



## **WORLD SYNCHRONIZED TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The World Synchronized Team is defined as those teams selected to represent the United States in the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships.

### **1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for a team to be considered for nomination to the World Synchronized Team:
  - 1.1.1. Age: All team athletes selected for the World Synchronized Team must be ISU senior age eligible.
  - 1.1.2. Membership: Team athletes must be current members in good standing of U.S. Figure Skating at the time of their selection.
- 1.2. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how teams will go through the selection process to become World Synchronized Team members.

U.S. Figure Skating can qualify up to a maximum of two (2) teams to the World Synchronized Team based on the results of the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2023. The Synchronized International Subcommittee will formally meet as soon as practical, after the conclusion of the competition at the 2024 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships to determine the respective nominees and selections to the World Synchronized Team and alternate teams in ranked order. Such meeting will occur immediately following the conclusion of the senior event. Selected team coaches will be notified via text message immediately after the Synchronized International Subcommittee approves the nominations and official selections. Immediately after the selected team coaches are notified, the official list of the selections will be announced the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships and on U.S. Figure Skating's website. A quorum of the Synchronized International Subcommittee must vote in order for the selected members for the World Synchronized Team to be official.

A quorum is defined as a two-thirds majority of the Synchronized International Subcommittee present either in person or via telephone conference call. A two-thirds majority vote of the Synchronized International Subcommittee (present or via conference call) is needed to determine the selections and alternate teams.

Any member of the Synchronized International Subcommittee that has a conflict of interest (including, but not limited to, an athlete, coach or family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the World Team) must declare a conflict of interest, recuse themselves and not influence others regarding the discussions, meetings and voting concerning their specific discipline. Any member of the Synchronized International Subcommittee who is a judge, technical official or referee of the current U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships and/or a member of the skating club of a team being considered must disclose this information but can remain eligible to participate in the selection process.

Team members (depending on how many teams qualify from the previous season's ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2023) will be determined as follows:

To create a pool of teams to be considered for selection to the World Synchronized Team, the Synchronized International Subcommittee will take into consideration placement, performance (which can include performance data) and the competitive field of the events listed below in priority order.

Teams shall be selected based upon performance(s) in the events below. The events have been stratified into tiers from the highest value events in Tier 1 through the lowest value events in Tier 3. Events within each tier shall be evaluated at equal weight.

**Tier 1**

2024 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

**Tier 2 A**

2023-24 ISU Challenger Series events.

**Tier 2 B**

2023-24 International Competitions.

**Tier 3**

2023-24 U.S. domestic competitions meeting the requirements set by the Synchronized International Subcommittee.

The names of the top four teams at the current U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships will be automatically placed into the pool of teams being considered for the World Synchronized Team, if eligible. The national champion will automatically be selected to the World Synchronized Skating Team. Consideration will be given to add additional teams to the pool by reviewing the events above in priority order and adding others due to extenuating circumstances as approved by the Synchronized International Subcommittee. Discussion on, and the selection of the pool of teams identified by the Synchronized International Subcommittee, will be limited to the competitions listed above and the team's fully body of work over the season.

The Synchronized International Subcommittee selections meeting will take place immediately following the conclusion of the senior event.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

### **2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:**

To field the most competitive team, U.S. Figure Skating's Synchronized International Subcommittee will take into consideration the results and performances from the events named in section 1.2 to determine the teams that will have the most performance impact and best chance for success at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2024 to win the maximum number of medals and berths for the World Synchronized Team the following season.

It has been the experience of U.S. Figure Skating that the teams that have had success at the international level are those that have demonstrated consistent performances as opposed to the teams that have only a single great performance. Therefore, by not having the selection process based solely on one event, U.S. Figure Skating can select the best teams to represent the United States at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2024.

### **2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (See Section 1.2):**

The performance data provided to the Synchronized International Subcommittee to enhance its discussion for the selection of the teams will include competition results and other reports/data relating to detailed results sheets of the competitions listed in priority order in section 1.2. The data derived from the detailed result sheets from the events as outlined in 1.2 will provide a full body of work within a six-month period that will demonstrate the team's consistency and ability to achieve medal-potential scores at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2024. The data will be a primary focus in discussing the ranking of the teams and determining which will be the best teams that will have the most performance impact at the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2024.

