

USAAS 2023 CONVENTION
FINAL POST-CONVENTION RULES REPORT

ITEMS APPROVED

ITEM 1: Gender Inclusion

CP 3.1.2 **Type and Number of Events:** The Solo, ~~Male Solo~~, Duet, ~~Mixed Duet~~, Trio and Team events consist of both Technical and Free routines, unless otherwise specified. The Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events consist of a Free routine.

CP 3.1.2.1 **Definitions:**

1. Solo events consist of:

- Ⓟ **Girls/Women Solo (an athlete who identifies as a girl/woman);**
- Ⓟ **Boys/Men Solo (an athlete who identifies as a boy/man); and**
- Ⓟ **Gender Inclusive Solo (open to athletes who do not identify as a girl/woman or boy/man).**

2. Duet events consist of:

- Ⓟ **Girls/Women Duet (both athletes identify as girls/women);**
- Ⓟ **Boys/Men Duet (both athletes identify as boys/men);**
- Ⓟ **Mixed Duet (one athlete identifies as a boy/man, one as a girl/woman); and**
- Ⓟ **Gender Inclusive Duet (one or more athlete(s) who do not identify as girls/women or boys/men).**

3. All other events, to include Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination, are open (no gender restriction).

CP 3.1.2.2 Each competitor may compete in 1 routine of each type per competition (i.e., 1 Free Solo and 1 Technical Solo, but not 2 Free Solo routines).

CP 3.1.2.3 For the Solo **and Duet** events, each competitor may ~~only~~ enter **a Technical and/or Free routine in only one routine** ~~Solo or Male Solo event~~ in each competition **(i.e., Girls/Women Free Solo or Boys/Men Free Solo or Gender Inclusive Free Solo, but no more than one 1 Free Solo.)**

Exception: A competitor in Girls/Women Duet, Boys/Men Duet or Gender Inclusive Duet can also enter a Mixed Duet event.

CP 3.1.2.4 If 2 or more Championships are being held concurrently, competitors may enter the same routine event in each combined Championships.

(Note: Housekeeping if passed to all applicable areas of the Technical Rules and Appendix L).

ITEM 2: Athlete Reps on Review Panels

OD 3.4.3 The Event Referee shall appoint 3 unaffiliated members (~~1 of which shall be an Athlete Representative~~), if possible, which may include themselves for a Jury of Review of Technical Controllers ("DTC/DATC/STC") decisions.

Exception: At National Championships, the Athlete Representative shall be a member of the AEC (~~or appointed representative~~).

ITEM 3: Acrobatic Routine Number of Competitor Rule Proposal: (exception to waiver)

CP 5.1.4 An Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4 but no more than 8 competitors who perform the
Required Elements described in Appendix L.

Exception: For U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Championships, an Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4 but no more than 10 competitors.

(Note: Housekeeping if passed to OD 4.6.2.8.2 to note Junior Olympic exception. OD 4.6.2.1 remains the same, so ¼ penalty only applies if less than 8 swimmers.)

ITEM 4: Appendix L proposal to change Novice Routine requirements

Appendix L, ARTICLE 3

3.01 Novice Free Routines with Technical Required Elements:

A, B, D, E remain the same.

C. All Novice routines will only include the Technical Required Elements **and may also include one free hybrid. The free hybrid may be placed anywhere in the routine and will only be judged under Artistic Impression** (no Free Hybrids or Acrobatic Movements permitted).

(Note: Housekeeping if passed to Appendix L; add optional hybrid as #8 to Novice chart)

ITEM 5: Change to age requirement for Youth Free Combination event.

CP 3.4 Youth:

CP 3.4.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 13 to 15 (for females) and 13 to 16 (for males) years of age based on the year of birth.

Exception: For Youth Free Combination age exception, see Rule CP 4.1.3.1.2.

CP 4.1.3 Youth:

CP 4.1.3.1 For the U.S. Youth Championship, competition shall consist of Figures and Free routines for Solos, Male Solos, Duets, Mixed Duets and Teams. There shall also be a Free Combination event conducted as a 100% routine event.

1. U.S. clubs and U.S. National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. Youth Championship.

2. Competitors who are 12 years of age and younger, and who have passed Level 4, may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. Youth Championships.

ITEM 6: Change to Figure Awards

CP 7.2 Figure Awards for Competitions held in Age Divisions:

CP 7.2.1 In Age Group figure competition, when a competitor is entered in multiple Age Group divisions (12&U and Youth) and multiple Figure competitions, the competitor shall be listed in the results in the youngest age division in which the competitor was entered in a routine and shall have a U.S. Honorary placement in any other age divisions entered. At the discretion of the competition host, the competitor may receive a U.S. Honorary Award. Honorary Placement is indicated by an "H" in the results and does not change the number placement of the competitors in the event.

