**USAAS 2024 CONVENTION**

**FINAL POST-CONVENTION RULES REPORT**

**ALL ITEMS APPROVED**

**ITEM 1:** New Collegiate Novice Awards Category

(Add new CO 3.2.4)

**CO 3.2.4 USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards: The following scoring system is used for the Technical Category D competition for the USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Routine scoring will follow CO 3.2.1.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Place** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** |
| **Points** | **15** | **12** | **10** | **8** | **6** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |

(Add new CO 5.2.4 and renumber following)

**CO 5.2.4 USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards: Using the USAAS Collegiate Novice Award Scoring System, student-athletes shall receive points based upon the rank order of finish in all routine entries counting toward the Overall Institution Award at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Exhibition routine entries are excluded.**

**For the USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.4. Only those student-athletes entered in the Technical Category D competition are eligible to be considered for the USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards.**

**1. Only Technical Category D shall count for placement points. Exhibition Technical entries will be eligible but are excluded from points in that category.**

**2. The top 10 student-athletes, regardless of U.S. Citizenship, shall receive USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards. The USAAS Collegiate Novice Awards shall be announced on the USAAS website within a week of completion of the U.S. Collegiate Championship.**

Housekeeping (all other Collegiate awards state whether or not U.S. Citizenship is required, so to be consistent suggest the following two housekeeping changes)

**CO 5.2.4** **Collegiate Outstanding Swimmer of the Year:** To be **awarded regardless of U.S. Citizenship and** based equally on athletics, academics and community service. Awarded following the U.S. Collegiate Championship by a vote of 1 coach from each institution and 1 Athletes Representative from each Region. This award shall be administered by the U.S. Collegiate Championship Meet Manager.

**CO 5.2.5** **USAAS Collegiate Academic Award:** A certificate of recognition shall be awarded to all student-athletes, **regardless of U.S. Citizenship,** who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher (on a 4-point scale) and who participate in the U.S. Collegiate Championship. A certificate will be given to each student-athlete earning an award but only the names of the student-athletes who achieve a 4.0 GPA will be announced.

**ITEM 2:** Clarify Collegiate eligibility exception

**CO 1.3** **Eligibility:** A program shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements and USAAS has certified the student-athlete’s eligibility. Each institution is expected to follow eligibility and amateurism regulations set forth in the Division I NCAA Manual – Bylaw 12 (Amateurism) and Bylaw 14 (Eligibility).

**Exception to Bylaw 12.8.3.2.1.1:** Student-Athletes representing the National Team of their Federation shall have a maximum of 3 years after their high school graduation date to enroll full-time in a collegiate institution. **Enrollment after the 3-year period shall be permitted and will result in the loss of eligible competitive seasons equivalent to the number of years beyond the 3-year grace period.**

**ITEM 3:** Update for Collegiate Nationals now being on straight-to-finals model

**CP 7.1.2.4** For ~~all remaining National Championships~~ the **U.S.** Collegiate ~~National~~ Championship, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to ~~all remaining finalists~~ **places 4-12.**

(add new CP 7.1.2.5)

**CP 7.1.2.5 For all remaining National Championships and National Invitationals, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to all remaining finalists.**

Housekeeping if Item 3 is approved:

**CO 4.1.3** **Placement in the most recent U.S. Collegiate Championship:**

1. Student-Athletes placing ~~in Finals (places 1-12)~~ **1-12 in each event** shall qualify for the next U.S. Collegiate Championship. A routine already qualified through this method shall be excluded from the Region’s top 12 qualifiers.
2. The USAAS 50% rule shall apply.

**~~CO 5.1.4~~** ~~In the U.S. Collegiate Championship, placement points for places 1-12 shall be~~

~~determined by places from Finals.~~

**ITEM 4:** Technical Category placement for first year swimmers

**CO 2.2.1** Student-Athletes shall move into 1 of the 4 Technical Categories on the basis of their qualifying average Figure, Solo, Duet or Team Technical routine score from their most recent competitive season.

* If a Figure score is not available, then a Solo Technical routine score shall be used.
* If a Solo Technical routine score is not available, then a Duet Technical routine score shall be used.
* If a Duet Technical routine score is not available, then a Team Technical routine score shall be used.

The Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit shall provide the qualifying average score for placement in a Technical Category.

