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, <u>click here</u>), 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

Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12

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.

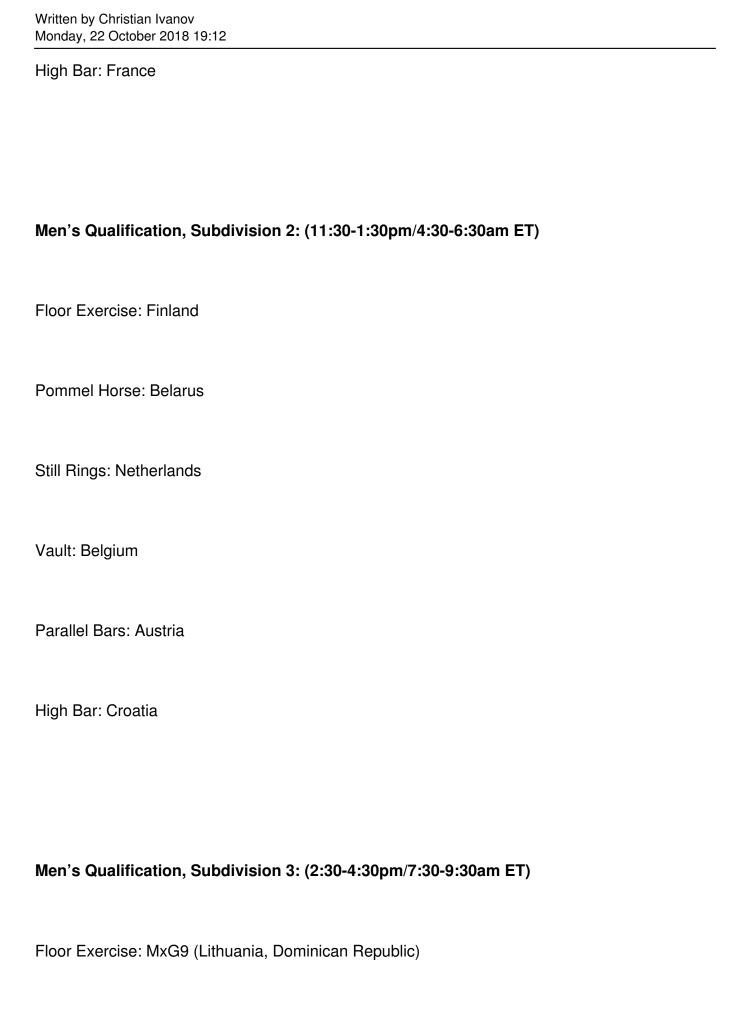
· Both defending all-around champions from last year **Morgan Hurd** (United States) and **Xiao Ruoteng**

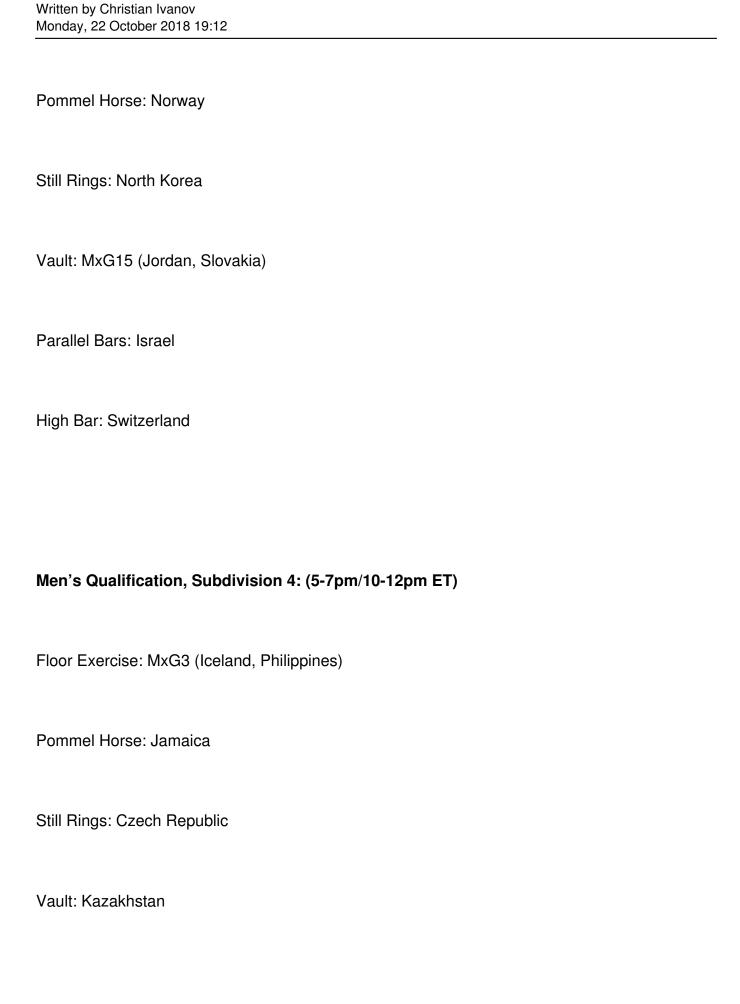
(China) are expected to compete in the all-around with a shot at defending their titles.

