



39th FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships 14 – 18 September 2022 – Sofia (BUL)



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

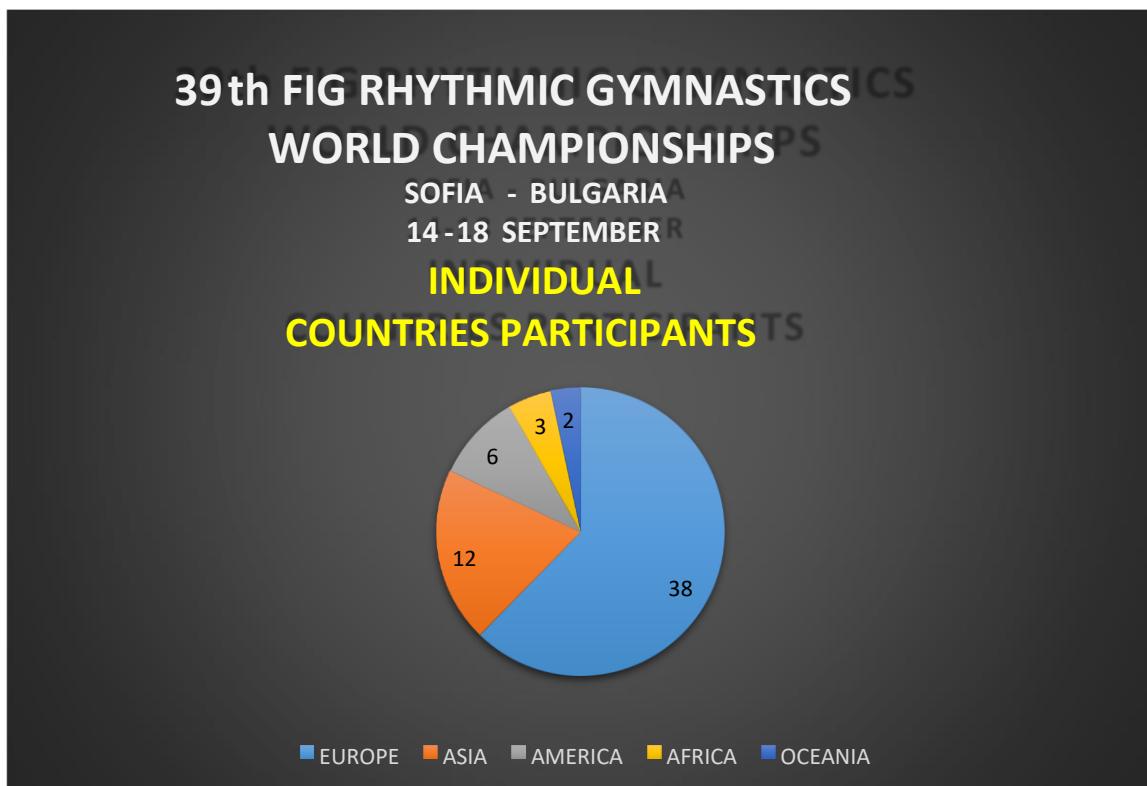
The **new** competition format was conducted according to the FIG TR 2022, Section 3 for Rhythmic Gymnastics, Reg. 5. (Continental Quota Qualifications for individuals and open WCH for Groups) and Paris 2024 Olympic Games Qualification System.

This competition format received a positive response from the NFs, gymnasts, coaches and judges, however new continental re-allocation quota places should be reviewed.

Summary of Main aspects of the New World Championships format:

- 61 NFs for RGI and 29 NFs for RGG.
- Reduce number of training days before competitions, though we still believe that training hours should be reduced as gymnasts already arrive ready to compete and don't need double trainings for 2 days, as this makes extra burden on LOC to provide training facilities/carpets/transportations etc.
- Reduced number of days and hours of competitions (Qualifications are on 2 days instead of 4 days) but qualification days with Finals are too long for judges.
- Continental Quotas for Team competitions (2-3 Individuals), gave more weight to continental championships.
- Allow all Nations to participate with min. 1 Individual gymnast, gave chances for gymnasts, coaches to see the higher levels on sight and judges to gain experience

- Open World Championships for Groups, this is an encouraging factor for more development of the sport in more countries.
- Combining (alternating) Individual and Group competitions in a whole program of the Championship, very interesting for Media, public and gives chance for athletes to alternate.
- New requirement for “Team” Medal, increased NFs interest to invest in both RGI and RGG.
- One Medal Ceremony each day
- 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: AGU, PAGU, UAG and OCE.

