

Pan Am Games Swimming Report

(Prepared by Bill Hogan)

August 20, 2015

Pre-Games Planning – Several in-person meetings were held with the TO2015 staff and took place along with numerous telephone and conference calls over a 2-year period.

- ⑩ The first test event, an international Junior event, was held at the Pan Am Aquatic Centre on the weekend of December 6, 2014. It gave us the opportunity to meet with CBC as host broadcaster and the TO2015 Organizing Committee people working Timing, Scoring, the Results people, and others.
- ⑩ Numerous conference calls with Rebecca Watts (TO2015 Sports Manager) and Mike Unger (Online Meet Entry Systems coordinator) continued regularly over the final six months leading up to the Games.
- ⑩ In late January 2015 on behalf of UANA, I confirmed that we would supply technical officials to work the swimming events at the Modern Pentathlon during the Games.
- ⑩ The Team Guide information was finalized in late February 2015.
- ⑩ A pool survey for the Pan Am Aquatic Centre competition pool was completed on July 12, 2015 by R. Avis Surveying Inc. All 10 lanes were within regulation tolerance and acceptable based on FINA rules.

Nomination of Technical Officials

- ⑩ Applications for Technical Officials were sent out in January 2015.
- ⑩ 7 members of the UANA Technical Swimming Committee attended the Games with 6 working the pool deck. The host country is permitted 8 technical officials and Canada had 7 in attendance. The remaining number of 26 technical officials were assigned from 21 UANA federations. The total number of technical officials selected was 40 with 39 assuming on-deck responsibilities.

Travel

- Travel Request Forms were sent to all technical officials and travel arrangements were completed by the UANA office in the person of Giovana Moreira, the UANA Secretary.
- TO2015 was responsible for the travel for all ITO's.
- ⑩ Technical Officials received a travel allowance for 2 travel days.
- ⑩ The arrival date for technical officials was July 12 and departure was the day after the completion of the of the competition. The dates of the competition were July 14-18.

Uniforms

- The uniforms for technical officials was a Pan Am Games shirt, white slacks/skirts, and white shoes/sneakers. Shirts were provided by TO2015.

Accreditation

- ⑩ Accreditation Deadline was set for April 17, 2015
- ⑩ The distribution by TO2015 of the Pan American Identity Cards (PAIC cards) intended as an accreditation document, was problematic. The cards were sent by TO2015 to UANA in mid-June, (specifically to Eldon Godfrey and Lisa Schott), but the information on a number of cards lacked important information that Eldon and Lisa had to correct and then FedEx themselves at that late date. As a result, many technical officials did not receive their cards, which also acted as their entry visas to Canada, until early or

mid-July just before their departure for the Games. This proved to be a serious miscommunication problem since these PAIC cards were designated by TO2015 as entry visas for those receiving them, and the process of distributing them and late distribution timing needs to be addressed in the future.

Entries

- ⑩ The “Online Meet Entry” (OME) system for athletes opened on the UANA website February 1st and closed on May 4, 2015. A series of webinar sessions were made available in English and Spanish to assist federations with athlete entries.
- ⑩ The eligible qualifying events for the Pan American Games were the same competitions designated as qualifying events for the 2015 Fina World Championships.
- ⑩ The priority for qualification and selection followed the order of A qualifiers first, Universality athletes, then “relay-only” athletes, and then B qualifiers.
- ⑩ Our “Entry By Numbers” deadline was set for April 17, 2015
 - The Qualification Deadline for athletes was originally set for April 15, but that was reset for April 30 due to the request that a qualification competition was scheduled for the last week in April by Mexico, so the Pan Am qualification deadline was then set for May 1, 2015.
- ⑩ Universality Athletes were invited first on May 5 and confirmed by NOC's on May 8. There were 6 federations that received invitations to send swimmers as Universality athletes.
- ⑩ On May 9, in consultation with the OME coordinator Mike Unger, the UANA TSC chair sent letters of invitation to each UANA national federation and NOC, inviting qualified athletes. NOC's made their final confirmation to UANA for the participation of all invited athletes on May 21.
- ⑩ The OME system was complete with swimmer lists and entries by event on May 30.
- ⑩ The athlete quota was 276 swimmers, with a team size limited to a maximum of 18 males and 18 females. The number of swims was limited to 5 individual events once a swimmer qualified, and 3 individual events for Universality Athletes. Only 2 swimmers per country were permitted in each event.
- ⑩ A total of 37 countries in the Americas participated in the swimming discipline in the Pan American Games.

Facilities

- ⑩ The swimming facility was of the highest calibre, indeed a truly world class venue
- ⑩ The field of play complied with all FINA regulations and requirements
- ⑩ The warmup facility was located immediately adjacent to the competition pool
- ⑩ There appeared to be some difficulty maintaining a comfortable temperature in the higher levels of the venue. It was quite warm. The temperature in the First Call room, however, was significantly colder than all other locations in the facility.
- ⑩ The warmup facility, the First and Final call rooms were all equipped with large television screens where coaches and athletes could follow the action in the competition pool
- ⑩ At times, the public address system was difficult to understand at the pool deck level.

Training Schedule

- The athlete training schedule began 5 days prior to the start of the swimming competition, starting from July 9 up to July 13 at three venues, namely, the Donald Summerville outdoor pool, the Etobicoke Olympium, and the competition pool and warmup pools at the Pan Am Aquatic Centre.

Transportation

- ⑩ During the first couple of days in Toronto, the transportation schedule for technical officials and athletes was not consistent. During the Team Leaders meeting, this was brought forward as a very contentious issue. The major complaint from coaches was the lack of a consistent bus schedule for athletes from the athletes village to the pool. Once the competition got into day 2, the schedules were vastly improved to the satisfaction of coaches and technical officials.