**Exception:** For International Student-Athlete exception, see Rule CO 1.3.11.

**Exception: All first-year Student-Athletes shall also submit a video performing the elements or figures from their intended technical category on the Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit form.**

* + **Videos will be reviewed and scored by a panel of judges selected by the Collegiate Committee and the scores returned to the Collegiate Technical Chair.**
  + **The Collegiate Committee shall approve first-year Student-Athlete category placement prior to entry into Technical Competition.**

**Exception: Student-Athletes with no prior competitive experience in Artistic**

**swimming shall be exempt from the video submission requirement.**

1. Category A: 71.000 or higher or National Team student-athlete.

* For the purpose of this rule, a National Team student-athlete shall be any student-athlete who has competed for their home country’s National Team within the last 2 calendar years.
* International Student-Athletes who have competed for their Federation’s Junior or Senior National Teams within the last 2 calendar years and have achieved an average figure score below the Technical Category A minimum (71.000) may ~~swim in the Technical Category of the corresponding average in the most recent year. In addition, a foreign National Team student-athlete who does not have available figure scores from the past 2 calendar years may only compete in Technical Category B after submitting a video to be reviewed by a panel of judges. This panel must approve the request by a majority vote prior to the athlete’s entry into the Technical Category B.~~ **request entry into the Technical Category of the corresponding figure or element average from the most recent year by submitting the Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit Form and the video submission process. Refer to CO 2.2.1.**

2. Category B: 64.000 to 70.999.

3. Category C: 52.000 to 63.999.

4. Category D: 51.999 or lower.

Housekeeping if Item 4 is approved:

**CO 2.2.2** Movement Between Technical Categories:

1. The student-athlete’s average Technical score from the previous season shall be used to

determine the Technical Category (Figure or Technical Element routine) for the student-athlete’s first season of Collegiate competition. **Refer to CO 2.2.1 for additional requirements for first-year student-athlete Technical Category selection.**

2&3 remain the same

**ITEM #5:** New procedures for Collegiate Technical routines A & B

**CO 2.3.1** Category A shall be a compulsory routine with 4 of the ~~Team~~ **Solo** Technical Required Elements A. This routine shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year. Refer to Appendix L.

**CO 2.3.6** All student-athletes must enter 1 of the Technical Categories in each competition.

Institutions who provide false or misleading information are subject to having all entries in the Technical Category in question disqualified or allowed only as Exhibition. For Resolution of Protests, see Rule TR 3.

**Exception: For Student-Athletes whose previous season scores qualify entry into the Technical Category A, entry is optional.**

**CO 3.1.1 Technical Competition:** Scores shall be computed according to USAAS Rules.

1. **Participation:**

* Each student-athlete shall swim the Technical competition.

**Exception: For student-athletes whose previous season scores qualify entry into the Technical Category A, entry is optional.**

Each student-athlete in the Technical competition shall be eligible for awards regardless if the institution has declared the Technical competition for Overall Institution Awards. See Rule CO 5.1.1.

1. **Institution Averaging:**

* The average of the student-athlete’s Technical **B, C, and D** scores from each institution shall determine which place the institution receives in each declared Technical Category for Overall institution Awards.
* **For Technical Category A, only the top student-athlete score from each declared institution shall determine which place the institution receives for Overall institution Awards.**

Housekeeping if Item #5 is approved.

**CO 5.2.2 USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards:** Using the USAAS Collegiate All-

America Team Scoring System, student-athletes shall receive points based upon the rank order of finish in all routine entries counting toward the Overall Institution Award at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Exhibition routine entries are excluded. For the USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.2. Only those student-athletes **whose previous season scores qualify entry** ~~entered~~ in the Technical Category A competition are eligible to be considered for the USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards.

* 1. Only Technical Category A shall count for placement points. Exhibition Technical entries **or student-athletes whose previous season scores qualified for placement into Technical Category A but did not compete in Technical Category A** will be eligible but are excluded from points in that category.

2&3 remain the same

**CO 5.2.3 USAAS All-Collegiate Awards:** Using the USAAS All-Collegiate Scoring System,

student-athletes shall receive points based upon rank order of finish in all routine entries counting toward the Overall Institution Award at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Exhibition routine entries are excluded. For the USAAS All-Collegiate Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.3.

