

LIMA 2019

Pan American Games

Technical Swimming Committee Report

The swimming competition at the 2019-Pan American Game was held at the Centro Acuático - Videna Sport Complex – Lima, Peru from August 6-10, 2019.

UANA On-Line Meet Entry

Entries for NOC's were processed for the PAG by the UANA On-Line Meet Entry system (OME). The entry process and process timeline was executed as specified in the technical manual with no significant issues. The host nation did have some difficulties using the system due to unique entry rules that were specific to only the host nation. The TSC worked diligently with the PER to ensure that their athletes were entered correctly.

After the entries were processed, a major issue arose whereby the Sport Manager for swimming insisted that the entries would not be official unless each NOC sent communication stating the athletes, their event entries and their seed time. This the communication sent by the Organizing Committee was further confusing in that it did not specify that entry times had to be achieved at events as specified in the technical manual. The end result of this exercise was a great deal of confusion and many hours of work undoing errors in the entries that were created by the Organizing Committee.

TSC RECOMMENDATION – For future Games, have the NOC's confirm in writing that the entries submitted by the entry coordinators are correct and are authorized. Once confirmation has been received, the entries should be submitted to the Organizing Committee sport manager for entry into the Games Management system.

General

1. **Arrival** – International arrivals were via the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Callao just north of the city of Lima. Depending on arrival time and date, clearing customs and immigration incurred significant wait times. Transportation to the hotel was without long delays and in acceptable vehicles.
2. While the Commission arrived well in advance of the start of the competition, August 1st & 2nd the rest of the TSC's travel date was August 4th with arrivals as late as 11:00 PM. This compromised any opportunity to fully brief and update the rest of the technical management team on the status of the competition as the day before the competition was spent obtaining uniform, and attending the Team leaders' and Technical Officials' meeting.

TSC RECOMMENDATION: TSC members' travel date should be 3 days before the start of the competition. 2 days before the competition there would be time to meet and have discussions on the status of the competition. The day before the competition would be spent focusing on the Team leaders' and technical officials' meeting.

3. **Games Transportation** – Games transportation for Technical Officials and the TSC was in modern buses and cars. There were no unacceptable waits for transportation.
4. **Hotel** – Technical Officials and the TSC were housed and fed at the Hampton by Hilton hotel. This was a new hotel. Reports were that it opened immediately prior to the start of the PAG.
 - Security at the hotel was excellent with a distinct 24hour federal and local police presence.
 - Food at the hotel was acceptable and available for Technical Officials before and after each session.

It was appreciated that the Hotel made meals available to accommodate late arrivals after the conclusion of the finals which was after 11:30 PM each night.
 - There was no heat in the hotel.
5. **Credentials and Uniforms** – The credentialing and issuing of uniforms was efficient and quick. The volunteers staffing the center were helpful and friendly. All Technical Officials were issued two pairs of pants, two shirts, a jacket and ball cap by the Organizing Committee. Special thanks to UANA for sponsoring and issuing one additional shirt for the Technical Officials.

The Venue

The Centro Acuático – Lima, Peru is a spectacular and world class aquatic complex. The venue consisted of 2 x 50m pools and a diving well.

Water quality and temperature was excellent and well controlled. Several athletes and coaches provided comments regarding how crystal clear the water was maintained throughout the competition.

The air quality in the competition pool was noted as significantly deficient during the warmup period for the preliminary sessions. Investigation with the facility management revealed that the HVAC system output was turned down to minimum operation in the overnight hours and was not turned back up early enough the next morning to sufficiently condition the air. This resulted in warm and stuffy conditions. The issue was resolved by the morning of day three of the competition.

The air quality in the warm-up pool area was significantly deficient at almost all times while athletes were present. Reports were that this caused respiratory distress for some athletes. Facility management was not able to significantly affect improved air quality when the swimmer load in this area was high.

