**

BC	Joel Bernard	Voting
AB	Jennifer Rochard	Voting
SK	Dalena Juarez	Voting
SK	Anya Patlosova	Non-voting
MB	Zdravka Tchonkova	Voting
MB	Laura Thompson	Non-voting
ON	Katia Kharlip	Voting
QC	Josee Gelinis	Voting
NS	Lisa Hopper	Voting
NB	France Roman	Non-voting
NB	Stephanie Legere	Voting

**Program Committee:**

Joan Jack	Program Assembly Chair
Camille Martens	National Team Coach Council Representative (NTCC)
Adrienne Arnold	Member at Large
Marta Kroupa	Member at Large (Coaching Education)
Yuliana Korolyova	Member at Large (Domestic Development) (7:30pm onwards)
Athena Tsaltas	Athlete Commission Representative (ACR)
Gail Whittemore	GCG Judging Technical Contractor (JT)

**GCG Staff:**

Teresa Orr	National Team Director (RG NTD)
Brihana Mosienko	Program Coordinator (RG PC)

**Absent:**

Katrina Cameron	Athlete Representative
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**Additions to the Agenda**

Scoring program added by Teresa Orr

**2. Follow-up from the 2017 AGM**

No additions

Follow-up in regards to Motion 2 (Working Group to re-evaluate competition structure)

- Discussion occurred at 2018 Elite Canada and 2018 Canadian Championships in regards to competition and qualifying structure

Motion to approve the 2017 Program Assembly Minutes

**CARRIED**

**3. RG Program Overview & Updates**

A Power point was presented to the assembly & will be emailed to the Provinces

**Domestic Events**

2019 Eastern Regional Championships: April 12-14 2019, Markham (ON)

2019 Western Regional Championships: April 24-28 2019, Burnaby (BC)

2020 Eastern Regional Championships: April 16 - 19 2020, Moncton (NB)

2020 Western Regional Championships: April 23- 26, 2020, Calgary (AB)

*GCG to follow-up with GCG Events Team in regards to clubs only filling out forms once/year for domestic events*

**Judging Update**

FIG Judge Positions: positions held during each international FIG event

- Different positions held during one competition (e.g. D,E,T, L, etc.) only count as one competition towards upgrading
- GCG received suggestions that will be directed to the JDWG

**Coaching Education**

Camille and Yuliana have prepared the-content of the new NCCP program for Comp 1.

*GCG to follow-up with Suzanne Fisher in regards to concrete deadlines for Step 4 and onwards.*

**Level 3 Evaluation Process Update**

19 individuals attended the most recent Level 3 course

- 8 individuals successfully completed the evaluation

*GCG to send reminder to outstanding coaches to complete assignment.*

**Risk Management Requirements**

*GCG to send risk management summary to provinces prior to September 1 2018.*

**4. Motions/Discussions**

**Motion 1 (submitted by BC)**

National Level Athletes who move to Provincial Level - If athletes have currently competed as National level in an age category ie: novice, that they be given the choice of going to A, B, or C, category if choosing to move to provincial level as a junior. The same applies for Juniors turning Senior. Currently the rule is that any athlete who has competed as a National level athlete and chooses to go to Provincial, must do category "b" or "c". This should only be the case if already in that age category.

**Rationale:** Often the move up to a new age category is already quite difficult, especially novice to junior. Making a former Novice national athlete go to "c" category is almost as hard as doing Junior national

**Amended by BC: choice of ONLY going to B or C**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

In 2016, a motion was approved that a separate committee would make decisions on technical issues, including the development program. Motions 2-6 will be forwarded to the DDWG for review and consideration.

NOTE: The motions sent to GCG were discussed during the NTCC & Program Committee meetings in May. Minutes of these meetings have been emailed to the Provinces.

