

Tech Talk DEC 2024:

The rules packet was passed as submitted by the rules committee to the BOD on 12/12/2024. Highlights to this years rules packet include the following. This is not all the changes from Aqua just some that caught our attention.

USA will be adopting all new AQUA rules. Below are some highlights on rules changes.

You can find the documents that directly correlate to the topics below [HERE](#)

### **AQUA Rules**

Hybrids have different coding  
Number of hybrids in routines has changed  
Acro have a more simplified coding process  
Requirements in routines have changed  
Penalties are larger for violating the AQUA rules  
3 new figures for youth  
Changes to some TRE

### **Hybrid Information & Pair Acrobatics**

Pay particular attention to the definition for jump/throw

### **Acrobatic Catalog**

- Change to ineligibility for JO participation
- National championships will have awards through place 8
- Coach card modification timing between prelims and finals will be stated in final meet announcement for national meets.
- All AQUA penalties will go in effect this year for 12u, youth, 15-17, 18-19/20, JR, SR, collegiate *Penalty chart coming soon*. This includes a ½ point penalty for any team or acro less than 8 or combo less than 10.
  - We will have an exception from AQUA rules for Masters, novice, INT, AWD that will use the penalties from 2024 and earlier. This includes ¼ point deduction for any team less then 8 or combo less than 10.
- The hybrid safety limit for 12u maximum coding of 7.0 inclusive of the 0.5 BM for each hybrid. Any hybrid with a code greater than 7.0 will go to Base Mark.
- Apnea is no longer timed and/or part of the score following AQUA removing Apnea from their rules.

- Intermediate and Novice will not have changes from last year with the exception of the ¼ point penalty for INT combos with less than 10 swimmers
- USA 16-19 combo rules are as follows:

### 16-19/20 Free Combination Routine Additional Requirements

Time = 3:30

Elements = 10

- a) 4 Team Acrobatics \* **with DD safety limit**\*\* (free choice, but must not repeat the same acrobatic)
- b) 1 x DD Solo Hybrid
- c) 1 x DD Duet Hybrid
- d) 1 x DD Trio Hybrid
- e) 2 x Team DD Hybrid (must be executed with a minimum of 4 athletes)
- \* **Must include 1 declaration from each family in the routine (counted across Solo, Duet, Trio and Team DD Hybrids)**
- f) 1 x Team choreography hybrid with no DD (i.e. factor of 1.0) (must be executed with a minimum of 4 athletes)
- g) Element parts cannot occur simultaneously (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while Solo Hybrid starts)

**\*\* Safety Limit: Team Acrobatic Movements cannot have a Degree of Difficulty**  
**("DD"), (inclusive of the Base Mark) higher than the following:**  
**Group A: 2.7**  
**Group B: 2.8**  
**Group C: 2.8**  
**Group P: 3.0**

- Youth figures have changed. There are 3 new figures

**Youth figures** had the greatest discussion. All youth swimmers at Youth nationals and JO meet will do the same two figures per athlete recommendation. There were many ideas from the community for implementation of this rule change. The logistics for implementation were looked at and presented to the BOD for consideration in November. The logistics for implementation were put forward in a community meeting on 12/7/2024. With an open invitation to share any additional information about implementation from the community. The Athlete executive committee (AEC) took all the information about potential options for implementation and comments from the community and brought back a recommendation to the BOD on implementation. The

BOD approved the recommendation of the AEC group to have all athletes do the same figures using 2 different sets of judges.

**Some thoughts from the AEC and BOD.**

- The AEC did not want to impact the 12u group and reduce the number of figures they were doing, figuring that this was an important part of their development.
- The BOD felt the judges had the correct training and tools
- The AEC and BOD did not like the idea of eliminating prelims from duet and team for a large variety of reasons.

**Collegiate:**

New collegiate novice award category

Clarification of eligibility exception

Update on technical category placement for first year swimmers

New procedures for collegiate technical routines A and B

Will follow suit and adopt all the new AQUA rules.

- Note trio is not an AQUA event. USA rules will have trio with 5 free hybrids and 3 pair across

**Masters:**

Figure Rules: Established a 1.0 penalty for a figure not completed correctly.