



**36<sup>th</sup> WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 – Sofia (BUL)**

**Rhythmic Technical Committee “Report”**

By Mrs Nataliya Kuzmina, President of the Rhythmic Technical Committee

**Program of Individual Competitions:**

- a. Qualifications with Team ranking
- b. All-Around Final
- c. Apparatus 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 – 157**

**Number of Groups - 36**

**Number of Group gymnasts – 205**

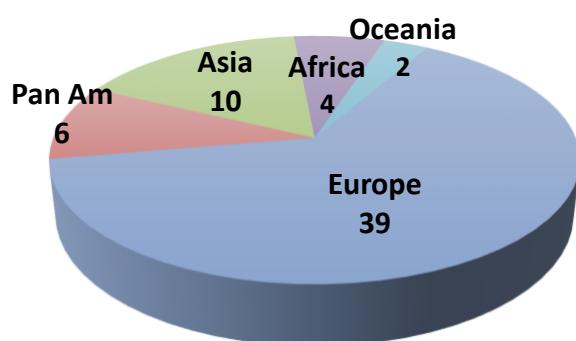
**Total number of gymnasts - 362**

**INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

**a. Individual Qualification Competition with Team ranking**

**Countries by Continent**

- Europe: 39
- Pan Am: 6
- Asia: 10
- Africa: 4
- Oceania: 2



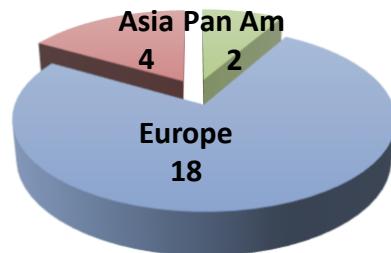
At the Championship in Individual program took part a record number of participating NOCs and gymnasts in last years, which indicates the successful development of RG in the world.

RG TC notes that all 5 Continents took part in the World Championship in Individual program. Increase of participating countries were from Europe, Pan Am, Asia and Africa. The positive moment was participation of both Oceania countries (AUS, NZL).



## b. All-Around Final Gymnasts by Continent

- Europe: 18 (RUS-2, UKR-2, BUL-2, ITA-2, ISR-2, BLR-2, GRE, SLO, GEO, AZE, FRA, AUT)
- Asia: 4 (JPN-2, UZB, KAZ)
- Pan Am: 2 (USA-2)



**Note:** The TC remarks that the European gymnasts still prevail in the Individual Program although there is progress in preparation of gymnasts from other Continents: Pan Am (USA), Asia (JPN).

TC also remarks the high level of preparation and performance from all the countries and gymnasts in the top 24. The current CoP increases stability in Difficulty Evaluation, provides reasonable balance between Difficulty and Execution components in the Final score.

CoP opens up great prospects for each individual gymnast. It stimulates a multilateral realization of gymnasts' abilities, giving more creative opportunities to gymnasts, coaches and choreographers. The requirements of the current CoP allow using a wide variety of Rhythmic Gymnastics expressive means.

Competition programs have become 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.

All this is sure to make Rhythmic Gymnastics competitions more entertaining but meanwhile, in the future it is necessary to pay special attention to the Artistic component in Execution of the exercises.

## c. Apparatus Finals Countries by Continent

- Europe: 7 (RUS, UKR, BLR, BUL, ITA, GEO, ISR)
- Asia: 1 (JPN)

**Note:** Gymnasts from 8 countries took part in Apparatus Final Competitions.

All individual apparatus finalists, with just one exception in one final (Ribbon – JPN), were from Europe.

Gymnasts from 4 countries (RUS, ITA, ISR, BLR) have won medals.

## GROUP COMPETITIONS

The Championship in Sofia was the first for any FIG discipline to allow gymnasts to qualify directly to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, as the medal-winning nations in the Group All-Around competition were earn automatic berths for Tokyo 2020. Other nations will have additional chances to qualify at competitions in 2019 and 2020.

