

Written by Christian Ivanov

Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12



The world gymnastics community turns sight to Doha, Qatar where for the next two weeks (October 25th – November 3rd) the Doha Aspire Dome will be the host of the 48th World Championships, the first one ever to be held in the Middle East.

IG will be onsite to provide detailed coverage of the event.

Here are some important facts in regard to the event:

- The nominative roster released by FIG includes over 500 male and female gymnasts from 78 countries.
- The medal winning nations in the team finals for both men and women will earn automatic berth to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games (for detailed qualification procedure to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, [click here](#)), while the top 24 nations from team qualification will advance full teams to the 2019 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.
- All delegations have arrived in Doha and have begun their training; in fact, the men have already completed their 10 subdivisions of podium training.
- The 11 subdivisions of the women's podium training will be held October 23rd and 24th and IG will provide detailed coverage of each one of them.
For detailed schedule of the competition check below.
- On the women's side the United States is the defending world and Olympic champion and with the return of **Simone Biles**, who took a year off after the Rio Olympics, is expected to easily retain its title. Biles is the overwhelming favorite to win the all-around title, and could win several additional gold medals on the individual events. Russia and China are the next strongest contenders for the podium, but will face a challenging

opposition from the much-improved teams from Japan and perhaps Canada, France and Brazil.

· On the men's side Japan is the defending world and Olympic champion, but unlike the US women they will face a fierce competition primarily in the face of China and Russia.

· After the ankle injury sustained in qualifications on vault at last year's worlds, Japan's **Kohei Uchimura**

is back.

The six-time world all-around champion and two-time defending Olympic all-around champion sustained another less severe ankle injury a few weeks ago, and with the conclusion of the team's podium training here in Doha, it appears that Uchimura will not be competing on floor and vault, and, therefore, missing the all-around.

· Both defending all-around champions from last year **Morgan Hurd** (United States) and **Xiao Ruoteng**

(China) are expected to compete in the all-around with a shot at defending their titles.

· Russian star **Aliya Mustafina** returns to competition after giving birth to a baby girl in the summer of 2017. Mustafina is expected to compete UB and BB only.

· After a shoulder and an ankle surgery late last year **Oleg Verniaiev** is back to competing for Ukraine. Verniaiev didn't train on rings during podium's training; therefore, it is questionable if he will compete in the all-around or not.

· On the men's side all six defending individual event champions from last year are entered in the competition: **Kenzo Shirai** (Japan) FX and VT, **Max Whitlock** (Great Britain) PH, **Eleftherios Petrounias** (Greece) SR, **Zou Jingyuan** (China) PB and **Tin Srbic**

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(Croatia) HB. On the women's side

Mai Murakami

(Japan) is the sole defending champion who won the floor title in Montreal a year ago.

· Competition schedule listed below:

October 25

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 1: (9-11am/2-4am ET)

Floor Exercise: MxG7 (Peru, Monaco)

Pommel Horse: MxG4 (Singapore)

Still Rings: Uzbekistan

Vault: Russia

Parallel Bars: Romania

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High Bar: France

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 2: (11:30-1:30pm/4:30-6:30am ET)

Floor Exercise: Finland

Pommel Horse: Belarus

Still Rings: Netherlands

Vault: Belgium

Parallel Bars: Austria

High Bar: Croatia

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 3: (2:30-4:30pm/7:30-9:30am ET)

Floor Exercise: MxG9 (Lithuania, Dominican Republic)

Pommel Horse: Norway

Still Rings: North Korea

Vault: MxG15 (Jordan, Slovakia)

Parallel Bars: Israel

High Bar: Switzerland

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 4: (5-7pm/10-12pm ET)

Floor Exercise: MxG3 (Iceland, Philippines)

Pommel Horse: Jamaica

Still Rings: Czech Republic

Vault: Kazakhstan

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Parallel Bars: Bulgaria

High Bar: Azerbaijan

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 5: (7:30-9:30pm/1-3pm ET)

Floor Exercise: Spain

Pommel Horse: New Zealand

Still Rings: Sweden

Vault: MxG6 (Poland, Qatar)

Parallel Bars: Ukraine

High Bar: Canada

October 26

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 6: (9-11am/2-4am ET)

Floor Exercise: MxG12 (Thailand, Malaysia)

Pommel Horse: Colombia

Still Rings: Japan

Vault: United States

Parallel Bars: Serbia

High Bar: Armenia

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 7: (11:30-1:30pm/4:30-6:30am ET)

