



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE

38TH FIG RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COMPETITIONS WITH TEAM RANKING

KITAKYUSHU (JPN), 27–31 OCTOBER 2021

1. Program of the Competitions

Individual and Group Competitions with:

- Qualification and Team Ranking
- All-Around Final
- Individual Apparatus Finals
- Group All-Around Ranking
- Groups Finals



Competition Format

The **new** competition format will be conducted according to the FIG TR 2021, Section 3 for Rhythmic Gymnastics, Reg. 5.

Individual

Qualification:

NFs have the right to choose the number of exercises to be performed per gymnast according to the following requirements:

NFs qualified with 2-3 Individuals:

- minimum 1 and maximum 4 routines per gymnast
- maximum 2 routines per apparatus per NF
- total of 8 routines per NF

NFs qualified with 1 Individual:

- maximum 1 routine per apparatus per gymnast
- total of 3 or 4 routines per gymnast

All-Around Final

Group B (gymnasts ranked 10-18 from the Qualification) start the All-Around Final competition, followed by Group A (gymnasts ranked 1-9 from the Qualification).

Apparatus Finals

The 8 best gymnasts from Qualifications on each of the 4 apparatus can participate.

Group

All-Around competition and qualifications for Finals.

Each Group shall present 1 routine using 5 Balls and 1 routine using 3 Hoops and 2 pairs of Clubs.

Apparatus Finals

The 8 best Groups from Qualifications on each of the 2 apparatus Final can participate.

Team Ranking

NFs with 2-3 Individual gymnasts and one Group will be part of the Team Ranking.

The Team Ranking is established by adding the 8 scores of the Individual Qualifications and the 2 scores of the Group All-Around competition.

Medal Events

Team

Individual and Group Ranking (3)

Individual

All-Around Final (3)

Apparatus Finals (4x3)

Group

All-Around Ranking (3)

Apparatus Finals (3+2)

Total: 27 medals

New Format of RG World Championships 2021-2024 was developed by TC together with the FIG Competition Commission.

This competition format received a positive response from the NFs, gymnasts, coaches and judges.

Summary of Main aspects of the new World Championships format:

- Reduce number of training days before competitions
- Reduce number of days and hours of competitions
- Continental Quotas for Team competitions (2-3 Individuals)
- Allow all Nations to participate with min. 1 Individual gymnast
- All Groups can participate
- Combining (alternating) Individual and Group competitions in a whole program of the Championship
- New requirement for “Team” Medal
- One Medal Ceremony each day

Goals of the new format:

- Competition program more entertaining and more comfortable for NFs, gymnasts, coaches, judges
- Takes into account and increases interest of Continents, LOC, TV, Media

2. At the 38 RG World Championships gymnasts from all Continents participated in Individual and Group Programs

Total number of entries by NOC (Individuals and Groups) – 47

Total number of gymnasts – 169

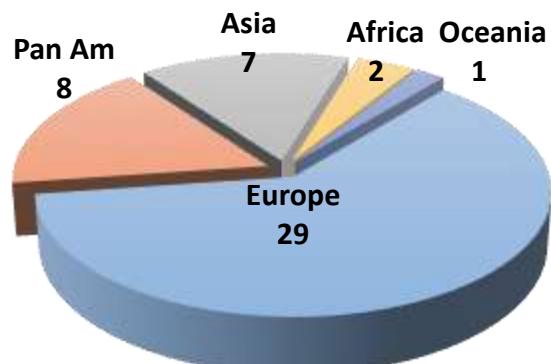
Number of Individual gymnasts – 69 from 47 NOCs

Number of Groups – 18

Number of Group gymnasts – 99

Countries by Continent

- Europe: 29
- Asia: 7
- Pan Am: 8
- Africa: 2
- Oceania: 1



The competitions were very interesting and showed positive progress in development of RG. Participated gymnasts showed high level of preparation and variety in the compositions.