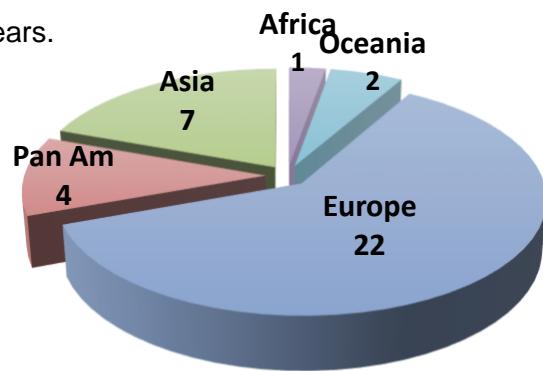


## a. General Competition – All-Around ranking

36 countries participated in Group competitions.  
It is a record number of participating NOCs in last years.

### Countries by Continent

- Europe: 22
- Pan Am: 4
- Asia: 7
- Africa: 1
- Oceania: 2



RG TC notes that all 5 Continents took part in the World Championship in Group Program.  
Increase of participating countries were from Europe and Asia. The positive fact - that for the first time from Oceania participated two countries: AUS and NZL.

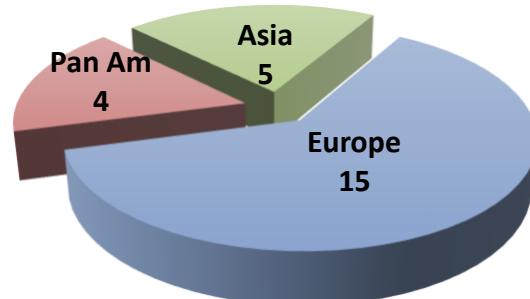
Groups RUS, ITA, BUL have won medals in All-Around Competitions.

## First Olympic qualification

Groups from Russia, Italy and Bulgaria qualified for the Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo.

24 best Groups from 3 Continents qualified to World Championship 2019.

- Europe : 15 (RUS, ITA, BUL, UKR, BLR, AZE, FRA, FIN, GER, EST, ISR, POL, HUN, ESP, GRE)
- Asia : 5 (JPN, CHN, UZB, PRK, KAZ)
- Pan Am : 4 (MEX, USA, BRA, CAN)



**Note:** The Technical Committee notes with satisfaction the increased numbers of qualified countries within the top 24 Groups in the world from the Continental Unions of ASIA and PAN AM due to notable technical progress.

## 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: 8 (ITA, RUS, BUL, UKR, BLR, AZE, FRA, ESP)
- Asia: 1 (JPN)

Gymnasts from 5 countries (BUL, JPN, ITA, RUS, UKR) have won medals.

**Note:** The level of performance of all Groups was enough high. Competition Program became more dynamic and spectacular due to a wider range of elements to be used, original collaboration among the gymnasts with difficult apparatus handling, choice of various musical themes, interpretations and images through motion. All this allowed the competitions among the Groups to be more attractive.

## 2. MEDAL DISTRIBUTION

Rank	NOC	Individual Total	Group Total	Total	Rank by Total
1	RUS	10	2	12	1
2	ITA	3	3	6	2
3	BUL	1	2	3	=3
4	ISR	3		3	=3
5	BLR	1		1	=5
5	JPN		1	1	=5
7	UKR		1	1	=5

**Note:** During competitions 7 countries got medals.

ITA, ISR and UKR increased the number of won medals in comparison with the World Championship 2017. Technical Committee looks forward to increased competition for medals in the future in Individual Program and Groups.

