

2016 USA Gymnastics Championships Media Information

This information is for media credentialed for the 2016 USA Gymnastics Championships at the Dunkin' Donuts Center and Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, R.I. Media day is Thursday, June 9, and is the only opportunity for media to observe/shoot training and to interview some of the top rhythmic, acrobatic and trampoline/tumbling gymnasts prior to competition. The country's best athletes in trampoline/tumbling, rhythmic gymnastics and acrobatic gymnastics will compete in the junior and senior elite sessions at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, June 10-12. The 2016 USA Gymnastics Championships is the Olympic selection event for rhythmic gymnastics and men's and women's trampoline, and the Olympians, pending United States Olympic Committee approval, will be determined at the conclusion of the June 12 evening session. The age-group, developmental athletes for those three disciplines compete in the Junior Olympic Division, which is scheduled for June 8-13 at the Rhode Island Convention Center. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie King, USA Gymnastics, 317-829-5656 (o), 317-363-4574 (cell/competition week), lking@usagym.org; Kristen Adamo, Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau, 401-456-0231 (o), kadamo@pwcvb.com; or Cheryl Cone, Dunkin' Donuts Center, 401-331-2627 (o), ccoehen@dunkindonutscentre.com.

What: The 2016 USA Gymnastics Championships is the national championships for acrobatic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline/tumbling. Scheduled for June 8-13, the six-day event features competition on the Junior Olympic and junior and senior elite levels for each discipline. The 2016 USA Gymnastics Championships is the Olympic selection event for rhythmic gymnastics and men's and women's trampoline, and the Olympians, pending United States Olympic Committee approval, will be determined after the June 12 evening session.

Dates: Media day – June 9, 1 p.m., Dunkin' Donuts Center
Competition – junior and senior elite, June 10-12, Dunkin' Donuts Center; Junior Olympic, June 9-13, Rhode Island Convention Center

Where: Dunkin' Donuts Center: junior and senior elite competition
Rhode Island Convention Center: Junior Olympic levels

Credentials: Media may pick up credentials beginning Wednesday, June 8, at 10 a.m. at the event's registration at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Credentialed media may enter the arena through the walkway from the Convention Center prior to public hours at the Dunkin' Donuts Center and through the front doors of the Dunkin' Donuts Center when the doors are open to the public.

Media hours: Below is the schedule for media access to the senior elite competition at the USA Gymnastics Championships. Media planning to cover junior elite or Junior Olympic sessions should contact Leslie King (317-363-4574). Times are Eastern.

Dunkin' Donuts Center

June 9	12:30-3 p.m.
June 10	5:30-10:30 p.m.
June 11	5:30-10 p.m.
June 12	5:30-10 p.m.

Media day: **June 9, 1 p.m.** Top athletes will be available at 1 p.m. for interviews; training is open for video and still photography. Athletes expected to be available include: Charlotte Drury (2014 U.S. champion and 2015 bronze medalist) and Logan Dooley (2008 and 2012 Olympic alternate, and 2015 U.S. silver medalist), trampoline; and Tiffani Williams and Axel Osborne (2016 world mixed pair silver medalists), acrobatic gymnastics; and Laura Zeng (2015 U.S. all-around champion and World Cup bronze medalist), rhythmic

gymnastics. This is the only chance for media to watch/shoot/tape training and interview senior elite athletes prior to post-competition interviews. Please contact Leslie King at 317-363-4574 (cell), lking@usagym.org; Kristen Adamo, Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau, 401-456-0231 (o), kadamo@pwcvb.com; or Cheryl Cone, Dunkin' Donuts Center, 401-331-2627 (o), ccohen@dunkindonutscentre.com, for more information and to cover the kick-off.

Kick-off

celebration: **June 10, 4 – 5:30 p.m.** The 2016 USA Gymnastics Championships Kick-Off Celebration presented by iHeart Media, held outside the Dunkin' Donuts Center on the street between the DDC and the Hilton, is a fun gathering for athletes, families and fans alike leading into the first night of the senior elite competition. From an inflatable obstacle course to face tattoos, carnival games, music and food, there is something for everyone.
5 p.m. – Official street renaming with a ribbon-cutting on the street. For more information contact Kristen Adamo, Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau, 401-456-0231 (o), kadamo@pwcvb.com; or Cheryl Cone, Dunkin' Donuts Center, 401-331-2627 (o), ccohen@dunkindonutscentre.com.

Schedule: The competition schedule below reflects the session times for the junior and senior elite sessions in acrobatic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Competition begins at 9 a.m. each day at the Rhode Island Convention Center for Junior Olympic competition for all three disciplines and a more detailed schedule is available at usagymchamps.com.