New CP 7.2.2. In Novice and Intermediate figure competition, when a competitor is entered in multiple age divisions, the competitor shall be listed in the results and receive any award in their actual age division and be listed as Honorary in any other Novice or Intermediate age division in which they swim a routine.

ITEM 11: Change Novice figures to one group of four figures, with a lower total DD

FIGURE RULES, Figure Rule II

E. NOVICE FIGURES:

<u>100</u>	<u>Bent Knee, Alternate</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<u>201</u>	<u>Dolphin</u>	<u>1.4</u>
<u>302</u>	<u>Blossom</u>	<u>1.4</u>
<u>316</u>	<u>Kipnus</u>	<u>1.4</u>

ITEM 12: Change Novice routine technical elements to a lower total degree of difficulty.

APPENDIX L, ARTICLE 3

NOVICE FREE ROUTINES WITH TECHNICAL REQUIRED ELEMENTS

NOVICE SOLO / MALE SOLO / DUET / MIXED DUET / TRIO AND TEAM (1:30)

Technical Required Elements # 1-5 must be performed in the order listed.

1. Figure # 310 Somersault, Back Tuck. [DD 1.1]

2. Figure # 100 Bent Knee, Alternate. [DD 1.0]

3. No-Arm Boost - a rapid, head-first rise, with a maximum amount of the body above the surface of the water. The No-Arm Boost is begun with the body totally underwater or with the back of the head and/or torso flush with the surface. The No-Arm Boost is completed upon total submergence. [DD 1.0]

4. Figure # 302 Blossom. [DD 1.4]

5. Figure # 316 Kipnus. [DD 1.4]

ITEM 13: Change Intermediate figures to one group of two compulsory figures and two selection groups of two figures each, with a lower total degree of difficulty.

FIGURE RULES, Figure Rule II

D. INTERMEDIATE FIGURES:

COMPULSORY FIGURES:

101 Ballet Leg, Single 1.6

301 Barracuda 1.9

SELECTION GROUPS:

Group 1

359 Front Ariana 2.2 **360 Walkover, Front 1.9**

318 Kip, Bent Knee 1.8

Group 2

344 Neptunus 1.7 **348 Tower 1.9**

406 Swordfish, Straight Leg 2.0 **420 Walkover, Back 1.9**

Group 3

348 Tower 1.9

226 Swan 2.1

ITEM 14: Change first element in intermediate routines

APPENDIX L, ARTICLE 3

INTERMEDIATE SOLO / MALE SOLO (1:45), DUET / MIXED DUET / TRIO (2:05) AND TEAM (2:35)

Technical Required Elements # 1-5 must be performed in the order listed. Requirements # 7-9 placement is optional.

1. ~~Figure # 344 Neptunus. [DD 1.7]~~ **Figure # 348 Tower. [DD 1.9]**

ITEM 16: Zeros for intermediate elements not performed correctly.

OD 4.6.2.4 Additional Penalties in Technical Routines **and Intermediate Free Routines with Technical Elements:**

Exception: For Masters Technical Routines and Novice ~~and Intermediate-Free Routines with Technical Required Elements~~, see OD 4.6.2.7.

OD 4.6.2.7 Additional Penalties and Technical Required Element Penalty procedures in Masters Technical Routines and Novice ~~and Intermediate-Free Routines with Technical Required Elements~~.

ITEM 17: Limit 12&Under routines to 2 Rotation Level 5-9 actions per hybrid.

APPENDIX L, ARTICLE 3

12&UNDER AGE GROUP ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

****** 12 & Under Hybrid Safety Limits: In 12&Under routines, Rotation (R) movements in levels 5-9 may SHALL be counted only two times (2x) per hybrid, always taking the highest values. This restriction is in addition to all stated AQUA hybrid restrictions.**

ITEM 18: Require Grade Level 3 for entry into the National 12&Under Invitational

GRADE LEVEL MANUAL, PAGE 7

All athletes must pass Levels 1, 2, and 3 to participate at the 12&Under National Invitational.

ITEM 19: Waive the Team Technical Routine Acrobatic Movement 2.0 DD Requirement for Junior Olympic Competitions.

