

**USA DIVING /USD
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2007 PAN AMERICAN GAMES - RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Men and Women**

Deleted: June 7, 2006

Amended: October 9, 2006

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1. Citizenship: Every candidate for the 2007 Pan American Games must: be a citizen of the United States, and have a valid U.S. passport by the date of nomination.
2. Minimum Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur standards for participation (if any): All competitors shall be registered with their National Federation to be eligible to compete per FINA rules (www.fina.org).
3. Other requirements (if any): Athletes must be registered athletes in good standing with USA Diving.

B. Provide a brief summary outlining how an athlete is selected as a nominee to the Team.

The 2007 Pan American Games Team ("Team") will consist of four (4) men and four (4) women.

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Based on the criteria in Section I.D. and performance at the 2007 Pan American Games Team Selection Camp ("Camp"), scheduled for May 30-June 3, 2007, the International Team Selectors (see Section I.D.) will identify the combination of four (4) athletes per gender that provides the best opportunity to win the maximum number of medals possible. These athletes will be nominated to the Team.

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C. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2007 Pan American Games Selection Camp, May 30, 2007– June 3, 2007.

The site is to be determined (see www.usadiving.org).

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in Section I(C)(1) (if any).

Athletes can qualify to the Camp via the following:

- a. The top six divers (with U.S. citizenship) in individual Pan American events and the top three teams (with U.S. citizenship) in Pan American synchronized events at the 2007 U.S. Open (either April 9-15, 2007 or April 16-22, 2007). The site is to be determined (see www.usadiving.org).
- b. Olympic Medal Program (“OMP”) divers in the Pan American events for which they were selected to the OMP. See www.usadiving.org for more details about the OMP.
- c. Members of the 2005 World Championship Team in their respective Pan American events.
- d. Members of the 2006 World Cup Team in their respective Pan American events.
- e. Divers invited by the Committee for Competitive Excellence (“CCE”) for the specific purpose of being paired with another diver to form a synchronized team. The CCE will consider the following criteria in determining the potential pairing of divers: optional dive compatibility, direction of twisting, springboard approach, and hurdle technique.
- f. Divers who are granted an invitation through the petition process (see Section I.D.).

Athletes can qualify to the 2007 U.S. Open via the following:

- a. Members of USA Diving's 2005 World Championship Team, 2005 World University Games Team, and 2006 World Cup Team (in the events they competed in at these competitions).
- b. Members of the OMP in the events in which they were selected to the OMP.
- c. Top six divers in individual events and top three teams in synchronized events at the 2006 Kaiser Permanente National Diving Championships, Indianapolis, IN, August 2-5, 2006.
- d. Top three divers (with U.S. citizenship) in individual events from the 2006 Women’s NCAA Championships (Division I), Athens, GA, March 16-18, 2006, and the Men’s

NCAA Championships (Division I), Atlanta, GA, March 23-25, 2006.

- e. Top three divers in the 16-18 age group and first place in the 14-15 age group in the individual events at the 2006 Speedo National Junior Diving Championships, Indianapolis, IN, July 26-30, 2006.
- f. Divers not pre-qualified for the 2007 U.S. Open based on sections A - E above may attempt to qualify by participating in the U.S. Open Qualifying Competition (conducted during first two days of the 2007 U.S. Open). The number of qualifying spots in each event will depend on the number of pre-qualified divers/teams that participate in the 2007 U.S. Open. A total number of 24 spots per individual event and 12 spots per synchronized event will be available at the 2007 U.S. Open for pre-qualified divers/teams and divers/teams that qualify at the qualifying competition. The actual number of qualifying spots available in each event at the 2007 U.S. Open Qualifying Competition is the difference between the number of pre-qualified divers/teams entered in the 2007 U.S. Open and the total number of spots available (see above).

3. Provide the event name, dates and locations of additional trials that will be used to determine "start positions" (if any).

Not applicable

D. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees.

NATURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURES. The selection procedures ("Procedures") that follow will be used to identify athletes to be nominated to the United States Olympic Committee ("USOC") to represent the USA in the 2007 Pan Am Games. These Procedures do not contemplate the selection of a team based on the results of a single trials competition. Instead, these Procedures involve the evaluation of a number of factors (see below) considered over an extended period of time.

TEAM SIZE. The Team will consist of four (4) men and four (4) women.

EVENTS. Each country may enter two (2) athletes in each individual event and one (1) team in each synchronized event. Team members may participate in some, if not all, of the following events: Women's 3M

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Springboard, Women's Synchronized 3M Springboard, Women's Platform, Women's Synchronized Platform, Men's 3M Springboard, Men's Synchronized 3M Springboard, Men's Platform, and Men's Synchronized Platform.

SELECTION CAMP. The primary activity associated with these Procedures will take place at a Camp to be conducted May 30, 2007 through June 3, 2007. The site of this Camp is to be determined (see www.usadiving.org).

SELECTORS. The CCE has identified 23 individuals (see Section II, C) to serve as International Team Selectors ("Selectors"). These individuals have extensive experience in international diving competition (as an athlete, coach, high performance director, and/or judge). An individual is not, however, qualified to serve as a Selector if he or she is a relative of or is a coach of any athlete who may reasonably be considered to be a candidate for the Team, or otherwise has a relationship with an athlete or the athlete's coach that creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of such a conflict.

From among the pool of Selectors, the CCE will select by March 1, 2007, at least three (3) and no more than seven (7) individuals to serve as the Selectors at the Camp. At least twenty percent of the Selectors at the Camp must have been engaged in elite-level competition within the past ten (10) years.

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CAMP PROCEDURES. To be nominated by the Selectors to the USOC to represent the United States in the 2007 Pan Am Games, an athlete must participate in the Camp.

1. Each diver and team participating in the Camp will perform all dives in list format four (4) times during the scheduled sessions of the Camp. These dives will be scored by the Selectors at the Camp
2. Scores for all the lists of dives above will be utilized to determine an "average" total award (total award of all lists added together divided by the number of lists) and a "best" total award (total award from best list) for the lists of dives. These scores will be compared to performances at the 2006 World Cup (July 19-23, 2006) and the 2007 World Championships (March 18-25, 2007). While all athletes' performances from these events will be used, specific attention will be given to the comparisons with the competitors in the events above who represented other countries that will be participating in the 2007 Pan Am Games.

3. The scores from the list dives will be utilized to determine a projected competition score ("PCS"). This will be done using the formula below, where A is the average total award, B is the best total award, PD is the point differential between A and B, and PCS is the projected competition score.

$$B - A = PD$$
$$50\% \text{ of } PD + A = PCS$$

The PCS will be compared to international standards for place finish from the 2006 World Cup (July 19-23, 2006), and the 2007 World Championships (March 18-25, 2007). The PCS will also be compared to the place finish (in the events above) of competitors who represented other countries participating in the 2007 Pan Am Games.

4. The scores for all dives will also be analyzed to determine the level (%) of consistency. For this purpose, an average judge's score of 7 or above, in the women's events, will be considered a "hit" and below 7 a "miss". In the men's events an average judge's score of 7.5 or above will be considered a "hit" and below 7.5 will be considered a "miss".

5. The diver's/team's total degree of difficulty will be compared to the degree of difficulty of the medal winners at the 2007 World Championships, March 18-25, 2007, and the 2007 FINA Grand Prix International events that occur prior to the Camp (see www.fina.org). In addition, comparisons will be made to the degree of difficulty of competitors who represented other countries participating in the 2007 Pan Am Games, regardless of their place finish in the events above.

6. Selectors will also consider the following factors as they relate to each of the divers/teams participating in the Camp:

Whether a diver placed among the top eight (8) finishers at the 2005 World Championships, the 2006 World Cup and/or the 2007 World Championships, if applicable.

7. The Selectors will also consider the ability of a diver to compete in other individual events and/or synchronized events. In order to assist them in determining that ability, the Selectors may ask a diver to (a) participate in events other than the one(s) in which the diver is attempting to qualify and/or (b) dive with a synchronized teammate other than the one with whom the diver is attempting to qualify.