### **2.3. Provide the purpose of the Synchronized International Subcommittee for making discretionary selections:**

The purpose of U.S. Figure Skating's Synchronized International Subcommittee is to select the U.S. Figure Skating Team that wins the maximum number of international medals and berths possible by strategically providing experience to qualified members of the World Synchronized Skating Team, and by identifying and supporting the best qualified future prospects to develop and achieve the ultimate goal of World podium results.

## **3. REMOVAL OF TEAM(S)**

### **3.1. U.S. Figure Skating has jurisdiction over selected teams. A team that is selected to the World Synchronized Team by U.S. Figure Skating may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by U.S. Figure Skating:**

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Team must submit a written letter to U.S. Figure Skating's Chief Executive Officer and President.
- 3.1.2. A team/athlete fails to sign the U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement.
- 3.1.3. A team/athlete fails to comply with U.S. Figure Skating's Code of Ethics and/or Code of Conduct.
- 3.1.4. A team/athlete loses an adjudicated violation of WADA, ISU, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

A team that is removed from the World Synchronized Skating Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per U.S. Figure Skating's Constitution and Bylaws. The U.S. Figure Skating Bylaws and Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Article XXV) can be found on the U.S. Figure Skating website at: [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#)

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF TEAM(S)**

Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement team(s) should a vacancy occur:

Using the criteria listed in section 1.2, replacement – alternate teams will be determined via a ranking list put together by U.S. Figure Skating's Synchronized International Subcommittee taking all of the evaluative events listed in section 1.2 into consideration and announced at the time of the World Junior Synchronized Team selections.

Replacement team(s) will be submitted to the ISU by U.S. Figure Skating as determined by the ranking list provided by the Synchronized International Subcommittee – as described above and in section 1.2.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

U.S. Figure Skating will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2024.

#### **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following document is required to be signed by all athletes prior to the selection meeting as a condition of participation on the World Synchronized Team and are included as an attachment: [U.S. Figure Skating Intent to Compete](#)

The U.S. Figure Skating Athlete Agreement is required to be adhered to as a condition of participation in the World Synchronized Skating Championships. If the athlete was not provided this document prior to the selection meeting, the athlete will have up to seven days after notification of selection to the team is received to submit the required signed documents.

**7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

U.S. Figure Skating’s World Synchronized Team selection procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by U.S. Figure Skating in the following locations:

- 7.1. U.S. Figure Skating’s Members Only website: [www.usfsaonline.org](http://www.usfsaonline.org)
- 7.2. Other: A link to the approved athlete selection procedures will be included in the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION**

The selection of teams and alternates will be announced to selected team coaches via text message, posted on U.S. Figure Skating’s website and announced at the U.S. Figure Synchronized Skating Championships immediately following the respective selections meeting.

**9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, ISU, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by WADA, ISU and USADA rules, as applicable.

**10. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

- The team selection procedures were created by the Synchronized International Subcommittee

The following committee/group was responsible for approving these Selection Procedures:

- These procedures were subsequently approved by U.S. Figure Skating’s Synchronized International Subcommittee, U.S. Figure Skating’s Athlete Advisory Committee with final approval from U.S. Figure Skating’s Board of Directors.

**11. U.S. FIGURE SKATING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The U.S. Figure Skating Bylaws and Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Article XXV) can be found here: [U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook](#)

**12. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on ISU rules and regulations as currently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in International Skating Union (ISU) rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected teams immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to U.S. Figure Skating. However, the selections can be subjected to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised.

Synchronized International Subcommittee members:

- Karin Sherr (chair), Laurie Johnson, Julia Rey, Troy Goldstein, Colette Nygren, Dann Krueger, Lois Long
- Athlete members: Jenna Longo, Tessa Hedges, Devin Pao