



## The President's report

### **Executive Committee meeting October 2017**

Various decisions were made during the Executive Committee Meeting held in Benin. I would like to take this opportunity to report to you several of the key decisions and elements. Why did we make these decisions? I would like the gymnastics family members to be informed of the context and the decision-making process. I would like to make the FIG open to you all. How can we continue to expand the FIG? The development of each country is crucial for expansion. We need all of you in order to create the future of the gymnastics family. This is what I wish.

#### **1. Nationality Changes**

With our current rules, after a gymnast changes his or her nationality from their home country to another country and they participate in several events with the new nationality, they can resume the nationality of their home country. This means that gymnasts can be loaned between countries.

I don't think this is a good situation. Gymnastics differs from professional football teams which have a system for loaning players. At the next Council meeting in May, I would like to propose a rule regulating cases where a gymnast changes her/his nationality from one country to another and then wants to change back to their original one.

#### **2. Judges Education**

Some continents don't have high enough numbers of judges. I think it is largely due to the fact that the education system for judges reposes above all on the theoretical concepts established by the FIG for training judges. The degree of gymnastics development is different on each continent and in each country. Of course, we need a global standard, but if we impose that standard unilaterally, it will harm development.

There is a gap between the ideal and the real. We must go step-by-step to realize the ideal. A meeting with Continental Presidents and TC Presidents was held while we were in Benin for the purpose of listening to their needs and requirements. I would like to consolidate those requests and propose a solution to them at the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### **3. Changes to the Rhythmic Gymnastics Rules**

Basically, I don't think it is a good idea to change the rules in the middle of a cycle. Traditionally, if we look back at what happened during past cycles, rules were changed after the Olympics, mistakes

were found during the first World Championships of the new cycle, and then rules were modified after that World Championships. I think it is ridiculous if the gymnastics community doesn't think this is a problem. I would like to abolish this practice during the next cycle. Revising our rules every cycle deteriorates the development of gymnastics. We must make perfect rules so that it is not necessary to modify them.

However, if we look at the problems we had with rules during the RG World Championships in Pesaro, these types of situations may put the survival of Rhythmic Gymnastics as a sport at stake. We are in a critical situation and measures urgently need to be taken.

In such circumstances, the following basic principles were approved during the Executive Committee meeting. The draft details of the rule changes will be compiled in close cooperation with the RG TC and FIG Office, and the proposal will be submitted to the Executive Committee. With the EC's approval, the details will be communicated to everyone (at the end of November).

#### **Observations from the World Championships in Pesaro**

- Among 29 participating groups, the top 7 groups got a 10 D score (25%).
- Therefore, they were separated only by the Execution score and that may lead to many ties happening at the Olympics.
- The real value of some performances was 11 points. But the spectators do not understand why 10 points are given to performances whose values are effectively 10 points just like those whose values are really 11 points.

#### **Problems**

- The principle of competitive sports is to try to surpass limits and overcome difficulties. If by ourselves we set limits, it runs contrary to the principles of sports competition.
- If nothing is changed, many groups and gymnasts will reach the 10 point D score and we run the risk of having many ties in groups and with gymnasts during the next Olympics (and thus, we lose the essence of competition).

#### **Basic principles of solutions**

##### Solution

The Difficulty score shall not be limited to 10.

##### Conditions

There must be a reasonable balance between execution and difficulty.

The Execution deduction should be increased and offer a greater range to better separate the gymnasts.

## **4. Regarding the future of Rhythmic Gymnastics**

I love Rhythmic Gymnastics. I believe that Rhythmic Gymnastics is a wonderful sport. However, Rhythmic Gymnastics faces difficulty existing. It is because there is a gap between the perspective of the Rhythmic Gymnastics community and the perspective of spectators. Spectators cannot understand the scoring and ranking, and that leads to a feeling of distrust in Rhythmic Gymnastics. We must tackle this issue proactively and solve it.

I have established the RG Reform Project with external media and young personnel as follows. What

I want is the future. The future is not based on the extension of the past. I would like to create a new Rhythmic Gymnastics.