1. Only Technical Categories A and B shall count for placement points. Exhibition Technical entries **or student-athletes whose previous season scores qualified for placement into Technical Category A but did not compete in Technical Category A will be eligible but** are excluded **from points in that category.**

2&3 remain the same

**(APPENDIX L)**

* 1. **Collegiate Technical Category A and B:**

1. For Collegiate Technical Category A, a compulsory routine with 4 ~~Team~~ **Solo** Technical Required Elements shall be determined by the ~~High Performance Director, the Collegiate Chair, and the Collegiate Technical Chair.~~ **Collegiate Committee. For Collegiate Technical Category B, a compulsory routine with 4 Team Technical Required Elements shall be determined by the Collegiate Committee.**

A1-A8 remain the same

**(APPENDIX L)**

**COLLEGIATE TECHNICAL CATEGORY A ELEMENTS**

|  |
| --- |
| **COMPULSORY ROUTINE ELEMENTS (1:30)**  Technical Required Elements # 1-4 must be performed in the order listed. See Article 3, Section 3.03. |
| 1. **Thrust Continuous Spin 720°**  From a Submerged **Back Pike Position**, with the legs perpendicular to the surface, a Thrust Continuous Spin 720° (2 rotations) is executed. [DD 2.7] |
| **2.** **Combined Spin 1080° – Continuous Spin 1080°**  From a **Vertical Position**, a Combined Spin 1080° is executed (3 rotations + 3 rotations). Continuing in the same direction and without a pause, a Continuous Spin 1080° (3 rotations) is executed. [DD 3.0] |
| **3. Swordfish Straight Leg – Knight**  From a **Front Layout Position**, the back arches as one leg is lifted in a 180° arc over the surface to a **Split Position**. A hip rotation of 180° is executed as the front leg is rapidly raised to assume a **Fishtail Position**. Maintaining the vertical alignment of the body and with accelerating speed, the foot of the horizontal leg is moved in a horizontal arc of 180° at the surface to a **Knight Position**, and with continuous motion and continuing in the same direction, an additional 180° rotation is executed. The vertical leg is lowered to a **Surface Arch Position** and with continuous motion an Arch to Back Layout Finish Action is executed. [DD 3.2] |
| **4. Fishtail Half Twist – Continuous Spin 720°**  From a **Front Pike Position**, a rotation of 360° is executed as one leg is lifted to a **Fishtail Positio**n. Continuing in the same direction, a Half Twist in a Fishtail Position is executed. Continuing in the same direction, another rotation of 360° is executed, as the horizontal leg is lifted to a **Vertical Position**. Continuing in the same direction, a Continuous Spin 720° (2 rotations) is executed. [DD 2.9] |

**ITEM #10:** Proposal to change ineligibility for Junior Olympic participation.

**CP 3.5.3** **Ineligibility:** The following competitors shall be ineligible for Junior Olympic participation **based on participation on a National Team and on the final results of the** most recent U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships. (See CP 3.1.1).

• **Exception: For the exclusions below to apply to the U.S. National Championship and the U.S. Junior Championship, the Solo and Duet events shall have 18 or more entries at the most recent Championships.**

**• Note: Competitors ineligible in Solo or Duet events (Technical or Free) according to CP 3.5.3.1 and 3.5.3.2 are eligible for all other events at the U.S. Junior Olympic Championships.**

**CP 3.5.3.1** **For Life:**

1. **Junior National Team and Senior National Team** (Foreign or U.S.)**:** All members are ineligible in all events.

2. **U.S. National Championship:**

Solo – top 6 (Technical and/or Free).

Duet - top 6 (Technical and/or Free).

3. **Foreign Competitors:** See Rule FC.

**CP 3.5.3.2 For ~~the next 2~~ U.S. Junior Olympic Championships:**

1. **U.S. Junior Championship (held in the current year):**

Solo - top 6 (Technical and/or Free).

Duet - top 6 (Technical and/or Free

**ITEM #11:** Additional awards for national championships

**CP 7.1.2** Routine Awards:

**CP 7.1.2.1** For all National Championships, standard USAAS Championship medals shall be awarded.

**CP 7.1.2.2** For the U.S. National, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Junior and U.S Junior Open Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 **and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8** in each Final Technical and Final Free routine events. Medals shall be given to reserves who swim either the Preliminary or Final Technical routine or Preliminary or Final Free routine.