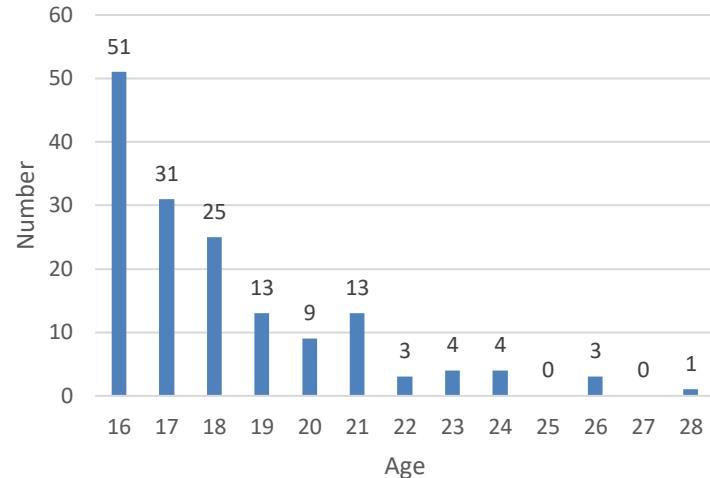


### 3. AGE OF THE GYMNASTS

#### Registered Individual Gymnasts: 157

Age	Birth Year	Number	%
16	2002	51	32,5
17	2001	31	19,7
18	2000	25	15,9
19	1999	13	8,3
20	1998	9	5,8
21	1997	13	8,3
22	1996	3	1,9
23	1995	4	2,5
24	1994	4	2,5
26	1992	3	1,9
28	1990	1	0,7

#### Ages of Registered Individual Gymnasts



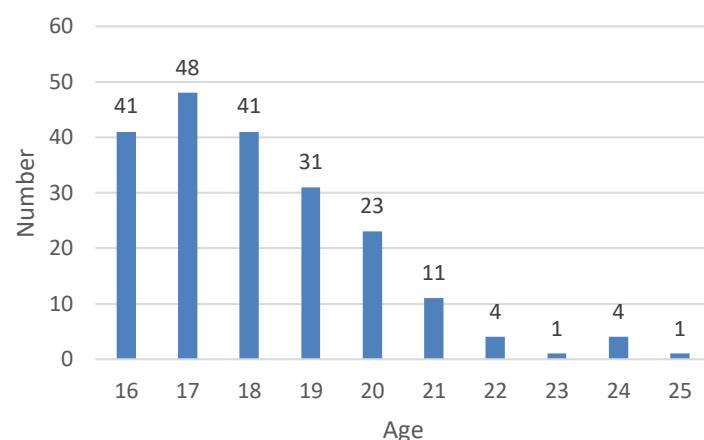
The most common age was 16-18, with 107 gymnasts (68,7% of overall).

The average age of all registered Individual gymnasts was 18,2 (not changed from the last World Championship).

#### Registered Group Gymnasts: 205

Age	Birth Year	Number	%
16	2002	41	20,0
17	2001	48	23,4
18	2000	41	20,0
19	1999	31	15,1
20	1998	23	11,1
21	1997	11	5,4
22	1996	4	2,0
23	1995	1	0,5
24	1994	4	2,0
25	1993	1	0,5

#### Ages of Registered Group Gymnasts



The most common age was 16-19, with 161 gymnasts (78,5% of overall).

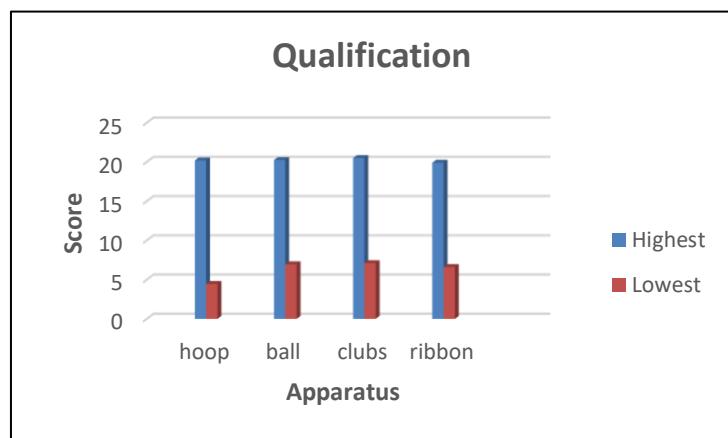
The average age of all registered Group gymnasts was 18,2 (not changed from the last World Championship).