8. In order to accommodate the fact that a diver is injured, ill, or attempting to qualify for the Team in multiple events, and if in the

opinion of the Selectors the athlete is not capable of completing all of the necessary dives, then the Selectors may reduce the number of dives/lists and/or types of dives the athlete is required to perform at the Camp and still consider the athlete for selection to the Team. In determining whether or not the athlete should be selected to the Team, the Selectors shall consider the following discretionary selection criteria, in addition to the applicable factors identified above (numbers 1- 7), the athlete's 1) performance at the Camp prior to the reduction in the number of dives/lists and/or types of dives, and 2) ability to compete at the Games considering the reasons for the reduction in the number of dives/lists and/or types of dives. Additionally, the Selectors shall consider whether or not the athlete's selection to the Team will have a direct bearing on the Team's performance and provide the best opportunity for the Team to win the maximum number of medals at the Games.

TEAM SELECTION. Based on a careful consideration of each of the factors identified above, the Selectors will identify the combination of four (4) athletes per gender that will provide the best opportunity to win the maximum number of medals possible. These athletes will be nominated to the USOC to represent the USA at the 2007 Pan Am Games.

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PETITION PROCESS. In the case of extraordinary circumstances, an athlete who has failed to qualify for an invitation to the Camp may petition to be invited to the Camp. In this case, the petition process is governed by the following rules and procedures.

A. Petitions may be granted in the case of

1. injury or illness prevents or limits a diver's participation in one or more of the qualifying events, or
2. other extraordinary circumstances (e.g. death of a family member) or act of God that has the effect of preventing the athlete from participating in one or more of the qualifying events.

B. Petitions must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of USA Diving or his designee either 30 days prior to the start of the Camp or as soon thereafter as is practical given the circumstances that give rise to the petition.

C. In the case of injury or illness, the athlete must make himself or herself available for examination by a physician selected by USA Diving and must also authorize his or her own personal physician to discuss the circumstances of the athlete's injury or illness with a physician selected by USA Diving.

D. The petition will be considered and acted upon by the CCE and the athlete will be notified either at least 10 days prior to the start of the Camp or as soon thereafter as is practical given the circumstances that gave rise to the petition.

E. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and title(s) of their members.

The Committee for Competitive Excellence (CCE) is responsible for the 2007 Pan Am Games team selection process.

Committee	Name	Title	
<u>CCE</u>	<u>Bob Rydze</u>	<u>VP CCE</u>	
CCE	Steve McFarland	<u>FINA Tech. Diving Committee</u>	Deleted: VP CCE
CCE	Dave Burgering	President, USA Diving	
CCE	<u>Jim Stillson</u>	VP International	Deleted: Vince Panzano
CCE	Julian Krug	VP Senior	
CCE	Ron Piemonte	VP Junior	
CCE	Dr. Ron O'Brien	High Performance Director	
CCE	Jenny Keim Gallagher	AAC	
CCE	Justin Wilcock	Chair, Athlete Representatives	

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

A purely objective selection process, such as a trials event, permits divers to qualify for major international competition based on what might be an uncommon performance. An inconsistent diver might have the "meet of their life" in the trials, but not likely to repeat that performance again at the Games.

In addition, international judging emphasizes elements of the sport not always evaluated in the same manner by American judges. A "very good" (8 1/2 - 10 points) performance in the USA may only be judged a "good" (6 1/2 - 8 points) performance internationally. This obviously results in a lower placement in the contest.

This discretionary selection system is designed to evaluate all

performance factors and to identify divers who have the best chance of winning medals.

This is the third year in which USA Diving has conducted team selection under procedures like this. Our decision to implement these Procedures for the selection of the Team reflects our judgment that a process of this nature not only produces a team that can most effectively represent the United States but also represents a method of selection that is most fair to the athletes aspiring to make the Team.

B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:

Please see Section I, D.

