

9th FIG AER Gymnastics World Age Group Competition 16th FIG AER Gymnastics World Championships

Competition Report Aerobic Gymnastics TC President

Preface

As the world pandemic is not yet settled, the Aerobic Gymnastics WAGC & WCH were held after 1-year of postpone. As the situation of each nation is different, it was very difficult to have many nations participating from all Continents. Also, the training environment for athletes in each country was different, this was a difficult event for everyone but with the incredible effort of the LOC, the event was held with a great success.

Date

WAGC: May 21-23, 2021

WCH: May 27-29, 2021

Location

Baku, AZE

Organization

Baku, the largest city in the world located below sea level, was the place for the 9th Aerobic Gymnastics World Age Group Competition and the 16th Aerobic Gymnastics World Championships. Due to the world pandemic, the event was postponed for 1-year. But with the effort of the Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation as LOC, this event became possible as they have been experienced in organizing many FIG events (World Championships, World Cups, International competitions) in various disciplines including Aerobic Gymnastics. We were very confident that the organization was under its control with great preparation of the venue during this difficult time.



Venue

MGA – Milli Gimnastika Arenasi (National Gymnastics Arena)
178 Heydar Aliyev Avenue
AZ1029 Baku, Azerbaijan

The MGA was officially opened in April 2014. It is the gymnastics specialized Arena with ability to stretch from 5,000 to 9,600 seats.

Apparatus

- Aerobic Gymnastics Floor: SPIETH Gymnastics, Ref. 254
- Steps: Venturelli, Ref. 218 (WCH only)

4 AER floors were provided, 3 for the training area and 1 for the competition hall. All of them are in good conditions and without any problems.



Halls & Rooms

To avoid any mixing of the federations training, the training layout has been amended.

Training hall

Training hall was in the same gymnasium with 3 aerobic competitions floors and one marked floor only for warm-up.



General warm up area

There were also mats provided for the general warm up.



Competition hall

Beautifully decorated competition venue with huge LED wall as a back panel for the competition floor with gymnasts' video, results, ranking were shown. Security and COVID-19 protocols were also very good.



Judge's meeting room

The room was also used for the Orientation meeting, Judges' Meeting, Medical Commission Round Table and the FIG AER-TC Round Table which were all held virtually with online. The room was used only for the Judges' Instruction (on competition days) and Judges' Draw.



TC meeting room

Provided at the arena with excellent conditions and maintenance, water, coffee, snacks and were equipped with all necessary devices.

Program

WAGC

Date	Program	Categories
5/18	Arrival	
19	Orientation Meeting / Training	
20	Judges' Instruction / Training	
21	Qualification Day-1	AG1: IM / TR / MP, AG2: IW / TR
22	Qualification Day-2	AG1: IW / GR, AG2: IM / GR / MP / AD
23	Final	All categories
24	Departure	

WCH

Date	Program	Categories
5/24	Arrival	
25	Orientation Meeting / Training	
26	Judges' Instruction / Training / Athletes' Election and Meeting	
27	Qualification Day-1	Q: TR / IW / AS
28	Qualification Day-2 Final	Q: MP / IM / AD / GR F: TR / IW / AS
29	AER TC Round Table / Medical and Anti-Doping fight Round Table Final	F: IM / MP / GR / AD
30	Departure	



Categories

Age Group 1: IM, IW, MP, TR, GR

Age Group 2: IM, IW, MP, TR, GR, AD

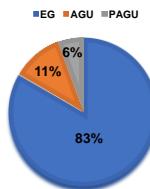
Senior: IM, IW, MP, TR, GR, AD, AS

Entries – WAGC

18 nations. 206 gymnasts. (EG; 15, AGU; 2, PAGU; 1)

No	Nation										
1	AUT	4	BUL	7	HUN	10	KAZ	13	POR	16	TUR
2	AZE	5	CZE	8	INA	11	LTU	14	ROU	17	UKR
3	BLR	6	FRA	9	ITA	12	MDA	15	RUS	18	USA