- 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, Elefther ios Petrounias (Greece) SR,
 Zou Jingyuan (China) PB and
 Tin Srbic

Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12
(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



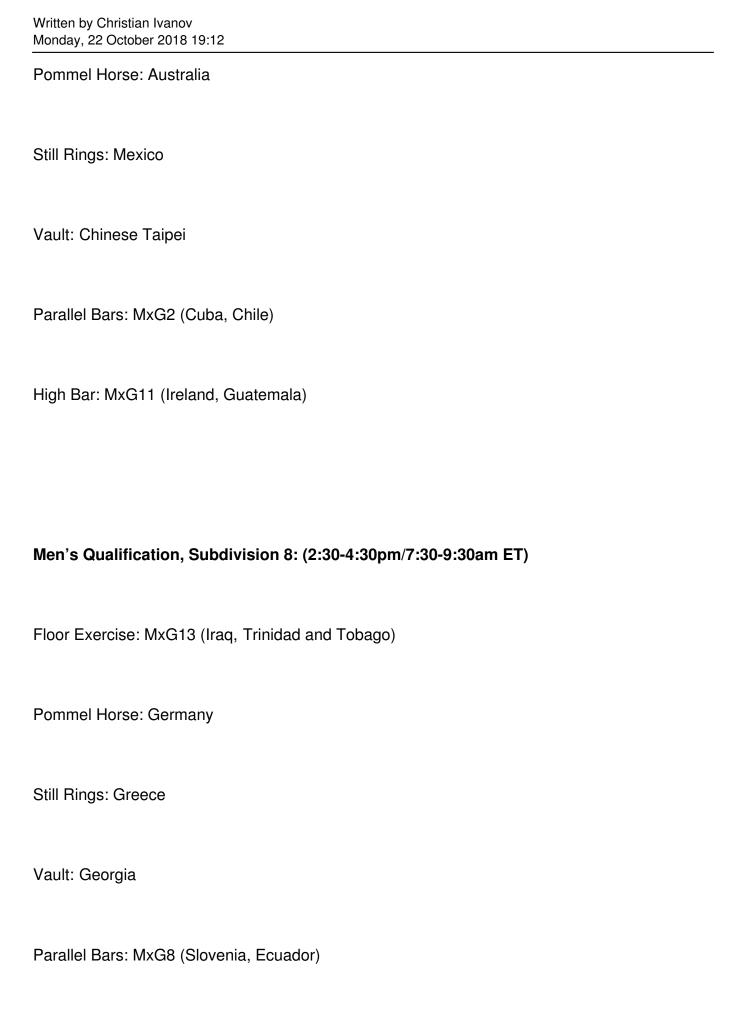


Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12
Parallel Bars: Bulgaria
High Bar: Azerbaijan
Men's Qualification, Subdivision 5: (7:30-9:30pm/1-3pm ET)
Floor Exercise: Spain
Pommel Horse: New Zealand
Still Rings: Sweden
Vault: MxG6 (Poland, Qatar)
Parallel Bars: Ukraine
High Bar: Canada
October 26

Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12

Floor Exercise: Turkey

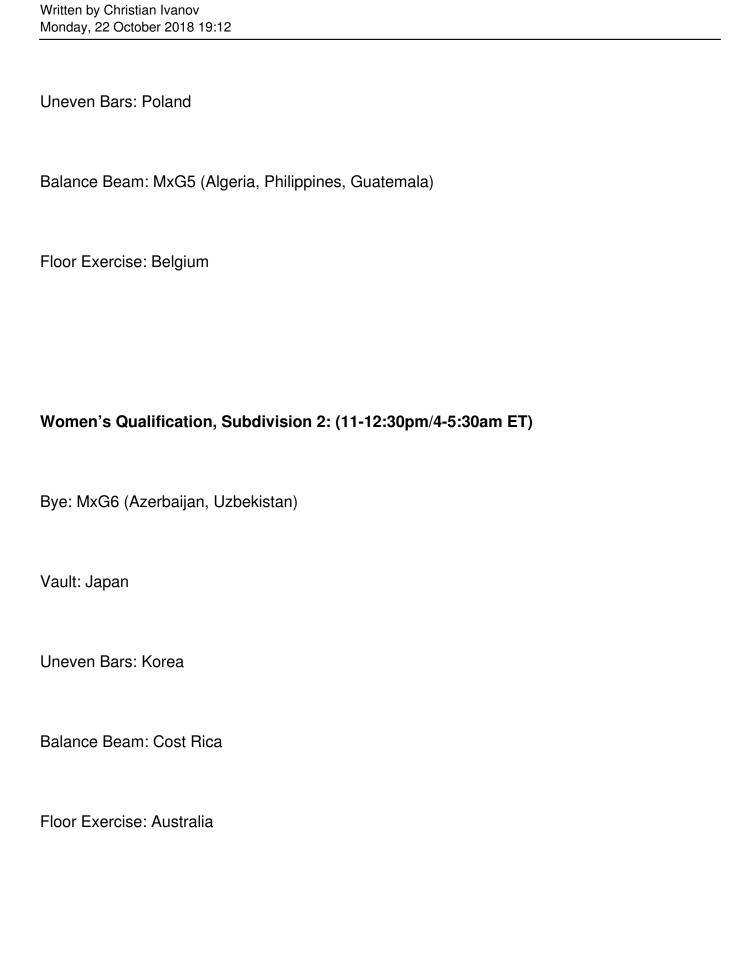
Men's Qualification, Subdivision 6: (9-11am/2-4am ET)
Floor Exercise: MxG12 (Thailand, Malaysia)
Pommel Horse: Colombia
Still Rings: Japan
Vault: United States
Parallel Bars: Serbia
High Bar: Armenia
Men's Qualification, Subdivision 7: (11:30-1:30pm/4:30-6:30am ET)





