

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE

37th FIG RG World Championships 2019 – Baku (AZE)

RG Technical Committee Report

By Mrs. Nataliya Kuzmina, President RG Technical Committee



Program of Individual Competitions:

- a. Qualifications with Team ranking
- b. Apparatus Final
- c. All-Around Final

Program of Group Competitions:

- a. General Competition – All-Around ranking
- b. Final using one type of apparatus, Final using two types of apparatus.

1. PARTICIPATION

Number of Entries by NOC – 61
Number of Individual gymnasts – 167

Number of Groups - 24
Number of Group gymnasts – 134

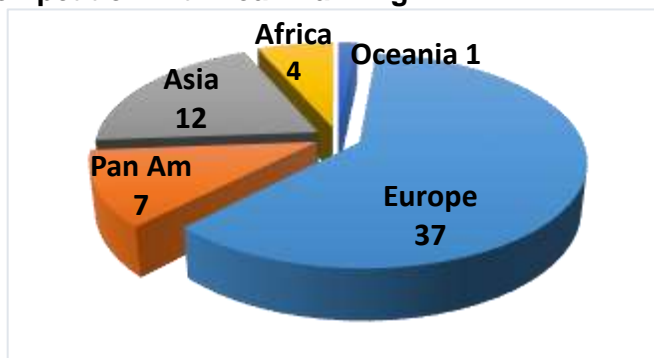
Total number of gymnasts - 301

2. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

a. Individual Qualification Competition with Team ranking

Countries by Continent

- Europe: 37
- Asia: 12
- Pan Am: 7
- Africa: 4
- Oceania: 1



All 5 Continents took part in the World Championship in Individual program and there was a record number of participating gymnasts in recent years, which indicates the successful development of RG in the world.

Increase of participating countries were from Asia and Pan Am.

Team ranking by NOCs

Rank	WCh Sofia 2018	WCh Baku 2019
1	RUS	RUS
2	BUL	ISR
3	ITA	BLR
4	ISR	ITA
5	UKR	UKR
6	BLR	BUL
7	USA	USA
8	JPN	JPN
9	AZE	GEO
10	UZB	UZB

Three Continents are still among the top 10 teams: 7 NOCs from Europe, 2 NOCs from Asia and 1 NOC from Pan Am. However, gymnasts from Europe received medals in the Team ranking.

The RUS team composed of the World gymnastics leaders - Dina and Arina Averina, has maintained the 1st position. The ISR team took the 2nd place, demonstrated a stable performance and a high degree of technical skill. The BLR team regained its leading position in the team classification lost in recent years.

Qualification competition with team ranking was very interesting and showed high rivalry among the gymnasts for team results and Individual classification in each apparatus.

b. Apparatus Finals

12 gymnasts from 7 countries took part in Apparatus Final Competitions (Hoop, Ball, Clubs, Ribbon).

All individual apparatus finalists, with two exceptions in two Finals (Ball and Ribbon – USA), were from Europe.

Countries by Continents:

- Europe: 6 (RUS, ISR, UKR, BLR, ITA, BUL)
- Pan Am: 1 (USA)

Gymnasts from 3 countries (RUS, ISR, UKR) have won medals.

c. All-Around Final

The TC remarks the high level of preparation and performance of all Individual gymnasts and the increased level of competition within the **top 24 Individuals in All-Around Final**.

Participating gymnasts by Continents:

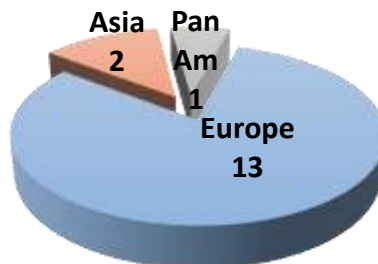
- Europe: 19 (RUS-2, ISR-2, UKR-2, ITA-2, BLR-2, BUL-2, SLO, GEO, FRA, ROU, AZE, ESP, HUN)
- Asia: 3 (JPN-2, UZB)
- Pan Am: 2 (USA-2)

European gymnasts still prevail in the Individual Program.
Dina Averina (RUS) has won her 3th consecutive World Rhythmic All-around title.

