

UANA TSSC
2015 UANA Pan American Championships
Meeting

Minutes

In attendance: Rose, Heather, Charlotte, Victoria, Ana Maria, Patricia, Barbara and Leslie

Regrets: Brian, Laura

August 17

1. Pre Competition Meeting: Greg Eggert (UANA Media Officer) joined us
We met informally in Rose's room to review the schedule, our duties, the judges list, and set up a TSSC transportation schedule as well as the bus schedule and meeting schedule for the Judges. We identified action items to be addressed the next day and prepared for the Technical Meeting and the Judges Meeting.

As we are short of judges for Figures 4 TSSC members who are judges will go on panels, other TSSC members will panel referee, etc. as needed. We will not be able to seat 5 judges on each figure panel. One judge is arriving late, others have conflicts; we will need to supplement the judges with TSSC members throughout the competition to fill all 3 routine panels with 5 judges. There were 3 practice judges.

We reviewed the updated Judges List and Evaluation records and the Continental Update PowerPoint submitted by Barbara and Leslie respectively on behalf of their sub committees (Judges and Coaches). TSSC Members were reminded that the Evaluation Records are confidential and for TSSC use only. We also noted Judges Lists posted on line, for protection of privacy, should not include personal identifying information such as birthdate.

The UANA 50% share of the TSSC members airfares was paid out at this meeting.

August 18

2. Pre Competition Activation: Betty Hazle, USAS nominee to the 2015-2019 UANA TSSC joined us for our meetings on this day (she was also present as a judge). We oriented ourselves to the facility; met some of the Organizing Committee members and followed up on our action items. The primary concern was the extreme height of the judges stands; this matter was addressed – they were lowered, shallower tables used and railing placed along the back.

All members of the TSSC attended the Technical Meeting and Judges Meeting- Greg joined us at these meetings as well.

The PowerPoint slide deck for the Technical Meeting was in English only this time due to time constraints; presenters were assigned slides in advance so they would know what content they were to speak to. A wall poster of the facility would be a helpful addition to future meetings instead of jumping back and forth to slides.

Federations do not understand the new practice of naming a Head of Delegation and Team Leader; this was evident at the Technical Meeting where there were many extra people present.

Apparently 1 country did not follow the protocol of all entries and fees being submitted as a federation; this resulted in inconvenience and confusion for the organizers and an inadvertent extra entry in 1 event.

Between various meetings we reviewed the UANA TSSC Handbook under development (posted as a draft document on the UANA website under the SY tab) and identified edits needed and further content additions. Heather will prepare a list of these items.

The Organizing Committee's 50% share of the UANA TSSC's airfares was paid out as well.

3. Competition Notes:

Charlotte was Chief Referee for Figures and Victoria was Chief Referee for Routines; we agreed this was a good practice.

Passport copies were submitted or the actual passport presented to a member of the Organizing Committee; the copies were then turned over to the UANA TSSC Secretary who will shred them.

A TSSC member (Charlotte) was assigned to manage the awards protocols for the TSSC in communication with the organizers and to select the judges for the oaths at the Opening Ceremonies.

We have been very careful as a TSSC to not load too many requirements upon our host federation. Our goal has been to ensure the emphasis is on providing the best possible competition for the athletes. That said the TSSC needs to provide some direction on the protocols for Opening, Closing and Awards Ceremonies and social events should the host federation chose to hold them. Awarding of the Overall Points trophies needs clarification as well.

Barbara handled all the posting of results, photos, etc. to the UANA Website as the information became available to her. The UANA website is a great resource to our work and highly valued by us in maintaining strong communication with the synchro community in the Americas.

Judges Panels were circulated the night prior to each competition day to the judges, TSSC, Organizing Committee Chairperson, Chief Recorder and FINA Evaluator. The shortage of judges over the last year or two is of concern to us; while we had several qualified judges among our TSSC members who were placed on panels as needed it means they are not available to us to carry out other duties. And if we are not filling the panels with judges from the FINA/UANA list, they are not getting evaluations and ultimately promotions.

With her permission we assigned the FINA Lecturer (Ulla Lucenius) to an Assistant Referee position on several events and used some Organizing Committee volunteers too as 1-2 TSSC members judged regularly. TSSC assignments shifted daily to accommodate the judge shortage.

In the Preliminary events athletes were announced by their competitor number; on completion of their routine their name, country and coach(es) were announced

As the pool was a little shallow we knew there could be problems with the team events; Barbara provided her GoPro camera and 2 volunteers filmed the events. Barbara also recorded the Technical Duet event in case video review was needed.

Prior to the start of competition the TSSC confirmed only result summaries were to be released so on Day 1 and Day 2 a Summary of Results only was released publically. On request of a federation we reconsidered this decision and determined we would release the detailed Figure results and detailed Senior Technical routine and Free Combination results as these were final events. The remaining detailed results were not released publically until the close of the competition. The Chief Recorder noted it is helpful to release the Figures detailed scores on competition of these events in case any errors are noted as these scores form part of the Championship Score for each 12 & Under, 13-15 and Junior routine

Concern expressed to Chairperson of the Organizing Committee that 1 lifeguard was watching the video not the swimmers as they finished their routine and swam to the side; scan of pool improved after this complaint. 1 athlete required lifeguard support to get to the side and some medical attention thereafter; another slipped on the stairs and was assessed by the facility staff.

11 federations participated in this year's competition: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama (* 1st time), Peru, Puerto Rico, United States, and Uruguay. Entries were from national teams, regional teams, clubs or combinations of all of these.

While some events finished early; little change was made to the schedule that day as the competition was live streamed based on the public schedule. A change was made that the final event for 12 and under and 13-15 would not have a break between then as in the original schedule. This was communicated to the Team Leaders at a meeting and by email.

On August 21st Dr. Margo Mountjoy in her role as UANA Vice President and liaison to the TSSC met with the outgoing UANA TSSC and the nominees present (Betty Hazle - USA, Lilianne Grenier and Erika Lindner CAN and Cristina Hiller - CRC) for a dialogue about ideas and goals for future success of the sport and the committee in the Americas. Many speakers emphasized the need and opportunities to continue to grow the sport in the Americas: this included the need to work together effectively for the benefit of all, the need for further coaching, athlete and judging development to support the sport in the Americas and in the world (FINA) stage, the need for funding supports, more competition opportunities and learning events. All recognized there is lots of talent to build on.

We were informed the process of appointing the 2015-2019 UANA TSSC members is underway. Margo recognized the prominence of Synchro within the UANA family and expressed her desire to help to take UANA Synchro to the next level.