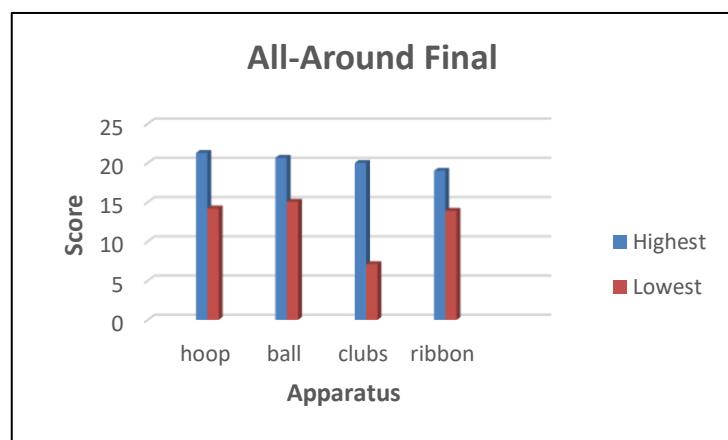
## 4. LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

### Individual gymnasts

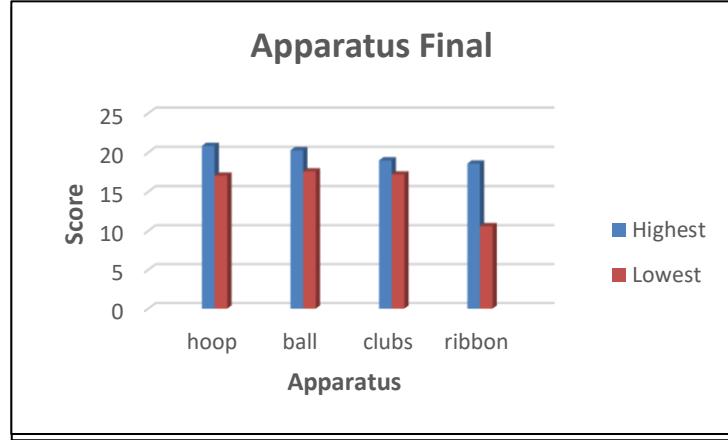
Competition	Apparatus	Score	
		Highest	Lowest
Qualification Competition with Team ranking	<b>Hoop</b>	20,200	4,450
	<b>Ball</b>	20,250	6,950
	<b>Clubs</b>	20,500	7,100
	<b>Ribbon</b>	19,900	6,600



All-Around Final	<b>Hoop</b>	21,275	14,200
	<b>Ball</b>	20,650	15,050
	<b>Clubs</b>	20,800	14,500
	<b>Ribbon</b>	19,000	13,900



Apparatus Final	<b>Hoop</b>	20,850	17,050
	<b>Ball</b>	20,300	17,600
	<b>Clubs</b>	19,000	17,200
	<b>Ribbon</b>	18,600	10,600



During Qualification competitions with Team ranking the significant difference in performance skills of gymnasts from different countries was logical.

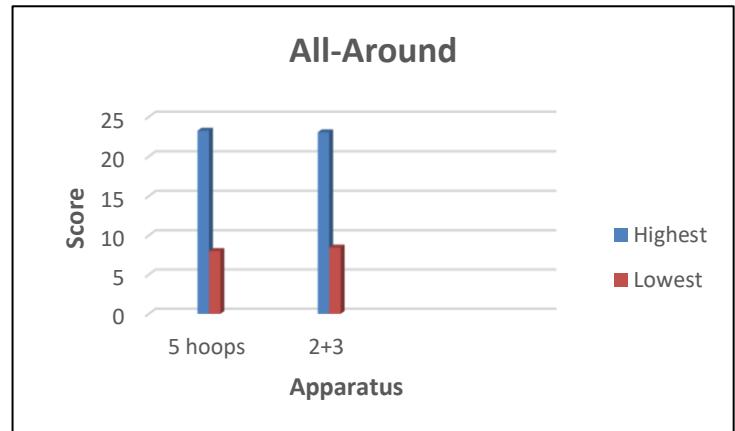
Level of highest scores in exercises with Hoop, Ball and Clubs were about the same; in exercises with Ribbon – slightly lower.



