

2018 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships

Antwerp, Belgium: 13th – 15th April

By Ms Rosy Taeymans, President Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee



World Championships

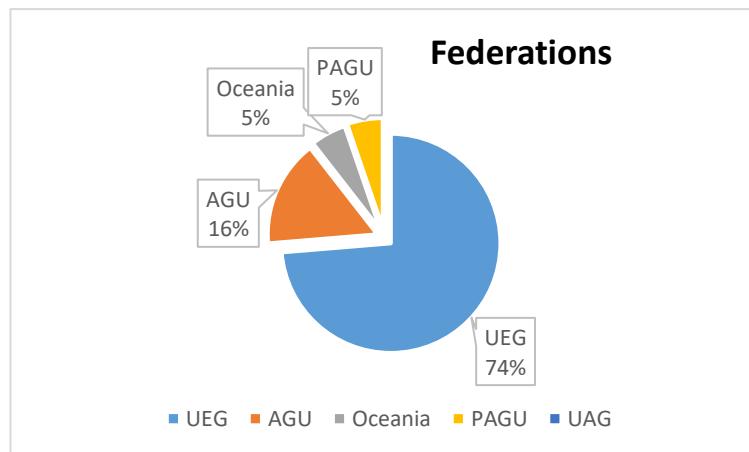
1. Participation in qualification.

The Programme consisted of the following competitions – preliminary and finals.

The participation can be summarised as follows:

By continent:

Continent	Federations	%
Europe	14	74
PAGU	1	5
Asia	3	16
Oceania	1	5
Africa	0	0
Total	19	



From the 19 federations:

Three (3) were registered with all five disciplines; CHN, RUS, UKR

Four (4) were registered with four disciplines; BEL, GER, ISR, POR

Seven (7) were registered with three disciplines; BLR, ESP, GBR, KAZ, NED, POL, USA

Four (4) were registered with two disciplines; AUS, AZE, FRA, PKR

One (1) was registered with one discipline; AUT

Number of partnerships / units per event

Discipline	Women's Pair	Men's Pair	Mixed Pair	Women's Group	Men's Group	Total units
Senior	9	14	16	20	9	68

As you can see above, the most popular discipline at this competition was the Women's Group followed by Mixed Pair.

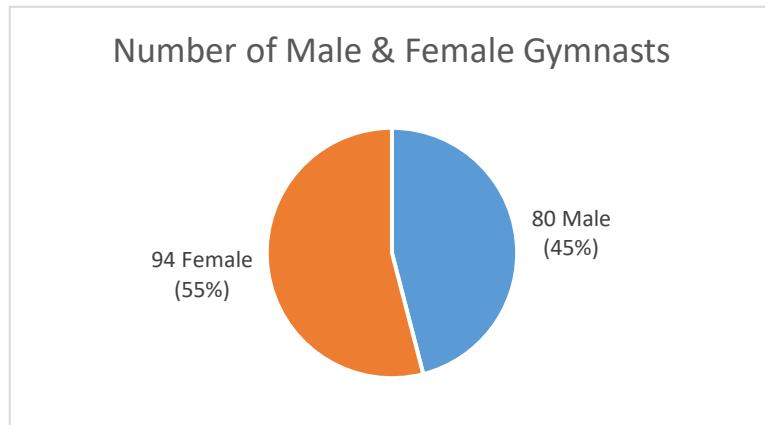
The number of gymnasts can be seen in the following table:

Number of gymnasts

Discipline	Women's Pair	Men's Pair	Mixed Pair	Women's Group	Men's Group	Total
Senior	18	28	32	60	36	174

Number of Male gymnasts = 80

Number of female gymnasts = 94



2. Participation in the qualifications and finals.

Number of federations in each discipline in the qualifications:

Discipline	Women's Pair	Men's Pair	Mixed Pair	Women's Group	Men's Group
Senior	8	12	13	17	7

The participation in the finals can be summarised as follows:

Continent	Federations	%
Europe	11	68.75
PAGU	1	6.25
Asia	4	25.00
Oceania	0	0
Africa	0	0
Total	16	

3. Medal Distribution for all around final by participating Federations.

Medal distribution by Federations across the WCH

Federation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
RUS	4		1	5
ISR	1		1	2
PRK		2		2
BLR		2		2
CHN		1	1	2
BEL			1	1
GBR			1	1

Medal distribution by continent

Continent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Europe	5	2	4	11
Asia	0	3	1	4

