


# SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

## MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

VERSION 26.6.1 – JUNE 30, 2026

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the process and criteria by which GymCan's Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) Program will select athletes and coaches for the event listed below, with the objective of assembling the strongest possible delegation to meet the objectives under 1.1.

**The Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, November 3 to 12, 2026.**

## 1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objective of this selection process and procedures is to select the best possible delegation for this competition that will be capable of achieving the following targets:

- Provide a multi-sport games competitive experience for 16- to 17-year-old Junior athletes.
- Qualify to All-Around Finals

## 1.2 DELEGATION SIZE AND FINANCIALS CONSIDERATIONS

The funded delegation for this competition will be composed of:

- One (1) competing athlete;
- One (1) coach - subject to Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) accreditation allocation;

Note: ITO (judge) has been assigned by World Gymnastics.

## 1.3 KEY DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| July 14, 2026 | COC Long List deadline |
| August 16, 2026 | Commitment Form deadline (Section 13) |
| August 17-31, 2026 | Virtual Selection Competition window. |
| September 7, 2026 | Nominative Registration Deadline |
| November 1, 2026 | Arrival in Dakar |
| November 12, 2026 | Depart Dakar |

# 2 DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

GymCan staff, in consultation with the Men's Program Committee (MPC), are responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for this competition.

The selection of the athlete and the coach is the responsibility of the MAG Selection Working Group (SWG), which comprises the MAG Program Committee. Any member who has a direct relationship with athletes and/or coaches under consideration is ineligible to participate due to a conflict of interest and will be replaced, as required, by an appropriate representative from their respective group.

The Program Committee consists of:

- Program Director (PD-MAG) (Chair);
- High Performance Director (HPD);
- Program Assembly (MPA) Chair;
- National Team Coaches Council (NTCC) Representative;
- Athlete Representative;
- Judging Chairperson;
- Member at Large #1;
- Member at Large #2; and
- Member at Large #3

## 2.1 DECISION MAKING ON SITE

The Team Leader will provide direction to the Canadian delegation at the competition. They will consult with the personal coach, and Head of Delegation on site, but will ultimately have decision-making authority over the Canadian delegation.

For any situation requiring a medical opinion (injury or illness), the IST on site will provide their professional recommendation to the Team Leader, who will have ultimate decision-making authority to recommend the substitution or removal of the athlete.

# 3 ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

## 3.1 ATHLETES:

1. Athletes must have been born between 14 November 2008 and 31 October 2010, inclusive.
2. Are a Canadian Citizen and have a passport that is valid until at least six (6) months following the conclusion of the event;
3. All athletes must hold a FIG License valid until the conclusion of the Artistic Gymnastics competitions at Dakar 2026.
4. have read, understood, accepted, signed the selection process outlined in this criterion, and they have submitted the online commitment form via the Activity Messenger platform by the required deadline (Section 13);
5. are members of the selection pool for this competition as defined in Section 12;
6. comply with all relevant GymCan and World Gymnastics requirements for eligibility including holding a World Gymnastics license with an expiry date no earlier than the conclusion of the event;
7. have complied in all respects with the Anti-Doping Rules of World Gymnastics, the Canadian Anti-Doping Program ("CADP") and the Anti-Doping Rules of any other Anti-Doping Organization that has authority over them, and must not be serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation;
8. are not subject to any suspension or disqualification imposed by GymCan or any other authority that has jurisdiction over them, including Abuse-Free Sport/the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner; and
9. complete all assigned tasks within the oneBadge platform no later than three (3) weeks prior to travel.

## 3.2 COACHES:

1. are 18 years or older
2. hold a passport that is valid until at least six (6) months following the conclusion of the event;
3. are the coach associated with the athlete on a regular basis and coached them at the selection event;
4. have read, understood, and accepted the selection process and the conditions associated with the selection for this competition, and they have submitted the online commitment form via the Activity Messenger platform by the required deadline (Section 13);
5. take part in all planned activities related to this competition unless exempted, in writing, by GymCan and in all GymCan promotional activities associated with these activities unless exempted in writing by the PD MAG;
6. agree to be subject to and abide by all GymCan policy and procedures, and its code of ethics;
7. are NCCP Competition 3 MAG certified or higher;
8. complete all assigned tasks within the oneBadge platform no later than three (3) weeks prior to travel;
9. comply in all respects with the Anti-Doping Rules of World Gymnastics, the CADP and the Anti-Doping Rules of any other Anti-Doping Organization that has authority over them, and must not be serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation;
10. are not subject to any suspension or disqualification imposed by GymCan or any other authority that has jurisdiction over them.

