

PART THREE
USA ARTISTIC SWIMMING RULES (“USAAS RULES”)
REFERENCE GUIDE

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PART THREE
(Effective January 1, 2024)

USAAS RULES

RULE 1

TECHNICAL RULES (TR)

TR 1 COMPETITION GOVERNANCE

TR 1.1 All USA Artistic Swimming Championships shall be subject to the [USAAS Code](#). With the exception of U.S. Collegiate, U.S. Junior Olympic and U.S. Masters Championships and Athletes With Disabilities (“AWD”) competitions, all USA Artistic Swimming Championships shall be subject to the [World Aquatics](#) (formerly known as the Fédération Internationale de Natation “FINA”) Artistic Swimming Rules, with noted exceptions.

TR 1.2 These current rules cancel and supersede all previous rules. USAAS rule changes shall occur in the legislative year. Refer to USAAS Code, Article 10.

TR 1.3 Registered Foreign Athletes: An athlete of one country joining a club of another country and participating in the competition of the latter shall be regarded as coming within the jurisdiction of the latter until such time as the athlete resigns the membership and returns home.

TR 2 WAIVER OF THE RULES

TR 2.1 Authority to waive application of the rules pertaining to the administration and conduct of USAAS programs shall be granted as follows:

TR 2.1.1 Vice President Competitive Programs in consultation with the President of USAAS and/or a member of the Athletes Executive Council at National competitions.

TR 2.1.2 Zone Technical Chair in consultation with the Zone Chair and/or a Zone Athlete Representative at Zone competitions.

TR 2.1.3 Technical Chair (or appointed representative) in consultation with the Administrative Chair and/or an Athlete Representative of the Association in which the Regional competition is held.

TR 2.1.4 The Association Technical Chair (or appointed representative) in consultation with the Association Administrative Chair and/or an Athlete Representative of the Association at all competitions in their Association.

TR 2.2 A request for a waiver of a rule or part thereof shall be made in writing to the appropriate Chair. The request shall be judged on its merits and the Chair shall consider whether the application of a rule will create an unfair situation or whether the waiver of the rule will promote the development of the program. Any approved waiver shall apply to qualifying and Regional competitions.

TR 3 PROTESTS

TR 3.1 Protests affecting the right of any competitor to compete in any competition shall be made in writing to the Meet Manager or Meet Referee before competition is held. All protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned to the protestant. If the protest is denied, the fee shall remain with the authority conducting the competition (i.e., Association, Region, Zone, National).

- TR 3.2** Such protest shall be considered by the Meet Committee consisting of, as applicable:
- TR 3.2.1** USAAS Officers present and that number of Athlete Representatives, who meet the requirements of Section 7.06 A of the USAAS Code, necessary to assure that at least 33.3% of the Meet Committee are athletes for National competitions.
 - TR 3.2.2** Zone Officers present and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 33.3% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Zone competitions.
 - TR 3.2.3** The Meet Referee, all Association Chairs present and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 33.3% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Regional competitions.
 - TR 3.2.4** The Meet Referee, all Association Chairs present and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 33.3% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Association competitions.
- TR 3.3** The Meet Committee may allow the competitor to compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the event.
- TR 3.4** Any protest arising from the competition itself shall be made verbally to the Event Referee by the competitor or the competitor's coach within 30 minutes after the completion of the event in which the alleged infraction took place. Any protest and its resolution shall be publicly posted within 30 minutes of the decision.
- TR 3.5** Protests are possible against any decision of the Event Referee. No protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.
- TR 3.6** If the protest is not resolved immediately, the protestant should then make a written protest to the Event Referee who shall deliver it to the Meet Committee for adjudication.
- TR 3.7** Results of any competition conducted under protest, or of any protested competition, shall not be announced, nor prizes and/or scoring points awarded until the protest is officially resolved or final action is determined.

TR 4 COMPETITIVE AREA CONTROL

- TR 4.1** The competitive area as defined by the Meet Manager shall be kept clear of coaches, teammates and all but working personnel (judges, technical controllers, scorers, etc.) while an event is in progress.
- TR 4.2** A coach shall not instruct or coach a competitor during the competitor's performance (figures/routines).
- Exception:** For AWD exception, see Rule AD 2.4.
- TR 4.3** Smoking shall not be permitted during competition or practice periods in competition areas.

TR 5 DOPING CONTROL: USAAS shall follow all [IOC](#), [World Aquatics](#), [USOPC](#) and [USADA](#) doping control rules. Refer to [Administrative Rules](#), Article 22, Section 22.04 for anti-doping obligations.

TR 6 SAFESPORT: USAAS, its Associations, Zones and Regions shall follow the [U.S. Center SafeSport Code](#) for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements and all other applicable SafeSport and athlete protection policies.