### **The RG Reform Project**

The RG Reform Project will review the direction of the RG rules from 2021 on.

#### **Project Members**

FIG President	Morinari Watanabe
FIG EC Member	Jesus Carballo
FIG TV Media Media	Jean-François Rossé
FIG Technical Coordinator	Steve Butcher
FIG RG TC President	Nataliya Kuzmina
FIG RG TC Member	Isabell Sawade
FIG RG Athletes' Representative	Liubou Charkashyna
RG Gymnast	Evgenia Kanaeva (RUS)
RG Gymnast	Anna Bessonova (UKR)

#### **Plan**

Jan. 2018: To clarify what form the rules should take and to analyze problems

Feb. 2018: To propose a draft reform plan to the Executive Committee

May 2018: Report to the Council

The focus this time was on Rhythmic Gymnastics, but the same can be said of Artistic Gymnastics. How many people are convinced by the scoring and ranking in Artistic Gymnastics? Our disciplines are not only for the gymnastics family. They are for everyone. Only Gymnastics and a small number of other sports are difficult to understand for spectators. Our mission is to reform our disciplines and make them understandable to everyone.

## **5. Competition Structure from 2021 onward**

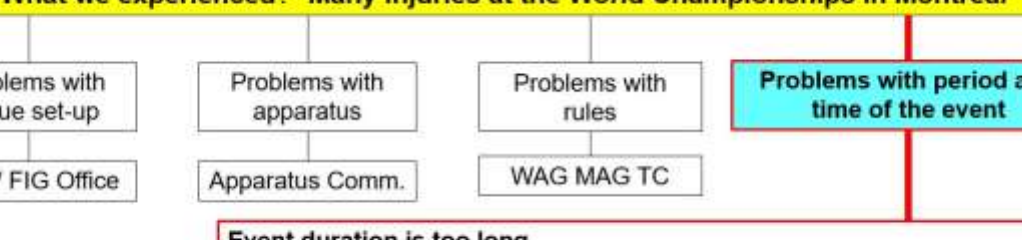
The following is my idea for competition structure in and after 2021. The major change in it is that the Continental Championships will become the qualification event for the World Championships. The reason for this is because other sports have a qualification round for their World Championships but there is no qualification round for our World Championships. With our current structure, a gymnast who started gymnastics today can participate in the World Championships tomorrow.

That is why the number of participating gymnasts is huge, and the duration of the competition is long and competition days are too long. This puts a heavy burden on participating gymnasts and participating Federations. Furthermore, organizing the event costs more than US \$11 million. We have difficulty finding host cities.

If those numbers and duration continue to grow, we may: 1) end up with no bids from potential host city candidates and 2) have to deal with a competition that is exhausting for gymnasts and federations.

If the Continental Championships become the qualification for the World Championships and/or the Olympic Games, the quality of the Continental Championships must be improved. If it's improved, this

On the other hand, there is a negative aspect to it. With this structure, gymnasts from developing countries will not be able to take part in the “World” title competitions. However, what we have to seek is the ideal. If we continue with our unusual format, we will have bigger problems.



