

2018 Freestyle World Cup in Iowa City, Iowa now set for April 7-8 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena

United World Wrestling, the international wrestling federation, has notified USA Wrestling that the date for the 2018 Freestyle World Cup in Iowa City, Iowa, has been officially set for April 7-8.

The event, which is the annual international freestyle dual meet championships, had originally been scheduled for April 21-22. The new date fit perfectly with USA Wrestling's international and national event schedule. It will provide a tremendous showcase for the world's best wrestlers just a few weeks after the conclusion of the U.S. college wrestling season.

The competition will be held at the world-famous Carver-Hawkeye Arena on the campus of the University of Iowa. This venue hosted the record-setting 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials and the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for wrestling. It has been the site of many of the most important wrestling events in American wrestling history, and serves as the home venue for the University of Iowa wrestling team, which annually leads the NCAA in attendance for the sport.

The World Cup will feature the top eight men's freestyle wrestling teams in the world. Those teams will be determined based upon the results of the men's freestyle competition at the 2017 World Wrestling Championships, which are being held in Paris, France over the next two days, August 25-26.

As host, the United States will field one of the eight teams at the World Cup. Team USA has a strong team at the 2017 World Championships, including former Hawkeye wrestling star Thomas Gilman, who is the U.S. World Team member at 57 kg/125.5 lbs.

This will be the 30th time the United States has hosted the event, the most of any nation. Iowa City will be the ninth U.S. city to host the Freestyle World Cup. The other U.S. cities which have hosted the World Cup include Toledo, Ohio (17 times); Los Angeles, Calif. (three times) Chattanooga, Tenn. (twice); Spokane, Wash.(twice); Stillwater, Okla. (twice); Baltimore, Md.; Fairfax, Va. and Boise, Idaho.

The 2017 Freestyle World Cup was hosted in Tehran, Iran, Feb. 16-17, with Iran claiming the team title and the United States placing second.

The local organizing committee will be the same group of leaders who hosted the highly-successful 2012 and 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. The local organizing committee is led by the University of Iowa and the Iowa City/Coralville Convention & Visitors Bureau and includes leaders from the City of Iowa City, City of Coralville and City of North Liberty.

Ticket packages for the general public will be available Nov. 1. Tickets information is available at hawkeyesports.com. Event organizers are looking to set attendance records for the Freestyle World Cup, and intend to host the most successful World Cup hosted in the United States.