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

By March 1, 2007 , the CCE will identify at least three (3) and no more than seven (7) individuals from the pool of 23 International Team Selectors ("Selectors") listed below. At least twenty percent of the Selectors must have been engaged in elite-level diving competition within the past ten (10) years. These individuals will have extensive experience in international diving competition (whether as an athlete, coach, and/or judge). An individual is not, however, qualified to serve as a Selector if he or she is a relative of or is a coach of any athlete who may reasonably be considered to be a candidate for the Team, or otherwise has a relationship with an athlete or an athlete's coach that creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of such a conflict.

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Committee	Name	Title
Selector	Cynthia Potter	FINA A Judge
Selector	Bob Rydze	Coach
Selector	Steve McFarland	FINA A Judge
Selector	Tom Gompf	FINA A Judge
Selector	Jane Figuieredo	Coach
Selector	Jim Stillson	Coach
Selector	Dave Parrington	Coach
Selector	Brian Earley	Athlete
Selector	Sara Reiling	Athlete
Selector	Mark Ruiz	Athlete
Selector	Jenny Keim Gallagher	Athlete
Selector	Scott Donie	Athlete
Selector	Kimiko Soldati	Athlete
Selector	Dick Kimball	Coach

Selector	Hobie Billingsley	Coach
Selector	Olga Tikhonova	FINA A Judge
Selector	John Narcy	Coach
Selector	Van Austin	Coach
Selector	Liyi Wang	Coach
Selector	Jianli You	Coach
Selector	Li Deliang	Coach
Selector	Steve Eberle	FINA G Judge
Selector	Ron O'Brien	High Performance Director

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. Prior to acceptance of nomination by the USOC, USA Diving has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Diving may be removed from the Nominations for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Diving.

1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Diving CEO/Executive Director.

2. Injury or illness is certified by a USA Diving physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USA Diving physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.

Note: The removal of a member of a synchronized team results in the removal of the synchronized team.

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Diving's Grievance Procedures, Article 70, or by USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

B. After acceptance of nomination by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

A USOC approved team member is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

C. Anti-Doping Removal.

An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of PASO, WADA, FINA, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

The replacement pool will consist of those athletes who participated in the Camp.

B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected to replace a previously nominated athlete, should a vacancy occur.

1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

In the event an athlete/team is removed from the Team under the procedures set forth in Section III, A, the Selectors will name a replacement athlete/team from among the participants in the Camp based on the criteria listed in Section I.D., provided such a substitution is permissible under PASO rules.

2. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See above

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

1. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

Not applicable

2. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the team:

a. Before acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

International Team Selectors-please see Section II, C for the names of the committee members.

b. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See C. 2. a. above

c. During the Games

US Pan American Diving Team Staff

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Diving will retain all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the 2007 Pan American Games.

VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of participation in the Olympic or Pan American Games and are included as attachments:

NOT APPLICABLE

VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Diving in the following locations:

A. NGB Website:

The website information will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USOC and will include the USOC approval date.

www.usadiving.org

B. USA Diving Official Publication(s) (if any):
Inside USA Diving Magazine

C. Other Not Applicable

VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be submitted to the USOC on:

June 5, 2007

IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

Not applicable

X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all PASO, WADA, FINA, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by the PASO, WADA, FINA, USADA and USOC Rules.

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Committee for Competitive Excellence - please see Section I, E, for the names of committee members

XII. USA DIVING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Diving Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

I. www.usadiving.org

A. Resources

1. Rulebook

a. Part II, Subpart C, Article 70

II. USA Diving Rules and Regulations

A. Article 70

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

The procedures are based on PASO and/or FINA rules and regulations are presently known and understood. Any changes in the selection procedures caused by a change in PASO and/or FINA rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Diving. However, the selections are always subject to

unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Diving may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-Mail at john.ruger@usoc.org
- www.888athlete.org

XV. USA DIVING SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Diving .

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Executive Dir.	Todd Smith	_____	_____
High Performance Director	Ron O'Brien, Ph.D.	_____	_____
NGBs USOC AAC	Jenny Keim-Gallagher	_____	_____

*If USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

USOC USE ONLY

Date Original Procedures Recâ€™d _____	Date of USOC Approval _____
Date Revision Submitted _____	