

Request for Media Coverage and Articles

An introduction to a World Aerobic contest Competition - a sport in which athletes representing Japan are acquiring many medals.

SUZUKI WORLD CUP 2014 – 25th INTERNATIONAL AEROBIC CHAMPIONSHIP

4/11 (Official practice), 4/12 (Qualifications), 4/13 (Finals)

To be held at the Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo

The competition which determines who will be the top sport aerobic athletes in the world, Suzuki World Cup 2014 – 25th International Aerobic Championship (Organizers: Japan Aerobic Federation, International Aerobic Federation, Federation Internationale de Gymnastique) will be held over two days on April 12th (Sat) and 13th (Sun) at Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo.

Suzuki World Cup, now in its 25th year since it was first held in 1990, could be accurately described as the world's ultimate sports aerobic series in which representatives of 21 countries and regions battle it out to be world number one. Japan is one country in which aerobic is flourishing, and amidst strong competition from Europe and Asia, Japan has produced a 6-year consecutive champion in the Youth Division, (12 to 17 year olds) for women and a 3-year consecutive champion for men. In the Senior Division also (18 years and over), Ayako Nakazawa claimed first place in the Individual Women division and these achievements have attracted the attention of the world.

Sports aerobic is becoming increasingly popular in countries around the world. In Japan, various forms of media are slowly beginning to focus on the activities of young athletes and at the same time the level of junior/senior high school age athletes is rapidly becoming closer to international level year after year.

We would be thrilled if coverage by the media industry could widely convey the appeal of competitive aerobic and encourage young athletes.



Mizuki Saito (Gunma prefecture, Japan)
(SUZUKI WORLD CUP 2013 AG2 Individual Men Champion)



YANG, Guang/MA, Chao (China)
(SUZUKI WORLD CUP 2013 Mixed Pair Division Champion)

Suzuki World Cup 2014 – 25th International Aerobic Championship

< Competition Schedule >

Practice 4/11 (Fri) 9:30 to 20:00 (Separate interviews with each participating country possible)

Qualifications 4/12 (Sat) Venue open 8:30 Start 9:30 Finish 18:00 (Schedule)

Finals 4/13 (Sun) Venue open 9:00 Start 10:00 Finish 19:00 (Schedule)

<Venue> Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo (1-11-1 Higashi-Kamata, Ota-ku, Tokyo)

【Enquiries about Suzuki World Cup 2014】

Suzuki World Cup Secretariat [Tosen Co., Ltd. Contact persons: Tsukamori, Takahashi]

Secretariat's direct line TEL 03-3567-1517 (9:30-17:30)/Common FAX 03-5524-0725

Managing company (Tosen) TEL 03-5524-0704 3-7-10 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0031

Email: aerobic@tosen-net.co.jp Official Website: <http://www.aerobic.or.jp>

A Competition of World Beauty and Skill

SUZUKI WORLD CUP 2014 - 25th INTERNATIONAL AEROBIC CHAMPIONSHIP

The ultimate sport aerobic competition which will determine the top athletes in the world, Suzuki World Cup 2014 – 25th International Aerobic Championship (Organizers: Japan Aerobic Federation, International Aerobic Federation, Federation Internationale de Gymnastique, sponsors: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Ota City, Japan Sports Association, Japan Gymnastics Association, Suzuki Motor Corporation, NHK Global Media Service) will be held on Saturday April 12th (qualifications) and Sunday April 13th (finals) at Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo.

Suzuki World Cup 2014 will be the 3rd competition in the FIG World Cup Series^{※1}, with participation by athletes from 21 countries and regions scheduled. There are a total of 11 divisions ^{※2}, 5 of which belong to the Senior Division (18 and over) - Individual Men, Individual Women, Mixed Pair, Trio and Group, and 6 which belong to the Age Group Division - AG2: 15 to 17 year olds and AG1: 12 to 14 year olds (AG2 Individual Men, AG2 Individual Women, AG2 Trio, AG1 Individual Men, AG1 Individual Women, AG1 Trio).

The judging panel consists of the head judge, deputy head judge, artistic judge, skill judge and the difficulty judge who make an overall assessment of (1) Artistic Quality, (2) Execution of Overall Performance and (3) Technical Difficulty. For the Mixed Pair, Trio and Group divisions, (4) Partnership, is also included in the assessment. After totaling the artistic, technical and difficulty scores the minus points of the deputy head judge and difficulty judge are deducted to obtain the final score.

This year the Suzuki World Cup will celebrate its 25th anniversary with participation planned from 21 countries and regions (compared to 18 countries last year). With participation by Russia, a World Cup Series newcomer, to leading European countries, this year's contest is guaranteed to be exciting. Japan will be represented by the athletes who were victorious in Suzuki Japan Cup 2013 – 30th All Japan Aerobic Championship held last year. Athletes in all divisions, particularly the age group divisions, are anticipated to take home medals as they strive for world number one status.

※1

FIG World Cup Series

A series held in rotation consisting of 3 to 8 competitions a year. Athletes are allocated points depending on their achievement in each competition and receive a ranking at the end of the year. Moreover, after summing up the points for 2 years, top 8 athletes with the highest points will go on to participate in the World Cup Series Final held once every 2 years. 5 competitions are scheduled for the World Cup Series of 2014 and Suzuki World Cup 2014 – 25th International Aerobic Championship is positioned as the 3rd competition.

※2

Senior Division - Only established if there are 4 participating countries from individual country's gymnastics associations.

Age Group Division - Only established if there are 4 participating countries from both individual country's gymnastics associations and the IAF member organizations.