RULE II

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS (CP)

CP 1 CLASSES OF COMPETITION: The annual competitive programs of USAAS shall include Artistic Swimming Championships in the following divisions, and within time lines where indicated:

CP 1.1 Senior:

CP 1.1.1 National:

CP 1.1.1.1 The date of the U.S. National Championship shall be no later than May 31st in any given calendar year.

CP 1.1.1.2 The Championship shall be conducted under World Aquatics Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.2.1.1.
2. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.1.1.1-2.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.
4. For awards exception, see Rule CP 6.2.2.

CP 1.1.2 Open:

CP 1.1.2.1 The Championship shall be conducted under World Aquatics Rules.

CP 1.1.3 Zone:

East: Adirondack, Allegheny Mountain, Connecticut, Lake Erie, Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic, New England North, New England South, New Jersey and Niagara.

North: Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Midsouth, Minnesota East, Minnesota West, Missouri Valley, Ohio, Ozark, Rocky Mountain and Wisconsin.

South: Carolina, Gulf, Northeast Florida, Northwest Florida, Potomac Valley, South Texas, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, Southwestern and Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Inland Empire, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, San Diego/Imperial, Snake River, Southern California, Southern Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

CP 1.1.4 Association

CP 1.2 Junior:

CP 1.2.1 National:

CP 1.2.1.1 The Championship shall be conducted under World Aquatics Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.3.1.1.
2. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.2.1.1-2.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.
4. For awards exception, see Rule CP 6.2.2.

CP 1.2.2 Open:

CP 1.2.2.1 The Championship shall be conducted under World Aquatics Rules.

CP 1.2.3 Zone: Same as Senior Zone. See CP 1.1.3.

CP 1.2.4 Association

CP 1.3 Youth:

CP 1.3.1 National:

CP 1.3.1.1 The Championship shall be conducted under World Aquatics Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.4.1.1.
2. For entry exception, see Rule CP 4.1.3.1.1-2.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.

CP 1.3.2 Zone: Same as Senior Zone. See CP 1.1.3.

CP 1.3.3 Association

CP 1.4 Junior Olympic:

CP 1.4.1 Championships must all be held between January 1 and December 31 of any given year. Regional Championships must be held at least 2 weeks prior to the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.

CP 1.4.2 National

CP 1.4.3 Regional:

CP 1.4.3.1 Each Zone shall determine the Associations assigned to each Region. If a Zone changes the number of Regions and/or Associations, as published herein, a letter written by the Zone Chair stating the new assignment must be filed with the Vice President Competitive Programs by October 1st prior to the year the assignment takes effect. See Rules CP 3.5.5.3 and 3.5.5.4.

CP 1.4.3.2 The Junior Olympic Regions:

East Zone:

Region A Adirondack and Connecticut.

Region B Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic and New Jersey.

Region C Allegheny Mountain, Lake Erie and Niagara.

Region D New England North and New England South.

North Zone:

Region A Michigan, Midsouth and Ohio.

Region B Illinois, Indiana, Ozark and Wisconsin.

Region C Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota East and Minnesota West.

Region D Missouri Valley and Rocky Mountain.

South Zone:

Region A Carolina, Potomac Valley and Virginia.

Region B Northwest Florida and Southwest Florida.

Region C Gulf, South Texas and Southwestern.

Region D Northeast Florida and Southeast Florida.

West Zone:

Region A Alaska, Inland Empire, Montana, Oregon and Pacific Northwest.

Region B Pacific, Snake River, Utah and Wyoming.

Region C Hawaii, San Diego/Imperial and Southern California.

Region D Arizona, New Mexico and Southern Nevada.

CP 1.4.4 Association

CP 1.5 Intermediate:

CP 1.5.1 Regional

CP 1.5.2 Association

CP 1.6 Novice: Association

CP 2 OTHER COMPETITIONS: An Association, Region, Zone or National Governing Body may hold any invitational competitions deemed necessary. Associations may conduct their Championships together but present separate awards.

CP 3 ELIGIBILITY

CP 3.1 General:

CP 3.1.1 Definitions:

1. Solo event categories consist of:
 - Women Solo (an athlete who identifies as a girl/woman);
 - 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 event categories consist of:
 - Women Duet (both athletes identify as girls/women);
 - Men Duet (both athletes identify as boys/men);
 - Mixed Duet (1 athlete identifies as a boy/man, 1 as a girl/woman); and
 - Gender Inclusive Duet (1 or more athlete(s) who do not identify as girls/women or boys/men).
3. Open event categories (no gender restriction) consist of:
 - Trio;
 - Team;
 - Acrobatic Routine; and
 - Free Combination.

CP 3.1.2 Determination of Age: Based on the year of birth.