# 4 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process has been designed to select the athlete with the greatest potential to achieve the Objectives in Section 1.1, based exclusively on official results from the designated selection competition.

Only athletes who meet the eligibility criteria in Section 3 and who are members of the Athlete Selection Pool under Section 12 will be considered for selection.

## 4.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Only final official results, including any accepted inquiries, corrections, and /or tie breaks, will be used in all calculations. In the event of a tie, World Gymnastics tie-breaking rules will apply.

The Junior Youth Olympic Games selection competition will be conducted virtually over two days. The final All-Around ranking will be determined using each athlete's best score on each apparatus from either day of competition.

The athlete with the highest All-Around total, calculated using this method, will be selected to represent Canada at the Youth Olympic Games.

For more information regarding the Virtual competition process, please see Appendix A:.

## 4.2 RESERVE ATHLETES

The SWG will identify the next two (2) highest-ranked athletes in accordance with Section 0, as the non-travelling reserves.

# 5 ATHLETE VERIFICATION

Athlete verification will be ongoing until the date of departure for the competition. The athlete and coach will be notified in advance and provided with the specific expectations for the athlete. At the time of verification, the athlete must not be injured or ill in a manner that prevents them from performing at the level expected for competition.

## 5.1 INJURIES

An athlete who is injured or ill at any time prior to selection, or after selection, must provide an official medical report or certificate to the GymCan PD as outlined below. Failure to do so may result in the athlete being withdrawn from the selection process.

**Step 1.** The athlete and their club's head coach must notify the IST Lead and GymCan PD by email within 24 hours of any injury or illness that may jeopardize the athlete's participation or performance at

either competition. Receipt of the notification must be acknowledged in writing by GymCan staff. The following information must be provided:

1. date when the injury/illness occurred;
2. means taken to have the injury/illness evaluated by a physician or specialist; and
3. date at which a written detailed report will be provided.

**Step 2.** The athlete and their club's head coach must provide the following typewritten information **within 5 days following step 1:**

1. detailed nature of the injury (documented by physician, not by therapist) including whether or not this is a new, overuse, or chronic injury;
2. ability to pursue full training and to compete (all apparatus/some apparatus), as recommended by the physician or medical specialist;
3. recovery/rehabilitation measures;
4. recommendation(s) regarding training and ability to train and/or compete as expected; and
5. expected date for return to partial (specify) and complete training.

**Athletes must not arrive at a camp or competition with an unreported injury, regardless of when the injury occurred. Pre-existing conditions must be reported in advance to the IST member or GymCan staff for the assignment or event. Failure to promptly report injuries or significant illnesses to GymCan may result in National Team status being withdrawn.**

## 5.2 ATHLETE SUBSTITUTION

Following the athlete selection and verifications, the following conditions must be met up until the deadline for official submission of the start list:

1. the athlete is still eligible; and
2. the athlete is healthy and able to compete, and
3. the athlete has been successfully verified according to Section 5, and
4. the athlete can perform at the level that warranted their selection.

The SWG, in consultation with the athlete and coach may choose to replace an athlete if, following the verification, or at any time up to the date of departure:

1. the athlete no longer meets the eligibility criteria; and/or
2. the athlete is unable to meet the expectations stated for the verification; and/or
3. they omit to provide the required information in case of illness or injury as stated in Section 5.1.

The SWG has the authority to confirm an athlete who is slightly injured by the Nominative Registration deadline if:

1. the athlete and his coach complied with the steps and deadlines in Section 5.1; and
2. the members have received written confirmation from the IST Lead that the athlete will have recovered and be ready to compete before departure for the competition, at that level that warranted selection.

**Failure to meet any of the above conditions, as determined by GymCan staff, may result in the athlete being replaced by the reserve. All substitution decisions will be made by the SWG.**

If an athlete is unable to participate due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances, the GymCan PD, in consultation with the athlete, coach, and IST member, will determine whether a substitute or reserve

athlete should replace them. If time permits and it is deemed beneficial, adjustments may also be made to the official coaching staff.

# 6 SELECTION OF THE COACH

## 6.1 SELECTION PROCESS

1. Only one (1) coach may be named - subject to Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) accreditation allocation;
2. An athlete's designated coach is the coach identified on the coach's Commitment Form.
3. The coach of the nominated athlete will be nominated as the coach.