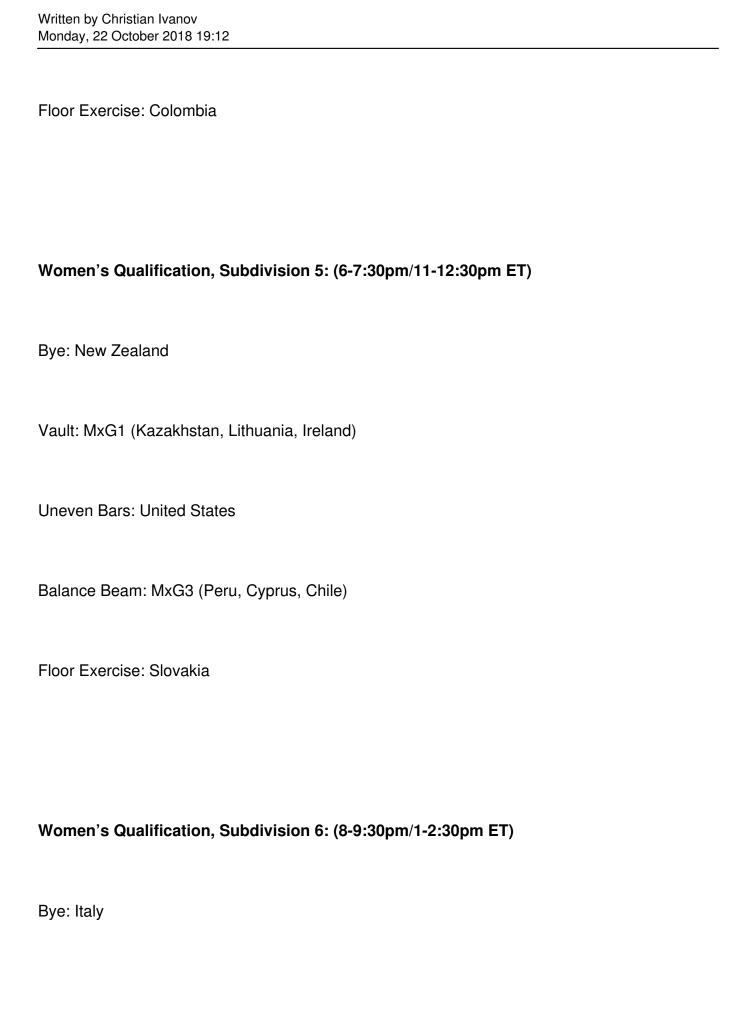
Written by Christian Ivanov

Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12 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)

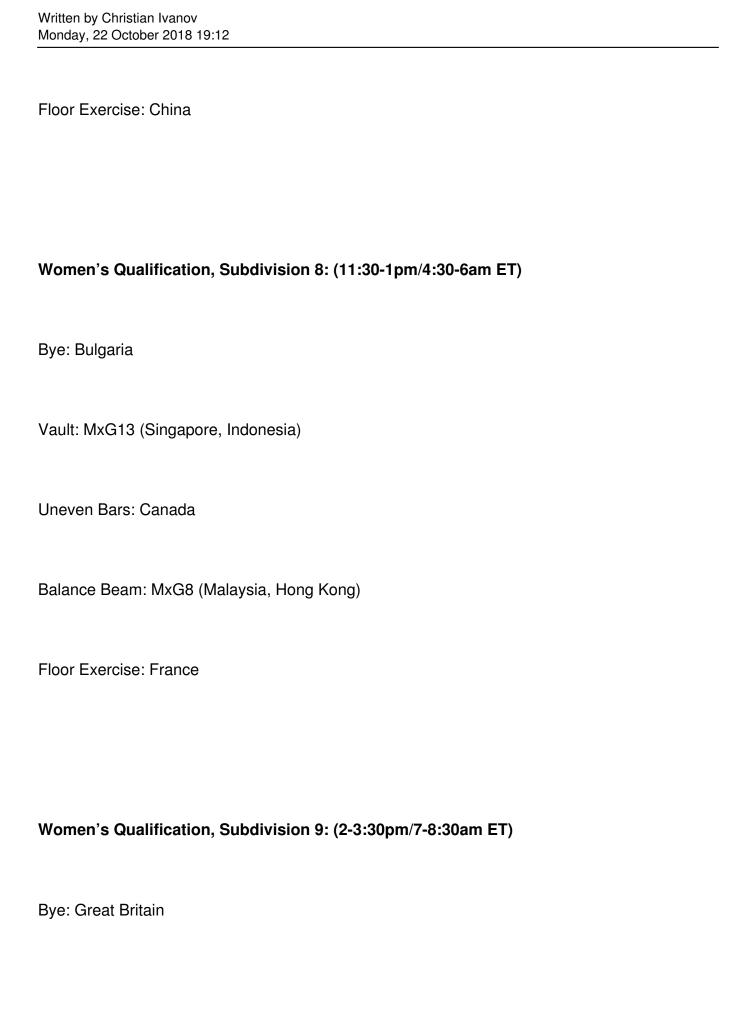


Written by Christian Ivanov
Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12