Hotel Accommodation

- ⑩ The Technical Officials were booked at the Delta Toronto East Hotel, and it had full service, was quiet and clean.
- ⑩ Transportation from the airport to the hotel upon arrival of technical officials was inconsistent with long waits at the airport as reported by a number of teams and officials. But the transportation from the host hotel to the swimming venue was adequate.

Meals

- ⑩ Breakfast was provided at the hotel for the technical officials. Lunch and dinner was provided at the swimming pool venue each day.

Per Diem

- ⑩ An honorarium of \$50 per day was provided to all technical officials.

Team Leaders Meeting

- ⑩ The Team Leaders Technical Meeting was held Monday, July 13. the meeting was chaired by Bill Hogan (UANA Technical Delegate) and Rebecca Watts (TO2015 Sport manager)
- ⑩ A powerpoint presentation was given to the coaches, outlining the rules of the competition as outlined in the Technical Manual, as well as a venue presentation outlining room locations, athlete routes during competition, daily schedules, etc.
- ⑩ Following the Coaches Meeting, the Technical Officials meeting was held, chaired by Bill Hogan, followed by a venue tour of both the warmup pool and the competition pool.

Event Management

- ⑩ The competition was a 5-day event using 8 lanes in a 10 lane pool, with preliminaries, B Finals and A Finals in all events except for relays and distance events.
 - Morning sessions began at 10:00am and evening finals started at 7:00pm.
 - All sessions began on time and went extremely well throughout the competition
- ⑩ The athlete routes following each race were well-organized for credentials pick-up, to the mix zone, and off the field of play or on to the awards podium.
- ⑩ Award Ceremonies were very formal and very well-done, with the presentation of medals followed by the raising of the flags and the national anthem of the winner.
- ⑩ Anti-Doping Control was in effect for the competition, with random selection conducted

- each day. There was one incidence reported that resulted in a temporary suspension
- ⑩ A Jury of Appeal was set up for the competition consisting of members of UANA Executive Committee members, and there were 3 occasions when they were needed to adjudicate protests.

Data Handling & Results

- ⑩ The complete and final swimming results for the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games are posted on the UANA website.
- ⑩ There were 33 Pan American Games records set during the swimming competition.
- ⑩ Unfortunately, the ATOS team advised at the end of the competition that no provision was made in their contract with the TO2015 for results to be made available in any other format other than via a PDF version of each event. The only capability provided was to provide single event results of preliminaries and/or finals. The ability to export results in a data format which is compatible to being imported into the FINA master performance database as well as the databases of the NF's was not made available. This was the major deficiency encountered. Fortunately, through the hard work of Larry Herr (OME system team), he was able to provide a complete set of results and they were posted on the UANA website by Jay Thomas, member of the UANA TSC.
- ⑩ From our analysis of results, we did isolate the fact that there was one athlete who attended the Games but did not swim a single event. This information should be made known to the national federation of said athlete indicating that UANA noted this athlete's absence from the competition.
- ⑩ A total of \$760CAD and \$200USD was collected in fines for team protests during the competition. All monies were passed on to the UANA treasurer.

Sport Organizing Committee

- ⑩ TO2015 OC were a very good organization to work with. We began communication with them and their leadership team about 2 years leading up to the event itself.
- ⑩ The leadership team we worked with included Bob O'Doherty – Senior Vice-President of Sport & Venues; Denis Hainault – Vice-President of Sports; and more directly Rebecca Watts – Manager of Sports;
- ⑩ A Sport Organizing Committee sub-committee was set up by TO2015 to deal specifically with the swimming discipline, consisting of Bill Hogan – Committee Chairperson and UANA Technical Delegate who selected leads for specific areas of responsibility, namely: Paul Corkum – Competition Manager; Louise Leblanc – Technical Officials Supervisor; Dave Shewfelt – Field of Play Supervisor; and Dave Davidson – Results Manager.
- ⑩ This group were the leads in specific areas relating to the competition, to include responsibilities such as registration of swimmers & coaches, venue needs for Officials, the Sport Information Desk, preparation of heat sheets and results, the resolution table, pool survey, deck setup, security and pool access control, award ceremonies, pool maintenance, the swimming office and electronics, ATOS liaison, supervision of results, etc. They are to be commended for their expertise and dedication to a job well-done.

In conclusion, as the UANA Swimming Technical Delegate for the Games, I must express my appreciation and thanks for the continued support of UANA President Mr. Coaracy Nunes Filho, his Secretary Giovana Moreira who organized visas and travel arrangements for all, the

UANA Executive Committee Members who took on the responsibilities of the Jury of Appeal for the event, to Mr. Eldon Godfrey (UANA Past President) & Lisa Schott (Aquatics Canada President), both of who contributed immensely with solving the accreditation issues prior to the Games, to Margo Mountjoy (the UANA International Relations Officer) whose advice relating to FINA qualifying events and the Pan Am Games was most helpful. Special thanks also go out to Dale Neuberger (incoming UANA President) who through telephone and email communication was continually advising on competition requirements and strategies based on FINA related events; to Fernando Canales, to Greg Eggert, to Jay Thomas, to Mike Unger & Larry Herr and their superb Online Meet Entry System team, and finally, many thanks to my UANA Technical Swimming Committee and federation ITO's for their commitment, expertise, and contributions leading up to and including the swimming competition at the 2015 Pan American Games.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Hogan
UANA TSC Chair
PAG 2015 Swimming TD