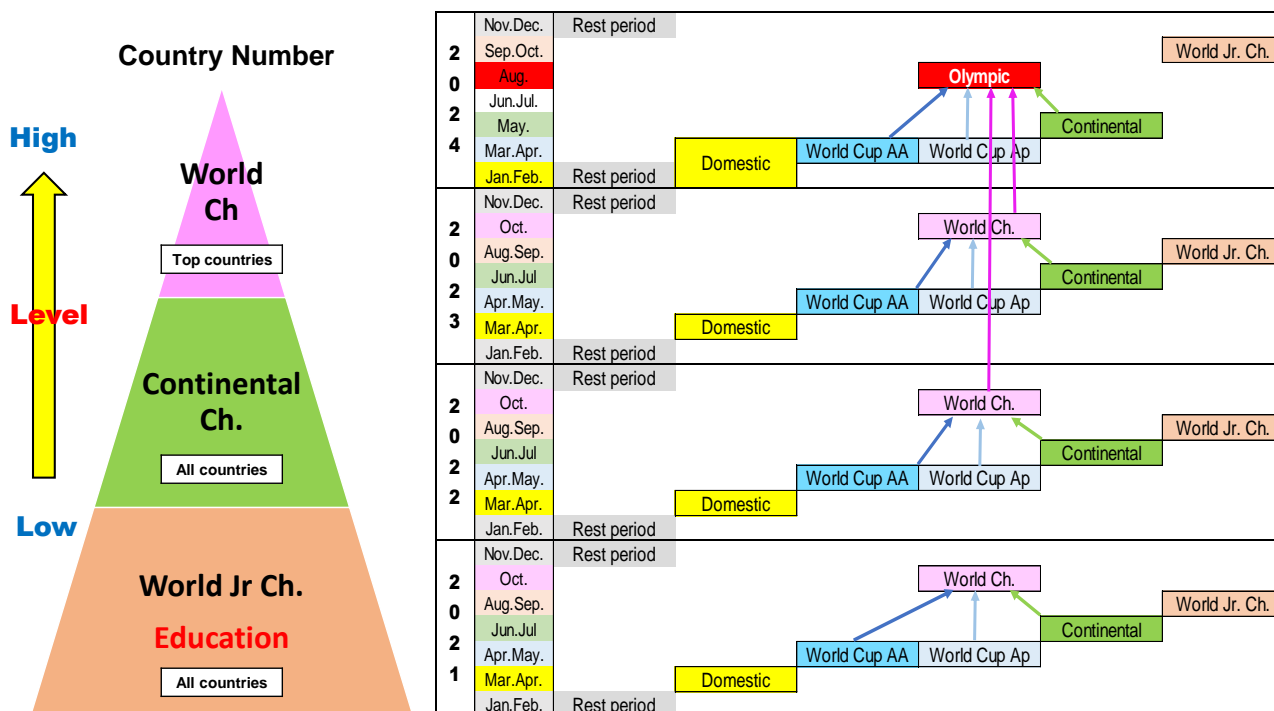
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graph TD; A[What we experienced: Many injuries at the World Championships in Montreal] --> B[Problems with venue set-up]; A --> C[Problems with apparatus]; A --> D[Problems with rules]; A --> E[Problems with period and time of the event]; B --> B1[LOC / FIG Office]; C --> C1[Apparatus Comm.]; D --> D1[WAG MAG TC]; E --> F[Event duration is too long. Duration per day is too long and competition each day ends very late at night. Top gymnasts and beginners are in the same subdivision.]; F --> G[Expenses to hold the World Championships are huge (US$11 million to 14 million) No candidates to organize]; F --> H[Solution To change Competitions' structure];
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The flowchart illustrates the challenges faced during the 1974 World Championships in Montreal. It begins with a central yellow box stating, "What we experienced: Many injuries at the World Championships in Montreal". This leads to four categories of problems: venue set-up, apparatus, rules, and period/time of the event. Each category is linked to a specific committee or office: LOC / FIG Office for venue set-up, Apparatus Comm. for apparatus, WAG MAG TC for rules, and a red box for period and time of the event. The red box leads to a detailed description of the event duration problem: "Event duration is too long. Duration per day is too long and competition each day ends very late at night. Top gymnasts and beginners are in the same subdivision." This problem leads to two outcomes: "Expenses to hold the World Championships are huge (US\$11 million to 14 million) No candidates to organize" and a red box labeled "[Solution] To change Competitions' structure".

**What we experienced: Many injuries at the World Championships in Montreal**

- Problems with venue set-up
  - LOC / FIG Office
- Problems with apparatus
  - Apparatus Comm.
- Problems with rules
  - WAG MAG TC
- Problems with period and time of the event
  - Event duration is too long. Duration per day is too long and competition each day ends very late at night. Top gymnasts and beginners are in the same subdivision.