PARTICIPATED
CONTINENTS



Results – WAGC

Age Group 1

	RUS	BUL	HUN	POR	AZE	TOTAL
GOLD	5					5
SILVER	3	2				5
BRONZE			2	2	1	5
TOTAL	8	2	2	2	1	15

Age Group 2

	RUS	ROU	HUN	BUL	TOTAL
Gold	5	1			6
Silver	2	2	2		6
Bronze		2	2	2	6
TOTAL	7	5	4	2	18

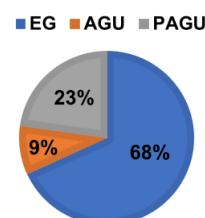
Entries – WCH

22 nations. 166 gymnasts. (EG: 15, AGU: 2, PAGU: 5)

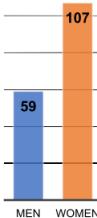
No	NATION	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
1	AZE	6	6	12
2	BRA	3	3	6
3	BUL	2	2	4
4	CHI	1	2	3
5	CZE		2	2
6	ESP	2	2	4
7	FIN		11	11
8	FRA	1	5	6
9	HUN	3	8	11
10	INA	1	2	3
11	ITA	8	8	16
12	LTU	2	5	7
13	MEX	1		1
14	PER		1	1
15	POR	4	9	13
16	RGF*	12	12	24
17	ROU	4	9	13
18	SVK		4	4
19	THA	2	3	5
20	TUR	4	2	6
21	UKR	3	10	13
22	USA		1	1
	TOTAL	59	107	166

* RGF: Russian Gymnastics Federation

PARTICIPATED
CONTINENT



GENDER





Results – WCH

	BUL	ITA	ROU	AZE	ESP	TUR	HUN	RGF	BRA	TOTAL
GOLD	1	1	1	1	1	1				6
SLIVER	1						3	2		6
BRONZE		1	1				1	2	1	6
TOTAL	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	4	1	18

For the Aerobic Step category, there were only 3 entries. As per FIG Technical Regulation, Art. 9.3.2, there was no medal ceremony but a prize ceremony instead.

AS Result; 1st place – RGF, 2nd place – UKR, 3rd place – ITA.

Inquiry

One protest against the Difficulty score of TUR Trio category occurred during the Qualification of the World Championships, resulting in lowering the Difficulty score after Superior Jury analysis.

Scoring System

WAGC

LOC provided their scoring system (Smart Scoring). This system was perfect with all the necessary display as well as the results.



WCH

As always, Swiss Timing (Longines) was used for the WCH and as the scoring system. There were some technical problems with Judges' computers during the first day of the Qualification, but the problem was solved.

One concern was that CJP's were able to see all the SJ scores and therefore, Longines put the small piece of paper to cover the display with SJ scores. On the other hand, Superior Juries (D, E, A) were not able to see the panel scores after they enter the scores. Therefore, each SJ were not able to make any intervene if the panel scores had some deviation or wrong scores. The TC made that comment to Longines.

Judges

Superior Jury (WAGC & WCH)			
President	Svetlana Lukina	Execution	Maria Eduarda Poli De Oliveira
Assistant	Dora Hegyi		Lefki Ferentinou
Difficulty	Maria Fumea	Artistic	Gloria Gastaldi
	Monika Wiethoff		Helena Niklova

*Due to the world pandemic, I was not able to travel and Jorge Fillon (ARG) as well. Therefore, we had to ask Level 1 and 2 judges to take a position as Superior Jury Members.

Judges' Panel (WCH)		
Function	Panel A	Panel B
Chair of Judges' Panel	Alina Dragan (ROU)	Andrea Sinko (HUN)
Difficulty	Dimitrios Polyzos (GRE)	Laura Viveros Manjarrez (MEX)
	Judit Kovacs (HUN)	Cristiana Spinu (ROU)



Judges' Work

During the first day of the Qualification, there were some delays since judges were entering scores slowly. On the second day at the Judges' instruction, the President of the Superior Jury reinforced about the time of entering the scores then was done better afterward.