**Motion 2 (submitted by ON)**

**To simplify free routine requirements across provincial levels as following:**

- 3 BD min and up to 7BD max.
- 1 non- dominant leg BD (within 3-7 BD above mentioned). Clarification: any BD except passé position.
- Min one turn, one jump, one balance.
- Two body waves - as per COP.
- Min 2 dance - as per COP.
- Min one R (2acro for 0.2 or 3acro for 0.3-preacrobatic elements allowed only)

Discussion on Scripts:

ON: financial implications for clubs who need to order scripting program for small number of athletes

NTCC Rep: coach feedback vital for developing athletes

The script form was not returned to coaches at some events.

GCG feedback: to conduct general feedback focus group of coaches and judges in regards to scripting. Survey to be distributed to gather feedback.

**Motion 3 (submitted by NS)**

To change the wording of 2019 RGG Developmental Program for Level 6 Group to read "Choice of: Single Apparatus and/or Mixed." This wording would allow level 6 groups to choose to either preform the same routine for both performances or to prepare both routines and perform the single apparatus as their first performance and the mixed apparatus for their second performance.

**Rationale:** Some older gymnasts who would like to continue with the sport on a competitive level are ready to retire from individuals. They would like to focus on group, however would like to have the challenge of working with more than one apparatus and more than one routine. This option allows coaches, clubs and athletes to have the flexibility of staying with the current program of having only one routine, or having the choice of developing two group routines with a group of athletes, giving them more freedom to express different sides of the athletes.

**Rule/Page:** On page 4 of the 2018 RGI and RGG Developmental Program Document in the apparatus and number of gymnasts column the rule reads “Choice of: single apparatus ball or mixed 2&3; 4&5 1 hoop & 2 clubs, 2 hoop & 2 clubs, 2 hoop & 4 clubs, 3 hoop & 4 clubs.”

**Motion 4 (submitted by QC)**

To simplify requirements for free routine for all levels:

- **Levels 1-2**  
Body difficulties: 6-8 counts 6 highest as per COP Juniors  
2 difficulties on non-dominant leg  
Body waves: 2 minimum  
Dance steps combinations: 2 minimum
- **Levels 3-5 + Novice**  
Body difficulties: 7-9 difficulties counts 7 highest difficulties as per COP Juniors  
2 difficulties on non-dominant leg  
Body waves: 2 minimum  
Dance step combinations: 2 minimum

The choice of elements should not be restricted to “passé” and stag leap” or something else. Give coaches an open choice of elements based on the abilities of the gymnast

**Rationale:** The program is very confusing for coaches and judges right now

**Motion 5 (submitted by QC)**

RGI Apparatus requirements – as per FIG COP for Juniors

**Motion 6 (submitted by QC)**

Change apparatus for 3C for 2019 to Free Rope, HOOP, or Clubs

**Rationale:** To prepare gymnasts to the Novice category for 2020-2022. The program for Novice in 2020-2022 is Free, Rope, Hoop, Clubs

**Motion 7 (submitted by BC)**

Number of athletes qualifying from Western/Easterns to Nationals in FIG Junior Category – that the FIG Junior category at Westerns and Easterns allow top 15 + 2 per province to qualify to National Championships

**Rationale:** As the Junior category is always the largest category due to the 3 years of age grouping, often strong athletes are not qualifying to Nationals from the Western and Eastern competitions

**Rule:** 3.2.2 Canadian Championships - Individual

**Page:** 12

**WITHDRAWN**

Discussion:

NTD presented the purpose of the Canadian Championships

NTD provided the statistics on the number of Junior athletes that did not qualify from Regionals

- Eastern Regionals: 14 Junior Gymnasts did not qualify  
9/14 born in 2005 – 2 more years of Jr.  
5/14 born in 2004 – 1 more year of Jr.
- Western Regionals: 12 Junior Gymnasts did not qualify  
5/12 born in 2005 – 2 more years of Jr.

5/12 born in 2004 – 1 more year of Jr.  
2/12 born in 2003 – both scored in the 25's

BC: research the attrition rate overtime for competition structure

BC: investigate the possibility of celebrating athletes transitioning from Novice to Junior level

**Motion 8 (submitted by BC)**

Designate Westerns as a GCG competition only for Nationals Qualification - that Westerns be designated by GCG as a competition only for National Level athletes to declare regional ranking in Novice, Junior and Senior (and National Group categories) and as the required qualification to Canadian National Championships. Hosts provinces can hold a Regional Invitational for Provincial Levels 3-6 in conjunction with the official event which would operate as a separate event.

