

UANA Referee and TSSC member report from Santiago, Chile 2017
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Note: The bolded and underlined areas in this report are recommendations for future competitions.

In the Months leading up to the Competition:

- Paola Paris, meet manager and I were in constant communication by email, regarding all needs for the competition including meeting rooms, pool/practice and competition space, sound system, and all other needs to run the competition. This was done with the assistance of Victoria Montedonico as she was able to speak directly to Paola in Spanish. Many thanks to Victoria for her help with communication.
- We should continue this type of consultation in the future so that the TSSC works together with the organizing committee to ensure that all details are covered.
- Many hours were spent on formulating the program/schedule for the competition, accommodating Federations who did not want to stay the entire time due to money issues and, due to late Final entries and changes, this was a very "fluid" task.
- **Late entries or entries that come from individual clubs instead of the Federation continue to be a problem and is being addressed by the TSSC with a recommendation going forward to the UANA Executive concerning financial penalties.**
- Provided the Organizing Committee with the music spacing schedule.

Overall Comments:

- With limited resources and infr-structure, Paola Paris did a great job. However, **in the futrue, if this competition is held in Countries with limited resouuces and infra-structure I would recommend a site visit to be done by the Commission and/or the Chief Referee well in advance of the competition to ensure basic needs will be covered for the competition.**
- Transportation: This was a very big problem. The Hotel was 45 min. - 1 hour travel time one way to the pool. The Organizing Committee had originally scheduled only one bus in the morning and one in the evening to go back to the hotel. This made very long hours for the athletes and coaches to stay at the pool. They also had to be at the pool in the middle of the day in order to receive lunch. Some Federations began taking taxis and ubers but this was a large unbudgeted expense for them. As the week went on, the TSSC asked that more buses be run to go back and forth from the hotel to the pool. The OC was accommodating.
- Hotel: The Atton Vitacura was very nice. The breakfast and dinner in the hotel was excellent. I did not see the other hotel, but I heard that it was very nice too. The only negative is that the travel time was too long due to heavy traffic at the time we needed to go to and from the pool.

- Meals: Breakfast and Dinner in the hotel was excellent. Lunch at the pool was adequate for a boxed lunch. It was a hot meal every day with a salad and a dessert.
- Facility: The routine competition pool space was a great size (50 m x 25m) however it was only 2 m and 8 centimetres deep. The diving pool, where figure competition was held, was excellent. There was plenty of warm up and practice space available before and during the competition. Open training was allowed in the dive well during routine competition and in the 50 m pool during the figure competition. This worked very well with only one issue: during the figure competition practice in the 50 m pool got noisy and distracted the judges and the athletes and coaches had to be told to quiet down.
- Meeting Rooms: Scoring and the TSSC had dedicated rooms. There was not a room large enough for the judges. Betty Hazle improvised and had judges chairs and tables set up at either the end of the 50 m pool or the end of the dive well, depending on the time of her judges meetings. This seemed to work out well and a good compromise for lack of a meeting room. We will have this same issue in Riverside next year.

Figure Competition:

- We used 4 panels of 6 judges, seating 3 on risers and 3 on the deck. The practice judges sat next to the judges seated on the deck. The judges flashed scores during figures and members of the TSSC were assigned referee duties at each panel. For transparency purposes, we read scores rather than writing them down at the recommendation of our evaluator from last year. There were 3 scorers at each panel.
- With each age group, the barracuda panel started later than the other 3 panels. The pre-swimmers for the other three panels demonstrated and then the judges were given a few minutes to discuss the figure. Those 3 panels began. Then the pre-swimmers all came to the barracuda panel to demonstrate and the judges discussed the performances of the pre-swimmers. The barracuda panels began about 10-13 swimmers after the other panels had started. This worked very well and created a nice athlete flow. There was only one time the barracuda panel had to take a small break and wait for swimmers in the Junior age group. We did this instead of 'stacking' the barracuda panel.
- The panel placement was done in consultation with the Chief Recorder. The athletes rotated clockwise. There was one runner at each panel and one assistant to flip the competitor number over as well as a clerk of course. There was NO figure training allowed after the initial warm ups for the age group that was competing.
- **In the future, I would recommend that the Chief Recorder assign athlete numbers to the panels in a more timely fashion so that this could be communicated at the Technical meeting.**
- Coaches were in the stands during the figure competition.