CP 3.1.3 Affiliation:

CP 3.1.3.1 Solo competitors may compete unattached.

CP 3.1.3.2 In Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events, competitors must represent and be registered (USAAS) with the same club.

Exception: For U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Free Combination events, see Rules CP 3.5.5.3.1, 3.5.6.2.1 and 3.5.7.

CP 3.1.4 Type and Number of Events: The Solo, Duet, Trio and Team events consist of both Technical and Free routines, unless otherwise specified. The Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events consists of a Free routine.

CP 3.1.4.1 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 3.1.4.2 For the Solo and Duet events, each competitor may enter a Technical and/or Free routine in only 1 routine event in each competition (i.e., Women Free Solo or Men Free Solo or Gender Inclusive Free Solo, but no more than 1 Free Solo).

Exception: A competitor in Women Duet, Men Duet or Gender Inclusive Duet may also enter a Mixed Duet event.

CP 3.1.4.3 If 2 or more Championships are being held concurrently, competitors may enter the same routine event in each combined Championships.

CP 3.1.5 Number of original competitors required to meet qualification standards:

CP 3.1.5.1 For Duet, Team, Acrobatic Routine or Free Combination, 50% or more of the competitors must remain the same as at the time of qualification.

- CP 3.1.5.2** For Trio, 2 or more competitors remain the same as at the time of qualification.
- CP 3.1.5.3** Qualification shall also be met if 50% or more have otherwise met the qualification.
- CP 3.1.6 Additional Entries:** When a National Championship has fewer entries than the maximum allowed, the Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) may select additional entries by a random draw from the provisional entries. See Rule CP 5.5.6.1. The number of randomly selected entries and qualified entries may not exceed the maximum number of possible entries for the championship.
- CP 3.1.7 Foreign Competitors:** See Rule FC.

CP 3.2 Senior:

CP 3.2.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth.

Exception: For Acrobatic Routine age exception, see Rule CP 4.1.1.1.2.

CP 3.2.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 6 for entry into the U.S. National Championship. For grade level requirements, refer to [USAAS Grade Level Manual](#).

CP 3.2.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. National Championship:

CP 3.2.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 6 Solos, Duets and Teams in each event determined by the individual Technical or Free routine scores in the most recent Senior Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. National Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team Technical or Free routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. National Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. National Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team Technical or Free routine from the most recent Senior Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. National Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. The top 8 Solos, Duets and Teams, including Exhibition routines, in the most recent U.S. Collegiate Championship Free Routine Event.
3. One Solo, one Duet and one Team Technical or Free routine entry shall be awarded to the Association in which the U.S. National Championship is held, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team Technical or Free routine from that Association in the most recent Senior Zone Championship.
4. Acrobatic Routines may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.1.1.1-2.

CP 3.2.2.2 Current National Training Center athletes may elect to compete in either Solo or Duet if not otherwise qualified. Current National Training Center athletes shall not displace any potential Solo or Duet qualifiers from the most recent Senior Zone Championships and shall not count towards the Zone additional entries for the following year.

CP 3.2.2.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.2.3 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Senior Open Championship:

CP 3.2.3.1 Members of the U.S. National Teams are eligible in all events in the current year.

CP 3.2.3.2 For Preliminary events:

1. Solos, Duets, Teams and Acrobatic Routines may enter the U.S. Senior Open Championship without regard to qualifications.

CP 3.2.3.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.2.4 Qualifications for entry in Zone and Association Championships: Each Zone or Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

Exception: Competitors who are 13-14 years of age may be combined with competitors who are 15 & over in order to enter Honorary Junior and Senior routines in Zone and Association Championships. Honorary competitors in a given event in Senior Zone Championships shall not be eligible for the U.S. National Championship.

CP 3.3 Junior:

CP 3.3.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 15 to 19 (for women) and 15 to 20 (for men, and Solo and Duet gender inclusive competitors) years of age based on the year of birth.

Exception: For Acrobatic Routine age exception, see Rule CP 4.1.2.1.2.

CP 3.3.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 5 for entry into the U.S. Junior Championship. For grade level requirements, refer to USAAS Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.3.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Junior Championship:

CP 3.3.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 6 Solos, Duets and Teams in each event determined by the individual Technical or Free routine scores in the most recent Junior Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. Junior Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team Technical or Free routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. Junior Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. Junior Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team Technical or Free routine from the most recent Junior Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. Junior Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. One Solo, one Duet and one Team Technical or Free routine entry shall be awarded to the Association in which the U.S. Junior Championship is held, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team Technical or Free routine from that Association in the most recent Junior Zone Championship.
3. Acrobatic Routine may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.2.1.1-2.