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)



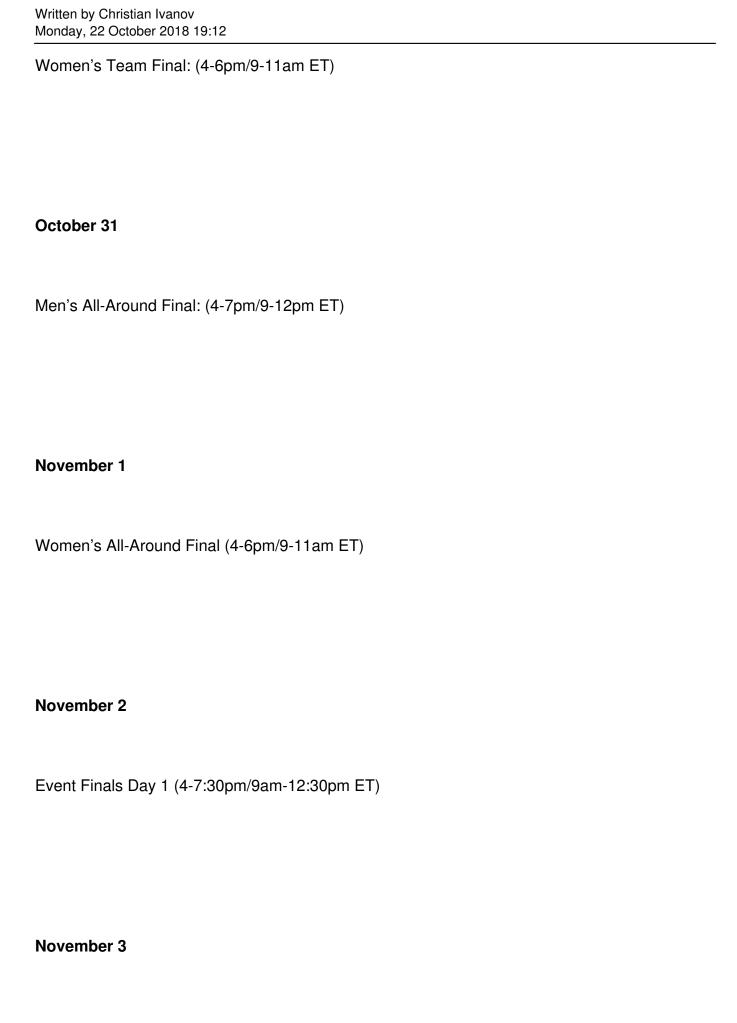
Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12
Vault: Iceland
Uneven Bars: Norway
Balance Beam: Jamaica
Floor Exercise: MxG10 (Vietnam, Cayman Islands, Bolivia)
October 28
Women's Qualification, Subdivision 7: (9:30-11am/2:30-4am ET)
Bye: MxG7 (Venezuela, Dominican Republic)
Vault: South Africa
Uneven Bars: Finland
Balance Beam: Romania

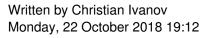


Written by Christian Ivanov Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12
Vault: Brazil
Uneven Bars: Turkey
Balance Beam: Denmark
Floor Exercise: Russia
Women's Qualification, Subdivision 10: (4-5:30pm/9-10:30am ET)
Bye: Spain
Vault: Mexico
Uneven Bars: Switzerland
Balance Beam: MxG4 (Serbia, Syria)
Floor Exercise: Egypt

Written by Christian Ivanov
Monday, 22 October 2018 19:12

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





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

To subscribe to the print and/or digital edition or to order back issues of *International Gymnast* magazine,

click here

.