RG TC remarks that the European gymnasts prevail in the Individual Program and Group exercises, although there is progress in preparation of gymnasts from other Continents: Asia, Pan-Am, Africa. The positive moment was progress in preparation of gymnasts from Oceania (AUS).

3. Medal Distribution

| Nations | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------|------|--------|--------|
| RGF | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| BLR | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| ITA | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| JPN | | | 2 |

4. Team Ranking

The Team Ranking is established of the Individual Qualifications and Group All-Around competitions aroused great interest among NFs. Participating NFs could plan Team competition tactics based on abilities of their gymnasts.

It was planned to determine the Team Ranking among 19 teams, but 18 teams took part in the competitions. Due to injury of BUL Group gymnast this team did not take part in Team Ranking. The Teams RGF (1st place), ITA (2nd place), BLR (3rd place) showed stable performances of gymnasts in the Individual program and Group exercises.

5. Individual competitions

a. 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 18 Individuals in All-Around Final**.

Participating gymnasts by Continents:

- Europe: 15 (BLR-2, BUL-2, GER, ITA-2, LAT, HUN, RGF-2, ROU, SLO, UKR-2)
- Asia: 2 (JPN-2)
- Pan Am: 1 (BRA)

The average age of the participating gymnasts is 20 years.

The level of the scores of the finalists for exercises with Hoop, Ball, Clubs, Ribbon corresponded to the level of scores of these gymnasts in Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo.

European gymnasts still prevail in the Individual Program.

Dina Averina (RGF) has won World Rhythmic All-Around title.

There must be noted progress in preparation of the European gymnasts A.Harnasko (BLR), Raffaeli (ITA). Raffaeli was a prize-winner at the Junior World Championship 2019 in Moscow. Also, Kolovos (GER) participated in at the Junior World Championship 2019 in Moscow too.

This shows the continuity with the training of gymnasts from the junior level to senior level. Also, it shows the correctness of the chosen strategy of the RG development in the world.

Consistently good performances were shown by gymnasts from other Continents: Asia (JPN), Pan AM (BRA).

Participating countries by Continents:

- Europe: 10
- Asia: 1
- Pan Am: 1

b. Apparatus Finals

Gymnasts from 7 countries took part in Apparatus Final Competitions.

Countries by Continent:

- Europe: 6 (BLR, BUL, ITA, RGF, SLO, UKR)
- Asia: 1 (JPN)

Gymnasts from 3 countries (BLR, ITA, RGF) have won medals.

85.7 % of finalists in the Individual Program were from Europe and all the medals were won by European gymnasts.

TC remarks that the current CoP increases stability in Evaluation of DB. In the new COP 2022-2024 it is necessary to achieve stability in evaluation of DA, also provides reasonable balance between components in the Final score: Difficulty, Artistry and Execution.

Competition exercises of gymnasts in Finals were dynamic and spectacular due to a wider range of elements to be used, original connection movements, high level of the apparatus handling, better choice of various musical themes, interpretations and images through motion.

All this is sure made the competitions entertaining. In the future it is necessary to pay more attention to the Artistic component.

6. Group Competitions

a. All-Around competition and qualifications for Finals.

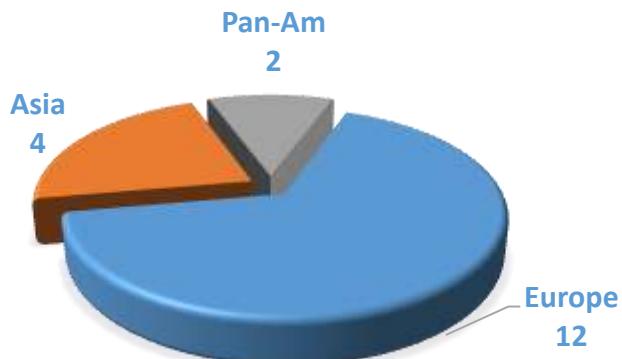
18 countries participated in Group competitions from 3 Continents.