The positive moment was progress in preparation of gymnasts from PAGU in RGG for having 5th and 6th rank in all around.

Average age competing at the event:

The oldest gymnast was 28 years old and the youngest gymnast was 16 years old. Average age of gymnasts in the competition is 18 years old.

2. Medal Distribution

Competition	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Team All-Around Competition	ITA	GER	ESP
Individual All-Around Final	RAFFAELI Sofia ITA	VARFOLOMEEV Darja GER	NIKOLOVA Stiliiana BUL
Hoop Final	RAFFAELI Sofia ITA	NIKOLOVA Stiliiana BUL	VARFOLOMEEV Darja GER
Ball Final	RAFFAELI Sofia ITA	VARFOLOMEEV Darja GER	BALDASSARRI Milena ITA
Clubs Final	VARFOLOMEEV Darja GER	NIKOLOVA Stiliiana BUL	RAFFAELI Sofia ITA
Ribbon Final	RAFFAELI Sofia ITA	NIKOLOVA Stiliiana BUL	VEDENEEVA Ekaterina SLO
Group All-Around Ranking	BUL	ISR	ESP
5 Hoops Final	ITA	ISR	ESP
3 Ribbons + 2 Balls Final	BUL	ITA	AZE

3. 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**.

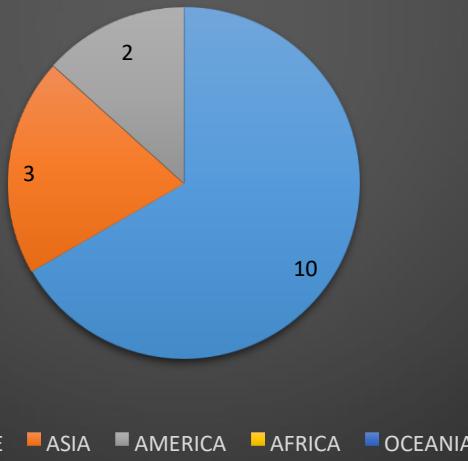
Competition was very high between both Group A and Group B, were until the last moment results could not be speculated, which made the arena with its public and TV all motivated for the event. European gymnasts still prevail in the Individual Program.

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SOFIA - BULGARIA

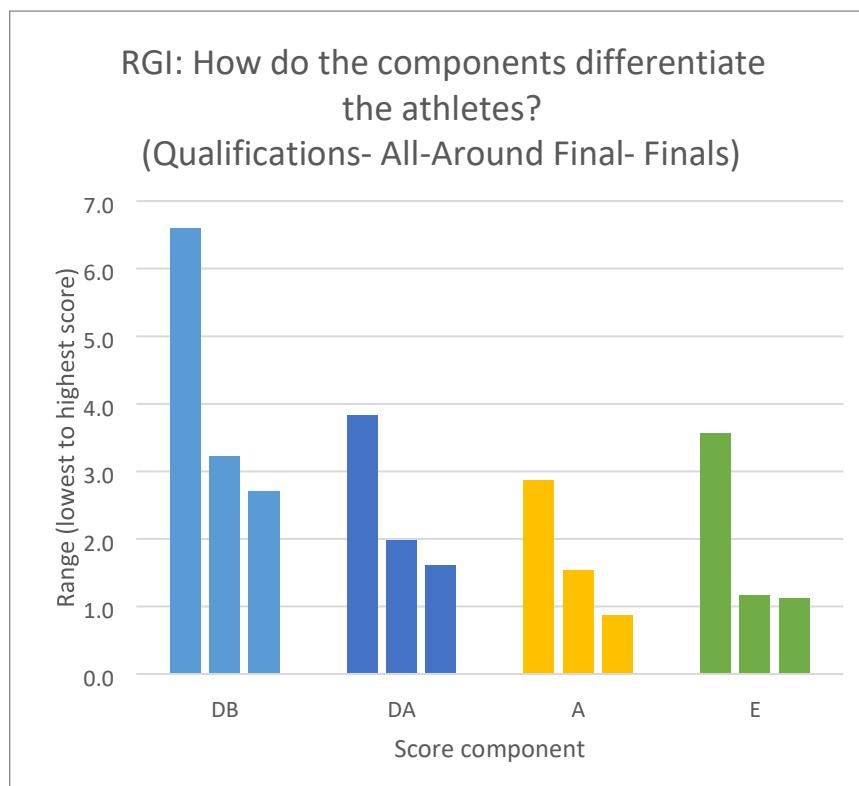
14-18 SEPTEMBER

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES PARTICIPANTS ALL AROUND FINAL