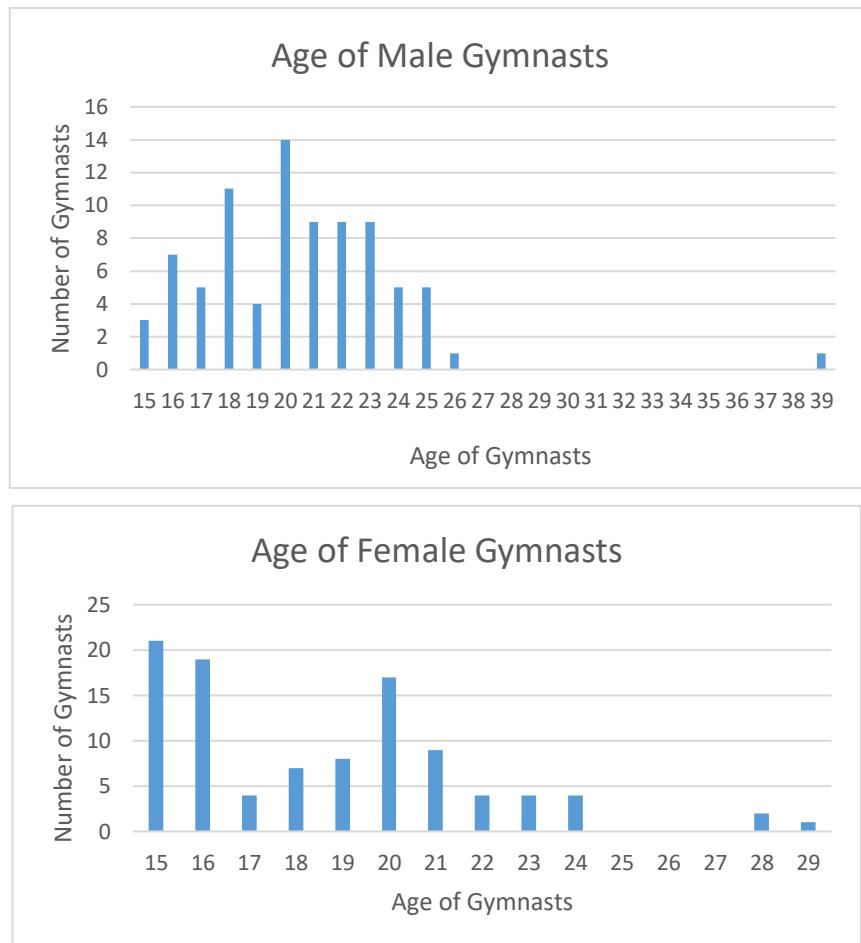
Team results:

Rank	NOC Code	Points
1 st	RUS	57
2 nd	ISR	49
3 rd	BLR	49
4 th	CHN	47
5 th	POR	43
6 th	BEL	41
7 th	NED	40
8 th	UKR	39
9 th	GER	36
10 th	KAZ	17

4. Age of the gymnasts

Competing gymnasts: (n = 183)

Year of birth	No of gymnasts	%
1979	1	0.5
1989	1	0.5
1990	2	1
1991	0	0
1992	1	0.5
1993	5	3
1994	9	5
1995	13	7
1996	13	7
1997	18	10
1998	31	17
1999	12	6.5
2000	18	10
2001	9	5
2002	26	14
2003	24	13
Total	183	



- Average age of all gymnasts = 19.43 years
- Average age of male gymnasts = 20.48 years
- Average age of female gymnasts = 18.55 years

5. Level of performance

Qualifications:

Highest score – 90.55

Lowest score – 71.245

Discipline: Mixed Pair

Discipline: Women's Group

Final

Highest score – 30.64

Discipline: Mixed Pair

Lowest score – 26.33

Discipline: Mixed Pair

Comparison of the highest and lowest score – all five disciplines in qualifications

Senior	Highest score	Lowest score
Women's Pair	85.95	79.295
Men's Pair	85.725	75.37
Mixed Pair	90.55	71.81
Women's Group	86.99	71.245
Men's Group	89.29	78.01

The Extreme Difficulty, Execution and Artistry Scores in qualifications were as follows:

Balance Exercise

	Difficulty Highest	Difficulty Lowest	Execution Highest	Execution Lowest	Artistry Highest	Artistry Lowest
Women's Pair	2.32	0.84	18.10	15.80	9.225	8.35
Men's Pair	2.59	0.97	18.00	15.00	9.025	8.25
Mixed Pair	3.25	0.77	18.30	16.45	9.025	8.30
Women's Group	2.69	0.55	18.30	14.80	9.15	8.05
Men's Group	3.24	1.19	18.20	15.80	9.50	8.20