Wednesday, June 8

Rhode Island Convention Center

1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, Junior Olympic levels
6 p.m. Synchronized trampoline, prelims and finals, elite
Rhythmic gymnastics, Junior Olympic levels

Thursday, June 9

Rhode Island Convention Center

9 a.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels
1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, all-around preliminaries and event finals, junior and senior elite
6 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels

Dunkin Donuts Center

1 p.m. Media day

Friday, June 10

Rhode Island Convention Center

9 a.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels
1:30 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, trampoline, double mini-trampoline and tumbling, Junior Olympic levels

Dunkin' Donuts Center

1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, all-around preliminaries/event finals, junior and senior elite
6 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, junior and senior elite preliminaries; rhythmic gymnastics, senior elite all-around preliminaries/event finals; double mini-trampoline and tumbling, senior elite preliminaries

Saturday, June 11

Rhode Island Convention Center

9 a.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels
1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels

Dunkin' Donuts Convention Center

1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, junior all-around/event finals and senior all-around prelims/event finals
6 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, junior and senior elite finals; rhythmic gymnastics, senior elite all-around finals; trampoline prelims, senior elite

Sunday, June 12

Rhode Island Convention Center

9 a.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels
1:30 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics and trampoline, tumbling, double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels
Dunkin' Donuts Convention Center
1:30 p.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, senior all-around finals
6 p.m. Acrobatic gymnastics, junior and senior elite finals; rhythmic gymnastics, senior elite all-around finals; trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline senior elite finals

Monday, June 13

Rhode Island Convention Center

9 a.m. Rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline, Junior Olympic levels

At stake: For the junior and senior elite levels for each discipline, the athletes will be vying for national titles. Performances will determine berths on the junior and senior U.S. National Teams for rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline and tumbling. The Junior Olympic Division has several different levels, and national titles will be awarded for each level and age group for each discipline. The Junior Olympic levels for each of the disciplines are: acrobatic gymnastics – Levels 6-10; rhythmic gymnastics – Levels 7-8; and trampoline and tumbling – Levels 8-10.

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Media service: Media services are limited at this event, including restricted media hours post competition, at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. There will not be media services available at the convention center.

Media room: Internet access and working space for photographers and reporters.

Internet: Media will have internet access in the media section and media room at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Seating: With limited seating in the media section, some members of the media may be in spectator seating.

Tickets: Evening session tickets, with competition at 6 p.m., at the Dunkin' Donuts Center are \$25 for June 10-11 and \$30 for June 12. The all-session pass, which grants access to all sessions at both venues, is \$80. Tickets may be purchased at the Dunkin' Donuts Center Box Office, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. For the events at the Rhode Island Convention Center, a \$30, single-day pass will be available onsite on competition days, and on June 10-12, the all-day pass also includes access to the junior elite sessions at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Webcast: USA Gymnastics will provide live webcast coverage of three evening sessions from the Dunkin' Donuts Center with expert analysis from acrobatic gymnastics World Championships and World Games gold medalist Arthur Davis, six-time U.S. rhythmic gymnastics all-around champion Rebecca Sereda, and former trampoline and tumbling U.S. National Team member Peter Dodd. The webcasts of the senior elite competition will be available on the USA Gymnastics YouTube channel or USAGymChamps.com/live Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6-9 p.m. ET. Former NCAA and Big Ten gymnastics champion Evan Heiter will join Davis, Sereda and Dodd as the host. The webcasts will be available worldwide free of charge on USAGymChamps.com/live.

Disciplines: Acrobatic gymnastics. Acrobatic gymnastics combines the beauty of dance with the strength and agility of acrobatics. Routines are choreographed to music and consist of dance, tumbling, and partner skills. At the elite level, each pair or group performs a balance, dynamic and combined routine. Pyramids and partner holds characterize the balance routine, while synchronized tumbling and intricate flight elements define the dynamic exercise. An acrobatic gymnastics pair consists of a base and a top. A women's group is comprised of three athletes - a base, middle and top partner – while a men's group has four athletes, a base, two middle partners and one top partner.

Rhythmic gymnastics. Rhythmic gymnastics is characterized by grace, beauty and elegance combined with dance and acrobatic elements, while working with ribbons, balls, hoops, ropes and clubs in a choreographed routine to music. The choreography must cover the entire floor and contain a balance of jumps, leaps, pivots, balances and flexibility movements. Only four of the apparatus are competed each quad, and the four for 2016 are hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon. Each movement involves a high degree of athletic skill. Physical abilities needed by a rhythmic gymnast include strength, power, flexibility, agility, dexterity, endurance and hand-eye coordination.

Trampoline and tumbling. Trampoline events involve athletes using trampolines that can propel them up to 30 feet in the air, during which they can perform double and triple twisting somersaults. Tumbling utilizes elevated rod-floor runways that enable athletes to jump at heights more than 10 feet and execute a variety of acrobatic maneuvers. For the double-mini competition, the athlete makes a short run, leaps onto a small two-level trampoline, performs an aerial maneuver and dismounts onto a landing mat. Synchronized trampoline demands the same athletic skill as individual trampoline, while adding the element of precision timing. Using two trampolines, two athletes perform identical 10-skill routines at the same time. Trampoline was added to the Olympic Games in 2000, and at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the USA had its first athlete in history advance to the finals.