For some reasons, the Groups from Africa and Oceania who took part in Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, were unable to compete at the World Championships in Kitakyushu.

The average age of the participating Group gymnasts is 21.3 years.

Countries by Continent

- Europe: 12
- Asia: 4
- Pan Am: 2



It is positive that the GBR and IND Group teams returned to participate in Group competitions. It shows the increased interest of NFs for competitions among Groups and Team ranking.

Groups RGF, ITA, BLR have won medals in All-Around Competition.

b. Group Finals

Groups from 10 countries took part in Final competitions.

Groups ITA, RGF, JPN have won medals.

The level of the performance of all participating Groups was appropriate for the World Championships.

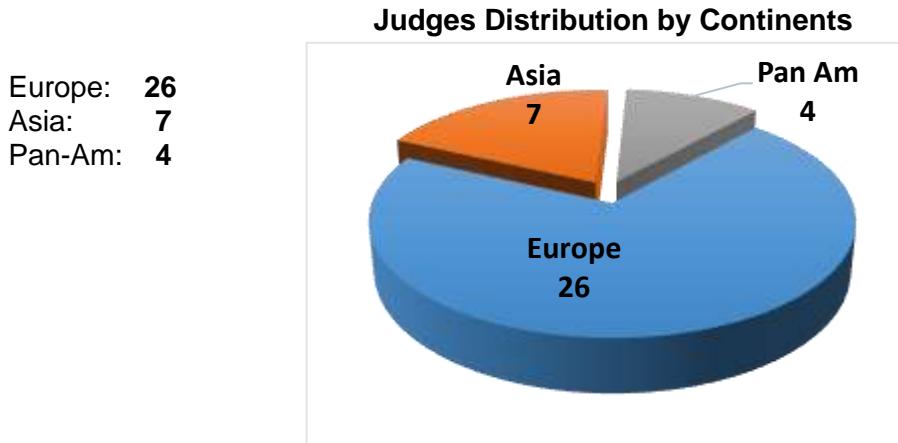
Note: In RGG number and complexity of Collaboration Difficulties (DA) increased significantly in the last year. Additional criteria are used for almost every throw and catch. Almost each Collaboration includes a simultaneous throw/catch, which leads also to a higher Difficulty value. Such an unlimited increase in the amount does not contribute to good composition of Group exercises. Imbalance in the variety of users apparatus elements (gymnasts perform the same throws, the same catches). It creates problems when judging exercises. The judges are unable to register and evaluate correctly such a number of elements.

7. Judging Activities

Individual competitions

Total 37 Judges

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

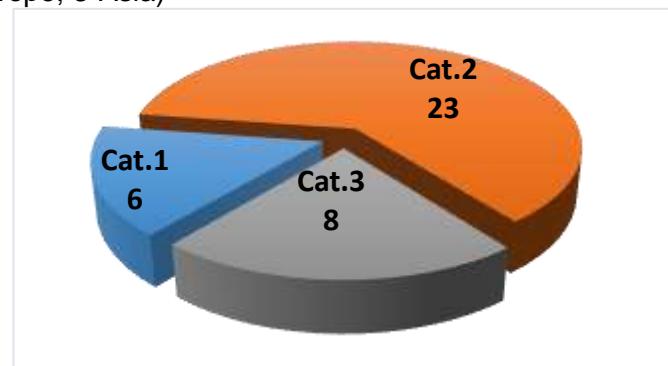


Judges Distribution by Categories

Cat.1 - 6 judges (5-Europe; 1-Pan Am)

Cat.2 - 23 judges (16-Europe; 3-Pan-Am; 4-Asia)

Cat.3 - 8 judges (5-Europe; 3-Asia)



Note: World Championship showed that we have enough judges for Individual competitions with high Brevet Categories I and II

All-Around competition and qualifications for Finals.