There must be noted progress in preparation of gymnasts from other Continents:
Pan Am (USA), Asia (JPN, UZB).

Participating countries by Continents:

- Europe: 13
- Asia: 2
- Pan Am: 1



This WCh was also a part of the Individual gymnasts' qualification for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo (JPN) and for the 2021 World Games in Birmingham (USA).

The 16 highest ranked Individual gymnasts from the All-Around Final results were qualified to Olympic Games.

The 22 highest ranked Individual gymnasts from the All-Around Final results were qualified to The World Games and the Continental places allocated.

Individual Qualification for the 2020 Olympic Games

- Gymnasts – 16
- Countries – 9
 - Europe – 7: RUS-2, ISR-2, BUL-2, UKR-2, ITA-2, BLR-2, AZE
 - Pan Am – 1: USA-2
 - Asia – 1: JPN

Individual gymnasts from 3 Continents were qualified to Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo after Criteria 1 - WCh 2019, Baku (AZE).

3. GROUP COMPETITIONS

The World Championship 2018 in Sofia was the first qualification for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Best Groups – medallists of this World Championship (RUS, BUL, ITA) were earn automatic berths for Tokyo 2020.

The World Championship 2019 in Baku was the second qualification for the 2020 Olympic Games, where all other Nations had the additional chance to qualify for Olympic Games. According to the results of the WCh 2018 in Sofia the top 24 Groups took part in the WCh 2019 in Baku.

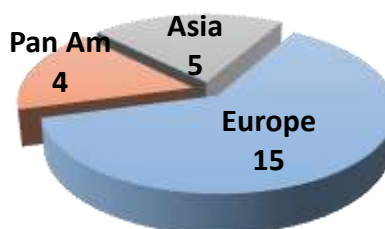
Participated Groups represented 3 Continents: Europe, Asia, Pan Am.

a. **General Competition – All-Around ranking**

24 countries participated in Group General competitions.

Countries by Continent

- Europe: 15
- Asia: 5
- Pan Am: 4



The current CoP opens up great prospects for RG development in Group Program. Stimulates and gives more creative opportunities to Group gymnasts, coaches and choreographers.

The requirements of the current Rules allow using a wide variety of Rhythmic Gymnastics expressive means.

Competition programs of the participating Groups became more dynamic and spectacular due to a wider range of elements to be used, their original combinations in connections, virtuoso apparatus handling, choice of various musical themes, interpretations and images through motion.

Each composition of the Group exercise has various types of organization in the collective work - various types of Collaborations. Collaborations and other components of Difficulty include the same beauty, elegance and intensity of movements by all gymnasts.

All this is sure made Group Competitions more entertaining.

There was a high level of competition among the 24 Groups during the World Championships

The competition showed significant progress in the preparation and technical presentation at a high artistic level of Group exercises from the following countries: JPN, CHN, ISR, BLR, USA, BRA.

Groups RUS, JPN, BUL have won medals in All-Around Competitions.

Groups ranking by NOCs

Rank	WCh Sofia 2018	WCh Baku 2019
1	RUS	RUS
2	ITA	JPN
3	BUL	BUL
4	UKR	BLR
5	JPN	ITA
6	BLR	ISR
7	AZE	CHN
8	FRA	AZE
9	MEX	UKR
10	FIN	USA

Second Olympic qualification for Groups

The five highest ranked eligible NOCs from the Groups ranking results of the General Competition (Qualifications) not qualified at the WCh 2018 in Sofia was qualified at the WCh 2019 in Baku as one Group quota place.

There was strong competition among Groups for 5 Olympic quota places. The Groups, which showed high level Difficulty exercises without significant technical faults and with high level emotion expression, passed Olympic qualification.

The following Groups were qualified at the second Olympic qualification: JPN, BLR, ISR, CHN, AZE (3 - from Europe, 2 - from Asia).

b. Final using one type of apparatus, Final using two types of apparatus

Groups from 9 countries took part in Final competitions.