Omega system with overhead high-speed cameras was used for timing and ATOS Games Information Management system was used for data processing. The Omega Timing system operated flawlessly throughout the Games. Feedback regarding challenges with the ATOS system are detailed below:

ATOS

It was evident that ATOS has a comprehensive system to present NOCs, athletes, sport disciplines, schedules, and results to the public in an organized, systematic and consistent manner.

However, in the sport of swimming, the system design was not consistent with the rules, accepted methods, policies, procedures and traditions of the sport discipline. Additionally, the ATOS Operators while being pleasant and receptive, did not display the expected familiarity with the rules, policies and

procedures which govern the sport. The following are specific examples of the challenges experienced with the ATOS management of the swimming competition.

1. Incorrect loading of PAG Records. It appeared that the operators used the existing world records as a starting point and only changed times but did not show correct athletes' names, city and date achieved. This was noticed by the TSC and corrections ordered. Unfortunately, on several occasions, the system did not store the changes and the errant times were displayed to the public.
2. Day zero - Incorrect processing of scratches and withdrawals caused TSC to remain for 3 hours after seeding should have been completed to correct and verify.
3. Day one - Scoreboard names not indexed past leadoff athletes in relays – this was corrected later in the games.
4. Day one - During scratches and withdrawal process, two athletes were incorrectly removed from all events instead of the single event referenced on the scratch form.
5. Website publishing – competition day one start lists incorrectly showed only first three heats of each event instead of total heats actually seeded. This caused unnecessary confusion and concern with the coaches and the public. This was corrected later on day one of the competition.
6. On Day two – World Records and Pan American records were displayed incorrectly after several requests by the commission that they be corrected.
7. On Day two – Men's 200 M Freestyle start list was prepared with no alternates – TSC resolved before printing.
8. The fonts for the time on the scoreboards were not consistent lane to lane. They were different sizes. This was noticed in June when the prototypes were emailed to the TSC and was brought to the OCs attention by the TSC but the templates were never updated.
9. Day three – start lists printed with incorrect PAG records when correct records were approved and reviewed the night before.
10. Day three preliminary program – Meet program did not include the 4x100 Mixed Medley Relay
11. Day three Finals program. Did not remove a swimmer who withdrew from finals. Did not seed leaving lane 8 vacant to receive the results of a swim-off.
12. Day three Finals Program - The start list for the 800 Free showed heat 1 which was already swum in the preliminary session. Should have only shown the second (fastest) heat. This issue was consistently incorrect during the games with timed final events (800 Freestyle and 1500 Freestyle.)
13. Day Four – The finals time-line schedule was published to the press by ATOS without TSC approval. The time-line program was significantly flawed in order of events and caused confusion with the broadcast team.
14. The ATOS system was not able to provide a list of athletes which achieved the Olympic Standard in each event.
15. The ATOS system was not able to provide a complete electronic file of results with times and splits achieved in a digitally compliant format to be submitted to FINA in accordance with the Olympic Qualifying event requirement criteria and the FINA rules and regulations.

TSC RECOMMENDATION

Before awarding data management contracts a comprehensive check list should be devised from which the OC can assess the suitability and capability of the data management contractor which would ensure that the contract is awarded to the team that can carry out this function in keeping with the rules and regulations of FINA, the International body for swimming and the internationally accepted protocol for the sport of swimming.

Additionally, we recommend that the model used for Olympic Games should be investigated and considered for the PAG games. Specifically, at the Olympic Games Atos is used for the overall GMS – however OMEGA (with OMEGA employees) manage the data for the aquatics disciplines and send special files to feed the Atos system. OMEGA has established themselves as specialists in the aquatics discipline specific needs and therefore are experts at managing the individual competition data handling.

The Venue cont'd

The hospitality offered at the Venue by the Organising Committee and the Volunteers was excellent. Snacks, fruit and coffee were available to the technical officials throughout the competition. The amenities were modern and kept in a pristine and clean condition.

