

## APPENDIX E

### **NATIONAL TEAM AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Amendments to this Appendix E are the responsibility of the High Performance Director. The High Performance Director, in consultation with the National Team Program Committee, can modify this Appendix by recommending changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

The High Performance Director, with notification to the Vice President Olympic International and the International Relations Committee Chair of USSS, selects appropriate international events for each of the National Teams. Participation in the designated competitions shall be limited to the National Team(s). Clubs must petition the International Relations Review Subcommittee for a Club Option. See Appendix F. Private invitations are the only exception to the Club Option procedure and require notification to the International Relations Committee Chair.

### **PREREQUISITES FOR ALL NATIONAL TEAMS AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

The Trials are open to athletes who are citizens of the United States at the time of nomination and eligible under the eligibility rules for participation in a "protected competition" as defined by the By-Laws of the United States Olympic Committee ("USOC").

An athlete who is not a citizen of the United States, but reasonably expects to be one no later than 30 days prior to the start of the event for which the Trials are being conducted, is eligible to compete in the Trials for the U.S. Synchronized Swimming National Teams and/or the Olympic Development programs. An athlete who fails to become a citizen by 30 days prior to the event shall be replaced by another eligible athlete according to the following procedures.

Please refer to the USA Synchro website ([www.usasynchro.org](http://www.usasynchro.org)) to find the most recent information concerning ongoing Trials procedures and/or the National Team and Olympic Development programs.

## ARTICLE 1

### **2018 12&UNDER AND 13-15 NATIONAL TEAMS AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

#### **1.01 ELIGIBILITY**

**Phase 1:** To be eligible for Phase 1 of the 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials, a registered U.S. Synchronized Swimming athlete must:

- A. Be eligible to compete in the selected competition(s).
- B. Have been born in the years 2006 or later for 12 & under and 2003 to 2005 for 13-15.
- C. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2 and 3 for 12 & under and Grade Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 for 13-15.

**Phase 2:** To be seeded into Phase 2 of the 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials, a registered U.S. Synchronized Swimming athlete must meet the eligibility requirements of Phase 1 and must:

#### **For 12 & under:**

- A. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2 and 3.

B. Have achieved at least one of the following:

1. Participated in the 2017 12 & under National Team; or
2. Participated in the 2017 12 & under National Team Trials Phase 3; or
3. Been one of the top 100 athletes, of the correct age, in rank order, selected from the 12 & under Figure competition at the 2017 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship (firm number); or
4. Been one of the top athletes, in rank order, selected from the 2018 12 & under National Team Trials Phase 1, who are not already qualified. Maximum number of participants for Phase 2A Trials will be 70 athletes.

**For 13-15:**

A. Have passed Grade Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4.

B. Have achieved at least one of the following:

1. Participated in the 2017 13-15 National Teams; or
2. Participated in the 2017 13-15 National Team Trials Phase 3; or
3. Participated in the 2017 12 & under National Team; or
4. Been one of the top 50 athletes, of the correct age, in rank order, selected from the 13-15 Figure competition at the 2017 U.S. 13-15 Championship (firm number); or
5. Been one of the top 30 athletes, of the correct age, in rank order, selected from the 13-15 Figure competition at the 2017 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship (firm number); or
6. Been one of the top athletes, in rank order, selected from the 2018 13-15 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials Phase 1, who are not already qualified. Maximum number of participants for Phase 2A Trials will be 70 athletes.

Athletes who have not meet the eligibility requirements may submit a petition to the National Team Review Subcommittee. See USSS Code, Section 5.08 B.4. If the petition is approved, the successful petitioner shall be added to the list of eligible athletes.

**1.02 2018 12 & UNDER AND 13-15 NATIONAL TEAMS AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Teams and Olympic Development Program shall be selected in accordance with the following procedures:

A. **Phase 1 – Figure Competition:** This competition shall be held January 12, 2018, in Tonawanda, NY, at a time to be announced.

A group of 3-7 FINA Judges, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 1.

1. **Figure Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a Figure competition, which will consist of 4 figures, including the 2 Compulsory and 2 Optional Figures, selected by the High Performance Director from the appropriate age division figure list. The figures will be announced at least 72 hours prior to the trials and posted on the USA Synchro website.
2. Scores from Phase 1 will be calculated according to FINA rules and then dropped from further consideration.