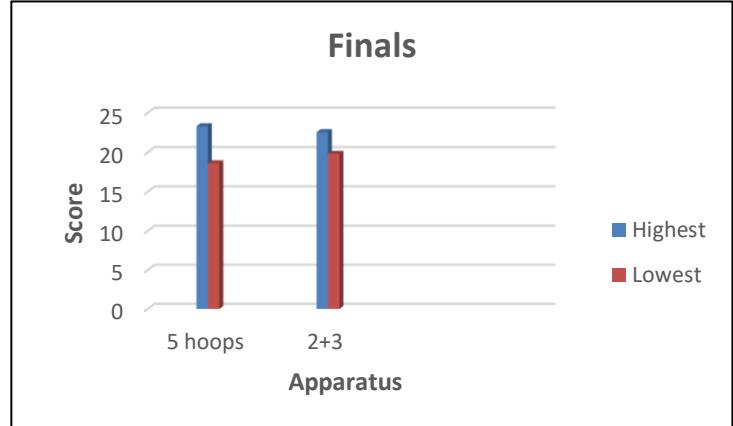
At All-Around competitions and Apparatus Finals the level of performance (level of scores) did not change compared with the previous World Championship 2017: the highest scores were in exercises with Hoop, lowest – in exercises with Ribbon.

## Group exercises

Competition	Apparatus	Score	
		Highest	Lowest
General Competition – All-Around ranking	5 Hoops	23,250	8,000
	2 Ropes/ 3 Balls	23,050	8,450



Finals	5 Hoops	23,300	18,600
	2 Ropes/ 3 Balls	22,550	19,800



Groups from 36 countries, participating in the World Championship, showed different levels of composition with different levels of performance skills. The most attractive exercises were with 5 Hoops; the highest score was registered in this exercise. At the same time the Groups made many mistakes in exercises with 5 Hoops (lowest level of score was in this exercise).



## 5. JUDGING ACTIVITIES

In Individual Program 60 NFs participated (SUI participated only in Group exercises).

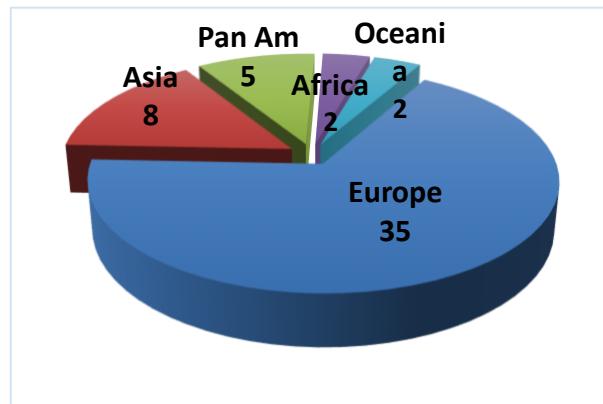
**Total 52 Judges.**

8 Countries – without Individual judges:

CHI (PAGU); CZE, MNE, SVK (Europe); LBN, MAS, PRK, SRI (Asia).

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

**Judges Distribution by Continents**

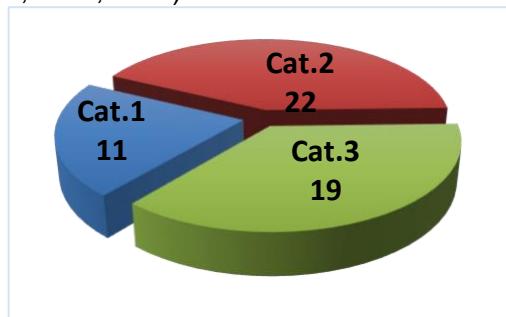


**Judges Distribution by Categories**

**Cat.1** - 11 judges (BEL, BUL, FRA, GEO, GER, MEX, NOR, POR, RUS, SRB, UKR)

**Cat.2** - 22 judges (AZE, BLR, BRA, CAN, CRO, CYP, ESP, FIN, GRE, HUN, IND, ISR, ITA, JPN, KAZ, MDA, POL, ROU, SLO, SMR, USA, UZB)

