



Lausanne (SUI), February 2019

ACRO champions Marina CHERNOVA and Georgii PATARAIA are crowned athletes of the year!

 Athlete of the Year 2018

It will come as no surprise to anyone who has seen them in action to learn that the magical Acrobatic Gymnastics mixed pair of Marina CHERNOVA and Georgii PATARAIA have finished **winners** in the International World Games Association's (IWGA) Athlete of Year award.

Put quite simply, the Russian duo are the best at what they do and spellbinding to watch doing it.

An extraordinary result table paints the picture. In the past three years, CHERNOVA and PATARAIA have won the 2015 European Games, the 2017 European Championships, the 2017 World Games and the 2016 and 2018 World Championships.

Their display at the 2018 FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium perhaps sums up the partnership best. CHERNOVA and PATARAIA performed a routine in the final with a difficulty rating more than half a point higher than any of their competitors and yet still they secured the best execution score en route to winning their second successive world title by a vast margin of 1.310 points.



Many thanks go to everyone who voted for these Champions and helped them achieve **159,348 VOTES** in this most prestigious award.

A message for the Acrobatics TC President:

'The Acrobatic Gymnastic Mixed Pair of Marina CHERNOVA & Georgii PATARAIA (RUS), are two exceptional athletes and as Technical Committee President I am very proud that their outstanding achievements have been recognised on the World stage. It is an unbelievable achievement to be crowned World Games Athletes of the Year. On behalf of the FIG ACRO Technical Committee, I would like to thank everyone who voted for these athletes and it is obvious that the popularity of acrobatic gymnastics and the fantastic level of skill displayed is being appreciated across the world. This result proves that we have a great, exciting and beautiful sport and a great global following. Congratulations to Jennifer THOMPSON (USA), and powerlifting for being awarded runners up in such a close fought battle'.



FIG Acro World Cup AGF Trophy 17th – 18th November 2018 BAKU, Azerbaijan

Report

Wieslawa MILEWSKA was the Technical Delegate for this event and she would like to express her sincere appreciation on behalf of the FIG to the Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation as well as the local organizing committee, who did a fantastic job. The gymnasts were provided with excellent competition facilities and conditions. Many thanks to the staff of LOC and the volunteers who fulfilled their responsibilities in a professional way, which ensured a high level and success of the event.



Participating FIG Judges and FIG representatives

The Russian gymnasts were in utterly dominant form claiming all five titles on offer as the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup visited Baku, Azerbaijan for the first time. More than 70 athletes representing seven different nations competed in Men's Pairs, Women's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Women's Groups and Men's Groups across the two-day event, 17-18 November, as the 2018/19 World Cup series got off to a flying start.

Competitions were renewed in the Women's Group with a familiar result. **Ksenia ZAGOSKINA** and **Daria CHEBULANKO** won both the 2018 World and 2017 European titles in partnership with **Polina PLASTININA**.

Teaming up with a new partner, **Anastasia PARSHINA** in Baku, it was ZAGOSKINA and CHEBULANKO who once again finished atop the podium at the National Gymnastics Arena.

Belarus' 2018 World Championship silver medal winning trio of **Julia IVONCHYK**, **Veranika NABOKINA** and **Karina SANDOVICH** gave it their all but once again finished with silver.

Russian pair **Timofei IVANOV** and **Maksim KARAVAEV** prevailed in Men's Pairs defeating home crowd favourites **Murad AKPAROV** and **Seymur JAFAROV** and Kazakhstan pair **Daniyel DIL** and **Vadim SHULYAR**. It was a similar story in the Mixed Pairs competition with Russia's **Viktoriya AKSENOVA** and **Kirill STARTSEV** narrowly relegating

Azerbaijan's 2018 World Championship finalists **Abdulla AL-MASHAYKHI** and **Ruhidil GURBANLI** into second. **Artur BELIAKOU** and **Volha MELNIK** of Belarus took the bronze.

In the Women's Pairs final it was Ukrainian duo **Yuliia PYLYPIAK** and **Oleksandra-Mariia TABACHYNSKA** – the 2017 European Junior champions – who finished runners-up to the all-conquering Russians, **Iasmina ISHANKULOVA** and **Diana KOROTAEVA**.

The Men's Group final neatly summed up the extraordinary dominance of the Russians, with the 2018 World Championship bronze medallists **German KUDRIASHOV**, **Aleksandr SOROKIN**, **Valeriy TUKHASHVILI** and **Kirill ZADORIN** defeating compatriots **Pavel GUBSKIY**, **Kirill LUKIANOV**, **Vladimir PETROV** and **Denis SOLUN** to take gold.



Historic First for India



Prince ARIS, Siddesh BHOSLE, Rushikesh MORE and Rejilesh SURESHBABU made history for India by winning bronze in Men's Groups, the country's first ever World Cup medal in Acrobatic Gymnastics in its first ever World Cup competition.

India sent 21 gymnasts to Baku, competing in every discipline, bar Women's Pair. Ayushi GHODESWAR, Prachi PARKHI and Mrunmayi WALDE matched their male counterparts, finishing third in Women's Group, although no medals were awarded due to an insufficient number of participating groups.

Men's Group India. Photo courtesy of AGF

Award Ceremony Attire – Information

Please take note of the revised Technical Regulation 2019, Page 57.

Art. 9.3.3 Attire

For the award ceremonies **all the gymnasts have to wear their national tracksuits**. In case of infractions the respective NF will receive only 50% of the prize money.

Clarification

TOD, pg 69 – base position A7

This element is technical **not** a column with all weight going through the back of the base because of the **extra** point of support on the arms of the base.

Therefore this element can be performed by 13-19.



Calendar of Acrobatic Gymnastics Events

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| 1) World Cup Maia – POR, | 08/03/2019 – 10/03/2019 |
| 2) World Cup Puurs – BEL, | 12/04/2019 – 14/04/2019 |
| 3) World Cup Las Vegas – USA, | 22/03/2019 – 24/03/2019 |
| 4) 9th Wars & Sawa Cup – Warszawa, POL | 17/05/2019 – 19/05/2019 |
| 5) European Games – Minsk, BLR | 17/06/2019 – 30/06/2019 |
| 6) World Cup Lisbon – POR, | 13/09/2019 – 15/09/2019 |
| 7) European Championships – Holon, ISR | 21/10/2019 – 03/11/2019 |
| 8) WAGC & World Championships – Geneva, SUI | 15/05/2020 – 01/06/2020 |

Rosy TAEYMANS

President of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee



Karl WHARTON

Secretary



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