3. **Number of athletes to advance to Phase 2A:**

- **12 & under:** up to a maximum of 70 athletes, in rank order, shall advance to Phase 2A.
- **13-15:** up to a maximum of 70 athletes, in rank order, shall advance to Phase 2A.

**TIED ATHLETES:** If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the last qualified athlete for Phase 2A, it will be considered a tie. All tied athletes shall advance to Phase 2A.

**B. Phase 2A – Figure Competition:** This competition shall be held following Phase 1, January 12-13, 2018 in Tonawanda, NY, at a time to be announced.

A group of 3-7 FINA Judges, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 2A.

1. **Figure Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a Figure competition, which will consist of 4 figures, including the 2 Compulsory and 2 Optional Figures, selected by the High Performance Director from the appropriate age division figure list. The figures will be announced at least 72 hours prior to the trials and posted on the USA Synchro website.
2. Scores from Phase 2A will be calculated according to FINA rules. The top 30 athletes, in rank order, from Phase 2A shall advance to Phase 2B.

**TIED ATHLETES:** If one or more athlete(s) attain a score of 0.1 or less below the score of the thirtieth place athlete from Phase 2A, it will be considered a tie. All tied athletes shall advance to Phase 2B.

**C. Phase 2B – National Skills Testing Competition:** This competition shall be held following Phase 2A, January 13-15, 2018 in Tonawanda, NY, at a time to be announced.

A group of Evaluators, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 2B. The Evaluators may consist of the National Skill Assessors, the High Performance Director, the National Team Coaches and/or any additional qualified evaluators, as needed. A list of the current National Skill Assessors is available in the National Skills Testing Manual which is posted on the USA Synchro website.

1. **National Skills Testing Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a National Skills Testing competition, which will consist of 10 tests. A full description of the tests can be found in the National Skills Testing Manual which is posted on the USA Synchro website.
2. All tests are weighted equally. The National Skills Testing Scoring criteria is included in the National Skills Testing Manual which is posted on the USA Synchro website.
3. All athletes from Phase 2B shall advance to Phase 2C.

**D. Phase 2C – Routine Competition:** This competition shall be held following Phase 2B, January 13-15, 2018 in Tonawanda, NY, at a time to be announced.

A group of 3-7 FINA Judges, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 2C.

1. **Routine Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 1 individual routine swim. The routine will be selected by the High Performance Director.
2. The individual routine swim score from Phase 2C will be added to the scores from Phase 2A and Phase 2B and will be used to calculate the Final score for Phase 2, using the following percentages:

### **Phase 2 Final Score:**

- Phase 2A – Figure Competition 60%
- Phase 2B – National Skills Testing Competition 20%
- Phase 2C – Routine Competition 20%

3. All athletes from Phase 2C shall advance to Phase 3A.

**E. Phase 3A – Figure Competition:** This competition shall be held on the following dates, in Lewisville, TX, at a time to be announced.

- 12 & under National Team Trials: April 10, 2018.
- 13-15 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials: April 11, 2018

A group of 3-7 FINA Judges, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 3A.

1. **Figure Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a Figure competition.

- **12 & under Figure Competition:** The competition will consist of 4 figures, including the 2 Compulsory and 2 Optional Figures, selected by the High Performance Director from the 12 & under age division figure list. The figures will be announced at least 72 hours prior to the trials and posted on the USA Synchro website.
- **13-15 Figure Competition:** All eligible athletes will compete in the Figure competition at the U.S. 13-15 Championship, to be held in Lewisville, TX, at a time to be announced.

2. Scores from Phase 3A will be calculated according to FINA rules. All athletes from Phase 3A shall advance to Phase 3B.

**E. Phase 3B – Routine Competition:** This competition shall be held on the following dates in Lewisville, TX, at a time to be announced.

- 12 & under National Team Trials: April 10, 2018
- 13-15 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials: April 15, 2018

A group of 3-7 FINA Judges, selected by the High Performance Director, shall evaluate the athletes during Phase 3B.

1. **Routine Competition:** Eligible athletes will compete in a Routine competition, which will consist of 2 individual routine swims with two random draws. The scores of the 2 routine swims will be averaged to calculate the Final routine score. The routine will be selected by the High Performance Director.

