



# *Donald McPherson*

**Coach and Owner – Aerial Gymnastics Club**



# HALL OF FAME

Inducted  
2018

Donald McPherson has owned and operated gymnastics schools for 41 years. He has coached all levels of gymnastics, both boys and girls, ranging from 3 year-olds to Elite (Olympic) athletes. He has acted as a USA National Team Coach, both nationally and internationally.

Don is a national speaker and clinician giving presentations on topics such as how to teach certain high level gymnastics elements, lawsuits in the sport of gymnastics, eating disorders, physical preparation for competitive gymnastics, and emotional as well as sexual abuse in the sport of gymnastics and many other issues as they arise.

Don currently holds the position as the USAG Safety Chairman for the state of Illinois. He is consulted as to safety practices in the sport of gymnastics and club facilities. He advocates and writes industry standards and certification letters to City Townships and Municipal Boards across the country for gymnastics club owners in pursuit of "Certificates of Occupancy" where certain building and fire codes must be met. He has also testified on behalf of those club owners when they have been challenged.

Donald is qualified as an expert in litigation matters prosecuted in both the United States and Canada. Since 1979, he has been retained as an expert in more than four hundred cases in which he has reviewed plaintiff and defendant briefs and written expert opinions. In many of those cases he has been called to testify before a court. In almost all of these cases he has defended our industry, members and gymnastics schools.

Additional gymnastics achievements are:

- Former Junior and Senior National Team Member U.S.T.A.
- Former National and International Competitor – trampoline, tumbling, double mini
- Coach and Clinician at numerous clubs, camps, J.O. and Elite training camps from 1970 to present.
- Established Aerial Gymnastics Club in July 1977 – Owner, Director and Head Coach.
- Awarded Coach of the Year.
- Awarded Contributor of the Year.
- Awarded 1992 USA Gymnastics Service Award.
- Co-authored and contributor to 'Technique' articles.

- Co-founded with several esteemed coaches Region 5 Training Camps in 1988. These camps and their concepts have been modeled throughout the U.S.
- Coached numerous individual event and All-Around champions at the State, Regional, National and International levels, both boys and girls.
- The USAG Illinois State Committee Safety Chairman since 1986.
- Over 150 Aerial Gymnastics Club gymnasts, both boys and girls have earned full athletic scholarships at various colleges throughout the USA.
- USAG Safety/Risk Management Review Board Member.
- Inducted into Illinois Lifetime Achievement Award – 2008.
- Had an athlete qualify to 2008 Olympic Trials.
- Guest Speaker Loyola Sports Medicine Update – 2011.