Security personnel and the volunteers were very friendly, helpful and accommodating.

Sport Presentation

The energy in the natatorium was high with upbeat music played during the swimming events. However, there were significant inadequacies noted with the assigned announcers, noting that the English announcer set the pace for the announcements.

1. The announcers appeared not to be familiar with the general protocol of how the sport of swimming is conducted. The announcers initially did not recognize nor acknowledge when records were broken or in jeopardy of being broken which would have boosted and brought quality color commentary to the races. In fact, they were frequently contented to let the music play without recognizing outstanding head-to-head races.
2. The announcers did not recognize swimmers who achieved TOKYO 2020 qualifying standards. They indicated when this was pointed out that they were not provided with a list of the Tokyo qualifying times.
3. Initially the sport presentation management team was not receptive to comments from the TSC when aspects of the above were brought to their attention.

Overall there was significant opportunity lost regarding bringing the highest level of sport presentation and energy to the spectators, athletes and coaches.

TSC RECOMMENDATION – Future announcers should be experienced with the SW discipline and direction provided as to the desired announcement protocol beyond the announcement of competitors, their assigned lanes and the announcement of medalists.

Quota

The quota for the 2019 edition was revised to 350 athletes.

321 swimmers participated: 184 athletes achieved the 'A' standard times and 112 achieved the 'B' standard time. 25 places were shared between universality and relay only swimmers. 29 places were not filled. 38 countries participated. It is worthy of note that some countries did not accept their universality offer and others did not take the opportunity offered to enter mixed relay teams.

TSC RECOMMENDATION: - The above situation begs the scrutiny of the selection process. At present 'A' and 'B' standards are used to fill the quota. This follows the FINA system which was designed to select the best swimmers from the 5 continents.

OPTION 1

The following adjustment to the selection system is offered for consideration and discussion:

- 1) Continue with the 'A' & 'B' qualifying standards as a means of providing a goal to motivate swimmers to achieve and will certainly allow our swimmers to rate and gauge themselves.
- 2) Remove the restriction that both swimmers must have 'A' cuts to swim in an event. Any 2 swimmers from the same country should be able to share events as long as both have met either the 'A' or 'B' qualifying standard. That given an event 100 M butterfly a swimmer with an 'A' time & 'B' time from the same country should be able to participate in this event. By the same token 2 swimmers with 'B' standard times should also be able to participate in the same event from any given Country once invited to participate.
- 3) After the addition of universality swimmers and relay only swimmers all other swimmers ranked according to the FINA ranking system and assigned to remaining spaces until quota is filled.

OPTION 2

- A) Eliminate qualifying standards
- B) Rank all times submitted via FINA qualifying events using the FINA ranking system and select athletes until quota is filled.
- C) This option is not goal oriented and is therefore not recommended.

In addition, smaller countries should be encouraged to enter mixed relays teams. An opportunity for small teams to participate in mixed relays was offered in the technical manual. This would contribute more excitement and heighten expectation as well provide another means of filling the quota through the participation of more 'B' standard swimmers.

International Technical Officials (ITOs)

The response to the call for ITOs was exceptionally good. The TSC adopted measures to comply with the quota assigned as follows:

- 1) The initial call was for all 42 UANA member countries to submit 2 technical officials on the FINA & or UANA List # 3.
- 2) The following applications were received:
Zone 1 : applications received from 10 countries
Zone 2 applications received from 19 countries

Zone 3: 2 applications

Zone 4: 2 applications

Approximately 71 applications were received from which to choose 33 ITOs. The quota also included the 10 TSC members.

The following method was used to comply with the assigned quota:

- 1) 1 ITO was selected from each Country
- 2) Zones comprising multiple countries with a member on the TSC was not granted an additional ITO
- 3) The methodology enabled a wide representation of technical officials for the first time from across the 30 UANA Countries which submitted applications resulting in 19 countries from Zone 2, 10 countries from Zone 1, USA & Canada-for a total of 31 Countries with technical officials on deck at the 2019 championships.