Routine Competition:

- We used 3 panels of 5 judges, 8 on one side of the pool and 7 on the other, elevated on raised platforms. The 4-5 practice judges sat on the deck beside the raised platform.
- There was a large, carpeted starting platform.
- The 30 second point for the beginning of the walk on timing started as the first athlete took the first step up to the platform (which kept it simple and visible).
- The walk on location was beside the timers, the TSSC Commission and myself, the referee, and Victoria, the assistant referee.
- We allowed 2 coaches and 1-2 reserves to stand by start location to watch.
- **All Senior events and events with entries fewer than 12 were final events. I recommend to continue this for the future as the days were really long and we would not want to add more days or time to have prelims and finals in all events.**
- There was a specified gel area and last call room with chairs set up.
- Videoing was only allowed in the stands.
- There were 2-3 volunteers to do the timing.
- The TSSC performed the following roles:
 - Chief Referee - Charlotte
 - Assistant Referee - Victoria Montedonico
 - Assistant Referee #1: check credentials and ensure the last call room had 2 competitors before performance in that area and lined athletes up for the parade of athletes for each final event.
 - Assistant Referee #2: near swim out location. Ensure that the athletes cool down and get out one routine after they perform to stand to receive their scores.
 - Judge coordinator: Betty Hazle. The job of assigning judges panels for figures and routines is a huge time consuming job. It takes many hours to determine panels based on Federation, Zone and judges ratings (A,B,G) balance, as well as taking into consideration conflict of interests. It was ever changing due to judges not showing up and learning of conflict of interests at the last minute. The judges were always on time and ready to go for their parade just prior to the competition.
 - Judges = we had some TSSC members judge figures and routines. **Federations coming with no judges or judges who had conflict of interests is a huge problem and has been addressed by the TSSC with recommendations going forward to the UANA Executive concerning a financial penalty.**
 - Technical Routines: Some Zeros were given to elements done incorrectly. These were reviewed on the live feed video after the competition. This was not ideal, so we switched to use a dedicated video for viewing after the competition. **We need to make sure in the future that there is a dedicated video of all technical**

routines. This was requested in advance but one of the things that did not come through from the OC.

- Coordination of Awards – Erika, Lilianne and Laura worked with the OC to coordinate awards for all events. **This was done very professionally and I would recommend that 1-2 members of the TSSC be assigned to this duty going forward.** Many thanks to Erika, Lilianne and Laura for coordinating all awards ceremonies. Awards were given for 1st - 3rd in all routine events and to the listed alternates. **It was recommended that figure awards be given for 1st - 3rd as well. This should be added to the Summons and communicated to the OC.**
- TSSC member, Lilianne, was assigned to ensure that warm ups for teams and free combination ran smoothly. **If pool space allows, this warmup time should be streamlined in the future putting more routines at a time in the 15-20 minute warm up prior to the event.** Team warm up times and diagram for rotation was communicated at the Technical meeting and posted at the pool.
- Announcers: We allowed extra time in each event for reading the scores in Spanish and English. We had super announcers from our TSSC, Lilianne Granier, Laura Montes and then when Laura had to judge, Patti Vila and Erika Lindner took over the task. Due to their awesome job, the competition ran very smoothly and on time.
- There was 1 per Federation allowed into finals.
- There was 1 pre-swimmer for most events and one for Finals. The highest scoring Federation (routine + figures) not represented in finals became the pre-swimmer. If all Federations were represented, then the swimmer(s) with the next highest rank was the pre-swimmer. **I advise to make certain the pre swimmer is notified and confirm that they would like to swim so that the next swimmer can be invited in the event they decline.**
- The scores were read one routine after the following routine and this helped the flow of the competition. This was done in prelims and finals.
- Judges were marched in prior to each start of the event with the same music each time. **I recommend that the music stays the same each day to alert the athletes and coaches that the event is beginning.** All judges were asked to march in and stand behind their chairs until asked to sit. After the event was finished the judges were thanked for their work and marched off. All judges wore white for all days.
- TSSC members were given 1 shirt and we used our own white shirts every other day. Erika coordinated the days and communicated this to the TSSC members.
- For events requiring preliminaries, draws for finals were done at the end of each day. All other finals only events were drawn and posted ahead of time.

