



The 2018 World Championships in Doha begins on Thursday with five of the ten subdivisions of the men's qualifications.

Subdivision one will feature the strong team of Russia, which will be contending for its first ever team gold medal here in Doha. **David Belyavskiy** is one of the contenders in the all-around. The Russian, silver and bronze medalist from last year's worlds, had a shot at the gold in Montreal but a fall on his last event pushed him to fourth place. The Russian team is packed with high level routines and can make multiple event finals on several of the events.

Subdivision one will also feature France, which after making the podium at this year's European Championships should make the team final here. **Cyril Tommasone** will contend for another pommel horse final. In the same session Romanian veteran **Marian Dragulescu** will be aiming for another floor and vault final.

Subdivision two will feature all three high bar medalists from last year's worlds, defending champion **Tim Srbic** from Croatia, and **Epke Zonderland** and **Bart Deurloo** from the Netherlands. All three of them should easily make the high bar final if they hit. Croatia's **Filip Ude** and **Robert Seligman** are both strong candidates for the pommel horse final.

Subdivision three will feature the return of World and Olympic vault champion **Ri Se Gwang** (North Korea) who was absent from last year's worlds. Ri should easily make the final if he puts both vaults to his feet. Israeli **Alexander Shatilov** and

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### **Artem Dolgopyat**

, both have strong chances to make the floor final. Dolgopyat who is capable of a triple back and quad twist was second on the event at last year's worlds. The subdivision also features two of the best high bar workers in the world,

### **Pablo Bragger**

and

### **Oliver Hegi**

from Switzerland, both owners of European high bar titles. The Swiss team also has a shot at a team final depending on how their competition goes.

The last session for the day, subdivision five, will feature Ukraine. The team will be enjoying the return of their super star **Oleg Verniaiev** who is making his comeback from ankle and shoulder surgeries. Verniaiev didn't train on rings during the podium training and his all-around is questionable. But he still has strong potential for a medal on p-bars and could be a finalist on pommel horse. His teammate **Igor Radivilov** should make both rings and vault finals if his day goes well. With a good competition the Ukrainian team could potentially make top 8 and the team final.

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