**Rationale:** Several coaches and judges spoke to me at Westerns this year and all were of this view...it's too large an endeavor for clubs/coaches/judges and if the Provincial portion were an invitational event, then clubs would have an easier time selecting or offering the event to some, but not necessarily all Provincial athletes until they've reached a certain level of development. In the case of the Westerns however, it has become so large an event that it now runs as a full 4 long days of competition.

**Rule:** 3.3 Non GCG Competitions held in Canada

**Page:** 15

**WITHDRAWN**

Discussion:

BC: each province needs to address the issue internally, with the possibility of having a qualification structure for Regional Championships

**Motion 9 (submitted by ON)**

Proposal for GCG Championships Group B (name of the event could vary). In the past few years we can see clear increase in the number of athletes. As numbers grow, we must think about not only attracting athletes into our sport, but also retaining those athletes. Greater numbers means greater possibilities for clubs and for the whole country in supporting high level athletes (more entrance fees, stronger clubs with more assistant coaches to free up higher level coaches for travel with their athletes... etc). To continue promote and grow our sport and to help retain those athletes we propose to create group B Championships. Those that will qualify through Elite Canada and Eastern/Western regionals will be a part of group A and will attend Canadian Championships for group A. The rest of the girls will be named group B and attend Group B Championships. Group B Championships won't only assist in athlete retaining but also can be used as training for younger judges, as well as those provincial/national judges that are working on their upgrade. Creating this judging opportunity will allow for extra competition beside Western/Eastern Championships to be used for upgrade/ learning. Not to mention that it is an extra revenue opportunity.

**Rule:** 3.2.2. Canadian Championships - Individual

**Page:** 12

**WITHDRAWN**

Discussion:

ON: motion put forward as an alternative option for judging upgrades as well as another event for athlete retention at the end of the year. Possibility for Canadian Championships host club to incorporate invitational events for athletes who did not qualify for Canadian Championships

BC: concern regarding retention of athletes. Something to look at in regards to long-term athlete development for athletes who are not National Team/High Performance athletes.

NTCCR: USAG includes separate Canadian Championships for levels 7, 8, 9.

AB: issue in regards to venue availability

JT: issue in regards to additional judge expenses for provinces

GCG feedback: GCG can only have one Canadian Championships per discipline, not logistically possible.

- There have been domestic invitational events available after Regionals for those athletes that have not qualified to Canadian Championships  
This year Jusco Invitational ON, Millennium BC, All Stars BC, Koop Cup ON as examples.
- Re: information regarding judge upgrade possibilities is available in the GCG Judge Rules & Regulations

**Motion 10 (submitted by ON)**

With recent FIG ruling regarding apparatus norms to allow athletes to use all current apparatus within Canada.

**Rationale:** new apparatus are expensive and many athletes purchased new as recently as 1 or 2 weeks ago.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Discussion:

GCG feedback: only National Team athletes will be required to have the manufacturer logo/FIG imprint as of January 1 2019 at GCG Domestic Events. All other participants will not be required to meet this requirement

Apparatus requirements will be included in the RG Technical Rules and Regulations

**Motion 11 (submitted by BC)**

(Please refer to the attached inclusion document)

Discussion:

ON: GCG's RG Technical Rules and Regulations does not clearly state that the sport of rhythmic gymnastics is strictly for females

JT: FIG does not clearly state that the RG sport is strictly for females

BC: Male athlete competing at the interclub level together with female athletes. GCG needs to determine what direction RG in Canada will move towards (separate RG male and female categories OR inclusive categories)

AB: Alberta is very much in favour of this motion. Every other sport has been mandated to be inclusive of female participation and have been tasked to create frameworks to attract and maintain female athletes. Alberta feels that we must also embrace gender inclusion and work equally as hard to welcome all athletes that would like to participate in our sport, regardless of gender identification or ability. We also agree with the participation should not be segregated

by gender or be penalized for competition wear that does not comply with current FIG guideline. I believe Canada can and should lead the way in this regard.