The Sport's Director and Technical Coordinator of the FIG, Steve Butcher gave some explanation about the Judges Evaluation Program (JEP) has been introduced for the first time in the AER WCH. There was not warning issued during the competition.

AER Ambassador

OSKNER Vladislav (RUS); multiple AER World Champion in Mixed Pair category.

Award Ceremony

In order to minimize the physical contact and keeping the social distancing, the Award Ceremony was conducted with unique procedure.

The LOC had prepared "Drones" to carry the medals to the winners.



Round Tables – WCH

AER-TC Round Table (May 29 - Virtual)

The AER-TC Round Table was conducted virtually. There were 22 participating nations, and 3 nations not present in Baku joined the session. The AER-TC had prepared and shared the idea of changing, or improving the environment (hardware) with a title of "How to change the hardware of Aerobic Gymnastics?"

Hardware	Issues	Idea
Floor	By purchasing the floor only for the AER discipline does cost high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility to use another FIG discipline floor. (many nations already have the RG floors)? Possibility to put different cover over the RG floor?
Podium	By having the podium, it increases the cost for the LOC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Necessary to have the competition floor on a podium? Possibility to keep the competition floor on the ground floor level? Need of a backdrop?
Judges' seating	<p>The views of the AER routines are very different either it is watched from the front or from the side.</p> <p>By setting the Judges' podium in the front of the competition floor, no audiences can watch from the front view.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower the judges' podium? Place the judges' seat in front, on the right and on the left of the competition floor (divide the panel in 3 areas)?

The TC also discussed about the promotion and webinar and how to organize AER competition joint with the NF's competition. We will wait for any comments or proposals back to us by the end of September 2021. The FIG Sport Events Manager, Alexandre Cola (AC), also contributed with information for countries interested in organizing FIG competitions, validity of apparatus and possible renewing certificates.

FIG Medical Commission Round Table (May 29 - Virtual)

Directed by Dr. Jay Binder, this round table delivered many important information on scientific methods, studies, including all important global health aspects of the gymnasts' life during training and competitions. The presentations were sent to all participants later.

COVID-19

The event was organized according to the FIG Medical Guidelines for the FIG Competitions and Events during the pandemic and additional measures were agreed between the FIG and LOC and under the strict directives of the Azerbaijan government.

All the participants arrived in Baku with negative PCR results but also had PCR tests upon arrival and the day before the departure.

To minimize the risk of spread of Corona virus, the competitions were held without spectators. Also, there were no operation of Lounge for VIP and Athletes', and the Mixed Zone was operated remotely.

PCVR (Post Competition Video Review)

The PCVR were made by the TC individually without discussions and each score were sent to AC to be forwarded for the JEP analysis of each judge. The analyzed routine are from top 12 of Qualification and 8 Finalists in every categories of the WCH in Artistic and Execution only. They were evaluated by those TC who were not involved in their task of the Superior Jury. Execution; SL, MF, JF. Artistic; MP, TYK, JF.

For the TC information, all members also analyzed Difficulty scores with deviations more than 0.3. At the same time, the TC made some notes of routines which can be used for the example clips of the Judges' Courses.

Conclusion

The weather was sunny and warm during the competition period. The LOC organized a day for the gymnasts to plant trees in the park outside of the gymnasium under beautiful weather.

Unfortunately, I was not able to share this wonderful event but from a report from the TC members, all the Aerobic family was happy that the event was held and have completed without any problems, even facing the difficulties of the world pandemic situation.

The TC is concerned that many nations were not able to participate which all the gymnasts were waiting for a long time and the event was also a qualification for the World Games 2022. It is unfortunate with the situation of the world this time.



*Tammy YAGI-KITGAWA
FIG AER-TC President*