CP 3.3.2.2 Current National Training Center athletes may elect to compete in either Solo or Duet if not otherwise qualified. Current National Training Center athletes shall not displace any potential Solo or Duet qualifiers from the most recent Junior Zone Championships and shall not count towards the Zone additional entries for the following year.

CP 3.3.2.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.3.3 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Junior Open Championship:

CP 3.3.3.1 For Preliminary events:

1. Solos, Duets, Teams and Acrobatic Routines may enter the U.S. Junior Open Championship without regard to qualifications.

CP 3.3.3.2 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.3.4 Qualifications for entry in Zone and Association Championships: Each Zone or Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championship.

CP 3.4 Youth:

CP 3.4.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 13 to 15 (for women) and 13 to 16 (for men, and Solo and Duet gender inclusive competitors) years of age based on the year of birth.

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

CP 3.4.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 4 for entry into the U.S. Youth Championship. For grade level requirements, refer to USAAS Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.4.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Youth Championship:

CP 3.4.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 6 Solos, Duets and Teams in each event determined by the combined Free routine and Figure scores in the most recent Youth Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. Youth Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team Free routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. Youth Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. Youth Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team Free routine from the most recent Youth Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. Youth Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. One Solo, one Duet one Team Free routine entry shall be awarded to the Association in which the U.S. Youth Championship is held, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team Free routine from that Association in the most recent Youth Zone Championship.
3. Free Combinations may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.3.1.1-2.

CP 3.4.2.2 Current National Training Center athletes may elect to compete in either Solo or Duet if not otherwise qualified. Current National Training Center athletes shall not displace any potential Solo or Duet qualifiers from the most recent Youth Zone Championships and shall not count towards the Zone additional entries for the following year.

CP 3.4.2.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.4.3 Qualifications for entry in Zone Championships: Each Zone shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championship.

CP 3.5 Junior Olympic:

CP 3.5.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.5.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 2 for entry into the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship. For grade level requirements, refer to USAAS Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.5.2 Determination of Age Division:

CP 3.5.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth. Age divisions are as follows:

- 12 & under

- Youth (13 to 15 for women and 13 to 16 for men, and Solo and Duet gender inclusive competitors)
- 15-17
- 18-19/20 (18 to 19 for women and 18 to 20 for men, and Solo and Duet gender inclusive competitors)

Exception: 16-19/20 for Free Combination and Acrobatic Routines only. See CP 3.5.5.2.

CP 3.5.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.5.2.3 During qualifying and in all subsequent competitions, the age of the older/oldest competitor determines the age division of the Duet, Team, Acrobatic Routine or Free Combination. In all subsequent competitions, the age division shall remain the same as during qualifying and at least 1 competitor must remain in the age division.

CP 3.5.3 Ineligibility: The following competitors shall be ineligible for Junior Olympic participation when there were 18 or more entries in the Solo and Duet events at the most recent U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships. (See CP 3.1.1).

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

CP 3.5.4 In all Junior Olympic qualifying competitions, only the competitors shall qualify for the next Championship. The routine, music and swimwear may change.

CP 3.5.5 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship:

CP 3.5.5.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 2 for entry into the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship. For grade level requirements, see USAAS Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.5.5.2 May be held once a year in the following age divisions and routine events:

<u>12 & under</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>15-17</u>	<u>18-19/20</u>	<u>16-19/20</u>
Figures	Figures	Solo (Technical/Free)	Solo (Technical/Free)	Free Combination
Solo (Free)	Solo (Free)	Duet (Technical/Free)	Duet (Technical/Free)	Acrobatic Routine
Duet (Free)	Duet (Free)	Team (Technical/Free)	Team (Technical/Free)	
Team (Free)	Team (Free)			
Free Combination	Free Combination			

1. A competitor may only enter a specific routine event (Solo, Duet, Team, Acrobatic Routine or Free Combination) in 1 age division. A competitor may enter a routine event (Technical or Free) in different age divisions as long as the competitor only enters 1 type of routine in the competition. (For example, Youth Free Duet and 15-17 Technical Duet). See Rule CP 3.1.4.
2. A competitor may enter either the Free Combination event or the Acrobatic Routine event in the 16-19/20 age division, but not both.
3. All Technical routine events, Free Solo, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events shall be Final events.

CP 3.5.5.3 Each Zone shall qualify up to 8 Solos, 12 Duets and 12 Teams in each event in each age division. Each Zone shall qualify up to 12 Free Combination routines in the 12 & under, Youth and 16-19/20 age divisions. Each Zone shall qualify up to 12 Acrobatic Routines in the 16-19/20 age division.

1. Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USAAS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.5.5.4 No Region shall have more than its proportionate share of the 12. In the Solo, Duet and Team events in the Regional Championships, each Region shall qualify competitors by ranking in the:

- Combined Free routine and Figure competition (12 & under and Youth); or,
 - Free routine or Technical routine competition (15-17 and 18-19/20).
1. In the Solo event, 2 entries per region per age division shall qualify to the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.
 2. In the Free Combination event, each Region shall qualify its proportionate share of Free Combination routines in the 12 & under, Youth and 16-19/20 age divisions.
 - Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USAAS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.
 3. In the Acrobatic Routine event, each Region shall qualify its proportionate share of Acrobatic Routines in the 16-19/20 age division.

CP 3.5.5.5 All 12 & under and Youth competitors in Solo, Duet and Team Free routines shall compete in the Figure competition. The Figure results shall be added to the Preliminary Free routine score to determine the top 12 Duets and Teams that qualify for the Final Free routine competition. Number 13 shall be the pre-swimmer.

1. The Figure results shall be added to the Solo Final Free routine scores to determine final placement.
2. The Free Combination event shall be a Final event and shall not include the Figure scores.

CP 3.5.5.6 All 15-17 and 18-19/20 competitors in Solo, Duet and Team may compete in the Technical and/or Free routine events. The Preliminary Free routine score shall be used to determine the top 12 Duets and Teams that qualify for the Final Free routine competition. Number 13 shall be the pre-swimmer.

1. All Technical routine events, Free Solo, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination shall be Final events.

CP 3.5.6 Regional Championships:

CP 3.5.6.1 May be held once a year in the age divisions and routine events listed in Rule CP 3.5.5.2. See CP 3.5.5.3-4.

CP 3.5.6.2 Each Association may qualify the top 3 Solos, Duets, Teams, Acrobatic Routines and Free Combinations in a specific age division. See Rule CP 3.5.5.2 for age divisions and routine events.

Exception: Any Association which is the only participant in its Region in a given year, event and age division, may qualify the top 4 Solos, Duets, Teams, Acrobatic Routines and Free Combinations in a specific age division.

1. Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USAAS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.5.6.3 Regions may be combined for competition if so desired.

CP 3.5.7 Association Championships: See CP 3.5.6.1 and 3.5.6.2.1 above.

CP 3.6 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, Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in 4 age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 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, Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination in 4 age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-15 and 16 & over.

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

CP 3.7 Novice:

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 Association Championships:

CP 3.7.3.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Duet, Trio and Team in 4 age divisions: 8 & under, 9-10, 11-12 and 13 & over.

CP 3.7.3.2 Each Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 4 EVENTS

CP 4.1 Programs:

CP 4.1.1 Senior:

CP 4.1.1.1 For the **U.S. National Championship**, competition shall consist of Technical and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams. There shall also be an Acrobatic Routine event.

1. When the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships are held together, there shall be 1 combined Acrobatic Routine event. Competitors from the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships may be combined in the same Acrobatic Routine for this event.
2. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Acrobatic Routine event at the U.S. National Championships. At least 1 competitor in the Acrobatic Routine must be in the Senior age division.

CP 4.1.1.2 For the **U.S. Senior Open Championship**, competition shall consist of Technical and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams. There shall also be an Acrobatic Routine event.

CP 4.1.1.3 For all other Senior Championships, any combination of events may be contested as long as the Free Routine is included.

CP 4.1.2 Junior:

CP 4.1.2.1 For the **U.S. Junior Championship**, competition shall consist of Technical and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams. There shall also be an Acrobatic Routine.

1. When the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships are held together, there shall be 1 combined Acrobatic Routine event. Competitors from the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships may be combined in the same Acrobatic Routine for this event.
2. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Acrobatic Routine event at the U.S. Junior Championships. At least 1 competitor in the Acrobatic Routine must be in the Junior age division.

CP 4.1.2.2 For the **U.S. Junior Open Championship**, competition shall consist of Technical and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams. There shall also be an Acrobatic Routine event.

CP 4.1.2.3 For all other Junior Championships, any combination of events may be contested as long as the Free Routine is included.

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, 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 Grade Level 4 may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. Youth Championships. At least 1 competitor in the Free Combination routine must be in the Youth age division.

CP 4.1.4 Junior Olympic: Competitions shall consist of Figures and Free routines for the 12 & under and Youth age divisions. In the 15-17 and 18-19/20 age divisions,

competitions shall consist of Technical and/or Free routines. In the 16-19/20 age division, competition shall consist of the Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination.

CP 4.1.5 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.

CP 4.1.6 Novice: Competitions shall consist of Figures and/or Free Routines with Technical Required Elements.

CP 4.2 Routine Competition:

CP 4.2.1 Routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events. Each routine (Technical and Free) has a predetermined number of Elements and a free choice of Transitions described in [USAAS Requirements for Technical Routines, Free Routines, Acrobatic Routines and Free Combination Routines](#) (Appendix L) and is choreographed to music.

