

UANA TDC MEETING – Pan American Games
Lima, Peru
July 30, 2019

Present: Gordon Peterson, Emilie Heymans, Kathy Seaman, Felix Calderon, Rolando Pedreguera, Francisco Balbuena, Ulises Alvarado, Katura Horton-Perinchief, Nancy Brawley, Hermes Venegas Morales, Jim Stillson and Cokey Huffman

Gordon opened with the number of entries (66 divers) and how the judge panels will work. The panels have been selected but may be adjusted over the course of the Games. Only split panel for men's 3M as it is the only event with at least 18 competitors.

Smallest event, will likely be women's 10M synchro. Brazil has advised that it may scratch its synchro team in that event.

Qualifications for this event:

The numbers were difficult because there is a restriction on the number of divers but divers qualify based on events. Accordingly, the number of divers varies depending upon the number of events a diver participates in. If a diver competes in multiple events, it may open up opportunities for other competitors, resulting in a "cascading down" of qualifiers.

The qualification concept was simple: it started with all divers reaching semifinals at the 2017 World Championships in Budapest qualified a spot; as well as all divers reaching the finals at the 2018 World Cup in Wuhan qualified a spot.

Next, there were the Zone qualifiers: a minimum of 20 divers for each of Zones 1 and 2. This translated into the Top four from the Central American Games and from the South American Championships.

The 2019 CCCAN Championships was the catchall to fill spots up to the maximum of 70 divers, after accounting for the maximum of 8 divers from each of the Host and Zones 3 and 4.

The problem was that the CCCAN Championships were held very late (end of March 2019) and some NOCs refused their allocated quotas, whether because of a lack of understanding or the lateness of the awarding of spots. The result was we ended up with less than the maximum quota, even though there were federations who wanted to send additional divers, particularly those federations who were restricted by the maximum of 8 divers, the same restriction as in the past despite additional events being added to the program.

The question was asked as to how can we make this selection process more straight-forward and easier?

What events should we have at the Pan American Games?

There are 13 Events at World Championships. Should we increase the number of events at the Pan American Games to reflect those at the World Championships?

Do we need to increase the maximum number of athletes allowed per team? Maybe 10?

It was suggested that the starting point should be determining what is the right program? What is the right number of events? Then we can determine how many athletes would be best to compete in those events.

Discussion ensued regarding the program. It was suggested that mixed synchro event here will not work well because with a limit on each team size, the best male athletes do not generally match well with the best female athletes. Generally, the next generation of male athletes match up better with the top female athletes.

Further, there was a suggestion that some federations do not have many platform divers and it may be more desirable to just add 3M synchro. In response, it was observed that platform is easier to match males with females.

In order to focus discussion, it was asked whether we should add programs or delete events. It was suggested that adding events doesn't make sense as there are already too many events for existing participants. The result will be athletes and coaches will make concessions and not participate.

What is the ideal program? If we had no restrictions on days or athletes, what should it look like?

It was noted that quality suffers with too many events. It was suggested that the program should not be expanded without knowing what the participation would look like (look at Grand Prix's with mixed synchro).

The discussion migrated to events and the suggestion was the event program may be fine for now because 1m allows some countries to have an opportunity to perform but that an evaluation should be made as to what does the public, TV, and athletes think of each event. Then the maximum quota for each NOC should be increased.

It was observed that the timing of the World's made it hard for good participation. Athletes may elect not to participate in the Pan American Games because of its proximity to World's.

Following more in depth discussion, it was determined that it is desirable not to change the events at this time but to increase the maximum number of athletes from each country.

It was noted that six countries qualified the maximum quota of eight athletes in addition to the host nation (for a total of seven countries) but the host opted not to compete the maximum quota. If too many quotas are added, it would likely squeeze out the less developed countries.

It was agreed that we need a more straight-forward qualification system. The dates for qualification were a problem; the last qualifier can't be so late.

With the events agreed to remain static, what should our number of divers look like? If we add one more for each country, we would be over our limit of 70. How many divers should we be asking for – the original request of 80 was suggested that it makes sense if we want to have appropriate numbers for the developed teams. It could have a maximum of 9 or 10 divers per NOC.

An analysis was performed outlining if the overall quota was increased to 80 and there were 10 divers each for the seven teams fielding full quotas, it would leave only 10 additional divers for the other teams. If there are nine divers on a team, it would mean there would be 17 divers available for the other teams. In Lima, if the host team had taken the full number of divers, there would have been 14 spots available for the teams that did not field maximum quota teams. With the host only fielding 5 divers, there were 17 spots open and they would have all been taken if teams entitled to the quota had received their invitations earlier. Further, Ecuador learned too late that they qualified on one meter only so the NOC elected to not send their athletes. All NOCs have to know by the prelim entry date.

It was then suggested that the TDC consider a maximum of 10 divers for countries that dive all events, and 8 for countries that don't dive all events.

It was noted that we need to build in the fact that developing countries need to attend this event but they also have to earn it. Since there is no 1 M at Grand Prix it is difficult to base the qualification on international competitions for all events but the initial filter for Zones 1 and 2 on 1m could be based on the South American Championships and Central American Championships. People will know in advance based on those results.

Recommendations

Following a fulsome discussion, it was agreed that the request would be made not to change any events but to increase the quota to 80 and to ensure the last qualification event is completed at least six months in advance. It was further suggested that input be sought from the coaches and other officials with respect to qualification.

Judging Assignments

The Chair then outlined the judging assignments and duties. He advised that he had tried to spread it around while maintaining a balance of experience and newcomers as well as maintaining some neutrality. He then ensured that all of the TDC members were comfortable with refereeing or assistant referee duties and

briefly outlined them, including checking sheets, checking placement of chairs, ensuring the divers are ready as soon as possible after presentations. Each referee will have walkie talkies. There will be split panels on Men's 3M.

Judging can be stressful here. It was advised that we will have shadow judging for the first few events. We will have places for them with flash cards and a recorder in order to give them as real an experience as possible.

In response to inquiries regarding location of for shadow panels, the Chair suggested on the deck near the judge chairs but final placement to be confirmed prior to first event. Further questions were asked regarding location of the judges' room, judges' change room and lockers. It was noted that there are large meeting rooms on the secretariat side of the pool (one meter side).

Divers Not Qualified for Events

The Chair advised that we have been consistent: no one who has not qualified for an event can dive until the TDC meeting to decide. There are at least three divers who have asked if they can dive even though they have not qualified: Yona Knight-Wisdom from Jamaica has asked to dive men's 1M; Juliana Velosa from Brazil wants to dive individual on 3M; and Venezuela wants Jesus Gonzalez to dive 10M individual (he was brought here for synchro only).

It was outlined that some teams spent money to go to Cuba to qualify and didn't qualify while the divers requesting didn't even attempt to attend Cuba to qualify. Some NOCs will say they left divers home because they did not qualify. It was noted that we did solicit more divers for synchro but Venezuela was the only country that took up that offer.

Following extensive discussion, it was put to a vote. The vote was for all or none: all 3 dive or none are permitted to dive. The vote was 7 for, 4 against, with one abstention. Accordingly, they can dive.

Jr. Pan Ams:

Everyone confirmed their tickets and all expressed great appreciation to Nancy for arranging the tickets.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,



Gordon Peterson
Chair

Cokey Huffman
Honorary Secretary