



June 16, 2009

To: Men's Program Community
From: Dusty Ritter, Men's Junior Olympic Program Manager

As the new Junior Olympic Program Manager I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the outstanding leadership Jeff Robinson provided for our sport during the past few years in the position. Jeff's optimism, passion, and diligent work ethic have been invaluable during a period of major FIG change which was often confusing and controversial at times. It is gratifying to see how we have grown as a community of well-versed, resourceful professionals throughout the ranks and that we are able to work together to resolve even the most complex of tasks and remain committed, as one, to the high standards and ideals which serve our athletes. My goal is to continue this tradition in a way that continues to raise the standard and open doors for improvement and growth.

While our JO program has seen significant change both as a competitive framework for learning for the general athlete, and as a springboard for our highly talented athletes to move to the next level, we can still strive to make the sport more accessible and rewarding to more young people. We have now proven that we can bring athletes through our program and prepare them for international success. We still have work to do to provide more resources for clubs to help increase participation and support retention of those general athletes who make up the majority of our business. Creating and expanding programs which help clubs educate coaches, grow their base, get kids 'on-the-field-of-play' for competitive opportunity, retaining kids through motivating team activities, making the sport inclusive for as many boys as possible while creating paths for each to experience success ... these are the 'big picture' ideas which can re-shape our sport yet again. Building these resources in a practical, effective framework for clubs and coaches who have dedicated their careers to this work is the goal.

Great opportunity awaits the JO program and its continued growth. With vision and creativity all problems have solutions. Your input will be invaluable in this process. Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me with your ideas and concerns. As those who know me will attest, I am always eager to listen to new ideas and to consider different points of view, and work to create positive change. I am focused on the ideal I believe we all acknowledged when we decided to coach, which is to enable every young person we teach to experience the joy of gymnastics and the valuable lessons he will carry with him throughout his life.

Sincerely Yours,

Dusty Ritter
Junior Olympic Program Manager