2. The score from the Figure competition in Phase 3A and the score for the Routine competition in Phase 3B will be added to the Final score from Phase 2 to calculate the Final score for Phase 3 using the following percentages:

### **Phase 3 Final Score:**

- Phase 2 100%  
(60% Figure Competition from Phase 2A, 20% National Skills Testing Competition from Phase 2B, 20% Routine Competition from Phase 2C)
- Phase 3 100%  
(40% Figure Competition from Phase 3A, 60% Routine Competition from Phase 3B)

3. The Phase 3 Final Score will be used to select up to 12 athletes each for the 12 & under National Team and the 13-15 National Team and up to 16 athletes for the 13-15 Olympic Development Program.

### **1.03 NAMING OF THE 2018 12 & UNDER AND 13-15 NATIONAL TEAMS AND THE OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

**A. Number of Athletes:** The 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Teams and Olympic Development Program will be comprised of up to:

- 12 athletes (not including petitioners) for the 12 & under National Team.
- 12 athletes (not including petitioners) for the 13-15 National Team.
- 16 13-15 athletes (not including petitioners) for the Olympic Development Program.

The exact number of athletes will be determined by the High Performance Director. The High Performance Director will make the final decision based on the results from Phase 3 and in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staffs and select FINA Judges.

**B. Training and Competition Requirements:** All selected athletes after Phase 3B must attend the National Team training camps and National Team competition(s) or the Olympic Development Program camp per their selection, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the High Performance Director.

If a selected athlete decides to decline her National Team or Olympic Development Program selection, she must notify the High Performance Director in writing no later than April 22, 2018.

If a selected athlete is not present at the start of National Team or Olympic Development Program training (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the High Performance Director), this athlete may no longer be considered a member of the National Team or Olympic Development Program and a replacement athlete will be selected instead.

If an insufficient number of athletes accept their selection to the 2018 National Teams or Olympic Development Program, the High Performance Director has the right to revise the overall plan for the 2018 National Teams or Olympic Development Program.

**C. Routine Assignments:** Solo, Duet, Team and Free Combination assignments for each competition will be determined at a later date by the National Team Coaching Staff for final approval by the High Performance Director. All athletes named to the 2018 12 & under and the 13-15 National Teams will be considered for each routine.

**D. Replacements:** Replacement athletes for the National Teams and Olympic Development Program shall be selected in rank order from Phase 3, then Phase 2A of the 2018 National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials. Replacement athletes must be able to demonstrate competitive readiness as determined by the High Performance Director and the National Team Coaching Staff.

### **1.04 PETITIONS**

**A.** Any 12 & under and 13-15 athlete who has successfully petitioned the National Team Review Subcommittee, pursuant to the Exception noted below, may also be considered for placement on the 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Teams or the Olympic Development Program or advancement to the next Phase of Trials, regardless of their prior participation or ranking in any of the Selection Process that has taken place. Petitions must be submitted prior to the end of the Trials event.

**B.** The National Team Review Subcommittee approves or denies the petition. However, the High Performance Director, in consultation with the National Team Coaching Staff may replace the last ranked athlete(s), with one or more petitioners added from Section 1.04 A. above to finalize the 2018 12 & under and 13-15 National Teams or the Olympic Development Program or advancement to the next Phase of Trials.

**EXCEPTION:** In the event of an athlete injury or illness as certified by a Physician approved by U.S. Synchronized Swimming, or an extreme personal or family emergency or any other extenuating circumstances prior to or during the National Team and Olympic Development Program Trials, which precludes the athlete from participating in the Trials, the athlete may petition the National Team Review Subcommittee. If the petition is approved, the successful petitioner shall be reinserted into the Selection Process at the appropriate Phase as an additional athlete.

## ARTICLE 2

### **2017-2018 JUNIOR NATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES (All new)**

The 2017-2018 Junior National Training Squad has already been selected. There will be no Junior National Squad Trials for the 2017-2018 season.

There will be a Trials for the 2019-2020 Junior National Training Squad in December 2018.

The current members of the 2017-2018 Junior National Training Squad are listed on the USA Synchro website.

## ARTICLE 3

### **2017-2020 SENIOR NATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Refer to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2017-2020 Senior National Training Squad which are available on the USA Synchro website at <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Synchronized-Swimming/Team-USA/National-Team-Trials>.

The current members of the 2017-2020 Senior National Training Squad are listed on the USA Synchro website.