

FINA Report

United States Synchronized Swimming Board of Governors

Orlando, Florida

September, 2004

The FINA TSSC meeting was held in conjunction with the Olympic Qualifying Meet in Athens in April. The TSSC developed plans for the new World Cup in 2006 and Olympic Qualifying meet to be held in 2008.

1. The TSSC recommends the following format for the 2006 World Cup.
 - Open to all Federations.
 - Events to be Duet, Team and Free Routine Combination.
 - Federations may enter two Duets, one Team and one Free Routine Combination.
 - The World Cup will be awarded to the Federation which has achieved the highest total sum by adding the results of the performed events.
 - Both duets' results count towards the total.
 - One duet from each Federation will qualify for the Final.
 - Number of members in team according to FINA Rule SS 12.1.
 - Free Routine Combination Team numbers according to FINA Rules SS 12.1 and 3.4.
 - Preliminaries to be swum in groups: minimum of 3 groups for each session.
 - Different panels of judges will be appointed for each group.
 - Entries with the twelve highest results qualify for the final in each event.
 - Federations may send two FINA List judges, one "B", and one "G" category. A "G" judge must have experience in at least two International competitions.
2. The TSSC recommends the following proposal for the 2008 Olympic Qualification Procedures

TEAM – The competition shall be for a maximum of eight (8) teams selected in the following manner:

- Automatically one team from the Continental Championships of the five continents. The Host Country will be representative of that continent.
- The other three teams shall qualify from the Olympic Qualification Event in Synchronized Swimming in the year of the Olympic Games
- If for any reason qualified teams do not wish to participate in the Olympic Games, the next team(s) in order of placement from the Olympic Qualifying Event shall be invited to attend.

DUET - The competition shall be for a maximum of 24 duets selected in the following manner:

- Automatically one duet from the Continental Championships of the five continents. The Host Country will be representative of that Continent.
- Eight duets from the teams qualified as above
- Plus the next ranked duets from the Olympic Qualification Event.
- If for any reason a qualified duet does not wish to participate in the Olympic Games the next duet(s) in order of placement from the Olympic Games Qualifying Event shall be invited to attend.

Please understand that at this time these are simply recommendations which can be amended by the TSSC . Further, this package has not yet been considered by the FINA Bureau. This will occur in Athens in late August. Therefore, I will be giving an update on these items at the convention.

The Olympic Qualifying Event in April in Athens was very exciting with the United States winning the bronze medal in team! Wow! The duet finished fourth in a very tough competition. Congratulations, coaches and athletes on a tremendous performance! The newly built Synchro pool for the Olympic Games was ready for the competition ! I spent a great deal of time working with the organizing committee as they are working diligently to prepare for the Olympic Games. A Judge/Coach Seminar was held in Athens the day following the Qualifying Meet. Presenters from the USA were Chris Carver, Linai Vaz de Negri and myself.

The Junior World Championships were held in Moscow in July. Congratulations to the USA Junior Team finishing fourth in team in a strong field. Winning silver medals in both solo and duet was a great achievement! Thank you to all of our coaches, managers and judges who continue to represent us and support us in every possible way! A Coaching Seminar followed the competition. Thanks to Judy McGowan who presented work on Sculling Mechanics prepared by Linai. The Coaching clinic included topics such as Synchro Specific tests (Russia) and research on improving eggbeater (Japan) .

I was in Russia during the US Open but hear great things about the meet . Congratulations to Team II and all of their hard-working coaches , managers , etc. Another successful showing for the USA!

An important task ahead of us at this convention is that of preparing proposals for rule changes (both General rules and Technical rules) to be submitted to FINA by November 13, 2004.

As I prepare to leave for the Olympic Games in Greece, I am filled with pride and with gratitude to all of our athletes and members whose tireless work and dedication have brought us to this important “moment in time”. GO TEAM USA!

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Jasontek – FINA TSSC Honorary Secretary