GCG feedback: in the interim, GCG will include neutral language in Technical Rules and Regulations. All comments from PTO's will be forwarded to GCG's HPD and SSD.

**Motion 12 (submitted by MB)**

To include a senior group as part of the Gymnastics Canada training and competition plan for the intent of competing in the FISU Games.

**Proposal:** The Summer Universiade is an official FIG event that provides an opportunity for Senior National Gymnasts to gain a high level international competitive experience in a major games environment. We are proposing for Gymnastics Canada to officially plan to send a group to the Summer Universiade, a FIG competition under the jurisdiction of USports Canada. This group would be separate from the carded GCG Senior Group, would compete in a separate category as per the current technical rules that differentiate between Senior Group of 5 and the GCG Senior Group. A separate training and competition plan should be in place for the Universiade Group at FIG sanctioned events that are outside and not interfering with the NT Senior Group Training and Competition Plan.

**Selection Criteria:** The selection of a group to attend the FISU games occurs in the year of the games, which takes place every 2 years. Selection criteria should parallel the individual criteria for qualification and selection to the games. Gymnasts must meet the criteria as set out by USports Canada and Gymnastics Canada.

**Rationale:** There is little incentive for provinces to develop senior level groups of 5 when there are no high level competitions that athletes are eligible to compete at due to Technical Rules excluding all senior groups of 5 from competing at FIG competitions. Clubs and provinces invest heavily into Junior groups of 5 for exciting opportunities to represent Canada at the Pan Am Championships, Pacific Rim, and possibly in the future, the Junior World Championships. However there are no competitions for these groups to participate at once they have aged out of the junior category, and their Group career may be over as early as 15 years old.

Having a FISU games program would:

- Allow provinces to grow and maintain competitive senior groups of 5
- Encourage provinces to develop athletes and the group program, and encourage inter-province competition at the senior group level at Elite Canada and the Canadian Championships
- Increase membership at the highest level of rhythmic gymnastics (senior national)
- Increase retention of senior athletes in the sport

Athletes must be age-eligible and there is no competition between this group and the GCG Senior Group as the GCG Senior Group almost always includes gymnasts who are not eligible due to age and not being enrolled in University due to the training demands of being the National Team Group. In previous years (2017) the competition has overlapped 2017 RG World Championships. All Junior Groups of 5 that were active at the 2017 RG Elite Canada and Canadian Championships are not active as Senior Groups of 5 in 2018.

**Rule:** Senior Group (Referenced in 3.1 Elite Canada and 3.2.2. Canadian Championships – Group)

Discussion:

GCG feedback: FISU Games group would need a FIG invitational competition to prepare for FISU Games, criteria for selection would need to include minimum score and performance objectives

- NTCC: most in agreement with motion – discussion needs to occur in regards to what year FISU Games group program will begin (2021 FISU Games)

GCG feedback: performance objectives/scores will be in place for all group and individual participants

MB: this program will help assist with athlete retention following high-school

- Development of a two year plan required

#### **5. Provincial Updates**

To be distributed to GCG for distribution to the rest of the provinces.

#### **6. Additional Agenda Items**

##### **Scoring Program**

- Cost of KSIS programming: \$2/participant entry (group members/individual). Up to a maximum fee of \$400/event.
- Consensus to use the KSIS programming across the country in regards to scoring, registration, music, etc.
- Confirm with events team in regards to double registration for GCG events
- Information package to be distributed to provinces for informational purposes
- Provinces to put together list of questions to send GCG to forward to KSIS developers
  - ON creating manual on how to run the program for an ON course (October 2018)
  - ON to determine if provinces can call in to Webinar

NTD gave special recognition to Brihana Mosienko for her exceptional support and professionalism to the RG Program.

**Meeting adjourned at 21:35**

Move to adjourn: ON/BC

All in favour