Countries by Continent:

- Europe: 7 (RUS, BUL, BLR, UKR, ITA, ISR, AZE)
- Asia: 2 (JPN, CHN)

Gymnasts from 3 countries (JPN, RUS, BUL) have won medals. For the first time in history Group from JPN won gold medal in Final with two types of apparatus.

4. MEDAL DISTRIBUTION

Rank	NOC	Individual				Group				Total				Rank by Total
		G	S	B	Total	G	S	B	Total	G	S	B	Total	
1	RUS	6	2	2	10	2		1	3	8	2	3	13	1
2	JPN					1	2		3	1	2		3	3
3	ISR		4	2	6						4	2	6	2
4	BUL						1	1	2		1	1	2	4
5	UKR			1	1							1	1	=5
5	BLR			1	1							1	1	=5
5	ITA							1	1			1	1	=5
Total:		6	6	6	18	3	3	3	9	9	9	9	27	

Note: During competitions 7 countries got medals.

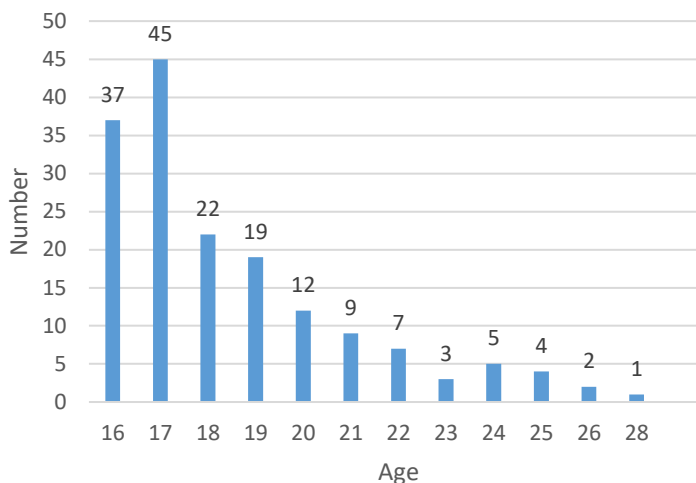
JPN and ISR increased the number of won medals in comparison with the World Championships 2017-2018.

5. AGE OF THE GYMNASTS

Registered Individual Gymnasts: 167

Age	Birth Year	Number	%
16	2003	37	22.29%
17	2002	45	27.11%
18	2001	22	13.25%
19	2000	19	11.45%
20	1999	12	7.23%
21	1998	9	5.42%
22	1997	7	4.22%
23	1996	3	1.81%
24	1995	5	3.01%
25	1994	4	2.41%
26	1992	2	1.20%
28	1990	1	0.60%

Ages of Registered Individual Gymnasts



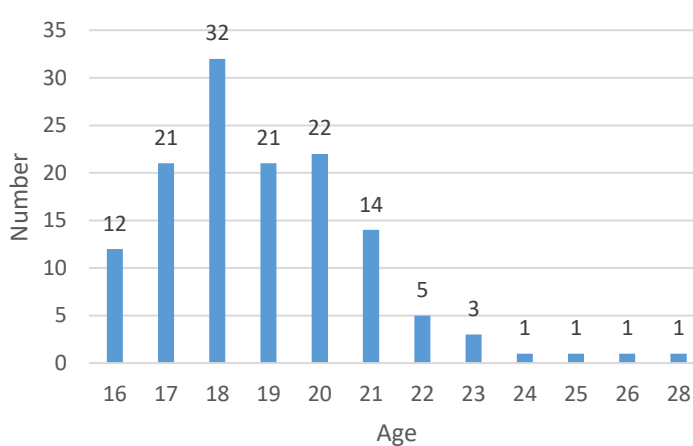
The most common age was 16-18, with 104 gymnasts (62,2% of overall).

The average age of all registered Individual gymnasts was 18,4 (not changed from the World Championships 2017-2018).

