UANA Championship, Santiago, Chile 2017 Report
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UANA Judges Subcommittee Chair and TSSC member

Prior to the Competition:

1. Paola Paris, meet manager provided needed information regarding the description of the pool with pictures, possible setup for the judges panels, etc.
2. Charlotte Davis provided information regarding the number of entries per event so the panel assignment worksheet could be prepared in advance. We also discussed the timing of the Judges' meetings for the final schedule.
3. Final entries for each Federation were provided by Charlotte. Having this information prior to the event is valuable as the Meet Manager did not provide a separate list of judges that were attending. The information was on the entry form, but many federations did not complete the form entirely or made changes after the entry was due.
4. After receiving the entries and prior to the event, many emails were sent to various federations and individuals to secure enough judges for 4 panels of 6 for figures.

Recommendation:

- **Request the Meet Manager provide final entry information as soon as possible after receipt to begin preparation for the judge assignments sooner.**

Pool Facilities:

1. Upon arrival at the event and during the site inspection, it was discovered that the room reserved for the Judges' meetings was an inadequate space for 30 persons. After walking around the facility and considering many options, 2 locations were selected. Although the acoustics of having meetings on the pool deck was less than desirable, the judges managed nicely.
    - For Figure/ 1st day of competition – tables and chairs were placed on the pool deck at the far end of the 50 meter pool. The area was to be closed to athletes and coaches to provide the judges with a private area to have their discussions. Constant monitoring of the area was needed as no announcements were made to the coaches and the area was not roped off.
    - For the balance of the competition, tables and chairs were placed behind the Diving well. Again the area was to be closed to athletes and coaches and no training was allowed in the Diving well during Judges' meetings. Again this had to be constantly monitored as coaches/ athletes did not adhere to the request.
2. The Meet Manager designated a "dry" bathroom for judges which was very much appreciated.

3. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee and snacks were provided, along with lunch daily at the pool. The schedule allowed plenty of time to get away from the pool for lunch.

Recommendation:

- **Provide potential hosts with more information regarding the Judges' meeting rooms and needs. Adequate space for 30+ persons in a quiet room off or near the pool deck is a must!**
- **An advance site visit to review the facilities and meeting room locations is recommended for future championships.**

Number of Judges/ Federations:

1. According to the final entries, we were to have judges participating from the following Federations:
   ARG – 1 judge (did not come)
   BRA – 1 judge
   CAN – 1 judge
   CHI – 3 judges
   CRC – 2 judges
   MEX – 1 judge (unrated)/ delegate judged instead
   PER – 4 judges
   PUR – 3 judges
   URU – 1 judge (originally delegate)
   USA – 3 judges
   Total: 20 judges
2. The following federations did not provide judges: Aruba, Colombia, El Salvador, Virgin Islands, and Panama.
3. Two federations originally did not list a judge or listed an unrated judge, so adjustments were made to allow the delegates in both cases who were FINA/UANA judges to judge.
4. One federation (ARG) that was entered in the competition listed an "A" judge who then never showed up. Notification was never sent prior to the event that the judge was not attending. Only upon making a phone call to the judge were we told he was not coming. Adjustments had to be made immediately to the panels to replace the judge.
5. In order to have 24 judges + 4 referees for Figure competition and enough judges for routines representing as many Federations as possible, we used 5 TSSC members [Esther (Figures/ Routines), Betty (Figures), Victoria (Figures/Asst Referee), Laura (Figures/Routines) and Lina (Figures/ Routines)] to judge as well as Referee. In addition, we used a coach who was a FINA "G" judge (ESA) for Figures only.
6. Prior to the event, I contacted 2 FINA "A" judges from Costa Rica to enquire if they would judge figures only. They preferred to not judge so they could focus on their coaching at the championship.

7. Practice judges: Three federations requested judges participate as practice judges: ARU, CHI (2), MEX (the unrated judge).
8. Removal of a judge: Upon the recommendation of the FINA Evaluator, we removed a judge from the panel for the last 2 days of competition. We allowed her to practice judge as well as provided her with a mentor when judges were available to sit with her during the events.

Recommendation:

- **Consider implementing a penalty for Federations not bringing judges to the event. (Submitted by TSSC)**
- **If entries are received further in advance with proper email addresses, reconfirm with each judge, if attending.**

Figure Competition:

1. Per Charlotte's report, 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.
2. Since we were flashing scores and also not announcing the number of the athlete, it was crucial to have a Clerk of Course that spoke both English and Spanish.
3. Since the volunteer scorers all spoke Spanish, it was important to have a Spanish speaking Referee to read the scores.
4. The panel placement was adjusted the morning of the event which caused slight confusion amongst the judges, since the panel locations were previously announced the day prior at the Judges' meeting.

Routine Competition:

1. Per Charlotte's report, 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.
2. In addition, the FINA Evaluator sat on the raised platform next to the judges.
3. Judge assignments were made to rotate judges from side to side of the pool as well as provide them the opportunity to judge different categories.
4. Judges with conflicts of interest were not used in that specific event, except for one occurrence. This was a mistake which was pointed out to the Judges Subcommittee Chair after the event. I was unaware of the Conflict and the Judge did not notify me prior to the event. Once I found out, I spoke with the Judge and reminded her to always mention any conflicts of interest and not assume that I am aware. Hopefully in the future this will not happen again.

5. Preparing the judges panels takes many hours and changes occur constantly. Challenges were:
    - Host federation constantly changed their judges due to their personal availability.
    - Judges arriving at the competition but not being available for the entire competition.
    - Judges not showing up for the pre-event scheduled meeting, so were removed from the panel prior to the event, causing last minute substitutions.
    - A judge not attending the competition at all.
    - Making sure the announcers had the correct names of the judges as well as making sure the results reflected the last minute changes.

Thank you to the TSSC for assisting with every aspect of the Championship, from preparing and distributing judging papers, moving tables and chairs, lining up judges for the parades, announcing scores and of course, judging and refereeing. The cooperation and willingness to assist with any small task is very much appreciated.