Unfortunately, after podium training there was the withdrawal of Boryana Kalen (BUL) and Atamanov Daria (ISR) due to illness/injury which were strong competitors throughout the whole season.

New COP has shown a more balanced exercises between all components, however more Artistry is still needed to be shown, Difficulty body is still the highest panel. Difficulty apparatus, Artistry and Execution have the same impact now on the score.



b. Apparatus Finals

Gymnasts from 12 countries took part in Apparatus Final Competitions.

Countries by Continent:

- Europe: 10 (AZE, BUL, ESP, GER, HUN, ISR, ITA, ROU, SLO, UKR)
- Asia: 1 (UZB)
- PAGU: 1 (USA)

Gymnasts from 4 countries (BUL, GER, ITA, SLO) have won medals.

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INDIVIDUAL

FINALS COUNTRIES ALL AROUND and FINALS



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. Ribbon finals with 8 finalists from 8 different countries was very interesting. New COP allowed gymnasts to use soft music again and interpret Artistry not as previous COP where it did not allow gymnasts to use any soft music for it required a lot of dynamics.

4. Group Competitions

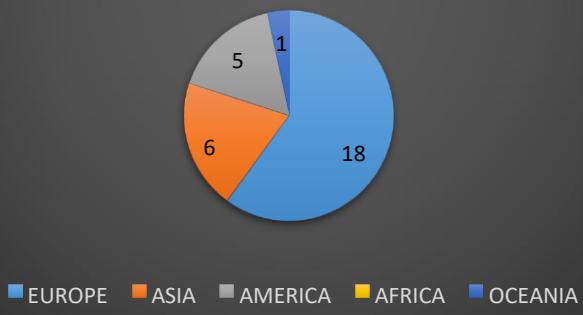
a. All-Around competition and qualifications for Finals.

- 29 countries participated in Group competitions from 4 Continents.
- For some reasons, the Groups from Africa were missing totally.
- CAN Group withdrew before competition due to an injury of a gymnast.
- It is positive that many new Group teams returned to participate in Group competitions.
- Increased interest of NFs for competitions among Groups and Team ranking.

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GROUP COUNTRIES PARTICIPANTS



b. Group Finals

Groups from 10 countries took part in Final competitions.

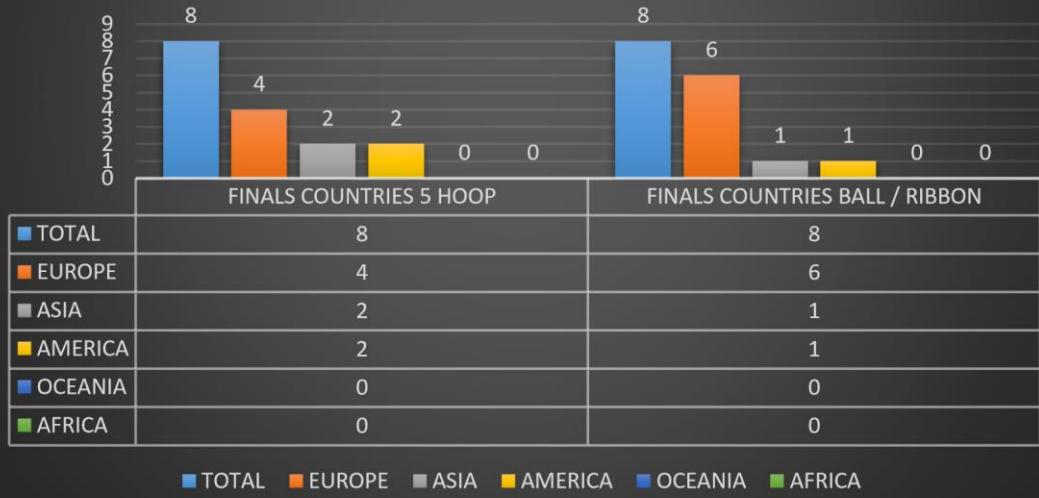
Countries by Continent:

- Europe: 6 (AZE, BUL, ESP, GER, ISR, ITA)
- Asia: 2 (CHN, JPN)
- PAGU: 2 (BRA, MEX)

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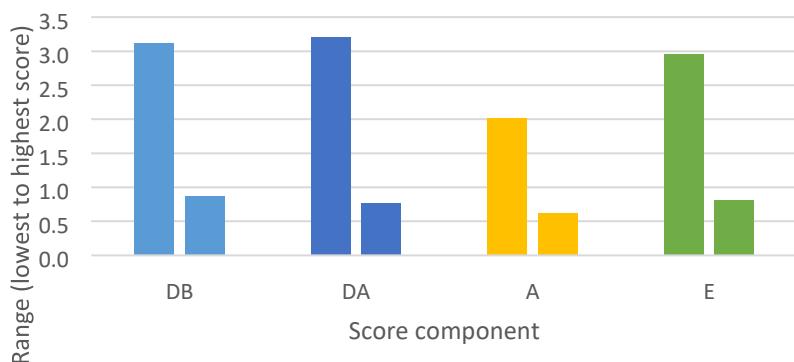
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GROUP COUNTRIES PARTICIPANTS FINAL



The level of the performance of all participating Groups was very interesting for the World Championships and competitive.

RGG: How do the components differentiate the groups?
(Qualifications- Finals)



Artistry component needs to be more developed in more teams, however in Groups Finals all 4 Components were balanced.

5. Judging Activities

Individual competitions

All registered RGI/RGG judges took part in judging during the World Championship.

Countries Participated without Judges (ANG, BIH, DEN, MGL, PHI, RSA, SGP, SRI, VEN).

Judges' Review Session (Instruction) and Judges' Draw - The RG TC members presented new format of education.

Before WCH :

- Athlete Webinar presenting main topics needed for athletes with 433 attendees.
- Coaches Webinar a detailed presentation for Artistry and another presentation for RGI and RGG Difficulty components analysed by TC throughout the competitions with 370 attendees.
- 10 Days prior WCH all instructions (power points materials) for RGI and RGG were posted on STS for judges to have enough time to study and send their questions and for coaches to review as well.

During WCH:

- All questions received from Judges were answered and now the live WCH presentation was posted on STS.
- During Judges Instructions, full practice routines were analysed with the judges using Mentimeter program where it was interactive instructions with the judges online through the application.
- Every day before the start of the competitions, there were judges` briefings where the most common mistakes that created blocks from all panels were communicated to judges.
- The Judges' Draw procedures were well prepared and carried-out professionally in the attendance of EC member and Member of Jury of Appeal Mr. Jani Tanskanen, FIG Sports Director and Technical Coordinator Mr. Steve Butcher and RG Sports Manager Mrs. Sylvie Martinet.
- Draw for Difficulty took place in Judges Instructions for Qualifications only, all other Draws took place before competition only. Especially this WCH is Olympic Games Qualifications.
- Priority to Cat 1 judge was given to DB1, DA1, A1 and E1 according to number of panels in each competition, then mixing Cat 1 with Cat 2 for remaining places of Difficulty, then Artistry then Cat 3 for Execution, time and line.

- Judges` Draw for Finals were organized before Finals; only neutral judges took part in this Draw form Cat 1 and Cat 2.

Assessment of the Judging

RG TC paid special attention that RG COP be applied consistently in all panels and all gymnasts fairly.

In general, the judging at the RG World Championships 2022 was well and judges did their best to judge fairly and accurately. Majority of judges showed competence and objectivity. The rules for blocking of scores outside the tolerated difference between judges and SJ were applied. Scores outside tolerance were reviewed according to the regulations.

Unfortunately, there were many blocked scores, especially in Difficulty Body. However, Artistry and Execution blocked too in several exercises as judges had to change their mindset of applying the larger scale of new COP. In some RGG exercises all 4 components blocked.

PCVR was done after each phase and Difficulty panels were also reviewed.

2 verbal warnings were given for 2 judges for Bias judges in Execution panel according to JEP analysis and PCVR.

