

Swimming Report to the UANA Executive

April 14-15, 2014

Prepared by: Bill Hogan
UANA Technical Swimming Committee Chair

During the past calendar year, the UANA TSC has been directly involved in the planning of 2 major events, namely, the Pan American Games and for the swimming competition at the Pan American Olympic Festival.

PAG 2015

The Pan Am Games swimming competition will start on July 14 and finish July 18 (a 5-day format). Recently at a TO2015 meeting in Toronto, I met with the lead personnel responsible for Entries, Qualifications & Technical Manuals, Protocol & Victory Ceremonies, Press Operations, Medical & Anti-Doping, Transportation, and Accreditation., as well as with David Smith, who is responsible for Timing, Scoring & Results. These meetings were very helpful in coordinating the OC work at the local level with the expectations of UANA for the Games. A significant number of TO2015 OC people now hired on staff were on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Organizing Committee, as well as a number also now on staff who were hired from their assignments at the London 2012 Olympic Games. The result is a very experience OC staff on the ground in Toronto for PAG2015.

TO2015 leadership also had update sessions on the progress of the Venue Operating Planning Process presented by the swimming Venue Management people. They gave briefings on other functional areas including Security, Venue Overlays & Blueprints of the new Swimming Venue, (which is due for completion in mid 2014), Transportation, Logistics, Accreditation, Catering, Sport Information Desks at the venues, VIP seating & support, Press, Media , Medal Ceremony locations, etc.

The most recent proposed "Technical Manual" (dated March 15, 2014) is attached for review and approval of the UANA Executive and PASO. The qualifying system for athletes and milestones are also included in this document.

Pan American Olympic Festival

To meet the current deadlines established for the swimming event at the Pan American Olympic Festival, I have considered a number of proposals to present for the swimming competition for September 26-30, 2014 In Mexico. There was consideration in using the swimming format used at the Youth Olympic Games as a template, but in my view the intent and focus of this Olympic Festival swimming competition should be primarily on athlete and federation participation to include as many UANA Swimming Federations as

possible. With this in mind, the swimming competition would then need to focus on the cultural and celebratory nature intended by PASO in the naming of this "Festival" scheduled for Mexico in 6 months time.

To this end, I am proposing the swimming event to the UANA Executive with the following tenets for your review and approval:

- 1) Present the event as a Junior Swimming competition by establishing the age groups with a minimum age of 16 years and a maximum of 19 years of age.
- 2) I am proposing to have no Time Standards, that is, no Qualification Times. Each Federation in UANA may nominate 4 males and 4 females to enter the competition. (to build on the "participation" focus to include the presence of as many UANA swimming federations as possible). With about 39 federations, and each federation allowed 8 swimmers, our quota of 280 athletes could be managed. (we know there will be some federations not entering their quota). This proposal would eliminate the difficult and unenviable process of eliminating swimmers not making the qualifying standards as happened when we had qualifying standards in PAG2011 in Guadalajara. At this Junior level competition, we can then celebrate the concept of a UANA "Olympic Festival". This level of a Junior competition would also eliminate the conflict of it being another elite swimming meet within a crowded competition calendar already scheduled in the Americas for qualification for the Pan American Games.
- 3) As for events offered, I would suggest we offer the "Olympic" events, that is, no 50m "stroke" events, (namely the 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, and the 50m Butterfly). We should then add the 400m Individual Medley for both genders, and the 4x200m Freestyle Relay, and the 1500m Freestyle (m), events that are not offered at the YOG. We should, however, include the Mixed Relays as in the YOG.
- 4) For Federation entries per event, I would suggest 2 swimmers per event. There would be no restrictions for relays.
- 5) The Deadlines and Milestones listed at the end of the attached document are certainly subject to discussion, your review and if necessary, changes. They are simply suggested timelines.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Bill Hogan
UANA TSC Chair