TSC RECOMMENDATION:

The method adopted enabled at least one technical official from all countries which submitted an application to participate. We recommend that this method be adopted to resolve any future difficulties of this nature.

Athletes' commission representative:

There was very little input from the athlete Representative on the committee as career pressures did not allow time to be involved.

TSC RECOMMENDATION:

It is indeed an excellent idea to have an athlete representative on the TSC. However, the individual selected should first be contacted to determine if he/she is available to give of their time to the committee. This individual should also be available to mingle with the athletes at the UANA events and provide meaningful feedback to the TSC for future events.

Scheduling

The scheduling of the competition start times for preliminaries & finals resulted in a very late finish time each night after finals. This was difficult for the athletes and complaints were received from coaches and team leaders. We understand that this was due to broadcast scheduling difficulties.

Close proximity of the PAG to the FINA World Championship brought its fair share of challenges.

Gladly Santiago 2023 has been scheduled to take place in October.

Relay events with 8 or less teams:

Relays events with 8 or less teams entered were swum in the evenings' finals according to the swimming rules and therefore had no preliminary events. This affected relay only swimmers and the rule in the technical manual which stated that all relay only swimmers must swim in at least one relay otherwise the team will face conditional disqualification. This rule therefore could not be enforced.

TSC recommendation

Relay events with at least 9 teams after the Technical meeting would be swum as 2 heats during the preliminaries even if there was a withdrawal as teams would have done their planning accordingly.

STATISTICS

Disqualification Summary

1. Women's 4x100 Freestyle Relay – MEX – Relay exchange violation.
2. Men's 4x100 Freestyle Relay – ARG – Relay exchange violation.
3. Mixed 4x100 Medley Relay – USA – SW7.1 - More than one butterfly kick prior to the first breaststroke kick.
4. Women's 400IM – PER – SW7.5 - During the breast leg – alternating kick.
5. Women's 400IM – HON – SW7.1 – More than one butterfly kick prior to the first breaststroke kick.
6. Men's 200 Individual Medley – SW7.1 – More than one butterfly kick prior to the first breaststroke kick.

General Event Data

NOC /Female	Events	Relays	NOC/ Male	Events	Relays
36			37		
155	328	29	165	301	29
Mixed		24			
Universality Athletes					
NOC	Female	Male			
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1			
Grenada	1	1			
Guyana	1	1			
Haiti	1				
Virgin Islands	1				
St Lucia	1				
St Vincent	1	1			
Total	7	4			
Relay Only					
#NOC's Male	Athletes		#NOC's Female	Athletes	
5	6		5	6	
Technical Officials					
	ITO	NTO			
Zone 1	8	8			
Zone 2	14				
Zone 3	1				
Zone 4	1				
TSC	10				

Medal Count					
Combined: Men + Women					
Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
United States	21	15	8	44	
Brazil	10	9	11	30	
Argentina	4	2	3	9	
Canada	1	8	6	15	
Guatemala	0	1	0	1	
Chile	0	1	0	1	
Mexico	0	0	6	6	
Colombia	0	0	1	1	
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1	
Men					
Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
United States	9	9	4	22	
Brazil	8	7	5	20	
Guatemala	0	1	0	1	
Mexico	0	0	5	5	
Colombia	0	0	1	1	
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1	
Argentina	0	0	1	1	
Women					
Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
United States	11	6	4	21	
Argentina	4	2	1	7	
Canada	1	7	6	14	
Brazil	1	1	6	8	
Chile	0	1	0	1	