**CP 7.1.2.3** For the U.S. Youth Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 **and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8** in each Final event (Figures + Free routine). Medals shall be given to reserves who swim either the Preliminary or Final Free routine.

**CP 7.1.2.4** For all remaining National Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to all remaining finalists.

**Exception:** For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 6.2.

**ITEM #14:** Clarification regarding modification of Coach Cards

**CP 5.5.2.1. The timing and method for modifying** Coach Cards/Element Cards ~~can only be modified~~ between preliminaries and finals ~~within 4 hours of the publication of the preliminary results. In the case of Direct Finals, the Coach Card/Element Card may be changed within 4 hours of the publication of the results of the Technical, Free or Acrobatic Routine results.~~ **shall be stated in the Meet Announcement.**

Housekeeping if Item #4 is approved:

**OD 5.2** Timing Procedures and Timers: The Organizing Committee and Sound Center Manager may time routines in 2 different ways. It ~~will~~ **shall** be ~~clearly~~ stated ~~on~~ **in** the Meet Announcement which method will be used in that competition. For Routine Competition Penalties, see Rule OD 4.6.2.

**CP 5.5.3.1** Music Requirements: The Organizing Committee and Sound Center Manager will determine the method to be used to submit music and it ~~will~~ **shall** be ~~clearly~~ stated ~~on~~ **in** the Meet Announcement.

**ITEM #15:** Allow Technical Controllers from foreign federations attend our National championships.

**RULE III: Foreign Competitors**

**FC 1.2 Judge Numbers:**

**FC 1.2.1** For all U.S. National Championships, each Federation or Foreign Club entered may send

a maximum of 2 World Aquatics/PAQ Judges **and/or a maximum of 1 Technical Controller** to the

Championship. Judges must be on the current World Aquatics and/or PAQ List(s) of Artistic

Swimming Officials and must have passed the most recent World Aquatics Artistic Swimming

Judges Certification School test and the World Aquatics online annual exam. **Technical**

**Controllers must be on the current World Aquatics and/or PAQ List(s) of Technical Controllers.**

A white background with black dots

Description automatically generated

**2024 FINAL RULES REPORT AFTER BOD VOTE**

**ALL ITEMS WERE APPROVED**

**ITEM #1:** Accept Appendix 1 Revisions, Youth Figures

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #1-A:** Perform only two figures for all competitors in the Youth Age Group Division

**CP 4.3.3.1** Youth Championships: One group of 2 figures shall be performed. This group of figures shall consist of 2 figures drawn from the Section A, B or C from the Youth Age Division Figure Selection Groups listed in Figure Rule II.D.

1. The Youth Figure Section A, B or C shall be drawn first, then the order of appearance shall be drawn. **Then 1 of the 2 figure groups of the drawn Section will be drawn. For example, if Section B, Group 4 is drawn, then all competitors shall compete Section B, Group 4.** ~~The order of appearance draw list will be divided into 2 equal groups – Group 1 and 2 (if numbers are not equal, Group 1 will have 1 extra competitor). Then 1 of the 2 figure groups of the drawn Section will be assigned by lot to each competitor Group 1 and 2. For example, if Section B is drawn, competitor Group 1 may have Group 4 drawn, and competitor Group 2 may have Group 3 drawn.~~

~~2. Each group will have a separate ranking. The 2 rankings will not be combined.~~

**ITEM #2**: Accept Appendix 2 Revisions, Technical Required Elements **and General Regulations**

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #3:** Accept Appendix 3 Revisions, Junior and Senior Events

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #3-A: Collegiate Rule Proposal (Collegiate Trio Free)**

JUNIOR / SENIOR ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Collegiate Trio Free | 2:45 | **8** | Total of **5** Free Hybrids and 3 Pair Acrobatics\*.  \*See Article 1, Section 1.04. |

**ITEM #4:** Accept Appendix 3 Revisions, 12/U and Youth Events

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #5:** Accept Appendix 4 Revisions, Acrobatic Routine

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #6:** Accept Appendix 5 Revisions, Free Combination Routine

