



# Athlete Representation Review Working Group

## Review Report

<b>NGB</b>	<b>US Figure Skating</b>
<i>Working Group Personnel</i>	
USOPC AAC Designee	Cody Mattern
NGBC Designee	Staciellen Mischel
NGB Representative to USOPC AAC	Amanda Will
<i>Support Personnel</i>	
Executive Director, AAC	Elizabeth Ramsey
NGB Services Liaison	David Patterson
<i>Session Information</i>	
Date of NGB Submission	
Date of Report	2 February 2021

<b>Reviewed Competitions</b>	
<b>Competition</b>	<b>World Figure Skating Championships</b>
NGB Recommendation	Approve
NGB AAC Recommendation	Approve
Working Group Finding	<b>Approve</b>
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
The World Championships are not age restricted and Team USA athletes are selected in a selection process approved by the NGB.	
<b>Competition</b>	<b>World Synchronized Skating Championships</b>
NGB Recommendation	Approve
NGB AAC Recommendation	Approve
Working Group Finding	<b>Approve</b>
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
The IF sanctioned World Championships in this discipline. As a non-Olympic discipline, this is the premiere event in the sport. Team selection is in keeping with an NGB led selection process.	
<b>Competition</b>	<b>ISU Senior Level Competitions</b>
NGB Recommendation	Approve
NGB AAC Recommendation	Approve
Working Group Finding	<b>Approve</b>
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
ISU Senior Competitions encompasses several types of competition. These include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISU Grand Prix Events (Singles, Pairs, Dance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team USA Athletes are selected through an NGB led selection process.</li> <li>This level of competition is very high, comparable to Olympic level competition.</li> <li>An important preparatory event for Olympic level skaters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ISU Challenger Series Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenger Series events are a step below the Grand Prix but often include the same athletes as it is part of a full schedule of ISU events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Team USA is selected by the NGB using a documented selection process.
- ISU International Senior Competitions
  - Due to frequent changes in categories of ISU competitions between Grand Prix, Challenger or other titles, this category captures the other events at the same level of elite competition.
- ISU Challenger Events – Synchronized
  - As with Challenger events in singles/pair/dance, this level of competition captures the most elite teams, selected by the NGB through a selection process.
- International Senior Competitions – Synchronized
  - Similar to singles/pairs/dance events, the names and categories of ISU events sometimes change, and this captures that level of competition amid those changes, names, or categories.
- World Junior Figure Skating Championships
  - In the sport, there are some junior level skaters who, due to minimum age requirements, are capable of World Championship level performance but are restricted to Junior events.
  - Due to the traditional young age, especially of ladies' singles event athletes, this age category is an important elite event in the sport.
  - Team USA at these events are selected by an NGB led selection process.
- ISU Junior Grand Prix Events
  - As with the Junior Worlds, this circuit is an essential and elite competition in the sport due to the notably young age of elite athletes in the sport.
  - The NGB selects Team USA through a selection process.
- World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships
  - As with the singles/pairs/dance events, the junior level is an elite competition in the sport.
  - The NGB selects Team USA through a selection process.

Reviewed Committees	
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit</li> <li>• Compensation</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Grievance</li> <li>• International</li> <li>• International Officials</li> <li>• Nominating</li> </ul>
NGB Recommendation	Designated
NGB AAC Recommendation	Designated
Working Group Finding	<b>Designated</b>
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
All these committees are involved in core functions around budgets, bylaws, grievance, and/or team selection.	

<b>Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adult Skating</b></li> <li>• <b>Coaches</b></li> <li>• <b>Competitions</b></li> <li>• <b>Dance Development and Technical</b></li> <li>• <b>Domestic Officials Recruitment and Management</b></li> <li>• <b>Domestic Selections</b></li> <li>• <b>Membership</b></li> <li>• <b>Memorial Fund</b></li> <li>• <b>Officials Training</b></li> <li>• <b>Pairs Development and Technical</b></li> <li>• <b>Programs and New Program Development</b></li> <li>• <b>Rules</b></li> <li>• <b>SafeSport</b></li> <li>• <b>Singles Development and Technical</b></li> <li>• <b>Sport Sciences and Medicine</b></li> <li>• <b>Strategic Planning</b></li> <li>• <b>Synchronized Development and Technical</b></li> <li>• <b>Tests</b></li> </ul>
NGB Recommendation	Other
NGB AAC Recommendation	Other
Working Group Finding	<b>Other</b>
<b>Finding Notes</b>	
<p>These committees did not engage in any of the designated functions outlined in the USOPC Bylaws and thus were approved as Other Committees.</p> <p>The Working Group clarified that the Development, Technical, Rules, and Domestic Selection Committees do not, in fact, have authority over team selection or selection to competitions that can impact team selection. The NGB confirmed that they do not and thus were approved as Other Committees.</p>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
NGB Recommendation	50% Olympic Disciplines Represented
NGB AAC Recommendation	50% Olympic Disciplines Represented
Working Group Finding	<b>50% Olympic Disciplines Represented</b>
<b>Finding Notes</b>	
<p>The NGB requested consideration of the composition of their athlete representatives on the NGB Board of Directors. The USOPC Bylaws (8.5.3) require that at least half of the athlete representatives on the Board have generated their eligibility as a 10 Year or 10+ athlete via a Delegation Event.</p> <p>The NGB outlined several elements unique to their structure that make this requirement potentially onerous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NGB qualifies a maximum of 13 athletes per Games. Without Pan Am Games to supplement, this is the total amount of athletes that the NGB can qualify per quadrennial.</li> <li>• Of those athletes, often, some or several are under 18 years of age and thus would be ineligible for Board service in most states.</li> <li>• With the requirement that the NGB's representative to the USOPC AAC be a member of the Board, there is a structural limit that ensures that at least one (25%) athlete representative will have competed at a delegation event.</li> </ul>	

- The NGB has structured athlete representation on the Board such that athlete representatives come from the three Olympic events (Singles, Pairs, Dance) and from Synchronized Skating, ensuring that a majority of athlete representatives come from the 3 Olympic events.

The Panel concluded as a result of the pool of Athletes available to the NGB that the NGB would be afforded the opportunity to utilize Athletes who qualify as Elite Athletes whether from a Delegation Event, 10-Year, or 10-Year + to serve on the NGB Board provided that at least 50% of the total athlete representation on the Board are from a Delegation Event.