Exception: For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.1.2. For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For U.S. Junior Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.1.1. For U.S. Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1. For U.S. Youth Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.3.1.1.

CP 4.2.2 Time Requirements for Routines by Event and Age Division shall be as follows, including 10 seconds for Deck Movements:

<u>CP 4.2.2.1</u> Solo:	Minutes
1. Free Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	2:15
2. Technical Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	2:00
3. Free Youth and 12 & under	2:00
4. Intermediate	1:45
5. Novice	1:30
<u>CP 4.2.2.2</u> Duet/Trio:	
1. Free Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	2:45
2. Technical Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	2:20
3. Free Youth and 12 & under	2:30
4. Intermediate	2:05
5. Novice	1:30
CP 4.2.2.3 Team:	
1. Free Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	3:30
2. Technical Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20	2:50
3. Free Youth and 12 & under	3:00
4. Intermediate	2:35
5. Novice	1:30
CP 4.2.2.4 Acrobatic Routine:	3:00
CP 4.2.2.5 Free Combination:	
1. 16-19/20	3:30
2. Youth, 12 & under and Intermediate	3:00

CP 4.2.2.6 Time Allowances:

CP 4.2.2.6.1 Technical and Free Routines:

1. There shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus or minus the allotted time limit.

Exception: In the following competitions, there shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit.

- U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Championships.
- Collegiate Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competitions exception, see Rule CO 2.4.5.1.
- U.S. Masters Championship exceptions, see Rules MS 4.4.3 & MS 4.4.2.

CP 4.2.2.6.2 Walk-On: In all routine events, the walk-on of the competitors from the designated starting point to the achievement of a stationary starting position(s) may not exceed 30 seconds for Technical and Free Mixed Duets, Technical and Free Teams, Acrobatic Routines and Free Combinations, and may not exceed 20 seconds for Solo and Duet Events.

Exception: For AWD routine competition exception, see Rule AD 4.1.4.

1. When the routine starts in the water, the same time allowances apply to achieve a stationary starting position(s).

CP 4.2.2.6.3 Deck movements shall be a maximum of 10 seconds.

Exception: For AWD routine competition exception, see Rule AD 4.1.5.

CP 4.2.3 Timing:

CP 4.2.3.1 Timing of the performance shall start with the walk-on and finish with the accompaniment.

CP 4.2.3.2 Timing of the walk-on shall commence when the first competitor moves past the designated starting point and ends when the last competitor assumes a stationary starting position.

CP 4.2.3.3 Timing of the deck movements shall begin with the accompaniment and end as the last competitor leaves the deck.

CP 4.2.4 Other Requirements:

CP 4.2.4.1 The accompaniment shall begin upon a signal from the Event Referee. After the signal, the competitor(s) must perform the routine without interruption. See CP 4.2.4.2. Routines may start on the deck or in the water, but they must finish in the water.

CP 4.2.4.2 If one (or more) competitor(s) stops swimming or makes clear support use of the pool wall before the routine is completed, the routine will be disqualified. The Event Referee shall assess if the cessation is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the competitor(s). The Event Referee may allow the routine to be re-swum during the session. See Rule OD 4.6.2.8.3.

CP 4.2.4.3 There shall be no diving into the shallow end of a pool when the pool depth is less than 5 feet.

CP 4.2.4.4 For infractions of rules listed above, see Rule OD 4.6.2. See Rules OD 4.6.3 – 4.6.5 for additional routine requirements/restrictions.

CP 4.3 Figure Competition:

CP 4.3.1 Each competitor shall perform figures in each age division in which the competitor has a routine entered. Each competitor in 12 & under and Youth Free Combination may also perform figures according to CP 4.3.3.

CP 4.3.2 Figure Draw General Procedures:

CP 4.3.2.1 The order of appearance, Figure Section and Optional Groups shall be decided by lot. The Figure Section or Optional Group shall be drawn first, then the order of appearance.

CP 4.3.2.2 Figure Section and Optional Groups shall be drawn 18-72 hours before the start of the Figure competition by the Vice President Competitive Programs or appropriate Technical Chair (or appointed representative).

CP 4.3.2.3 Method and time of the draw shall be listed in the Meet Announcement. Draws may be done over a social media platform.

CP 4.3.3 Figure groups for all Championships are listed in [Figure Rule II](#).

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. 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.

CP 4.3.3.2 Junior Olympic 12 & under, Intermediate and Novice Championships: One group of 4 figures shall be performed.

1. **For Figure competition at Junior Olympic Championships, 12 & under [Age](#) Division,** the group of figures shall consist of the 2 [12 & under](#) Age Division Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures from the 12 & under Age Division Figure Selection Groups.