Dynamic Exercise

	Difficulty Highest	Difficulty Lowest	Execution Highest	Execution Lowest	Artistry Highest	Artistry Lowest
Women's Pair	1.98	0.82	18.60	16.60	9.00	8.50
Men's Pair	1.74	0.94	17.90	15.80	9.15	8.15
Mixed Pair	3.06	0.93	18.15	15.20	9.20	8.15
Women's Group	2.04	0.79	17.80	13.70	9.05	7.80
Men's Group	3.15	1.42	17.80	16.65	9.35	8.50

Combined Exercise

	Difficulty Highest	Difficulty Lowest	Execution Highest	Execution Lowest	Artistry Highest	Artistry Lowest
Women's Pair	2.57	1.18	18.35	16.90	9.15	8.40
Men's Pair	2.82	1.69	18.00	15.70	9.15	8.10
Mixed Pair	3.29	0.93	18.00	15.30	9.10	8.05
Women's Group	3.01	1.02	17.80	15.35	9.00	8.05
Men's Group	3.83	1.08	18.10	15.80	9.35	8.25

The Extreme Difficulty, Execution and Artistry Scores in the finals were as follows:

Combined (Final) Exercise

	Difficulty Highest	Difficulty Lowest	Execution Highest	Execution Lowest	Artistry Highest	Artistry Lowest
Women's Pair	2.72	1.68	18.50	16.80	9.15	8.55
Men's Pair	2.82	1.22	18.00	15.90	9.15	8.65
Mixed Pair	3.29	1.43	18.30	16.50	9.35	8.40
Women's Group	3.01	1.14	18.20	17.10	9.15	8.55
Men's Group	3.83	2.09	18.10	16.80	9.50	8.70

Height deductions:

In the whole competition only one pair received a height deduction of 0,5 per exercise and this was in the mixed pair event.

6. Judging Activities

Judges' Review Session (Instruction)

For the judges instruction (as at the World Games which was the first Championships of the new cycle), the Acro TC used well prepared power points for E and A judging. These included short video clips of elements and deductions from the COP were identified. The judges watched the clips and then gave their deductions, by the rules, which they then could check against those provided during the instruction.

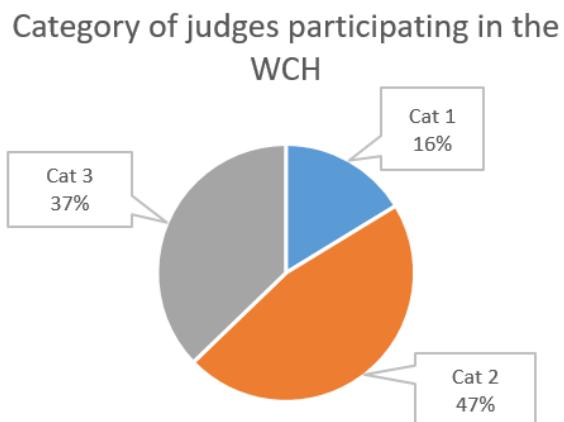
Judges' Draw

The judges draw commenced before for the qualifications took place in the morning and the afternoon before the sessions started and they were conducted professionally and efficiently.

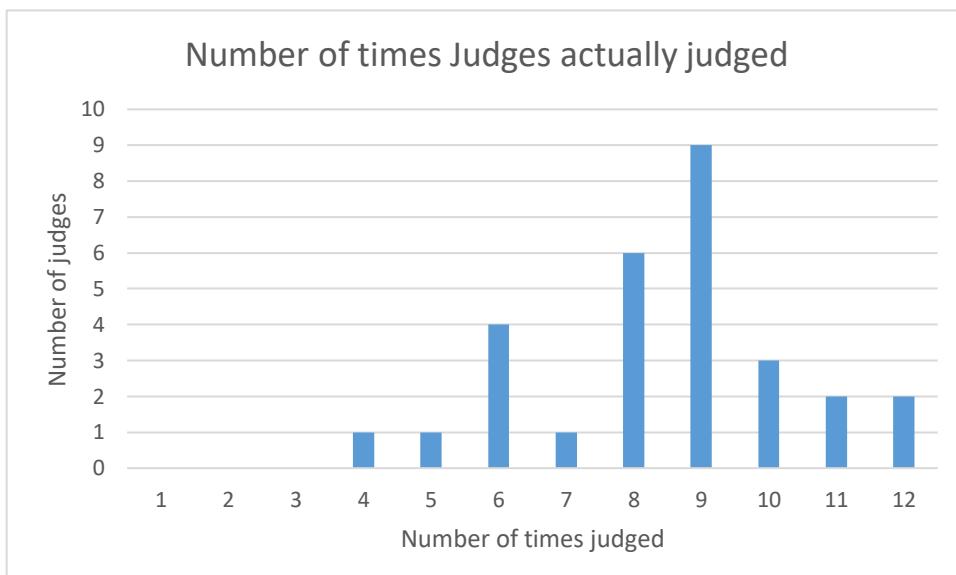
For the finals, the draws only included independent judges and the draws took place immediately before the respective final.