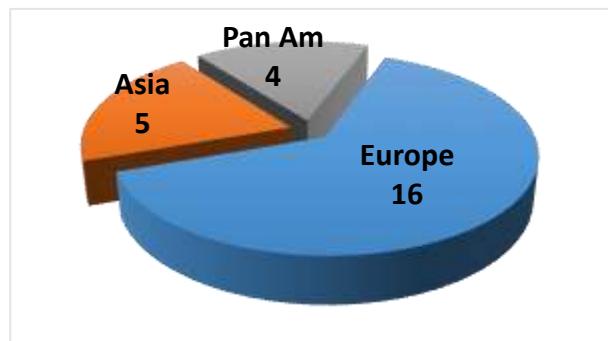
All registered **18** Group judges took part in judging during the World Championship.

Besides, there were not enough judges from the participating countries of the Group competitions. Judges were invited who had the Categories 1 and 2 but did not have participants in the Group competitions (7 judges: Cat. 2-1 judge; Cat.2-5 judges).

Total 25 judges.

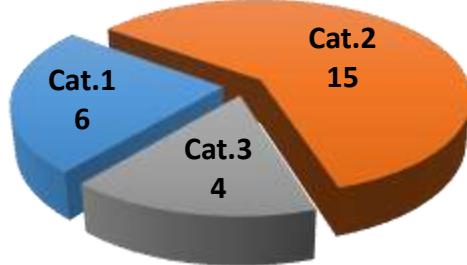
Judges Distribution by Continents

Europe: 16
Asia: 5
Pan-Am: 4



Judges Distribution by Categories

Cat.1 - 6 judges (4-Europe; 2-Pan Am)
Cat.2 - 15 judges (10-Europe; 2-Pan-Am; 3-Asia)
Cat.3 - 4 judges (2-Europe; 2-Asia)



Note: Judges from Europe have better qualification in Individual and Group Programs.

It is necessary, together with the Continental federations, to improve the education/ preparation of judges from other Continents for obtaining categories 1 and 2, specially in RGG.

Executive Committee approved 9 best judges RGI/ RGG, as members of Superior Jury and 4 Reference judges, according to clearly defined criteria (Category, experience, exams results) elaborated by the RG TC.

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

Many thanks to RG Sport manager Sylvie Martinet for the hard work in organizing the arrival of judges to the World Championship in Kitakyushu in a strict travel restriction due to Covid Pandemic and Quarantine.

Judges' Review Session (Instruction) and Judges' Draw

The RG TC members presented new format of PPTs where reviewed Difficulty (Body and Apparatus) together with Execution Technical Penalties through the video examples. Special attention was paid to the most difficult points of COP concerning DA in Individual exercises and Collaboration in Groups.

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

I thank all TC members for preparation of all materials for Judges Instructions.

Judging Instructions and all briefings were conducted only online in the presence of the FIG Sports Director & Technical Coordinator Steve Butcher, who emphasized the importance of the judges' precision and objectivity at the World Championships.

The both Judges Instructions (Individual and Group) were good organized. I am grateful to FIG Sports managers Sylvie Martinet, Eunice Lebre and Technology & Internet assistant Pierre Droz for help in organization of Judging meetings and for the cooperation and professional support during Judges' Draw.

Every day before the start of the competitions there were online 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.

The Judges' Draw procedures were well prepared and carried-out online.

Judges` Draw for RGI D-judges and RGG D-judges, also for ETR 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.

According to the current FIG Rules at Judges` Draw the priority was given to the highest Categories Judges.

Assessment of the Judging

RG TC paid special attention that RG COP be applied consistently in all competitions.

In general, the judging at the RG World Championships 2021 in Kitakyushu 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, especially in Apparatus Difficulty category (DA) during Qualification and AA-Final in Individual and Group competitions.

For example: in Group Qualification 3 Hoops+2 pairs of Clubs all scores DA were blocked. The analysis of the reasons and the necessary actions to correct this situation in the judging presented in the text below.

Inquiries

Individual competitions RGI – a total of 17 inquiries were submitted.

Qualification competitions - 9 inquiries (Hoop-2, Ball-0, Clubs-4, Ribbon-3).