Inquiries

RGI	Qualifications	DB	3	Score unchanged
		DA	7	Score unchanged
	All – Around Finals	DB	3	2 scores higher
		DA	6	1 score higher
	Total		19	

RGG	All-Around & Qualifications	DB	4	1 score higher
		DA	4	Score unchanged
	Finals	DA	4	Score unchanged
	Total		12	

6. 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 and for always upgrading the system.

- An incident occurred while unblocking 2 RGG exercises where data input was replaced by Swiss Timing staff for JPN group instead of GRE group. Score was rectified immediately and correct score was re-shown on the screens. A modified system would be more convenient to eliminate confusion of staff when several blocks occur at the same time.

7. Venue and Apparatus Control

Venue:

- Theme of the Venue was Bulgarian Flag colors and traditional style. It was very cheerful and cultural.
- 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 and competition Manager Mrs. Rossina Atanassova.
- The presence of Apparatus Commissioners Mr. Julian Heydgen was very important and the RG TC would like to thank him for his cooperation and availability to help always.

Apparatus Control:

On the day of the podium training, the check of all hand apparatuses 30% random check (Individuals and Groups) was carried out according to FIG Rules.

- All finalists RGI and RGG had their hand apparatus checked as well.
- Leotards were checked by athletes' representative for 30 % random check and also for any gymnast who had any doubt about new COP leotard rules.

Podium Training: was well-organized and took place according to the Work Plan with a strict control on timing as mentioned in the work plan.

8. Accommodation and Transportation

- FIG Family and Judges were accommodated in Millennium hotel, an excellent hotel and located 15 minutes from competition arena.
- A wide variety of hotel categories were offered for delegations which was very convenient.
- A dedicated bus was for TC which was very convenient specially when TC stayed late after competition for analysis.
- Lunch was served in competition arena for FIG Family and Judges. Dinner was served at the hotel. Meals were very good.
- Inside arena, delegations were served Lunch.

9. Other Activities During WCH

- Motivational Meeting with Athletes by Ambassador Ms. Nevqna Vladinova was very interesting as all gymnasts had shared their stories/goals together with TC president and athletes' representative, knowing they can be friends, have obstacles and stand up again, with 10 Golden Rules shared with them.
- Continental Union TC presidents with FIG TC, it was a first-time initiative for RG that all continents appreciated to share their obstacles and development programs and felt that their importance to hear their feedbacks, share experiences together. Vice President of FIG and President of Jury of Appeal Mr. Ali Al-Hitmi and President of PAGU and apparatus commission Mrs. Naomi Valenzo had also attended the meeting and shared their opinions with all attendees.
- President Morinari Watanabe had invited Ms. Sara Becarevic (BIH) a 15-year-old, 60 % disabled and amazed us with a wonderful performance of her HOOP routine. After her performance, she informed us that it was her dream to be at World Championships and to show the world that disabilities are not an obstacle and that a person with disability can be a successful athlete.
- Round Table meeting of President Morinari Watanabe and all NFs, it was very beneficial meeting to hear from them their needs and requests and how they have appreciated as well new COP with new transparency of Judging. I thank President Watanabe for sharing his thoughts with all of us.

- Athlete representative meeting, always important to hear the voice of the athletes and their opinion. Many gymnasts had joined the meeting and a questionnaire prepared by Athletes' representative using Mentimeter was shared with them.



10. Conclusion

RG TC congratulates all participating gymnasts and coaches for the very successful 39th RG World Championship 2022 in Sofia (BUL).

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 Sports Director and Technical Coordinator Mr. Steve Butcher.

The RG TC would like to thank the Jury of Appeal Mr. Ali Al-Hitmi and Mr. Jani Tanskanen for their work and efforts during WCH.

The RG TC thanks Mrs. Illiana Raeva RG Bulgarian Federation President for her great support for RG hosting 2018 RG World Championships and now 2022 RG World Championships with raising the standards of organization with Perfection.

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. Specially Mrs. Rada Vrazheva for consistently assisting TC during WCH.

The RG TC is entirely grateful to Mr. Oliver Streb - Communication and Marketing Director and the media team for profession cooperation and always showing our beautiful Sport at its best.

I warmly thank all RG TC members and athlete representative for their conscientious cooperation and teamwork during the World championship without any rest during the whole duration of the event.

FIG RG TC President



Noha Abou Shabana 05/10/2022