- Bathing suit check was offered and done by Rose Cody. There was one bathing suit that was questionable during pre-lims and we told the coach to change it for finals. This was not done, and the coach was told that in the future this could mean disqualification.
- Passport check was done during the Technical meeting. **If the Organizing Committee has an official registration time and place, I would recommend that the passport check be done there, in advance.** This has been done in the past and works very efficiently.
- A parade of athletes was done before ALL finals. The parade was across the platform and around behind the screen behind the platform. It was only about 4-6 minutes long (depending on the event). The judges were marched in and seated and then the parade of athletes started.

Scoring:

- The scoring and results were presented very quickly thanks to Chief Recorder, Armando Valencia.
- Thanks to Barbara McNamee, the results appeared on the web site very quickly after the event. There were also nice pictures to accompany them. Results were also posted at the pool.
- **In the future, if we have a Chief Recorder who has never worked an UANA competition, I suggest that we send them all rules and exceptions that we allow. An even better scenario would be that an inexperienced Chief Recorder shadow or assist an experienced on a year in advance.** Unfortunately, there were things that our Chief Recorder was unaware of (ie. an athlete moving up an age group who swims figures will only be listed as “honorary” in that age group but regular in her own age group, and how to calculate the High Point Award). Many small details such as this need to be addressed before the competition.
- There were color coded sheets for each age group which worked well.

Clinics: There were 3 clinics held in conjunction with the Competition:

1. Coaches Clinic: Sherry Robertson, Registered Dietitian as well as a Chartered Professional coach, gave a very informative presentation on “Nutrition for the Aquatic Athlete”. She included nutritional recommendations and tips and suggestions on getting the most from athletes during training and competition. She also touched on nutritional areas of concern for coaches to be aware of and strategies for prevention. This is a very important topic for the overall health of our athletes and was a great benefit to all. Thank you very much, Sherry.

2. Athlete Clinic: Sherry Robertson, Sport Dietitian, also gave a great session on nutrition for the athletes. She included nutrition tips for athletes and how to train and compete to win. She made the session interactive and very interesting as well

as informative. Sherry very graciously presented the session two times, once on Friday evening and once on Saturday following the competition. Many athletes had departures on Saturday and were unable to attend the clinic on Saturday so offering the session on Friday night was very much appreciated.

Many thanks to Sherry for her the excellent information she has shared with our coaches and athletes and her flexibility in trying to accommodate the competition schedule. We have already talked about the possibility of Sherry returning to our UANA championships in the future to present Part 2 which would focus on "Nutrition for Competitions".

3. Judges, Coaches and Team Leader's Clinic: Saturday afternoon was dedicated to reviewing the FINA video and discussing all of the new FINA figures and routine elements. Also presented and discussed were the new FINA Rules. Many thanks to Lilianne for leading the video presentation and Linda Loehndorf for leading the FINA Rule changes. This clinic was very well attended.

Other Recommendations:

- **Apparently, reimbursement for TSSC airline costs continues to be an issue for some. The UANA Executive needs to be notified.**
- **It would also be great for UANA to come up with a small gift/token of appreciation for the host Federation and for the meet manager.**
- **Live streaming was excellent and recommended to continue each year.**
- **Spend more meeting time on strategic planning with the TSSC to arrive one day earlier.**
- **Need more certified and competent meet managers and scoring personnel trained in all UANA Federations.**

MANY THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TSSC FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND ATTENTION TO MAKING THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS A SUCCESS.