



# Swimming Report to the UANA Executive

## April 30, 2015

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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 Sport Festival in Mexico City. As well, there was a FINA Officials Development Clinic held in the Virgin Islands, and a FINA Swimming Officials School held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A brief report on these events follows.

### **PAG 2015**

The Pan Am Games swimming competition will start on July 14 and finish July 18 (a 5-day format). We have been meeting on a regular basis with lead personnel responsible for Entries, Qualifications & Technical Manuals, Protocol & Victory Ceremonies, Press Operations, Medical & Anti-Doping procedures, Transportation, and Accreditation, as well as with the Timing, Scoring & Results people. We have also completed planning for other functional areas including Security, Transportation, Logistics, Accreditation, Catering, Sport Information Desks at the venue, Press and Media information, Medal Ceremony locations, as well as VIP seating & support. The current Swimming Technical Manual and selected list of technical officials are posted on the UANA website.

Athlete entries for the Pan American Games from each UANA NOC will be handled by Mike Unger and his team, who have been working with me as the PAG 2015 Swimming Technical Delegate using the same Online Meet Entry System for entries that they used at the 2011 Fina World Championships in Shanghai and the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

The process for selection of technical officials has been completed. This list includes 26 Officials from the UANA Federations from each of the 4 UANA Zones, 7 Officials from the host country Canada (the host country is permitted 8 Officials), and 7 of the 8 members of the UANA Technical Swimming Committee who have indicated they will be available to attend the Pan American Games

The Pan Am Games test event for swimming was held recently in the PAG Sport Complex. This test event competition was the Canadian Trials for the Kazan FINA World

Championships and the Pan American Games. All facility requirements were met, as well the testing of our venue logistics, field of play, athlete services, venue electronics and results systems, room assignments for coaches, officials, and athletes, etc. The TO2015 organizing team was present for the Trials, and all is now in place for a successful Pan American Games swimming event.

### **Pan American Sport Festival**

The Swimming competition for this inaugural Pan American Sport Festival was guided by the principals outlined in the “UANA Summons” outlined by UANA past president Mr. Eldon Godfrey. In it he outlined the guidelines and parameters that the Festival would follow as a project of the PASO/ODEPA, and that it was intended to provide both a training and competitive experience for the athletes of the member federations ostensibly in preparation for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto.

With these directives in mind, we on the UANA Technical Swimming Committee followed through with our planning structure for the event:

- We followed the 2015 Pan American Games protocols, using the same general parameters and guidelines, and in doing so we fulfilled the PASO/ODEPA mandate as stated by UANA President Coaracy in his Pan American Festival Memorandum “..... *to provide a competitive experience for the athletes of the member federations in preparation for the Pan American Games.*”

The preparations and communications for the Pan American Sport Festival that we experienced with Giovana and Ana Paula were excellent. Both did superb work in communicating with all the NOC's and 30 UANA federations that attended the swimming competition. They worked closely with me in registering over 200 athletes, entering all athletes in their events, getting passports and flights arranged for the technical officials, and sending all the information asked of them to the UANA Federations and the UANA National Olympic Committees. They both deserve the highest commendations and recognition for their work.

Following the Festival, we drew up a questionnaire for Coaches to get their overall reactions to having this “Junior” swimming competition in the Americas. We received a number of comments suggesting that a Spring or Fall competition might be a better time for the Festival, noting that September was too early for federations because they had only just started training their athletes for 2-3 weeks prior to the competition. It was also mentioned that all meet information needs to go to the federations, not only to the NOC's, because a number of federations felt

that they did not get consistent information about the competition. There was also a strong general feeling that most federations wanted to continue with this “Festival” event in the future. There were also recommendations from coaches to include an educational component (ex: clinics for coaches).

As we know, there is still no UANA Junior Pan American swimming competition in the Americas, and I feel we would be missing a great opportunity if we didn't establish a UANA Junior Swimming competition going forward. My suggestion is that having seen the interest shown by 30 UANA federations that attended this swimming competition in Mexico this year, it would now be an excellent opportunity to build on the success of the “UANA Sport Festival” to establish it as a continuing event, especially for the swimming discipline in the Americas. It is my personal recommendation that this Sport Festival, which was in fact a junior level swimming competition with athletes between the ages of 16-18, be established as a regular UANA swimming event, possibly every 2 years.

### **FINA Officials Development Clinic – St. Croix, Virgin Islands**

This FINA Development Clinic was held the same weekend as the Virgin Island Long Course Swimming Championships, with parents and technical officials from St. Thomas flying in to St. Croix along with swimmers. In giving this swimming officials clinic, I decided to accommodate these two groups of parents and officials both in separate sessions, as well as in a combined group setting. All clinic sessions were held in the school complex where the 50m swimming pool is located. The lectures were a combination of PowerPoint presentations, slides, group discussions, and video presentations. I decided to use the competition itself to give the technical officials the needed practice and experience working the on-deck pool positions. There were a total of 25 technical officials who attended the clinic, 13 from St. Croix and 12 from St. Thomas.

### **FINA Swimming Officials School – San Juan, Puerto Rico**

The 2015 edition of the FINA Swimming Officials Schools in the Americas was successfully hosted by the Puerto Rican Swimming Federation February 7-8, 2015. The FINA lecturers were Soren Korbo and Bill Hogan. The School had a total of 63 participants whereas 50 participants were from the host Federation and 13 participants from different Federations (Panama 2 – Antigua 3 – Chile 1 – Guatemala 2 – Bahamas 4 – and Barbados – 1. The school was very well attended, and the Puerto Rican Swimming Federation is to be congratulated for their hospitality and efficient way of organizing the American edition of the 2015 FINA Swimming Officials Schools.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
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