Floor Exercise: Turkey

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Pommel Horse: Australia

Still Rings: Mexico

Vault: Chinese Taipei

Parallel Bars: MxG2 (Cuba, Chile)

High Bar: MxG11 (Ireland, Guatemala)

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 8: (2:30-4:30pm/7:30-9:30am ET)

Floor Exercise: MxG13 (Iraq, Trinidad and Tobago)

Pommel Horse: Germany

Still Rings: Greece

Vault: Georgia

Parallel Bars: MxG8 (Slovenia, Ecuador)

High Bar: Korea

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 9: (5-7pm/10-12pm ET)

Floor Exercise: Great Britain

Pommel Horse: Italy

Still Rings: Vietnam

Vault: MxG1 (India, Venezuela)

Parallel Bars: MxG14 (Denmark)

High Bar: Cyprus

Men's Qualification, Subdivision 10: (7:30-9:30pm/1-3pm ET)

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Floor Exercise: MxG10 (Portugal)

Pommel Horse: Brazil

Still Rings: Argentina

Vault: China

Parallel Bars: MxG5 (Hong Kong, Syria)

High Bar: Hungary

October 27

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 1: (9-10:30am/2-3:30am ET)

Bye: Argentina

Vault: MxG12 (Latvia, Jordan)

Uneven Bars: Poland

Balance Beam: MxG5 (Algeria, Philippines, Guatemala)

Floor Exercise: Belgium

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 2: (11-12:30pm/4-5:30am ET)

Bye: MxG6 (Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan)

Vault: Japan

Uneven Bars: Korea

Balance Beam: Cost Rica

Floor Exercise: Australia

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 3: (1:30-3pm/6:30-8am ET)

Bye: North Korea

Vault: Ukraine

Uneven Bars: Germany

Balance Beam: Portugal

Floor Exercise: Hungary

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 4: (3:30-5pm/8:30-10am ET)

Bye: Netherlands

Vault: Austria

Uneven Bars: MxG9 (Sweden, Israel)

Balance Beam: MxG11 (Belarus, Qatar)

Floor Exercise: Colombia

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 5: (6-7:30pm/11-12:30pm ET)

Bye: New Zealand

Vault: MxG1 (Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Ireland)

Uneven Bars: United States

Balance Beam: MxG3 (Peru, Cyprus, Chile)

Floor Exercise: Slovakia

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 6: (8-9:30pm/1-2:30pm ET)

Bye: Italy

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Vault: Iceland

Uneven Bars: Norway

Balance Beam: Jamaica

Floor Exercise: MxG10 (Vietnam, Cayman Islands, Bolivia)

October 28

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 7: (9:30-11am/2:30-4am ET)

Bye: MxG7 (Venezuela, Dominican Republic)

Vault: South Africa

Uneven Bars: Finland

Balance Beam: Romania

Floor Exercise: China

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 8: (11:30-1pm/4:30-6am ET)

Bye: Bulgaria

Vault: MxG13 (Singapore, Indonesia)

Uneven Bars: Canada

Balance Beam: MxG8 (Malaysia, Hong Kong)

Floor Exercise: France

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 9: (2-3:30pm/7-8:30am ET)

Bye: Great Britain

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Vault: Brazil

Uneven Bars: Turkey

Balance Beam: Denmark

Floor Exercise: Russia

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 10: (4-5:30pm/9-10:30am ET)

Bye: Spain

Vault: Mexico

Uneven Bars: Switzerland

Balance Beam: MxG4 (Serbia, Syria)

Floor Exercise: Egypt

Women's Qualification, Subdivision 11: (6:30-8pm/11:30-1pm ET)

Bye: MxG2 (India, Croatia, Georgia)

Vault: Slovenia

Uneven Bars: Chinese Taipei

Balance Beam: Greece

Floor Exercise: Czech Republic

October 29

Men's Team Final: (4-7pm/9-12pm ET)

October 30

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Women's Team Final: (4-6pm/9-11am ET)

October 31

Men's All-Around Final: (4-7pm/9-12pm ET)

November 1

Women's All-Around Final (4-6pm/9-11am ET)

November 2

Event Finals Day 1 (4-7:30pm/9am-12:30pm ET)

November 3

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Event Finals Day 2 (4-7:30pm/9am-12:30pm ET)

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