APPENDIX L, ARTICLE 3

JUNIOR / SENIOR TECHNICAL REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL ROUTINES

TEAM TECHNICAL REQUIRED ELEMENTS

6. The Degree of Difficulty (“DD”) for the Acrobatic Movement should not be less than 2.0 nor exceed 2.65.

Exception: For Junior Olympic Championships, the Degree of Difficulty (“DD”) for the Acrobatic Movement should not exceed 2.65, but there shall be no minimum Degree of Difficulty.

ITEM 20: Realign age groups for Intermediate Competition

CP 3.7 Intermediate:

CP 3.7.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.7.2 Determination of Age Divisions:

CP 3.7.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth.

CP 3.7.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.7.3 Regional Championships:

CP 3.7.3.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in ~~5~~ **4** age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, ~~16-17 and 18 & over.~~ **and 16 & Over.**

CP 3.7.3.2 Each Region may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 3.7.4 Association Championships:

CP 3.7.4.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in ~~5~~ **4** age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, ~~16-17 and 18 & over.~~ **and 16 & Over.**

CP 3.7.4.2 Each Association may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

ITEM 22: **Housekeeping Item** - Regional JOs qualification to National JOs.

CP 3.5.5.4 No Region shall have more than its proportionate share of the 12. Each Region shall qualify competitors by ranking in the combined Free routine and Figure ~~or Technical~~ routine scores **(12&U and Youth) or by ranking in the Free routines or Technical Routines (15-17 and 18-19/20)** in Regional Championships in the Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet and Team events

ITEM 23: **Housekeeping Item** - for Classes of Competition

UNDER CP 1.3 (Youth)

ADD NEW CP 1.3.3 Association

FAILED ITEMS

ITEM #7: Change figure requirements for Youth Category

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 Section A, B or C from the Youth Figure Selection Groups listed in Figure Rule II.C.

The Youth Figure Section A, B or C shall be drawn first, **followed by drawing one of the groups of figures from the chosen Section.** then the order of appearance shall be drawn. The competitor 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.

ITEM #8: Redefine how Base Mark is applied

OD 4.6.2.2 All Free Elements (Hybrids and Acrobatics) have a calculated Base Mark (World Aquatics Appendix VI and VII) that is the minimum Degree of Difficulty (“DD”). **The DD above Base Mark for all free elements will be calculated on the Coach Card.** that will be applied if 1 or more components **if any component** of the element is not performed or is not in conformance to what is declared on the Coach Card, **the DD for that specific component will be deducted from the total DD for the element. If the entire element is not performed or is not in conformance to what is declared on the Coach Card, the Base Mark will be applied.** In the case of detected errors of declared calculation of the Base Mark, the Difficulty Technical Controller will recalculate.

ITEM #9: Set a maximum DD for different competition levels (new #1 under OD 4.6.2.2)

OD 4.6.2.2 (remains the same)

1. There will be a maximum limit on total DD per routine by age group.

12&U: 15

Youth: 20

Junior/Senior: 25

ITEM 10: Establish an Advanced Intermediate competitive division for ages 13&Over.

NEW CP 1.5 (and renumber following)

CP 1.5 **Advanced** Intermediate:

CP 1.5.1 Regional

CP 1.5.2 Association

NEW CP 3.6 (and renumber following)

CP 3.6 **Advanced** Intermediate:

CP 3.6.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.6.2 Determination of Age Divisions:

CP 3.6.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth.

CP 3.6.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.6.3 Regional Championships:

CP 3.6.3.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in 5 2 age divisions: ~~10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17 and 18 & over.~~ **13-15 and 16 & Over.**

CP 3.6.3.2 Each Region may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 3.6.4 Association Championships:

CP 3.6.4.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in 5 2 age divisions: ~~10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17 and 18 & over.~~ **13-15 and 16 & Over.**

CP 3.6.4.2 Each Association may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 4.1.5 **Advanced Intermediate and** Intermediate: Competitions shall consist of Figures and/or Free Routines with Technical Required Elements. There shall also be a Free Combination event conducted as a 100% routine event.