Records Broken or Established					
Event	Time	Name	NOC	PAG	Date
Women					
1500m Freestyle**	16:16.54	Delfina Pignatiello	ARG	Lima (PER)	10-Aug-19
100m Backstroke	59.02	Phoebe Bacon	USA	Lima (PER)	10-Aug-19
200m Breaststroke	2:21.40	Kierra Smith	USA	Lima (PER)	8-Aug-19
Men					
800m Freestyle**	7:54.70	Andrew Abruzzo	USA	Lima (PER)	8-Aug-19
200m Breaststroke	2:07.62	William Licon	USA	Lima (PER)	8-Aug-19
4x200m Freestyle Relay	7:10.66	Luiz Melo	BRA	Lima (PER)	9-Aug-19
		Fernando Scheffer			
		Joao De Lucca			
		Breno Correia			
4x100m Medley Relay	3:30.25	Daniel Carr	USA	Lima (PER)	10-Aug-19
		Nicolas Fink			
		Thomas Shields			
		Nathan Adrian			
Mixed					
4x100m Freestyle Relay**	3:24.84	Michael Chadwick	USA	Lima (PER)	7-Aug-19
		Nathan Adrian			
		Claire Ramus			
		Margo Geer			
4x100m Medley Relay**	3:48.61	Guiherme Angus Guido	BRA	Lima (PER)	8-Aug-19
		Joao Luiz Gomez Junio			
		Giovanna Tmanik Diamante			
		Larissa Martins de Aiveira			

** Established at LIM2019

Olympic Qualifying Times Achieved:

A Cuts – 31 athletes/37 Cuts

B Cuts – 113 athletes/174 Cuts

A total of 113 athletes made an Olympic Qualifying Cut. Of those – 31 athletes made 37 “A” cuts. 82 Athletes made 137 “B” cuts.

Detailed lists of Olympic qualifying times achieved is attached to this report.

Number of countries with one or more A finals in individual events:

Women: (13 countries)-Arg/Can/Usa/Bra/Mex/Ven/Cub/Dom/Bol/Bah/Esa/Chi/Per

Men: (19 countries)-Usa/Bra/Ven/Esa/Col/Mex/Uru/Arg/Can/Tto/Aru/Gua/Par/Pur/Cayman/Bar/Sur/Ecu/ Pan.-

Relay Events-Women: (10 countries)Bah/Pan/Mex/Usa/Bra/Can/Ven/Per/Cub/Arg

Relay Events –Men: (9 countries)-Bra/Usa/Mex/Ven/Per/Bah/Pan/Par/Col

Mixed gender relays:(10 countries)-Usa/Bra/Mex/Ven/Arg/Can/Bah/Per/Cub/Col.-

NEW PANAMERICAN RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men -Abruzzo (USA)-800 free since it is the first time swam at games

Licon (USA) -200 mts breast

Martínez (GUA)-100 mts fly

Women-Pignatiello (ARG)-1500 mts free since it is the first time swam at games

Lazor (USA) -200 mts breast.-

RELAY EVENTS

4x100 free mixed relay-USA (first time swam)

4x100 IM mixed relay -BRA-(first time swam)

4x100 IM men relay-USA

4x200 free men relay -BRA

4x100 free men relay -BRA

2020 OG A standard times achieved at LIMA 2019

Men-18 Tokyo 2020 A cuts

50 free-Fratus/Adrian/Chadwick.

200 mts breast-Licon/Fink

100 mts breast-Gomes/Miller

100 mts back-Carr/Guido

200 mts free-Scheffer

100 mts free-Chiereghini/Adrian

100 mts fly-Shield/Martínez/Grassi

200 mts fly-DeDeus

200 mts IM-Licon

400 mts IM-Swanson

Women-18 Tokyo 2020 A cuts

100 mts free-Geer

800 mts free-Pignatiello

1500 mts free-Pignatiello/Kobrich/Mann/Denigan/Eichelberger

100 mts back-Bacon/Hanus

200 mts back-Walsh/Stadden

100 mts breast-Lazor/Sebastian

200 mts breast-Lazor/Galat/Sebastian

200 mts IM-Walsh/Small