Of which:

DB score – 2 inquiries (Clubs-1, Ribbon-1, both changed to higher scores)

DA score – 7 inquiries (Hoop-2 unchanged, Clubs-3: unchanged-2, changed to higher score-1, Ribbon-2 unchanged)

All Around Final – 5 inquiries (Hoop-1, Ball-0, Clubs-1, Ribbon-3)

All inquiries were submitted to DA score (4 scores were unchanged, 1- changed to higher score).

Apparatus Finals

All inquiries were submitted to DA score Ribbon exercises (all scores were unchanged).

Note:

Inquiries on the DB score were the result of mistakes in evaluation of the number of additional rotations in Pivots.

Many of the Apparatus Difficulty (DA) elements which the gymnasts tried to perform did not meet the requirements and were not evaluated.

Unjustified increase in the number of performed DA elements was the reason for the inaccurate judging.

In human reason the judges were not able to register and evaluate all the elements performed. Some gymnasts performed up to 35 DA elements with poor technical execution.

Such an increase in the Difficulty of Apparatus and complexity in compositions led to a large number of Technical Execution mistakes.

Coaches overestimate the capabilities of gymnasts and paid insufficient attention to the technical execution of the elements.

In the new COP 2022-2024 it is necessary to give a limit of DA elements and reduce the number of criteria in DA. Criteria should be clear and more visible (especially in Clubs and Ribbon exercises)

Group competitions RGG – a total of 19 inquiries were submitted.

Qualification competitions - 10 inquiries (5 Balls-6 inquiries;
3 Hoops+2 pairs of Clubs-4 inquiries)

DB score – 1 inquiry (unchanged)

DA score – 9 inquiries (7-unchanged; 2-changed to higher score)

Apparatus Finals - 9 inquiries (5 Balls-5 inquiries; 3 Hoops+2 pairs of Clubs-4 inquiries).

Of which:

DB score – 3 inquiry (1-unchanged, 2- changed to higher score)

DA score – 6 inquiries (5-unchanged; 1-changed to higher score)

Note:

In Group exercises number and complexity of Collaboration Difficulties; additional criteria which used almost every throw/ catch and performed at an insufficiently high technical level by all 5 gymnasts, each Collaboration includes a simultaneous throw/ catch create big problems in judging. In new COP 2022-2024 it is necessary to set a limit in the performance of Collaborations, to streamline the criteria and definition of Collaboration.

Post competition review was carried out according to the regulations with the RG Sports manager Sylvie Martinet.

8. Swiss Timing - IRCOS

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

9. VENUE AND APPARATUS CONTROL

- **Venue:** the RG TC is entirely grateful to the FIG Sports Manager RG Sylvie Martinet and FIG Sports Manager Eunice Lebre for their daily monitoring and assistance before and during the World Championships to prepare the training and competition venue according needed standards.

Special thanks to the LOC group of specialists who carried out the organization of training and competitions.

The presence of Apparatus Commissioners Julian Heydgen and Jakob Raab was very important and the RG TC would like to thank them for their cooperation and availability to help.

- **Apparatus Control:** was held professionally and accurately. On the day of the podium training, the check of all hand apparatuses of the RG athletes (Individuals and Groups) was carried out according to FIG Rules.
- **Podium Training:** was well-organized and took place according to the Work Plan.
- **Air conditioning warm up and FOP.** In order not to disturb the exercises with the Ribbon, the air conditioning was switched off in the warm-up hall and FOP during Ribbon exercises.

10. Conclusion

- RG TC congratulates all participating gymnasts and coaches for the successful the 38th RG World Championship 2021 in Kitakyushu (JPN).
- 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. Nicolas Buompane, FIG Technical Coordinator Mr. Steve Butcher.
- The RG TC is entirely grateful to Mr. Oliver Strelbel - Communication and Marketing Director and the media team for profession cooperation.
- 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.

Nataliya Kuzmina
President FIG-TC/RG
26.11.2021.

