

2019 CBTF Fall Conference

Report from WBTF Technical Advisor

2019 Winter Meeting

As WBTF Technical Advisor for Canada I attended the 2019 Winter Meeting in Limoges, France, along with President Joanne Moser and WBTF Judges Rep for Canada Ron Kopas.

Baton Tape

The Technical Committee addressed the grip tape rule that tape can cover up to 1/2 of **the shaft**, equally divided from the centre. The Ball and Tip are not included in the measurement, only the metal shaft.

Judge Selection Process

Elisabeth Kleive (Norway) presented an analysis of the judging from the 2018 World Championship as compared to the 2016 World Championship. In general, the range between the high and low scores was narrower in 2018 than in 2016 - this was taken as a sign that the Selection Process used in 2018 did help to bring better qualified judges to the competition. In general, the Technical Advisors felt that the Selection Process was a good step forward, although further work with judge training will always be necessary.

Team Caption Judging

WBTF does not currently judge the Freestyle Team event by caption - that is done only for Artistic Group. We received a presentation of the top 3 teams from the 2018 World Championship being judged by caption - each judge evaluated each team on a single caption only, and the separate caption scores were then combined (much as is now done with Artistic Group).

The Technical Advisors felt that this produced a much better overall result, because each judge was allowed to focus on one particular caption and their final score was not 'swayed' by the factors in the other captions. The combined evaluation of the separate judges with their specific caption responsibility provided a better overall evaluation.

There are no plans to change the WBTF judging system to a caption-based approach, but these findings do support our CBTF strategy for group events, which is to have the judges evaluate the group caption-by-caption (even though they are responsible for all captions on the scoresheet).

WBTF Coaching Level I Certification

At the 2018 World Championship, the WBTF ran the initial Coaching Level I Certification course. From that course, 15 coaches passed with Clinician status. However, that status as a 'clinician' is incomplete.

The ETC is planning a meeting in the Fall of 2019 to prepare additional training and resource material for these 'clinicians'. Once that is complete and has been delivered to the 'clinicians', they will be able to present a Coaching Level I course on their own.

Men's Short Program Music

A new version of the Men's Short Program music comes into effect on September 1 2019. The change was to adjust the tempo to match the tempo on the Women's Short Program music.

Short Program Revision

Separately from the Technical Advisors Committee, I am also a member of the Executive Technical Committee (ETC). The ETC is a smaller working group of WBTF Technical Advisors and it is intended to plan and initiate all new projects, and work to complete ongoing projects. The ETC is composed of:

- Technical Director (ETC Chair): Paola De Marchi
- Vice-Technical Director: Elisabeth Kleive
- Judges Chair: Jackie Stewart
- Vice-Judges Chair: Xavier Papin
- Coaches Chair: Jean Michel Ruelle
- Vice-Coaches Chair: Maureen Johnson
- Members-at-Large (3): Jenny Persson, Sandi Rios, Dale White

The Coaching Level I Certification Course was initiated by the ETC, and will continue until they have completed the materials as described above.

Another project initiated by the ETC was to review and then revise the 24-count Contact Material element within the Short Program. After the 2018 Winter Meeting, Jean Michel, Dale and I were asked to submit suggestions for a replacement for the existing Contact Material element.

These submissions were quite varied, and many felt each had a distinct 'national' flavour and identity. A review and evaluation of those initial suggestions led to a completely different structure and approach to the Contact Material element. The ETC decided that any new Contact Material element had to meet several criteria:

- It had to be clear and readable (to be easily taught, and easily judged)
- It had to have distinct vertical and horizontal segments
- It needed to avoid wraps and finger twirls

Fifteen submissions were received and these were reviewed and ranked by the entire Technical Committee. The Contact Material series I submitted on behalf of Canada was selected, and has since been approved by the Board, to be in effect September 1 2019.

The written description, demonstration video, and teaching note videos are all now available on the WBTF website:

<https://www.wbtf.org/content/video-revised-short-program-element-6-contact-material>

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Johnson
WBTF Technical Advisor for Canada
Member: WBTF ETC