

U.S. PRE-TRIALS 2009

Tucson, Arizona

INFORMATION LETTER FOR ATHLETES/COACHES/JUDGES/OFFICIALS/STAFF

To the U. S. Pre-Trials athletes: Congratulations on your success in progressing through the Regional Pre-Trials competition that qualified you to participate in the United States Pre-Trials. The Technical Advisory Group is very excited by the Pre-Trials event.

To the Coaches and Judges:

We appreciate your contribution to the U. S. Twirling Association and to the sport of baton twirling. Thank you for your professionalism, your dedication, and your commitment to the Pre-Trials Programs.

The competition will be held in the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona on Monday, July 13th. The U.S.T.A. and the Technical Advisory Group would like to wish each athlete, pair and team the very best of luck.

SCHEDULE/ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Please check the website for order of appearance and schedule.

Order of events: July 13th

6:40 AM	Doors Open
6:45 AM	Music tests; First come, first served.
6:45-7:45 AM	Floor Open For Practice
8:00 AM	Compulsories and Short Program
10:30 AM	Freestyle Final Rounds
5:30 PM	Pairs and Teams Final Round
6:30 PM	Closing Ceremonies

Please note: Competition times are approximate. The contest will move ahead whenever possible

COMPULSORIES

The compulsory set drawn for all athletes participating in the U.S. Pre-Trials competition was **SET A**. During the competition, the compulsories will be announced by a designated person seated at each judges' table or one of the judges. Athletes should come prepared to perform compulsories on wood or cement. SR. Elite Athletes will do Short Program.

REGISTRATION

Monday, July 13th 6:40 AM Tucson Convention Center

COACHES

Only coaches with Elite professional status will be allowed floor privileges, both on the competition floor and practice area

MUSIC TESTS

Music Test Policy:

A one-hour practice/warm-up session will be held on the floor of the U.S. Pre-Trials prior to the beginning of the competition. During that time, coaches will be allowed to test the volume and speed of their athlete's music. Coaches will be allotted 30 seconds per athlete.

Timing begins (30 seconds) when the athlete's music is handed to the sound technician.

This process will be on a first come, first serve basis and only one hour will be utilized for music tests. The official sound equipment will be available at this time.

U.S. Pre-Trials: a speed adjustment may be made once during the performance, if necessary, at the request of the coach. Coaches may not touch the sound equipment.

ATHLETES MEETING/POSTING AREA

There will be a meeting for athletes and coaches at the Convention Center – Practice Area on Monday, July 13th at 7:45 am. This meeting will address any schedule changes and all additional information regarding the competition. Any questions you may have will be answered at that time. Coaches are encouraged to attend.

The doors will open for practice at 6:45 am.

A "posting area" will be set up in the practice area for posting of the order of appearance, competition results, scheduling notices, and other important information regarding the day's events. Please check the bulletin board regularly throughout the day.

OPENING/CLOSING CEREMONIES

Opening ceremonies There will NOT be any opening ceremonies. Athletes should be ready to begin compulsory competition promptly at 8:00 am.

Closing ceremonies will be at the conclusion of the competition. The official warm up suit should be worn for the ceremony.

Regarding the Official Warm Up suit : Please remember that only the **New** "Challenger" warm up is allowed for any Opening/Closing ceremonies. If an athlete does not have this warm up, they may wear their compulsory leotard, or if they are on a team; the team may wear their team's official warm up as a whole.

FLOOR MONITOR

You must report to the floor monitor at least 10 minutes before each performance on the floor. Failure to do so will be determined a "no show".

PHOTO SESSION

At the conclusion of the competition a photo session will be held in the arena for all athletes participating in the competition. When awards have been presented **do not** leave the arena. Instructions on the location in the arena will be announced.

Attention coaches, judges, and officials: an official photo will be taken of these three groups during the day or after the competition.

PICK UP OF RESULT FOLDERS/CASSETTE TAPES

Athletes' results folders and competition tapes will be handed out at a table set up for this purpose, usually near the floor monitor station, at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony. Coaches must sign for athlete's results folder.

CONTENT RESTRICTIONS

There will be no disqualification for violations of content restrictions. A penalty per violation will be assessed. See rules regarding content restrictions in the Pre-Trials Competition 2009 Handbook.

NUMBER OF ROUNDS/NUMBER OF ATHLETES TO ADVANCE TO NEXT ROUND

The procedure to be used in selecting the number of athletes to advance in Freestyle preliminaries and determining the number of rounds will be as follows; (This section is as it appears in the most updated Pre Trials Handbook posted on the USTA website in the "Elite" section).

2.8.2 U.S. Pre-Trials

A. Freestyle:

1. There will be one (1) round of compulsory competition.

2.8.2 U.S. Pre-Trials (Continued)

2. The procedure to be used in selecting the number of athletes to advance in Freestyle is:
 - 19 or less competitors - there will be one round of competition ONLY (considered Finals).
 - 20 or more competitors - there will be two rounds of competition the top 10 athletes from the preliminary round will advance to the semi-final round (considered Finals).
 - Preliminary freestyle Percentage Scores will be thrown out and only the Final Freestyle Percentage Score will count in combination with the Compulsory Percentage Score.

B. Pre-Trials Pairs

There will be one round of competition only (considered Finals)

C. Pre-Trials Teams

There will be one round of competition only (considered Finals)

WARM UP PERIODS

There will be warm up periods announced from time to time during the competition day.

OTHER NOTE WORTHY FACTS

There will NOT be a water station at this year's competition. Athletes should take note of this and make other plans accordingly for their needs.

The International Freestyle and Pairs competition will follow the completion of the U.S. Pre-Trials event.

ATTENTION: TEAM DIRECTORS

Only 2 alternates per team are awarded medallions. Personnel on your team may change up to performance time with appropriate paperwork presented to the U.S. Pre-Trials Director [USTA membership, Compulsory & Movement Technique Levels and corrected roster].

COACHES CERTIFICATES

All coaches of athletes participating in the U.S. Pre-Trials will be presented a special certificate during closing ceremonies. Names of coaches will be taken from the entries. To be eligible to receive a certificate you must hold current Elite Professional membership.

The future of our sport lies in the hands of those dedicated to its success; our Athletes, Coaches, Judges and other professionals.

On behalf of the Technical Advisory Group, the Board of Directors and myself, Good luck to all. See you in Tucson!

Sincerely,



U.S. Pre-Trials Director
USTA