Registered Group Gymnasts: 134

Age	Birth Year	Number	%
16	2003	12	8.96%
17	2002	21	15.67%
18	2001	32	23.88%
19	2000	21	15.67%
20	1999	22	16.42%
21	1998	14	10.45%
22	1997	5	3.73%
23	1996	3	2.24%
24	1995	1	0.75%
25	1994	1	0.75%
26	1993	1	0.75%
28	1991	1	0.75%

Ages of Registered Group Gymnasts



The most common age was 17-20, with 96 gymnasts (71,6% of overall).

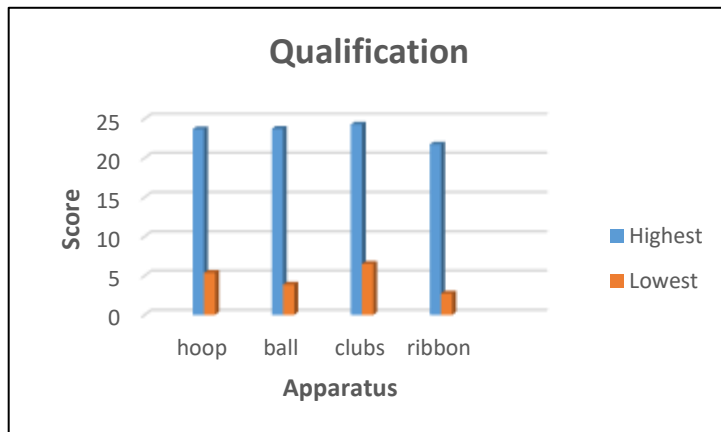
The average age of all registered Group gymnasts was 19,5 Group gymnasts became 1 year older from the World Championships 2017-2018.

It is natural as Group team is created at the beginning of the Olympic cycle and it is necessary for several to work together to achieve the desired result at the Olympic qualification competitions.

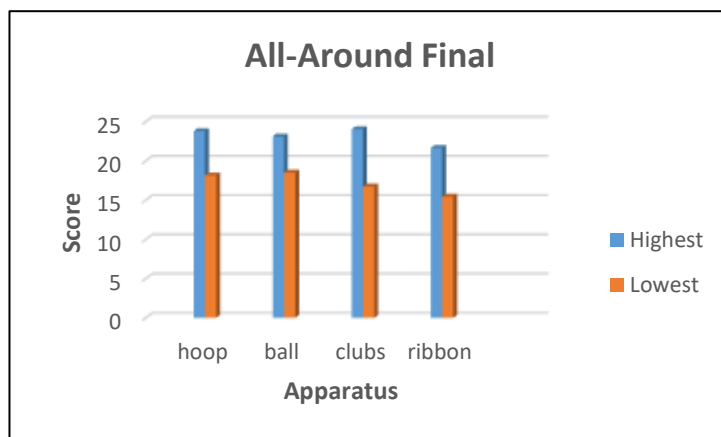
6. LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

Individual gymnasts

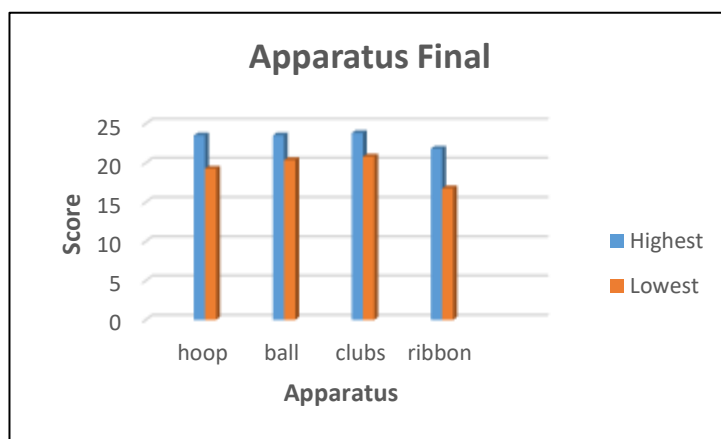
Competition	Apparatus	Score	
		Highest	Lowest
Qualification Competition with Team ranking	Hoop	23.650	5.350
	Ball	23.700	3.850
	Clubs	24.250	6.500
	Ribbon	21.700	2.700



