

inside USA gymnastics



Happy New Year! 2009 will be an exciting year for USA Gymnastics. The year kicks off with the Tyson American Cup, February 21. As one of the most prestigious and popular invitational events, this year's Tyson American Cup is being held in the suburbs of Chicago.

Chicago is the U.S. bid city to host the 2016 Olympic Games and the final decision will be made in October 2009. Having the Olympic Games in the United States would be wonderful, and each of us should share in the excitement and support Chicago in any way possible.

Holding the Tyson American Cup at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates is one way we are showing our support and showcasing the city to our international colleagues.

If you're unable to attend the Tyson American Cup in person, the event will be broadcast live on NBC Sports from 4-6 p.m. ET.

The Visa Championships, along with the USA Gymnastics National Congress and Trade Show, will take place in Dallas this year, August 12-15. The event will include all five disciplines: men, women, rhythmic, acro and trampoline and tumbling. It will be a showcase of our sport that you won't want to miss. NBC Sports is also broadcasting coverage of the Visa Championships. Coverage of both the men's and women's competition will air on Aug. 15: women, 8-10 p.m. ET (live); and men, 2-3:30 p.m. ET.

USA Gymnastics is also planning to host three exciting international events this year in the disciplines of rhythmic, acro and group gymnastics, known as Gymnastics for All internationally.

- [The rhythmic international invitational will take place in Chicago in June.](#) Forty-four countries will be invited to participate, making the event the largest international rhythmic competition in U.S. history. More details will be unveiled in future issues and on the Web site.
- [The 2009 International Sport and Cultural Festival is June 23-28 in Fort Worth, Texas.](#) Participants from around the world are expected to take part in the multi-sport and cultural activity. The event will include something for everyone with TeamGym, GymFest, City Performances, Festival Rhythmic, Aesthetic Group, Gymnastics for All Challenge, and more. To learn more about this event, go to www.usa-gymnastics.org and click on the "Group" icon at the top of the page.
- [For acrobatic gymnastics, the athletes will meet in St. Paul, Minn. this July for the bi-annual Freedom Cup, an international competition featuring some of the world's best acrobatic gymnasts.](#) The Freedom Cup features both junior and senior competition in women's pair, men's pair, mixed pair, women's group and men's group. The Freedom Cup will be held July 10-12. For more information go to www.usa-gymnastics.org/acro.

2009 is a World Championship year for men's and women's artistic, rhythmic, and trampoline and tumbling. The World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships are Sept. 9-13 in Mie, Japan; the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships are Oct. 12-18 in London; and the World Trampoline and Tumbling Championships are Nov. 7-15 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

I hope everyone will take advantage of the many events and opportunities planned for 2009 and catch gymnastics live or on TV.

Happy New Year and see you in the gym.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Penny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Penny
President