



The ACRO NEWSLETTER

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N° 38 August 2008

By Tonya Case Acro TC 1st Vice president/ Acting President of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee

The last Acrobatic Technical Committee meetings were hosted by British Gymnastics in London in early June. The meetings were noteworthy because all of the members of the Technical Committee were together for the first time since the World Championships in 2006. Many thanks to British Gymnastics for hosting the Committee for the second time this quad.

The meeting work focused on preparation for the Intercontinental Course. The enormous effort by President Pat Wade in the preparation of a Study Guide to help candidates prepare for the Course must be recognized and appreciated. The ACRO TC welcomed the UEG Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee President, Laurie Coulton for a day of meetings. His input and the resulting discussions were of great benefit. It is to be hoped that similar meetings with Technical Committee Presidents from other Unions will be possible in the near future.

Apologies:

Sometimes in the transmission of documents errors occur. You probably noticed the strange spacing in the clarifications section on page 2 of the March 2008 Newsletter. Also in that section, please delete the reference to article 20.16. The item referenced has been clarified in this Newsletter.

There was a second error, and error of omission, in the March Newsletter. Many apologies to the Russian Federation because the following sentence was lost in the final publication.

Many thanks to the Russian Acrobatics Federation and the President, Mr. Dmitriy Pogorelov for the special hospitality extended to the TC while they were in Moscow.

Code of Points and Tables of Difficulty 2009 – 2012

You will have seen that the Code of Points and Tables of Difficulty 2009 – 2012 has been posted on the FIG website. (They can be found under the Rules link for all disciplines, not under the Acrobatics- Specific link.) Please be advised that both of these documents are still DRAFTS. The final versions will be posted in January of 2009 with any clarifications necessary following the Intercontinental Course.

It has already been noted that there are some problems in the Tables of Difficulty. Specifically the Difficulty Conversion Tables at the beginning of the document are all labelled "Balance". The correct Conversion Tables can be found in the Code of Points. However, it is important to know that the Difficulty Conversion Tables may be adjusted following analysis of the World Championships. There are some missing elements on pages 106 and 107 which will be corrected in the final version. And there are a couple of pages missing at the back of the document. These errors, along with any others that are found will be corrected in the final version published in January.

There are also a few errors and omissions in the Code of Points. You will have noted that the discipline column is missing from the left hand side of Appendix 2. As clarifications: a forbidden element does not meet special requirements and has a penalty of 1.0; ending in a static element of difficulty is not allowed and will be penalized. An Appendix will be added about Team events.



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If you notice any problems or want specific clarifications at the Intercontinental Course, please send the items to Pat, who will assure that the matters are addressed at that time. Clarifications will not be done before the course.

If you have questions/comments/concerns or find additional errors in the Code of Points, please send them through your **Federation** to Tonya Case at trcase2@yahoo.com with a copy to the secretary, Rosy Taeymans. If you have questions/comments/concerns or find additional errors in the Tables of Difficulty, please send them through your **Federation** to Rosy Taeymans with a copy to Tonya Case.

World Championships and World Age Group Competition:

Congratulations to all federations who have made enormous efforts to prepare for these events with short notice. The British Gymnastics Association and the City of Glasgow are also to be congratulated for undertaking the organisational task of the events so soon after the Olympics. Progress in this formidable task is more than satisfactory to date.

Federations will be receiving the Work Plans before the end of August. The draw takes place 20th August in Beijing.

The World Age Group competitions have a healthy increase of numbers and should provide a secure base for progression to senior World events in the next cycle. The senior entry has to raise questions about education and training programmes and the depth of development across the world.

It is sad that some federations still cannot see the value in exposing developing pairs and groups to either the junior or senior events of this calibre as a means of educating athletes, new coaches and judges. Presenting at a World event is the way to test national standards and to inform training programmes. The learning that takes place at all levels during these competitions is invaluable. World events happen every year and planning must include the financial considerations that are integral to being part of an international sport.

It is hoped these issues and ways to resolve them can be addressed through Round Table discussion during the World Championships which will be preceded by an informal "Meeting in the Round" during World Age Group competition.

Intercontinental Judges' Brevet Course

The application forms for the Intercontinental Judges' Brevet Course were sent to Federations on August 14th. An Examination Study Guide (Edition September 2008) is now available on the FIG website under the Acrobatic Gymnastics section. This will help you to prepare for the course.