Competition	Apparatus	Score	Score
		Highest	Lowest
All-Around Final	Hoop	23.800	18.150
	Ball	23.100	18.500
	Clubs	24.050	16.750
	Ribbon	21.650	15.450



Competition	Apparatus	Score	Score
		Highest	Lowest
Apparatus Finals	Hoop	23.500	19.250
	Ball	23.500	20.350
	Clubs	23.800	20.800
	Ribbon	21.800	16.750

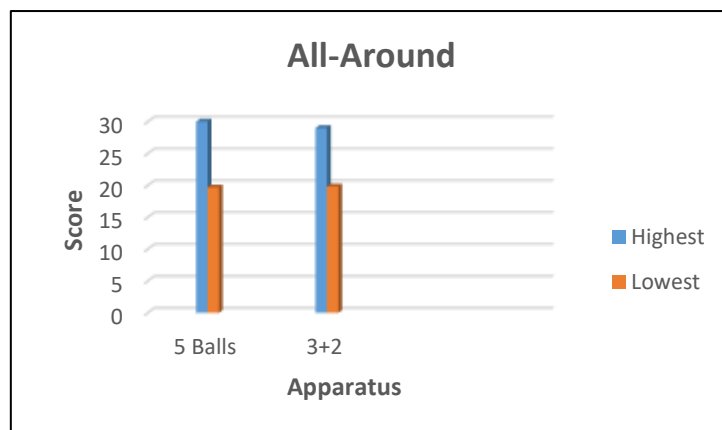


During Qualification competitions with Team ranking the significant difference in performance skills of gymnasts from different countries was logical. Level of highest scores in exercises with Hoop, Ball and Clubs were about the same; in exercises with Ribbon – slightly lower.

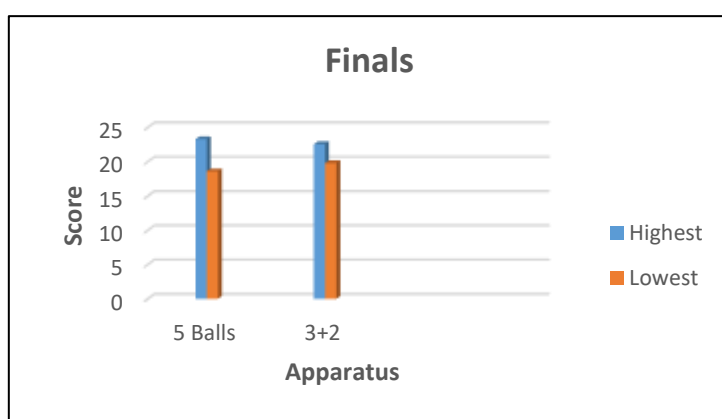
At All-Around competitions and Apparatus Finals the level of performance (level of scores) significantly increased compared with the previous World Championship 2018 because the skill of the gymnasts became more perfect, competitive exercises became more difficult in body elements and apparatus handling before the Olympic qualification competitions.

Group exercises

Competition	Apparatus	Score	
		Highest	Lowest
All-Around Final	5 Balls	30.000	19.675
	3 Hoops / 2 pairs Clubs	29.000	19.800



Competition	Apparatus	Score	Score
		Highest	Lowest
Finals	5 Balls	29.550	24.800
	3 Hoops / 2 pairs Clubs	29.450	26.250



Groups from 24 countries, participating in the World Championship 2019, showed different levels of composition with different levels of performance skills. The both exercises were very attractive.

At Group All-Around competitions and Finals, the level of performance (level of scores) significantly increased compared with the previous World Championship 2018 because the skill of the Group gymnasts became more perfect, competitive exercises became more difficult in body elements and apparatus handling during exchange and Collaborations.

7. JUDGING ACTIVITIES

In Individual Program 59 NFs participated (GER participated only in Group exercises; IND withdrew from the competitions).