**Cat.3** - 19 judges (AND, ARM, AUS, AUT, BIH, CHN, DEN, EGY, EST, GBR, KGZ, KOR, LAT, LTU, NZL, PUR, RSA, THA, TUR)





## Group Judges

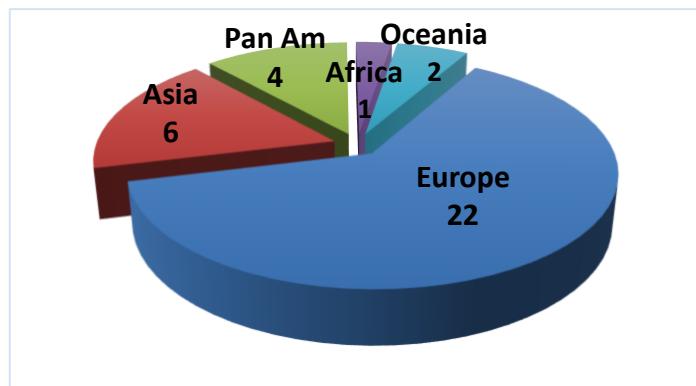
In Group competitions 36 NFs participated.

**Total 35 Judges.**

1 Country – without Group Judge: DEN (Europe)

All Group judges judged (except 2 countries from Europe: AZE, BUL) due to increasing amount of National federations and limited number of judging panels, as in Groups there were only 2 panels of judges.

**Judges Distribution by Continents**

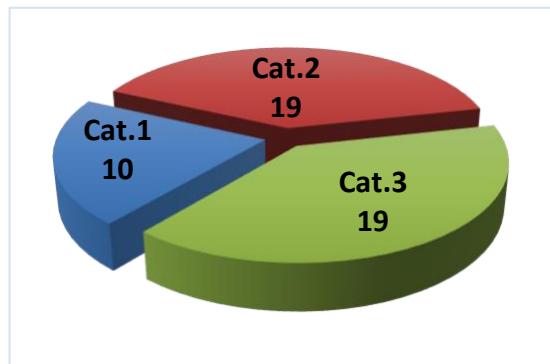


**Judges Distribution by Categories**

**Cat.1 – 10 judges** (CAN, EGY, FIN, FRA, ITA, KOR, MEX, RUS, UKR, USA)

**Cat.2 – 19 judges** (AUT, AZE, BLR, BRA, BUL, CHN, ESP, EST, GER, GRE, HUN, ISR, JPN, NZL, POL, SLO, SUI, TUR, UZB)

**Cat.3 – 19 judges** (AUS, CZE, GEO, KAZ, PRK, SRB)



Executive Committee approved 7 best judges, as members of Superior Jury and 4 Reference judges, according to Category, experience, exams results.

RG TC thanks judges invited as part of the Superior Jury and Reference judges for their hard work and concentration over a long competition.

**Note:** *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 new format of PPTs where reviewed Difficulty (Body and Apparatus) together with Execution Technical Penalties through many videos. 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.

For judges' education it was very useful to publish before the World Championship the "Newsletter 1" (Questions from judges concerning CoP & RG TC Answers) and "Newsletter 2" with a focus on Artistic components with a video link.

Also, all materials from the RG Reform Project meetings, which were led by FIG President Morinari Watanabe, were very useful for Judges' Instruction.

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. 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 and RGG D-judges was organized before the Judges Instructions. Judges' Draw for E-judges, Time/Line-judges was organized before each phase of the Competitions. Judges' Draw for 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 were present 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 this period.



## Assessment of the Judging

The Changes and Errata to the RG COP (1 February 2018) help to increase stability in Difficulty Evaluation, provide reasonable balance between Difficulty and Execution components in the Final score and finally bring more justice for the competitors. All CoP changes were made with an effort to minimize the amount of modifications necessary in the exercises of current gymnasts.

After the World Championship in Sofia TC made analysis of all differences in judges' scores and differences between judges' scores and Superior Jury scores. This analysis will be the base for continuation of judges' education.

Overall the judging at the World Championship in Sofia was satisfactory and the majority of judges showed competence, objectivity and correct application of the CoP.