Federations with only one Category 1, 2 or 3 judge eligible to attend the Intercontinental Course may request an additional place for one Category 4 judge. There is NO GUARANTEE that a second judge will be allowed. Federations with only Category 4 judges may also request a maximum of 2 places, but with no guarantee of a place. The number of beds at the centre will decide whether extra places can be given.

If you are standing as a new candidate to the FIG TC Acro, you should register for the course because if elected, you must attend. Presidents of Continental Acro Technical Committees also should attend the course.



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Media Rules:

Please pay attention to the Media Rules concerning the placement of the country emblem on competition attire. (The Media Rules may be found on the FIG website.) According to these rules, the emblem must be placed on the sleeve near the shoulder or on the upper chest and clearly visible. Leotards must be 'skin tight'. Do not forget your body stocking! The floor at the Worlds is light blue with dark blue backdrop, so take care in the selection of leotards

Draw for CJP and DJ1 for WAGC and WCH:

The draw for CJP and DJ1 was done by the Technical Committee during the London meetings. The draw for DJ2 will be done as per the Code of Points prior to the competitions in Glasgow

Draw for World Age Group Competitions:

CJPs	FIG	Natalya Kyselyova and Zheng Liping	
MG:	ISR	Shtilivasser, Igor C2	
MP:	RUS	Stepchenkov, Yuriy C2	as alternate: Ryan, Pam C2
MXP:	RUS	Volobuey, Leonid C2	as alternate: Kudrawcheva, Valeriya C2
WP:	BEL	De Bruyn Gert C2	as alternate: De Swaef, Inga C2
WG:	POL	Wojtkowiak, Urszula C1	as alternate: Milewska, Wieslawa C1

Draw for Senior World Championships:

CJPs	FIG	Valientsin Hubenok and Dimitry Vinnikov	
MG:	BUL	Draganov, Dragomir C1	
MP:	USA	Jones, Jola C1	
MxP:	POR	Lopez, Ana C1	as alternate: Tomas, Bernardo C1
WP:	LTU	Kalinin, Viktor C1	
WG:	GER	Hoffman, Kirstin C1	

Code of Points Clarifications:

19.35: This article states: "In the whole exercise, not more than 1 pyramid can have 2 bases on the floor." It is important to remember that if the top goes to the shoulders, this is classed the same as going to the floor. (See article 17.12.) The pyramid is finished and no further difficulty credit will be given for any pyramid with two bases on the floor.

17.10motions must start with a 1 second hold. If the 1 second hold is not performed, a time fault penalty of 0.3 is applied. However, the motion still receives full difficulty credit.

Tables of Difficulty:

Individual element #28: This element is to be performed **without** placing the hand on the floor. If the gymnast wants to perform the element using one hand on the floor, the element should be identified as #20 and is a value 4.



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Mounts performed to one arm: The top must arrive on one hand before the arm of the base is straight. Otherwise no difficulty credit is given to the element.

Motions in Pairs: If difficulty value is claimed for a 180° or 360° turn as part of the motion by the base, the turn must be incorporated in the motion to the floor and/or in the motion back to stand. The turn cannot be done with several steps while the base remains standing.

Men's Four Example Page 156 "R": This element is considered a dismount when it is performed from a partner(s) to the floor. The boost in the middle does not change the element into a dynamic element.

All Disciplines: In Dynamic, handstands that are caught in straight and handstands that are caught in arch are considered to be the same element. If difficulty is claimed for a catch in arch, but the top lands in straight before going to arch, the extra +2 claimed for the value of the arch is taken away and the element is given difficulty credit for the catch in straight handstand. Technical deductions should be applied by the Execution Judges.

Age Group 11-16:

You will have noticed that the Rules for Competition have been modified. All of the clarifications that had been published in newsletters were added so that all of the information is now in one place. Hopefully this will make it easier to prepare for competition.

Women's Pairs Dynamic, Row II skill #3, the leg pitch:

One hand must be placed under the leg. However the second hand may be placed on the leg, under the seat, or on the back with full difficulty and without a technical deduction.

Official Shorthand (Notation):

In preparation for the IJBC in November, there has been a question about the use of official shorthand for the exam. Personal variations of the official shorthand are allowed, as long as it is clear to the examiner which element is recorded.

Good luck to all until we meet in Glasgow. We can, we know, give the world of gymnastics a spectacle to talk about.