- For the 12 & under Age Division figures, refer to Figure Rule [II.C](#).

2. **For Figure competition at Intermediate Championships,** the group of figures shall consist of the 2 Intermediate Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures from the Intermediate Figure Selection Groups.

- For the Immediate figures, refer to Figure Rule [II.B](#).

3. **For Figure competition at Novice Championships,** the group of figures shall consist of the 4 Novice [Compulsory](#) Figures from the Novice Figure Group.

- For the Novice figures, refer to Figure Rule [II.A](#).

CP 4.3.4 Figure Performance Regulations:

CP 4.3.4.1 Figures are to be performed in an area designated by the Meet Referee.

CP 4.3.4.2 Figures are to be performed in a relatively stationary position unless otherwise called for in the rules. A standard swimming stroke shall not be used to initiate the execution of a figure.

CP 4.3.4.3 All figures shall commence at a signal from the Event Referee or Event Vice Referee.

CP 4.3.4.4 Performance and judging of the figure shall commence at the initiation by the competitor, following the announcement of the figure.

CP 4.3.4.5 If a competitor does not understand the name of the announced figure, the competitor must ask for a repeat announcement before actually beginning the figure. See Rule OD 4.6.1.1-2.

CP 4.3.4.6 For Figure competition, 1 to 4 panels of judges may be used.

1. When 1 panel of judges is used, all competitors, in order of draw, shall perform the 4 or 2 figures, according to the age category, one by one in the listed order.
2. When 2 panels of judges are officiating, each panel shall judge 1 or 2 figures.
3. When 4 panels of judges are officiating, each panel shall judge 1 figure.

CP 4.3.4.7 In **National, Zone and Regional Figure competition**, all competitors shall wear a plain, one-piece black suit and plain white swim cap, devoid of club and National Team emblems. Goggles and nose clips may be worn.

1. Only small stud jewelry is permitted. Competitors must remove all dangling jewelry prior to the start of the event.

Exception: For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 3.3.2.

CP 5 ENTRY PROCEDURES

CP 5.1 Numbers of Competitors:

CP 5.1.1 A Team (Technical or Free) shall consist of 4, but no more than 8 competitors.

CP 5.1.2 A Free Combination shall consist of 4, but no more than 10 competitors who make a combination of routines.

CP 5.1.3 An Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4, but no more than 8 competitors.

Exception: For U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Championships, an Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4, but not more than 10 competitors.

CP 5.2 Deduction Points: In Team and Acrobatic Routine competition, whether Preliminary or Final events, 1/4 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8. 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.

CP 5.3 Reserves: One reserve may be listed for a Duet and Trio and 2 reserves for a Mixed Duet, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Number of Reserves</u>
Duet	1
Mixed Duet	2
Trio	1
Team	2
Acrobatic Routine	2
Free Combination	2

CP 5.4 Notification Responsibilities:

- CP 5.4.1** In the event a qualifier is not able to compete in the next level of competition, the coach of the qualifier must notify the coach of the next runner-up.
- CP 5.4.2** If a routine is not duly entered into the competition for which it qualified, the next routine(s) in order of placement from the qualifying competition shall be allowed the option of entering by submitting Entry Forms and Fees, regardless of the deadline.

CP 5.5 Sport Entries, Deadlines, Coach Cards/Element Cards, Music Submission and Provisional Entries:

CP 5.5.1 **Sport Entries:** Athlete registration and sport entries for National Championships must be received via electronic registration 28 days prior to the first day of the respective competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 27 and 7 days prior to the first day of the respective competition. The entry shall designate the name of the competitor(s) and the reserves. See Rule CP 5.3 for the maximum number of reserves allowed per event. For Registration and Sport Entry Late Fees, refer to USAAS Membership and Fee Schedule (Appendix C).

CP 5.5.1.1 **Staff Registration:** Coach, chaperone and other staff registration and certification for National Championships must be received via electronic registration 28 days prior to the first day of the respective competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 27 and 14 days prior to the first day of the respective competition. For Registration and Certification Late Fees, refer to Appendix C.

CP 5.5.2 **Coach Cards/Element Cards:** For all National Championships, Coach Cards/Element Cards must be received 14 days prior to the first day of the respective competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 13 and 7 days prior to the first day of the respective competition. For Coach Card/Element Card Late Fees, refer to Appendix C.

CP 5.5.2.1 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.

CP 5.5.3 Music Submission: For all National Championships, music submission must be received 14 days prior to the first day of the respective competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 13 and 7 days prior to the first day of the respective competition. For Music Submission Late Fees, refer to Appendix C.

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 be clearly stated on the Meet Announcement.