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

### Individual Program

**Qualification with Team ranking:** 122 score blocks in 519 routines / 2076 scores, **5,9%**

**All-Around Final:** 4 score blocks in 96 routines / 384 scores, **1,04%**.

**Apparatus Final** – no block scores

### Groups

**General Competitions:** 14 blocks in 72 routines / 288 scores, **4,8%**.

**Finals:** 3 score block in 16 routines / 64 scores, **4,7%**.

### Inquiries

**Individual competitions** – 19 inquiries (12 accepted, 7 rejected)

**Group competitions** - 15 inquiries (7 accepted, 8 rejected)

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

### 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.

## 6. 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.  
RG TC checked training and competition halls.
  
- ❖ **Apparatus Control:** was held professionally and accurately during training and competition according to FIG Rules under TC control.  
A first time incident occurred during Qualification competition where gymnast used reserve apparatus (Ribbon) and reserve apparatus broke. Confirmation from Mr. Ludwig Schweizer that all apparatus was checked before start of competition.  
This situation will make TC think for future analysis in next COP.
- ❖ **Training schedule:** RG TC thanks Sports Events Manager, Eunice Lebre for her collaboration in preparing the training schedule
- ❖ **Podium Training:** was very well organized and took place on Timetable.



## **7. MEETINGS WITH GYMNASTS, HEAD OF DELEGATIONS AND COACHES**

❖ President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach attended RG World Championship in Sofia - All-Around Individual competitions (14 September). He appraised the high level of RG where gymnasts are not only known for flexibility but the high level of coordination and concentration between gymnast, apparatus and Music.

IOC President has held a meeting with the athletes and was very happy for the diversity and participation of many athletes from different countries/continents.

❖ President FIG Morinari Watanabe lead Round Table with Head of NFs (12 September), he discussed the importance of Artistry in our Sport and how RG Reform Project group is working on having Artistry is as important as Body Difficulty and Apparatus Difficulty.

Discussions were opened for opinion of NFs about 2024 Olympic Qualifications, New Format of World Championship in Individual program and World Championships in Groups. Also, there were discussions about Format of World Cups / Challenge Cups in RG.

❖ President FIG Morinari Watanabe organized meetings with coaches from 5 Top Courtiers in Individual competitions (12 September) and 5 Top Courtiers in Group competitions (15 September), many points of discussion were opened but mainly propositions for next CoP 2021-2024 and Format of World Championships.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- RG TC congratulates all participating gymnasts and coaches for the successful 36<sup>th</sup> RG World Championship 2018 in Sofia (BUL).
- 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 Bulgarian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation Mrs. Iliana Raeva, Vice-President and competition manager Mrs. Rossina Atanassova 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, constant support and feedback of the FIG President Mr. Morinari Watanabe, FIG Secretary General Mr. André Gueisbuhler, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Nicolas Buompane, FIG Technical Coordinator Mr. Steve Butcher.
- The RG TC is entirely grateful to the FIG staff members for their constant professional support: Ms. Sylvie Martinet – Sports Manager RG, Ms. Eunice Lebre – Sports Manager as well as Mr. Oliver Strelle - Communication and Marketing Director and the media team.
- RG TC thanks the EC members who were present as Jury of Appeal: Ron Galimore, Jesus Carballo Martinez for their support of RG during this competition.
- RG TC is proud of the participation of the Multiple World Champion Maria Petrova as Ambassador during the World Championship in Sofia.

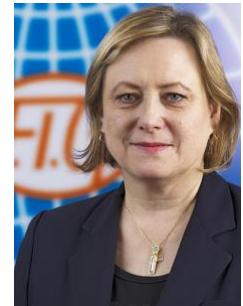
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- Also RG TC thanks the RG Athlete Representative Liubou Charkashyna for her active and continuous feedback with the athletes during the competition and team work before and during the Championship.
- I warmly thank the RG TC members for their conscientious cooperation and team work during the World Championship.

Respectfully submitted,



**Nataliya KUZMINA**  
RG TC President