



# The balance of power in gymnastics at the 2024 Olympics: a comparison between continental associations

UDC 796.41

Dr. Hab., Professor **A.A. Somkin**<sup>1</sup>PhD, Associate Professor **N.N. Smirnova**<sup>2</sup>PhD, Associate Professor **R.A. Agaev**<sup>3</sup>**A.E. Krotov**<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>St. Petersburg State Institute of Cinema and Television, St. Petersburg<sup>2</sup>St. Petersburg Mining University of Empress Catherine II, St. Petersburg<sup>3</sup>St. Petersburg State Maritime Technical University, St. Petersburg

Corresponding author: somkin.alexey.1959@yandex.ru

Received by the editorial office on 02.02.2025 r.

## Abstract

**Objective of the study** – aims to assess the state of gymnastics in the continental federations that are part of the FIG, based on the results shown at the XXXIII Olympic Games.

**Methods and structure of the study.** As part of the work, the structure of FIG and its five continental unions (CS) were studied. The results of the Olympic gymnastics competitions are analyzed, followed by statistical processing of data on the participation of teams and individual athletes from various CS. The countries and gymnasts who demonstrated the best results at the XXXIII Olympiad have been identified.

**Results and conclusions.** The distribution of medals in gymnastics at the Olympic Games is characterized by significant geographical diversity. Representatives of 17 states from four CS, excluding Oceania, won awards of various merits, including eight countries that won gold medals. Asian countries (Japan, China) occupy the leading positions in men's gymnastics, while American countries (USA and Brazil) occupy the leading positions in women's gymnastics. Individual gymnasts – winners and prize-winners of the Games – represent countries that were not previously among the leaders of world gymnastics, such as the Philippines, Colombia and Kazakhstan for men, as well as Algeria for women. However, for an objective assessment of the balance of power between the CS, it is necessary to take into account the participation of Russia.

**Keywords:** *gymnastics, continental unions of FIG – XXXIII Olympic Games, statistical analysis, leading positions, men's gymnastics, women's gymnastics, winners.*

**Introduction.** The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) includes five continental unions in its structure: European (EG), Asian (AGU), Pan-American (PAGU), African (UAG), Oceanic (OGU), which includes the Pacific Ocean states [5]. The selection of national teams and individual participants for the Olympics, which was regulated, took place in 2022-2024 at the World championships and Cups, continental championships, and also implied special quotas [1, 3]. The Olympic gymnastics tournament was attended by 12 men's and women's teams, determined based on the results of the 2022 and 2023 World Championships. A total of 190 participants (96 men and 94 women) participated in the tournament, representing all five continental unions, but with different skill levels.

**Objective of the study** – aims to assess the state of gymnastics in the continental federations that are

part of the FIG, based on the results shown at the XXXIII Olympic Games.

**Methods and structure of the study.** A study of the structure of FIG with its five continental Unions (CS). The study of the results of gymnastics competitions at the Olympics with their subsequent statistical analysis regarding the affiliation of teams and individual participants to certain CS. Identification of countries and gymnasts who occupy leading positions in gymnastics based on the results of the XXXIII Olympic Games (OI 2024).

**Results and conclusions.** According to the FIG Charter, all five CS have equal rights, but the level of development of gymnastics in different countries is far from uniform. In addition, it can be noted that EG includes 50 national federations, while OGU has only 8, of which only Australia and New Zealand have real



gymnastic disciplines, and their athletes participated in the Olympic Games 2024.

It is quite expected that the men's part of the gymnastics program was dominated by representatives of AGU: Japan, China, the Philippines, which, in total, won seven gold medals out of eight possible. For the first time in the history of the Olympics, Irish athlete Rhys McClenaghan won the equestrian exercises. In the team championship, the national teams were on the podium in the same composition as at the 2023 World Cup: Japan, China, and the United States. You may recall that at the Tokyo Olympics, this podium looked like this: Russia (ROC), Japan, China.

Thus, the two teams representing Asia, without the participation of Russia, are the strongest in the world. This is confirmed by the personal championship, where the representatives of these countries also have the entire podium.: Oka Shinnosuke (Japan), Zhang Boheng and Xiao Zhoteng (both from China). A gymnast from the Philippines, K. Yulo, should be noted. Firstly, he is the only gymnast at the OI 2024 who was able to win twice in individual sports, and secondly, he won gold for his country for the first time in gymnastics. The women's tournament was predictably won by the U.S. national team, which lost only to Russian gymnasts at the previous Olympics.

Gymnasts from PAGU countries only took the po-

dium in the individual all-around: S. Biles (USA), R. Andrade (Brazil), S. Lee (USA). In individual sports, K. Nemour from Algeria can be noted, who won on uneven bars and brought the first "gold" in gymnastics for UAG. However, this does not indicate the rise of a gymnast in Africa, as this gymnast only changed her sports citizenship from French to Algerian in 2023. All statistics on the results of the OI 2024 by membership in the CS are presented in Table 1, and the ranking indicators in the medal standings are shown in Table 2.