The coach must demonstrate the ability to:

1. identify and resolve issues related to competition floor management as they arise;
2. communicate openly and constructively with members of the delegation; and
3. manage stress and support the athlete in high-pressure situations.

## 6.2 SUBSTITUTION OF A COACH

Substitution of a coach may occur under the following circumstances:

1. the coach no longer assigned an athlete on the delegation;
2. the coach is not meeting the expectations associated with their role, responsibilities, and duties, as determined by GymCan staff;
3. the coach has missed scheduled activities, including meetings and GymCan promotional activities during preparation camps, unless exempted by GymCan staff.

Substitutions are subject to the parameters set by World Gymnastics, GymCan, and/or the local organizing committee.

# 7 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION

The official announcement of selection is the responsibility of GymCan. All internal verbal or written communication to athletes, coaches, or member associations regarding selection is considered "unofficial notice" and is not for public distribution.

Unofficial notice will be communicated, within five (5) business days, directly to athletes and coaches who submitted their Commitment Form by the published deadline.

Official notice of selection occurs when GymCan issues a formal public release or partners with a multi-sport organization (e.g., Canadian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Canada, U Sports) to announce the delegation.

# 8 APPEALS TO THE PROCESS

Appeals against any decisions rendered under this Selection Process must be filed in accordance with GymCan's Appeal Policy. The Appeal Form is available here: https://gymcan.org/policy/appeal-policy/

Notwithstanding the above, the parties may also agree to resolve the matter using the Early Resolution Facilitation services offered by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada ("**SDRCC**").

Alternatively, GymCan and the Appellant may agree to bypass the internal appeal procedure and have the appeal heard directly before the SDRCC.

# 9 MODIFICATION TO THE PROCESS

GymCan staff, in consultation with the SWG, reserve the right to make changes to this document to ensure the selection of the best possible delegation in the event of:

1. A major change to information provided by the governing body; Pan American Gymnastics Union, the Commonwealth Games Federation, the COC, or World Gymnastics;
2. unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of GymCan such as geopolitical events, public health crisis, government travel restrictions, natural disasters, event disruptions, etc; and/or
3. circumstances that impact any part of the selection process and prevents the SWG from fairly applying the criteria as written.

Any changes to this document must be approved by the GymCan CEO and/or HPD and will be communicated directly to the affected coaches and athletes. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials forming part of these selection criteria, except in cases of unforeseen circumstances. It is intended solely to correct typographical errors or clarify definitions or wording before they impact athletes.

# 10 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Failure to comply with World Gymnastics and/or GymCan rules, regulations, policies, or directives will be addressed by the GymCan PD, the HPD, and/or the CEO, who may take appropriate action or impose sanctions before, during, or after the competition.

The nature and extent of the infraction will determine the severity of the sanction. In each case, a fair investigation will be conducted, and the respondent(s) will be given an opportunity to respond.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, verbal or written warnings or reprimands, suspension from designated delegation functions or activities during the competition, and/or early return to Canada.

Following the competition, sanctions may include, but are not limited to, written warnings or reprimands, suspension from international representation, suspension of National Team benefits and services, and suspension of eligibility for athlete, coaching, or judging support funding and services, including athlete, coach, and/or club funding, coach recognition funding, and international achievement coach recognition funding.

# 11 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

In situations where unforeseen circumstances prevent the Selection Criteria from being applied fairly and objectively, the GymCan PD, HPD, and/or CEO reserve the right to determine an appropriate course of action.

# 12 ATHLETE SELECTION POOL

The Selection Pool consists of age eligible members of the 2026 Junior National Team (Cycle 2: 2026 Canadian Championships to 2027 Elite Canada) who meet all eligibility requirements, have fulfilled all obligations with the Canadian Olympic Committee, and have completed and submitted the required commitment form by the deadline specified in this document

# 13 COMMITMENT FORM

Athlete *and* coach commitment forms must be submitted no later than **11:59 PM (local time), on August 16, 2026.**

An athlete or coach will not be included in the Selection Pool unless the form has been completed and submitted to GymCan by the deadline specified in this document.

By signing the online Commitment Form, the participant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and accepted the terms outlined in this document.

Scan the above QR code or follow this link to the Online Commitment Form.

