

2017 UANA TDC MEETING – JUNIOR PAN AM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
September 28, 2017

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

Gordon Peterson addressed the group welcoming everyone. Gordon stated that we need to address the Judge Development Program Initiative that was conducted here and what are the next steps. Additionally there have been some competition issues at this event we need to discuss as to how they will be handled in the future.

Beginning with the competition issues, there are two: late entries and late dive changes. There was a situation where a team asked to change a dive at the scoring table. They were told they could change a dive up to 3 hours prior to the event with a fine. They asked if there was another option and they were referred to address the issue at the technical meeting.

At the technical meeting they where told they could change with a penalty. They chose not to change the dive. The discussion ensued regarding how this should be handled in the future.

The point of the rule is to reduce administration issues. The TDC recommended that at the technical meeting it must be communicated what the expectation is for dive change requests.

Jim Stillson stated it must be taken into account who the “asking” Federation is and their level of expertise.

Nancy Brawley suggested we change the rule to allow changes up to 3 hours before the competition. Safety is her the concern.

Gordon suggested an alternative would be to leave the rule as is but relax the enforcement. The committee felt that was a hard position to be in.

After further discussion, the committee agreed that the rule would continue to apply the rule with some flexibility, particularly on the first day of competition as other outside factors are in play, i.e. arrival to the event by the team or unforeseen conditions for the athlete.

Late entries were discussed.

Jim and Felix stated that we should be firmer on late entries and deny entry.

Gordon stated the need to be pro-active with teams when we get to the venue to confirm entries. Have an official representative (team manager) sign off on their countries' entries. Enforce the rules as they are but be pro-active to confirm entries with all teams.

Judges Development Program direction:

Gordon stated this has been a great opportunity to have the judge candidates here. Further development is the goal of this program, so Mentors have been assigned to the candidates and they need to meet and make a connection. Olympic judges on the TDC are mentoring the developing judges. Rolando has Josue Salas Ramirez and Francisco. Felix has Carolina and Hugo and Cokey has Angelique and Katura. Mentoring here, as well as ongoing communication and feedback is a part of the plan.

The question was asked, going forward, how do we ensure continued development? Continued follow up with the judge candidates as to where are they judging, how they did, and what was learned, is a must. As well as asking what are their needs to keep their development moving forward?

Nancy suggested we use the Puerto Rico Grand Prix, USA Grand Prix, and the Canada Cup for further development, mentoring and judging experience.

All three host countries (PR, USA, CAN) will try to secure some sponsorship for housing/expenses for these judges to attend.

The primary objective is to try to get these judges to at least one of the above Grand Prix events.

Carolina Saldarriaga, Josue Salas Ramirez, and Hugo Parisi joined the meeting and were asked how they are feeling about this opportunity.

Carolina said she is wow'd by the event. She feels comfortable. It is very important that we are considering the younger judges for events like this.

Josue Salas Ramirez feels very happy to be here and is thankful for being included in the program.

Hugo stated that this is a huge experience for him as he is just recently retired. He feels this is a very important event for judge development. He is learning but thinks he's judging too tough. He stated he is still feeling a little lost but more time will help. Gordon confirmed that he is on the right track and it will take time.

Rolando stated this is the first time he's seen a pro-active approach to developing judges in the Americas and he is very happy about this pro-activity. He stated applause to all for this program.

Katura was surprised to be on a panel. This is a very important event for developing junior divers. The FINA judging approach is something to learn and get comfortable with, as it is a little different than how you see judging from a diver's mind set.

Francisco has been waiting for this opportunity. He has been judging for a while and sees this as a growing opportunity. He has not had the opportunity to judge major international events. His goal is to judge an Olympic Games.

Carolina asked how the selection process occurred and on what criteria the candidates were chosen. Gordon explained the selection criteria. The program was designed to develop younger judges in the Americas. We had an anonymous sponsor for this, which made it possible. Candidates were chosen based on age and potential seen in each individual candidate as well as their diving experience.

Kathy stated why this is an important initiative. We are competing against the world for judging positions. China and Europe have always had depth in judging. Continental representation is very important for world events. Judges in the Americas have to be developed and given exposure at the world level.

Gordon stated that UANA TDC will support these candidates within their Federations, and urge their Federations to support participation as judges in international events.

We encourage the candidates to be pro-active in getting judging assignments for other international events. We encourage the use and support of the mentors in bolstering their opportunities to judge more events. We will network as much as we can to support their advancement. We want to work as a team of judges throughout the Americas.

Gordon, on behalf of the TDC, thanked Felix for providing translation throughout the weekend and during the meeting.

Nancy moved to adjourn, Cokey seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Cokey Huffman
UANA TDC Secretary