- Number of judges and Federations – Eighteen (n = 18) Federations out of 19 NF were represented by forty three (n = 43) judges.
- Eight (n = 8) federations were represented by Reference judges.
- Categories of the 43 Judges

Category of Judge	Number of Judges
Cat 1	7
Cat 2	20
Cat 3	16



The minimum number of times a judge evaluated an exercise was four (including line / time). The following graph summarises the number of times judges actually judges over the whole WCH event.



Assessment of the judging

D Panel

The D judges were very consistent and they correctly applied the same criteria to evaluate the performances of the gymnasts.

E, A and R panels

The Acro TC carried out an evaluation of the exercises of each discipline and for all competition phases. This evaluation led to the following outcomes:

- The objectivity and quality of the work of the judges is to be commended and the judges were reviewed according to the regulations.
- There were only a few interventions of the reference score in all phases of the competition.

Judges Placement

Thanks to the seating position for the judges outside the FOP, the view to evaluate the routines was excellent.

There were **no** inquiries at all during the competition.

7. Venue and Apparatus

The WCH took place in two adjacent venues in Antwerp – the training and warm-up hall was held in the Sport Palace and the competition was held in the Lotto Arena. The venues were linked by a heated and lit passage for ease of access by the gymnasts.

Checking of all the equipment was made on 10th April at 9:00 a.m. All the equipment was assembled and ready for use. To ensure all health and safety aspects had been considered the FIG's Apparatus norms were considered at the time of inspection.

The apparatus was supplied by Janssen – Fritsen and consisted of five gymnastics floors (identical to artistic gymnastic floors) covered with blue fabric. Four floors were in the warm-up hall along with three landing mats (for men's group balance and combined exercises should they be required). In addition to this, music accompaniment was available at the 4th floor and magnesium carbonate provided in special bowls adjacent to all floor areas.

The fifth floor was situated in the competition hall (Lotto Arena) and was installed on an 80cm high podium. The 'catwalk' to the floor area, 'kiss and cry zone' and 'awarding ceremony' zone were also located on the podium.

Podium training took place over two days prior to the start of the competition to allow the gymnasts time to orientate themselves to the competition environment.

The Acro TC would like to express their gratitude to:

- The Janssen-Fritsen technical team for their continual availability and assistance during the event.
- The Royal Belgian Gymnastics Federation and Gymnastics Federation Flanders organising committee who did all their best to support the FIG, Acro TC and Federations during the championships.

IRCOS Video Systems / Longines

On behalf of the Acro TC, I extend my sincere and deepest thanks to the IRCOS and Swiss Timing teams for their friendly attitude and professional collaboration. As usual, it was a pleasure to work with them.

Medical Staff

We are very thankful to the entire medical team who carried out their duties in a professional, well organised, friendly and responsive manner.

8. Conclusion and Thanks

Thanks go to the Royal Belgian Gymnastics Federation and the LOC of Gymnastics Federation Flanders for hosting the event and doing an amazing job in all aspects of the competition and organisation. Special thanks go to Lode Grossen for his commitment, support and encouragement.

Thanks must also go to the staff and volunteers who did a fantastic job in running the event. The Acro TC extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation in particular to Ilse Arys and Jean Herrel of the LOC, and the rest of their team for their professional and cooperative work.

The Acro TC would also like to convey their gratitude to the FIG Office, especially Mr. Rui Vinagre and Ms. Terhi Toivanen, for their support and to Jani Tanskanen and Al-Tabba Mouhammed Youssef for acting as members of the jury of appeal.

The Acro TC would like to thank Eline de Smedt and Nikki Snel from Belgium for serving as Ambassadors for the competition.

Special thanks go to the Athlete Representative Ms May Miller for her dedication and attitude towards the gymnasts at the event and her introduction of social media in promoting acrobatics across the gymnastic community and gaining feedback from the athletes during the event.

Finally, I would like to thank my Technical Committee members for their commitment and professional work in our team work during the entire World Championships and World Age Group Competitions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosy Taeymans
President FIG Acrobatics Technical Committee



With the statistical assistance of **Karl Wharton**,
TC member and Secretary.

