

Youth World Championships 2019
Artistic Swimming
August 26-September 2, 2019
Judges Feedback
Respectfully submitted by Tammy McGregor

Solo Prelims

Execution Panel

- Execution is tasked with how well the athletes do the components not whether one component is harder than another.
- Several athletes had good dynamic height but were low in double vertical. In this case, the judges need to average the scores of the components.
- Height is a significant part of execution but it needs to be balanced with the other components.
- Beginnings and endings need to be clear.
- Athletes who score higher in execution do not have excess water and splashing, they are more efficient.
- Definition of movement, clarity, clear design, control, and extension all help execution.
- When an athlete has one portion of the routine that is not well executed, the judges need to weigh exactly how much of the total routine was not well executed in relation to the whole.

Team Prelims

Difficulty Panel

- Pool coverage, the number of spins, speed of movement, the content between hybrids, and the number of pattern changes, were all noted while judging difficulty, as well as discussed afterwards.
- If the judges cannot understand the hybrids or other components of the routine, it is difficult for the judges to evaluate the difficulty. A certain level of clarity and execution is needed to adequately evaluate difficulty.
- The judges noticed that many teams tried to show risk elements in the routines as well as with the acrobatics.
- The judges were impressed with how many teams incorporated difficult angles, blind hybrids, and pattern changes within the hybrids, with athletes of such a young age.
- Some judges noticed teams that opted for simple choreography in order to execute better.
- Several teams moved constantly throughout the routine with no resting spots. This is very difficult.

Duet Prelims

Execution Panel

- When considering synchronization you need to consider how much of the total routine the mistakes account for.
- We have to consider not just height and synchronization but also stability and control.
- Synchronization can be a 10.0 even with all other components at a low level.
- Several top countries had a lot of synchronization errors.
- Many duets are swimming too far apart.
- Many duets had a different level between the partners.

Difficulty Panel

- You need to determine how difficult the moves are but also how many of the total moves are difficult.
- There were only a few times when athletes used double arms for more than 1 second.
- Areas to consider: how complex are the moves, how risky, and how long.
- In many cases the athletes tried to do too much.
- Hybrids are worth more as they include more stress on the body: kinesthetic awareness, flexibility, sculling proficiency, etc.
- Strokes mostly consider strength.
- Dimension of the positions and transitions needs to be considered.
- Blind actions are more difficult.
- Speed adds difficulty. This seemed to be the most popular kind of difficulty used in today's event.
- There were few duets with spin changes, some with isolation moves, and several with spinning.

Impression Panel

- It seemed as though the athletes were doing a swim-through for their coaches. There was very little emotion and presentation.

Combo Prelims

Impression Panel

- The connections need to be interesting.
- Are there multiple transitions? What type of transitions?
- How are the athletes using the music?
- Pool coverage is an important factor.
- Do the judges know where to look at any given time? Is it clear?
- Presentation needs to be considered.

Impression Panel (continued)

- The content in this category changes with the age groups and the amount of time they have to include additional components.

Difficulty Panel

- Single legs vs. double legs are a factor.
- Some routines tried to be difficult in only one category and therefore the routines were unbalanced.
- It is more difficult to be high and extended.
- The judges need to understand the difficulty in order to give the routines credit for it.
- The number of parts with 10 athletes is important for difficulty.

Execution Panel

- If a small portion of the routine is not well executed this needs to be factored into the score.
- Height, accuracy, control, and design are all considered.

Figures

Rio

- The judges felt they could have done a better job of evaluating the weight of the first half of the figure compared to the second half of the figure. Each part should be worth 50%.
- The descent from the double ballet leg position to the thrust position should be controlled. Many athletes did this part too fast.
- Many athletes are too deep before the thrust.
- The head should not surface prior to the thrust. Many athletes had their faces surfacing.

Ariana

- Please remember the figure begins with a dolphin beginning. You must travel as you assume the surface arch position.
- There were many soft knees on the surface leg positions on the first leg and second leg transitions.

Jupiter

- Remember to show the bolded positions.

Oceanea

- The spin is rapid.
- Please remember the figure begins with a dolphin beginning.

Duet Finals

Impression Panel

- Make sure you are using both sides of the pool.
- Presentation on the back is noticed.
- The choreography should show changes in rhythm and mood.

Execution Panel

- Extension affects execution.
- Arm and leg movements need to be fully stretched to complete the movement.
- The positions need to have accuracy, confidence, height, and power.
- Knee and foot extension is so important for good execution.
- Synchronization can make such a difference in the execution score.
- Height of the double verticals was low.
- You need to be sharp to show power.

Team Finals

Execution Panel

- The number of athletes involved when assessing synchronization is important. Are 8 athletes involved or 2?
- Within one routine each highlight often has a different level of execution.
- It is also important to evaluate if the highlights are being executed at a lower level as the routine goes on.
- The boosts got lower as the routines went on.
- The extension of the arms and legs declines especially at the end of the routines.
- Often the size of patterns is inconsistent throughout the routines.
- Many teams had soft legs at the end of the routines.
- The end or “entry” of the highlights needs to be clean and clear.