**[Solution]**  
To change Competitions' structure



## **6. World Junior Championships**

Almost all other sports organize World Junior Championships. The reasons why we want to organize the World Junior Championships are as follows:

- Improving and maintaining the motivation of junior gymnasts
- Providing educational opportunities for junior gymnasts so they can achieve a global standard on the national level
- Providing an opportunity for gymnasts in developing countries to participate in a world class championships.

In order that these championships play an educative role for juniors, I would like to propose that we begin by having only an All-around competition, with two male and two female gymnasts per country. This World Championships will be open to all federations. Also, I would like to minimize the costs. As we organize the Championships, an ongoing review of the Championships format will be conducted.

## **7. Organization of the 1st World Junior Championships as a test**

Two countries have put themselves forward to host the World Junior Championships in 2019. They are Hungary for Artistic Gymnastics and Russia for Rhythmic Gymnastics. As we discussed during the Executive Committee meeting, we kept in mind that the World Junior Championships is on the agenda for the next cycle and the Championships should be organized from 2021 forward.

However, I would ask you all to understand one thing. Each country has a different situation to deal with. Some countries may get a special budget for a specific year and not for others. It appears that this is the case for Hungary and Russia if the events are organized in 2019. When the Championships are held in a country, gymnastics in this country quickly grows. Therefore, I would like to respect those two countries which have taken the initiative of submitting proposals. I would like to support their efforts. Their proposals were studied during the Executive Committee meetings and it has been agreed that they will organize the World Junior Championships as a test.

I would ask you to respect those countries that have aspired to contribute to the development of gymnastics in the world.

## **8. Qualification System for Tokyo 2020**

We have had proposals about the changes to the qualification systems from several disciplines. We spent a long time discussing those proposals but not all of them were approved.

All proposals were logical, but they don't necessarily provide a level playing field for everyone. For example, changes which can seem fair to strong Federations could be unfair to smaller gymnastics Federations.

In fact, we spent years discussing these issues during the last cycle and took final decisions at the Council 2016 and 2017. Our decisions have been reported to the IOC as the final qualification system. We cannot repeat the same arguments now. Our gymnasts have been training since the beginning of the Olympic cycle 2017-2020 based on what we decided in 2016. If we change it again, it will be

advantageous for some gymnasts but not for others. It is not a matter of whether the theory is right or not. The fact is, we have already started moving forward based on the consensus we made at the Council.

I think that unfortunately we made the qualification system too complicated. Why is it so complicated? I think it is because all of us insisted on our own national interests. We should keep in mind that we should not repeat the same errors for 2024. I encourage you to join me in beginning to think about the qualification system as we move toward 2024. We need to establish a system that everyone can understand.

## 9. About Sexual Abuse

I think that the issue of sexual abuse is not just an issue for the gymnastics community. It is part of the criminal element in society. It is a matter for the police. Until now, these issues have been dealt with within the gymnastics community, which is not the way it should be treated, and contributed to amplification of the issue. My project is to launch a foundation that establishes a reporting system for sexual harassment and abuse as described below.



## 10. EC meetings in Developing Countries

The October Presidential Commission meeting was held in Cameroon and the Executive Committee meeting in Benin. In Cameroon, we saw gymnasts training on a Judo mat. One of the gymnasts even showed us his triple twist. In Benin, the EC meeting made Benin's Sports Minister decide to implement mandatory gymnastics lessons into all school curriculums beginning next year. In addition, with our visit to Africa, several central African countries have promised to join the FIG as member Federations.

As just described, we could contribute to gymnastics development on a global scale by organizing EC meetings in developing countries. I would like to continue this commitment next year and onwards. Since last year, Fiji from Oceania and Nicaragua from Pan America have been showing interest in



organizing these meetings. We discussed their candidacies and decided to have an EC meeting in Fiji in 2018 and Nicaragua in 2019.

Some member Federations to which EC members belong may have to bear extra travel expenses and some may bear less. I would like to thank them in advance for their cooperation and understanding.



The Presidential Commission met Cameroonian gymnasts in Yaounde training on judo mat.