ITEM 15: Establish Advanced Intermediate Figures to match 12&Under Age Group Figures

FIGURE RULES, Figure Rule II

C. COLLEGIATE TECHNICAL CATEGORY D, **ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE,** AND 12 & UNDER AGE DIVISION FIGURES:

TABLED ITEMS

ITEM 21:

Collegiate Committee Proposal, Change Appendix L Junior/Senior Routine Requirements
ADDITION OF THE COLLEGIATE TRIO CATEGORY EVENT REQUIREMENTS

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

JUNIOR / SENIOR ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

Event	Time (+/- 5 sec)	Total Elements	Summary
1. Solo Technical	2:00	7	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements and 2 Free Hybrids.
Male Solo Technical			
2. Solo Free	2:15	7	Total of 7 Free Hybrids.
Male Solo Free			
3. Duet Technical	2:20	8	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 2 Free Hybrids and 1 Pair Acrobatic*. *See Article 1, Section 1.04.
4. Duet Free	2:45	9	Total of 7 Free Hybrids and 2 Pair Acrobatics*. *See Article 1, Section 1.04.
5. Mixed Duet Technical	2:20	8	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 2 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Hybrid connection) and 1 Pair Acrobatic*. *See Article 1, Section 1.04.
6. Mixed Duet Free	2:45	9	Total of 6 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Hybrid connection) and 3 Pair Acrobatics* (1 Lift, 1 Throw/Jump and 1 free choice) PLUS additional required movements for Mixed Duet Free: 2 connected surface movements with travel. *See Article 1, Section 1.04.
<u>7. Collegiate Trio Free</u>	<u>2:45</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Total of 6 Free Hybrids, 3 Free Acrobatic Movements</u>
8. Team Technical	2:50	9	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 3 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Cadence Action*) and 1 Required Team Acrobatic Movement.* *See Article 1, Sections 1.03 & 1.05.
9. Team Free	3:30	11	Total of 7 Free Hybrids and 4 Free Team Acrobatic Movements.* *See Article 1, Section 1.03.
10. Acrobatic Routine	3:00	7	7 Team Acrobatic Movements* (1 of each group = 4 + 3 of free group choice) + Transitions are free, but no difficulty awarded + Hybrids are free, but no difficulty awarded. *See Article 1, Section 1.03.

Rationale: Collegiate rules still allows participation in the trio event. At the start of the season the new system proposed trios have the same number of elements duets free. However, before competitions started collegiates asked for a waiver for trios to allow it to be different from duet free. The waiver allowed 6 hybrids and 3 acrobatic movements. The collegiate committee felt that the 6 hybrids and 3 acrobatic movements made this

event unique for the athletes, and therefore voted to recommend a rule change to allow the collegiate trio requirements to be 6 hybrids and 3 acrobatic movements.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

JUNIOR / SENIOR ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

Event	Time	Total	Summary
1. Solo Technical	(+/- 5 sec) 2:00	Elements 7	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements and 2 Free Hybrids.
Male Solo Technical			
2. Solo Free	2:15	7	Total of 7 Free Hybrids.
Male Solo Free			
3. Duet Technical	2:20	8	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 2 Free Hybrids and 1 Pair Acrobatic*.
4. Duet Free	2:45	9	*See Article 1, Section 1.04. Total of 7 Free Hybrids and 2 Pair Acrobatics*.
5. Mixed Duet Technical	2:20	8	*See Article 1, Section 1.04. Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 2 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Hybrid connection) and 1 Pair Acrobatic*.
6. Mixed Duet Free	2:45	9	*See Article 1, Section 1.04. Total of 6 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Hybrid connection) and 3 Pair Acrobatics* (1 Lift, 1 Throw/Jump and 1 free choice)
			PLUS additional required movements for Mixed Duet Free: 2 connected surface movements with travel.
7. Collegiate Trio Free	2:45	9	*See Article 1, Section 1.04. Total of 6 Free Hybrids, 3 Free Acrobatic Movements
		8	Total of 5 Free Hybrids, 3 Free Acrobatic Movement
8. Team Technical	2:50	9	Total of 5 Technical Required Elements, 3 Free Hybrids (1 which must include a Cadence Action*) and 1 Required Team Acrobatic Movement.*
9. Team Free	3:30	11	*See Article 1, Sections 1.03 & 1.05. Total of 7 Free Hybrids and 4 Free Team Acrobatic Movements.*
10. Acrobatic Routine	3:00	7	*See Article 1, Section 1.03. 7 Team Acrobatic Movements* (1 of each group = 4 + 3 of free group choice) + Transitions are free, but no difficulty awarded + Hybrids are free, but no difficulty awarded.
			*See Article 1, Section 1.03.

Rationale: Collegiate rules still allows participation in the trio event. I am proposing to proactively align with the DTC's recommendation of AQUA and further maintain the creative nature of the trio event in collegiate competition by decreasing the number of elements by one: 5 required hybrids and 3 acrobatics. In addition, this will benefit the athletes by allowing them to highlight the unique ability to perform three acrobatics in this category of routine.