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #6-A:** Revise Appendix L

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**

**ITEM #7:** Accept Guide for the Application of Declared Difficulty Revisions

2025 AQUA Rules

**ITEM #7-A:** **APPENDIX L**

**12 & UNDER ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS**

12 & UNDER ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS – SET NUMBER OF ELEMENTS

Hybrid Safety Limits: In all 12 & under routines, ~~Rotation (R ) movements in Levels 5-9 shall be counted only 2 times (2x) per hybrid, as declared on the Coach Card/Element Card.~~ **there shall be a Hybrid Safety Limit for Degree of Difficulty of 7.0 (inclusive of the Base Mark of 0.5).** This restriction is in addition to all stated AQUA hybrid restrictions. A Base Mark will be applied for violations to the Hybrid Safety Limits ~~for Rotation (R ) movements~~.

\*\* 12 & under Team Acrobatic Movement Safety Limit: Team Acrobatic Movements cannot have a Degree of Difficulty (“DD”) higher than the following **(inclusive of the Base Mark)**:

Group A: ~~2.65~~ **2.50**

Group B: 2.60

Group C: ~~2.45~~ **2.60**

Group P: ~~2.50~~ **2.80**

**ITEM #7-B:** Remove apnea bonus from USAAS Rules

**ITEM #8:** Accept AQUA Routine Penalties Revisions.

**ITEM #8-A:** Routine Penalties for Masters Technical Routines, Novice and Intermediate Free Routines

with Technical Required Elements, and AWD Routines shall remain the same as listed in the current USAAS Technical Rules.

**CP 5.2    Deduction Points:** In Team and Acrobatic Routine competition, whether Preliminary or Final events, 0.5 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8. **In Free Combination, whether Preliminary or Final events, 0.5 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 10.** See Rule OD 4.6.2.1.

**Exception:** For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For the U.S Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1.

**Exception: The penalty deducted from the Total Score shall be 1/4 point for Masters Routines, Novice, Intermediate and AWD Routines.**

**OD 4.6.2.1**In Team and Acrobatic Routine competition, whether in Free Routine Preliminary, Free Routine Final or Technical Routine Preliminary and Technical Routine Final, 0.5 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8.  **In Free Combination, whether Free Routine Preliminary or Free Routine Final, 0.5 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 10.**

**Exception:** For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For the U.S Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1.

**Exception: The penalty deducted from the Total Score shall be 1/4 point for Masters,**

**Novice, Intermediate and AWD Routines.**

**ITEM#8-B:** Move routine penalty information to Appendix L.

**OD 4.6.2** Routine Competition **(Refer to Appendix L)**

Eliminate OD 4.6.2.1 through OD 4.6.2.8.3 from the Technical Rules and place all routine penalty information in Appendix L using the new AQUA penalty chart format.

**ITEM #9:** Accept most recent (Oct 2024 ) AQUA Hybrid, Pair Acro, and Team Acro catalogues

**ITEM #10:** STC and DTC review rule

**OD 3.4** Review Process:

**OD 3.4.1** ~~There may be a review process as determined by the Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) or the appropriate Technical Chair (or appointed representative).~~ **A request for review of a DTC or STC ruling shall be made within 30 minutes of completion of the event for which the review is being requested. An STC review request shall be for major synchronization errors only and is permitted only if there are 5 or more major synchronization errors declared in a routine.**

**OD 3.4.2 Where possible, the DTC and/or STC review panel(s) shall consist of 3 unaffiliated Level 2 certified Technical Controllers (DTC/STC respectively).**

**OD 3.4.3 When unaffiliated Level 2 certified Technical Controllers are not available, the Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) or the appropriate Technical Chair (or appointed representative) may appoint replacements.**

**ITEM #11:** Masters Figure Penalties

**OD 4.6** Application of Penalties:

**OD 4.6.1** Figure Competition:

**OD 4.6.1.1** For the **Masters,** 12 & under, Intermediate and Novice categories, if a competitor does not perform the announced figure, or if the figure does not have all of the required elements, or is performed other than according to the description, the competitor shall be allowed to perform the figure again and a 1 point penalty shall be applied. If the competitor fails again, the Panel Referee shall inform the judges and the competitor that the result will be a zero for that figure.

**MS 5       JUDGING AND SCORING**

**ADD NEW MS 5.4**

**MS 5.4 Application of Figure Penalties: Refer to Rule OD 4.**