7 NFs did not send to the WCh 2019 in Baku Individual judges:
AND, MKD, MNE (Europe); LBN, SRI (Asia); ANG, CVP (Africa).

FIG Executive Committee approved 7 judges, as additional members of Superior Jury and 4 Technical Execution Reference judges for Individual and Group competitions according to the following criteria:

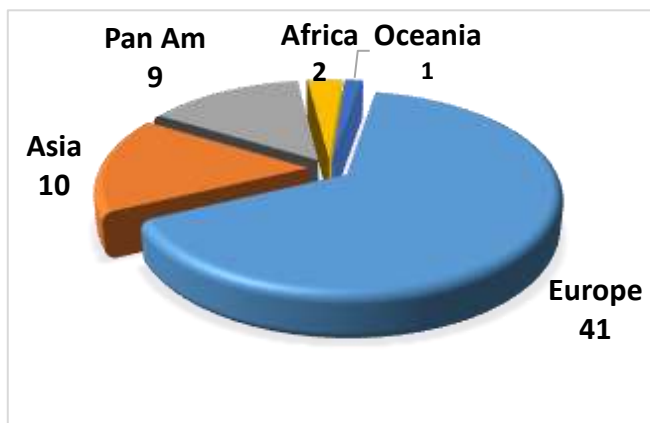
- exam results at judges' courses
- judges' Categories
- experience of judging at WCh 2018, JWCh 2019 and WCups 2018-2019

Were invited as Superior Jury: O. Suter (SUI), A. Milanesio (ARG), A. Mrozinska (POL), M. Avila Carvalho (POR) – Body Difficulty elements;
M. Bancheva (BEL) – Execution Artistry;
S. Pitkanen (FIN), M. Munos Sanchez (ESP) – Execution Technical;
B. Mlejnkova (CZE), V. Ataol (CAN), I. de Cossio (FRA), D. Halmu (AUS) – Technical Execution Reference.

Total 52 registered judges from NFs + 11 judges invited as Superior Jury.

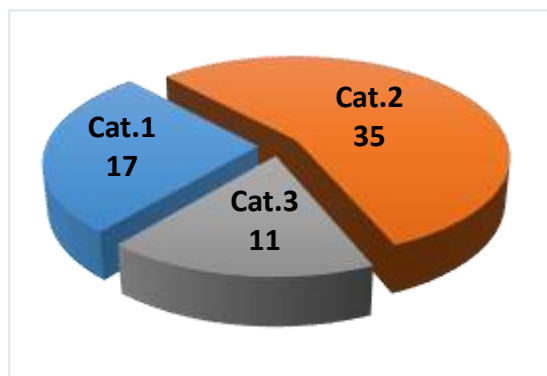
All registered from NFs Individual judges took part in judging during the World Championship.

Judges Distribution by Continents



Judges Distribution by Categories (52 registered judges from NFs + 11 judges invited as Superior Jury):

- Cat.1 - 17 judges**
- Cat.2 - 35 judges**
- Cat.3 - 11 judges**



At the WCh 2019 in Baku the number of judges with II Category increased by reducing the number of participating judges in the III Category.

Group Judges

In Group competitions 24 NFs participated.

Total 24 registered Group judges from NFs + 11 judges invited as Superior Jury.

All Group judges judged.

Group judges Distribution by Categories

- Cat.1 – 16 judges**
- Cat.2 – 19 judges**

World Championship has showed that now we have enough judges with high Brevet level I and II Categories for Individual and Group Competitions.

Judges' Review Session (Instruction) and Judges' Draw

The Individual Judges' Instruction took place in the presence of the FIG EC members Ron Galimore, Jesus Carballo Martinez and FIG Technical Coordinator Steve Butcher, who emphasized the importance of the judges' precision and objectivity at this World Championship.

The RG TC members presented a new format of PPTs where reviewed Difficulty (Body and Apparatus) together with Execution Technical Penalties through many video. Special attention was paid to the most difficult points of CoP.

Also, special attention and special PPTs with many video examples were presented to remind judges Artistic components of Execution.