Based on the conducted research, we will highlight the main trends in the development of gymnastics in the world. As before, gymnasts from Asian countries of Japan and China occupy the leading positions among men. At the same time, there are individual gymnasts in other AGU countries who can compete with leaders both in Asia and in the world, from the Philippines and Kazakhstan. A. Barajas from Colombia should be mentioned separately. He won the only silver medal from all PAGU countries and the first for his country in gymnastics. The USA gymnasts dominate in women's gymnastics, and in individual competitions they are competing from PAGU countries. Andrade (Brazil). In EG, Italy can be distinguished: "gold" and "bronze" on the balance beam; "silver" in the team [4].

**Conclusions.** The "geography of medals" in gymnastics at the Olympic Games 2024 is quite diverse.

*Table 1. Statistical indicators of results at the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad in accordance with membership in the continental unions*

	EG	AGU	PAGU	UAG	OGU	Σ
<b>Men's gymnastics</b>						
Participants	56 (21)*	24 (11)	14 (5)	1 (1)	1 (1)	96 (39)
Commands	8	2	2	no	no	12
Team final	4	2	2	no	no	8
Personal finale	12 (9)	6 (4)	5 (3)	no	1 (1)	24 (17)
Finals on the views	27 (14)	19 (7)	2 (2)	no	no	48 (23)
<b>The results of the final competitions (1. Gold/2. Silver/3. Bronze medals)</b>						
Team championship	no	1. Japan 2. China	3. USA	no	no	---
Personal championship	no	1/1/1 (2)	no	no	no	1/1/1 (2)
Primacy in the types	1/3/3 (6)	5/2/3 (5)	0/1/1 (2)	no	no	6/6/7 ** (13)
<b>Women's Gymnastics</b>						
The participants	44 (17)	21 (8)	20 (6)	3 (3)	6 (2)	94 (36)
Commands	5	3	3	no	1	12
Team final	3	2	3	no	no	8
Personal finale	11 (7)	4 (2)	7 (4)	1 (1)	1 (1)	24 (15)
Finals on the views	12 (6)	7 (3)	13 (3)	1 (1)	no	33 (13)
<b>The results of the final competitions (1. Gold/2. Silver/3. Bronze medals)</b>						
Team championship	2. Italy	no	1. USA 3. Brazil	no	no	---
Personal championship	no	no	1/1/1 (2)	no	no	1/1/1 (2)
Primacy in the types	1/0/2 (2)	0/2/0 (1)	2/2/2 (2)	1/0/0 (1)	no	4/4/4 (5)

*Note: \* – number of countries (national federations) in parentheses; \*\* – Two bronze medals were awarded on the crossbar.*



Table 2. Medal standings of countries at the Games of the XXXIII Olympic Games in gymnastics

A country	KC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	$\Sigma$
1. USA	PAGU	3	1	5	9
2. Japan	AGU	3	--	1	4
3. China	AGU	2	5	2	9
4. Philippines	AGU	2	--	--	2
5. Brazil	PAGU	1	2	1	4
6. Italy	EG	1	1	1	3
7. Algeria	UAG	1	--	--	1
7. Ireland	EG	1	--	--	1
9. Armenia	EG	--	1	--	1
9. Colombia	PAGU	--	1	--	1
9. Israel	EG	--	1	--	1
9. Kazakhstan	AGU	--	1	--	1
9. Ukraine	EG	--	1	--	1
14. Great Britain	EG	--	--	2	2
15. Greece	EG	--	--	1	1
15. Romania	EG	--	--	1	1
15. Chinese Taipei	AGU	--	--	1	1

Medals were won by representatives of 17 countries from four CS, with the exception of Oceania, including eight gold countries. Asian gymnastics is dominated by representatives of Japan and China; women's gymnastics is dominated by Pan-American gymnastics (USA and Brazil).

Individual gymnasts who became winners and prize-winners of the Olympic Games 2024 were trained in countries that have not been among the leaders of world gymnastics for a long time. These include the Philippines, Colombia, Kazakhstan for men, and Algeria for women. However, the real balance of power in gymnastics between the CS cannot be accurate and objective without participation in the Olympics, due to sanctions, of the Russian national team [2].

## References

1. Andrianov S.N. Kriterii otbora. Principy olimpijskoj selekcii 2022–2024. S.N. Andrianov. Gimnastika. 2024. No.1 (51). P. 62–65.
2. Paholkova N.V., Somkin A.A., Zarodnyuk G.V., Larionova M.N. Sootnoshenie sil v sportivnoj gimnastike v predolimpijskom sezone v svete mezhdunarodnyh sankcij protiv Rossijskih sportsmenov. Teoriya i praktika fizicheskoy kul'tury. 2024. No. 4. p.18-20.
3. Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique. Artistic Gymnastics Qualification System. Games of the XXXIII Olympiad. Paris 2024. Lausanne: FIG, 2022. 12 p. Available at: <https://gymnastics.sport> (date of access: 15.10.2024).
4. Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique. Artistic Gymnastics. Games of the XXXIII Olympiad Paris 2024. Result Book. First Version. Paris: FIG, 2024. 201 p. Available at: <https://gymnastics.sport> (date of access: 15.10.2024).
5. Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique. Statutes. Edition 2023. Lausanne: FIG, 2023. 48 p. Available at: <https://gymnastics.sport> (date of access: 15.10.2024).