# 14 DOCUMENT TIMELINES

| Version | Date | Change(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Draft 26.4.0 | April 14, 2026 | - Shared with MPC for initial review. |
| Draft 26.4.1 | April 28, 2026 | - Shared with MPC for review.<br>o 70 / 30 weighted selection proposed |
| Draft 26.4.2 | May 7, 2026 | - Shared with MPC for review<br>o Updated with highest apparatus contribution. |
| Draft 26.5.0 | May 13, 2026 | - Final draft shared with MPC. |
| Draft 26.5.1 | May 19, 2026 | - Translated and Final draft shared with NTCC |
| Final 26.5.2 | May 28, 2026 | - Final document submitted to COC |
| Final 26.6.0 | June 10, 2026 | - Recommendations arising from the COC review implemented. |
| Final 26.6.1 | June 30, 2026 | - Period of stay updated to reflect new schedule |

# APPENDIX A:

## VIRTUAL SELECTION PROCESS

Only final official results, including any accepted inquiries, corrections, and/or tie breaks, will be used in all calculations. In the event of a tie, World Gymnastics tie-breaking rules will apply.

The Junior Youth Olympic Games Selection Competition will be conducted virtually over two days within the August 17–31, 2026 Virtual Selection Competition window. Athletes must identify their two distinct competition days in advance. Athletes may choose to complete only one day of competition at their discretion; however, they do so at their own risk. If an athlete completes only one day of competition, only the scores achieved on that day will be available for use in the final All-Around calculation.

A GymCan-appointed Reference Judge must be present in the gymnastics gym for all routines performed as part of the Virtual Selection Competition. GymCan will appoint and assign the Reference Judges. The Reference Judge will verify the athlete's identity, confirm that the routines are performed during the approved competition window, record and script the routines, ensure that recording requirements are followed, and confirm that the submitted videos correspond to the routines performed in their presence. The Reference Judge will not score the routines live. The Reference Judge must record any out-of-bounds deduction observed during the performance.

All routines must be recorded on video from the position of the D1/Reference Judge, in accordance with World Gymnastics norms. Two cameras must be used to record each routine, with one primary video and one backup video. Videos must be unedited and must show the complete routine from the athlete's salute to the final salute at the completion of the routine. Videos that are incomplete, edited, filmed from an incorrect position, or otherwise prevent the judges from properly evaluating the routine may be rejected by GymCan.

Athletes must salute the Reference Judge before performing each routine. On each competition day, athletes may complete their six apparatus in any order that best fits their gym's schedule, provided that all six routines are performed in the presence of the assigned Reference Judge and recorded in accordance with the requirements set out in this section.

Videos must be uploaded to GymCan using the Activity Messenger video form: https://activitymessenger.com/p/1TPUOla?lang=en. If the Activity Messenger video form is not functioning, the videos may be submitted to GymCan by email. All videos from both competition days must be submitted no later than September 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Failure to comply with the recording, judging, submission, or deadline requirements may result in the affected routine receiving a score of zero or being excluded from the final All-Around calculation where GymCan determines that the non-compliance prevents fair and reliable evaluation of the routine.

If an athlete is unable to complete one of their declared competition days due to injury, illness, or other exceptional circumstances, the athlete may request to reschedule within the August 17–31, 2026 Virtual

Selection Competition window. Any rescheduled competition day is subject to the availability of the assigned Reference Judge and must be approved by GymCan in advance.

Athletes will follow the same process on the second day of competition to satisfy the two-day competition format. The athlete's two declared competition days are the only two competition opportunities available within the Virtual Selection Competition window. Athletes may not use the window to complete additional competition days or to select their best performances from more than two distinct competition days.

Routine repetition will be governed by World Gymnastics rules where a routine is interrupted due to a broken grip. A routine may not be repeated due to a fall.

Routines will be evaluated by the GymCan-assigned judging panel, which may include judges assigned to the Youth Olympic Games and/or World Championships selection processes. Results will be published by email directly to the athletes' coaches.

Coaches may petition the Start Value, Landing Bonus, and out-of-bounds deductions. Petitions must be submitted no later than 24 hours after the results are emailed to the athletes' coaches. No other judging components may be petitioned unless otherwise permitted by GymCan.

All equipment and mats used during the Virtual Selection Competition must meet the applicable requirements set out in the World Gymnastics Code of Points and the GymCan High Performance Pathways document.

The final All-Around ranking will be determined using each athlete's best score on each apparatus from either day of competition. For clarity, an athlete's final All-Around total will be calculated by adding the athlete's highest score on Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Vault, Parallel Bars, and Horizontal Bar from across the two days of competition.

The athlete with the highest All-Around total, calculated using the method above, will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee to represent Canada at the Youth Olympic Games, subject to meeting all applicable eligibility requirements and final approval by the COC.