Following the recommendations of FIG President RG TC organized 8 hours Judges Instructions for Individual Competitions and 4 hours for Groups (as before the previous World Championship), due to the necessity to clarify in details all points of CoP and to answer the questions judges submitted. The both Judges Instructions (Individual and Group) were good organized. I thank all TC Members for preparation of all materials for Judges Instructions.

Every day before the start of the competitions there were judges` briefings where the most typical misunderstandings of some points of CoP from the previous day were clarified; also there were discussions and answers to questions of judges.

Judges` Draw for RGI D-judges (Qualification competitions with Team ranking) was organized before the Judges Instructions.

Judges` Draw for RGI D-judges (All-Around competitions) was organized before the competitions. Only judges, who showed professional and objective judging in Qualification competitions, were admitted to All-Around competitions.

Judges` Draw for RGI E-judges, Time/Line-judges was organized before each phase of the Competitions.

Judges` Draw for RGI Finals was organized before Finals; only neutral judges took part in this Draw.

Judges` Draw for RGG D-judges was organized before the Judges Instructions.

Judges` Draw for RGG E-judges, Time/Line-judges was organized before the Competitions.

Judges` Draw for RGG Finals was organized before Finals; only neutral judges took part in this Draw.

The FIG EC members Ron Galimore, Jesus Carballo Martinez and FIG Technical Coordinator Steve Butcher presented at all Draws.

The Judges' Draw procedures were well prepared and carried-out efficiently. The priority was given to the highest Categories according to the current FIG Rules.

The TC thanks FIG RG Sports Manager Sylvie Martinet for her responsibility and professionalism in support of the TC during judges' Draw procedure.

Assessment of the Judging

In general, the judging at the RG World Championships Baku 2019 was satisfactory. Majority of judges showed competence and objectivity.

The rules for blocking of scores outside the tolerated difference between judges and SJ was applied. Scores outside tolerance were reviewed according to the regulations.

Unfortunately, there were many blocked scores, what requires detailed study and discussions.

Taking into account the difficulties of judging during the last main competitions (JWCh 2019, WCups 2019) and following the recommendations of EC (meeting August 2019), there was organized monitoring of judges work to improve judging during the 2019 World Cup in Baku.

For this purpose, a Monitoring Group was formed to watch in real time all the scores set by judges. Panel judges' and Supervisors who had an undisclosed number of scores/deductions out of range, were warned. Receiving a warning at this World Championships was a serious matter, however, as mentioned by FIG President Mr. Morinari Watanabe, it was for educational purposes.

Inquiries

Individual Competitions:

Qualifications with Team ranking – 12 inquiries (4 accepted, 8 rejected)

Apparatus Final - 4 inquiries (all rejected)

All-Around Final - 13 inquiries (3 accepted, 10 rejected)

Group Competitions:

General Competition - 11 inquiries (all rejected)

Finals - 1 inquiry (rejected)

Post competition review was carried out according to the regulations with the FIG Technical Coordinator Steve Butcher.

8. LONGINES-IRCOS scoring & video system

On behalf of the RG TC, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the IRCOS and the Longines teams for their friendly attitude and professional collaboration.

9. VENUE AND APPARATUS CONTROL

❖ **Venue:** The presence of Apparatus Commissioner, Mr. Ludwig Schweizer, was very important and the RG TC would like to thank him for his cooperation and availability to help, also thanks for the excellent detailed report that he provided to TC.

Control of all floors in the training halls and the field of play was according to all FIG regulatory documents.

There was a regular daily inspection of all floors in the training and competition halls.

Floors' control was coordinated with the representative of the RG TC.

❖ **Training schedule:** RG TC thanks LOC Event Manager Natalya Bulanova and FIG Sports Events Manager Eunice Lebre for collaboration in preparing the comfortable training schedule for all participants.

❖ **Podium Training:** was very well organized and took place according to the timetable.

❖ **Apparatus Control:** was held professionally and accurately during podium training and before competitions according to FIG Rules under RG TC control.

All handling apparatus (n=810) were controlled at the special measurement station at the side of the final warm-up floor.