Suzuki World Cup 2014 Japan Representatives (Scheduled)

Highlights of Suzuki World Cup 2014

2014 will be the first year 3-year consecutive champion of the AG2 Independent Men from 2011, Mizuki Saito (Gunma prefecture) will participate in the Senior Division. At Suzuki Japan Cup held last November, Saito displayed a sharp performance just like his younger years to emerge as champion with a 21-level score. There is much anticipation towards Saito's performance after Japan's unsuccessful attempt to produce a champion in the Senior Men's Division in recent World Cup competitions. In the Independent Women's Division, Mana Kodama (Okayama prefecture), champion of the AG2 Division of the same competition and Ayako Nakazawa (Nagano prefecture), who in 2011 was the first Japanese athlete to win the World Cup in 10 years, are highly anticipated to earn medals.

In the Mixed Pair Division, the Takumi Kanai and Natsuha Sagara duo (Gunma prefecture), along with Ryunosuke Watanabe and Satoka Sei (Shizuoka prefecture) will make first time World Cup appearances. The Trio Division will consist of 2 groups who battled intensively for champion status in last year's Suzuki Japan Cup. The first group comprises of Individual Women athlete, Mana Kodama, Yoko Kishiro and Mayu Sakai (Okayama prefecture), as well as Mizuki Saito, also an individual performer, combined with Takumi Kanai from the mixed pair division and Hiroto Ikeda (Gunma prefecture.) The trios will battle to claim the medal through perfect unison, as well as gracefulness from the female performers and a powerful performance by the male team.

The Age Group Division seems to be producing champions every year. AG2 – 15 to 17 year olds, and AG1 (12 to 14 year olds) are Japan's particular specialties. In the AG2 Individual Women Division, last year's champion, Riri Kitazume (Gunma prefecture) and Risako Masuda, last year's runner-up champion in the AG1 Individual Women Division, are favorites for the title of champion. Look forward to an exciting competition!

Senior Divisions	Athletes to be dispatched (internal decision)	
Individual Men	Mizuki Saito (Gunma prefecture)	Ryo Koreeda (Hokkaido)
Individual Women	Mana Kodama (Okayama prefecture)	Ayako Nakazawa (Nagano prefecture)
Mixed Pair	Takumi Kanai, Kayo Sagara (Gunma prefecture)	Ryunosuke Watanabe, Satoka Sei (Shizuoka prefecture)
Trio	Mana Kodama, Yoko Kishiro, Mayu Sakai (Okayama prefecture)	Mizuki Saito, Takumi Kanai, Hiroto Ikeda (Gunma prefecture)
Group	Maho Ueda, Yuka Kato (Tokyo) Aoi Komatsuda, Ayaka Honjo, Miho Yoshimatsu (Kanagawa prefecture)	Rena Anzai, Yuna Igarashi, Nanako Inaba Rio Takahashi, Misaki Yamazaki (Miyagi prefecture)
Age Group Division	Athletes to be dispatched (internal decision)	
AG2 Individual Men	Masahiro Yamashita (Shizuoka prefecture)	Ryo Funaoka (Fukuoka prefecture)
AG2 Individual Women	Riri Kitazume (Gunma prefecture)	Yuka Furukyo (Kumamoto prefecture)
AG2 Trio	Yuri Omata, Riri Kitazume, Maya Hagimoto (Gunma prefecture)	Miyabi Sugioka, Nanami Tanimoto, Rie Teraoka (Okayama prefecture)
AG1 Individual Men	Sho Kawai (Gunma prefecture)	Kou Shoujima (Saga prefecture)
AG1 Individual Women	Risako Masuda (Gunma prefecture)	Kanna Morita (Okayama prefecture)
AG1 Trio	Sho Kawai, Mizuki Shibuya, Risako Masuda (Gunma prefecture)	Kanna Morita, Miyu Yasui, Yuri Yasui (Okayama prefecture)

※ Participating athletes may change. Please see the below website for the latest information.

Official site <http://www.aerobic.or.jp>

Suzuki World Cup 2014 Outline

Title: SUZUKI WORLD CUP 2014 – 25th INTERNATIONAL AEROBIC CHAMPIONSHIP
FIG World Cup Series Tokyo International

Date: Qualifications 4/12 (Sat) Venue opens 8:30 Start 9:30 Finish 18:00 (scheduled)
Finals 4/13 (Sun) Venue opens 9:00 Start 10:00 Finish 19:00 (scheduled)

Venue: Ota-City General Gymnasium
1-11-1 Higashi-Kamata, Ota-ku, Tokyo TEL:03-5480-6688

Participating countries: U.S.A., Argentina, Indonesia, Australia, Austria, Korea, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, China, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Brazil, France, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Romania, Russia (scheduled)

Organizers: Japan Aerobic Federation (JAF), International Aerobic Federation (IAF), Federation Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG)

Sponsors: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Ota City, Japan Amateur Sports Association, Japan Gymnastics Association, Suzuki Motor Corporation, NHK Global Media Services, Inc.

Supporters: Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Body Art Japan Co., Ltd., Otoyama Trading Corporation
BEN-GENERAL, AVIA Corporation (DESCENTE Group), Toppan Printing Co., Ltd., Smart Design Inc.

Cooperator: MIZUNO Sports Promotion Foundation, Whistler Japan Co., Ltd.

Admission: 1000 yen/day at the door (tax inclusive) * Applies to junior high school students and above

TV Broadcasting: NHK BS1 (scheduled)

< Access to Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo >



1-11-1 Higashi-Kamata, Ota-ku, Tokyo
TEL:03-5480-6688

5 min walk from Umeyashiki Station(Keikyu)
7 min walk from Keikyu Kamata Station(Keikyu)
15 min walk from Kamata Station(JR)

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Email: aerobic@tosen-net.co.jp Official Website: <http://www.aerobic.or.jp>