All handling apparatuses were checked for correct weight, dimensions and logo.

10. MEETINGS WITH HEAD OF DELEGATIONS AND COACHES

President FIG Morinari Watanabe organized meetings with coaches from 5 Top Countries in Individual competitions (18 September) and Round Table with Head of NFs (19 September). Many points of discussion were opened but mainly propositions were for the next CoP 2021-2024.

11. CONCLUSION

- 1) The World Championship showed and what was pointed by the FIG President Mr. Morinari Watanabe (Official Communication, 6 September 2019) "...the level of gymnasts has dramatically improved over the past year but judges have not followed the pace..." and not all of them are able to evaluate gymnasts on a high professional level.

In this case the following actions are necessary to do in this cycle:

- to improve education of judges during official FIG competitions
- to make stricter control over the work of judges during official FIG competitions

- to increase the responsibility of Technical Delegates for the World/Challenge Cups 2020
- to select the best judges for judging WCups 2020 as Superior Jury based not so much on the Exams results of Judges' Courses at the beginning of the current Olympic cycle, but also to take into account their experience and quality of judging at World/Challenge Cups 2018-2019.

2) Current CoP 2017-2020 was prepared by RG TC based on proposals of NFs, coaches, judges and under the leadership of the FIG Academy. One requirement of the FIG Academy during preparation of the current CoP was to follow general principles and format for all Olympic Gymnastics disciplines.

Some propositions from NFs and some special characteristics of RG, some elements were not accepted.

After discussions with coaches from 5 Top Countries in Individual competitions (18 September) and Round Table with Head of NFs (19 September) about future of RG, I consider that it will be useful to organize a Symposium with the participation of representatives of the NFs, coaches where there will be discussions of the new RG CoP 2021-2024.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- RG TC congratulates all participating gymnasts and coaches for the successful 37th RG World Championship 2019 in Baku (AZE).
- RG TC congratulates all Individual gymnasts and Groups, their coaches and NOCs, who were qualified for the Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo and the World Games 2021 in Birmingham.
- RG TC worked conscientiously and effectively both in preparation and during this World Championship to ensure a fair, correct competitions. This work was a collective effort by the FIG leadership, the TC members, FIG staff and the National Federations to carry out this World Championship in as professional manner as possible.
- On behalf of the RG TC, I extend my sincere appreciation to President of Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, Vice-Presidents Mr. Azad Rahimov and Altay Hasanov, LOC Executive Director Mrs. Nurlana Mammadzada, also, Events Managers Mrs. Natalya Bulanova and Mariana Vasileva for the great job done with diligence and with all their hearts, which ensured the success of the Championship.
- Thanks to all local staff and volunteers for their hospitality and their dedication to a very successful event. Everyone fulfilled their responsibilities in a friendly manner and were ready to assist when needed.
- The RG TC is grateful for attention and constant support of the FIG President Mr. Morinari Watanade and FIG Secretary General Mr. Nicolas Buompane.
- RG TC thanks World Championship Jury of Appeal: Ron Galimore, Jesus Carballo Martinez for their support during the competitions.
- I appreciate to EC members and FIG office staff, who worked during the competitions as Monitoring Group and supported to organize objective and correct Olympic Qualification.
- The RG TC is entirely grateful to the FIG staff members for their constant professional work: Ms. Sylvie Martinet – RG Sports Manager, Ms. Eunice Lebre – Sports Manager, Ms. Claudia Schoensleben, as well as Ms. Vilma Ruffini – Media and Television Manager. Also, I thank the Technical Coordinator Mr. Steve Bucher.

- RG TC thanks the RG Athlete Representative Liubou Charkashyna for her active and continuous feedback with the athletes during the competitions and team work with RG TC before and during the Championships.
- Thanks to the World Champion Yana Batyrshina - Ambassador during the World Championship in Baku.
- I warmly thank the RG TC members for their conscientious cooperation and team work during the World Championships.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nataliya Kuzmina', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nataliya Kuzmina
President FIG/TC-RG

22 October 2019