CP 5.5.4 For all National Championships, no Sport entries, staff registration, Coach Cards/Element Cards or music submission shall be accepted between 7 and 0 days prior to the first day of competition. Changes in sport entries after the above deadlines will only be accepted on medical grounds. No Staff certifications shall be accepted between 13 and 0 days prior to the first day of the competition. Refer to Appendix C.

Exception: For Entry Deadline exceptions, see Rules CP 5.4.1-2 and 5.5.6.1.

CP 5.5.5 Entries for Zone and Regional competitions must be submitted as instructed in the Meet Announcement.

Exception: For Entry Deadline exceptions, see Rules CP 5.4.1-2.

CP 5.5.6 Provisional Entries:

CP 5.5.6.1 Routines that do not qualify for a National Championship may submit a provisional entry to be entered into a random draw for events that have fewer entries than the maximum allowed. See Rule CP 3.1.6. Entries must be submitted by the original entry deadline. Competitors are still required to meet all eligibility and qualification standards other than placement for the championship.

CP 5.5.7 Payment for all competitors, including provisional entries, by the original entry deadline must accompany the entry. Entries that do not qualify for a National Championship shall have their entry fees refunded.

CP 5.6 Changes and/or Scratches:

CP 5.6.1 All scratches must be made in writing and given to the Scoring Chair at least 2 hours prior to the start of the specific event.

CP 5.6.2 In Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination events, competitors who are listed on the entry according to CP 5.5 may be interchanged before routine sessions.

CP 5.6.2.1 Changes of the names of the competitors in Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination must be made in writing and given to the Scoring Chair at least 2 hours prior to the published start time of routine number 1. The start time must be published in the official competition schedule.

CP 5.6.2.2 The names of the competitors to be substituted must already be entered in the competition and listed as reserves. See Rule CP 5.3 and CP 5.5.1.

CP 5.6.2.3 Failure to notify at least 2 hours before the final published start time of the event will result in disqualification of the routine. See Rule OD 4.6.2.8.1.

CP 5.6.3 Exceptions to the 2 hour period may be allowed by the Event Referee for circumstances beyond the control of the competitor (in case of sudden illness or accident) and if the reserve is ready to compete without delaying the competition. If the lack of a reserve reduces the routine size to less than defined in the rules, the routine shall be disqualified. See Rule OD 4.6.2.8.2.1.

CP 5.6.4 In the event of an unposted scratch, or extenuating circumstances in any routine event, the next listed competitor shall be allowed up to 5 minutes prior to being announced and commencing the routine competition.

CP 5.6.5 If scratching a competitor in a Team or Acrobatic Routine results in a reduction in the number actually participating, the coach shall notify both the Scoring Chair and/or the Event Referee and the deduction points shall be adjusted accordingly. For any Team or Acrobatic Routine swimming with fewer than 8 competitors, the Event Referee shall verify with the Scoring Chair that the correct number of competitors is listed on the Official Club Entry Form.

CP 5.7 Starting Responsibilities:

CP 5.7.1 Competitors shall inform themselves of the time of starting, shall be prompt at the starting point of each event which they enter and shall be personally responsible for reporting to the Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee in time to compete in the order of draw. For Late Arrivals, see Rule CP 5.7.2.

CP 5.7.2 Late Arrivals:

CP 5.7.2.1 For Figure competition, late arrivals shall compete in a position designated by the Event Referee.

CP 5.7.2.2 For routine competition, late arrivals must swim 2 routines after their arrival on deck.

CP 5.7.3 Interrupted routines shall swim no more than 2 routines after their original draw.

CP 5.7.3.1 If an unexpected situation occurs during a routine session and 1 or more judges cannot give a score for a routine, the Event Referee may disrupt the routine session and performance. After settlement of the matter and confirmation that it is safe, the Event Referee shall resume the routine session and allow the competitor(s) to swim again.

CP 6 EVENT PROGRESSION: Preliminary, Final Events

CP 6.1 General Event Progression:

CP 6.1.1 The order of events may be Preliminary routine competition followed by Figure/Technical routine competition and Final routine competition.

Exception: For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.1.2. For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For U.S. Junior Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.1.1. For U.S. Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1. For U.S. Youth Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.3.1.1. For U.S. Junior Olympic Championship exception, see Rule CP 3.5.5.5-6.

CP 6.1.2 In all National Championships, if there are more than 12 entries in any routine event, then Preliminary events may be held. Only the 12 best results shall be allowed in the official finals.

CP 6.1.2.1 If there are less than 13 entries in any routine event, then Preliminary events may be held.

CP 6.1.3 Figure Competition:

CP 6.1.3.1 If a competitor is not able to participate or complete the Figure competition due to illness or injury, the figure average for the routine may be determined by averaging the scores of the remaining competitors in the Preliminary event. If the routine qualifies for Finals, the reserve's figure score may then be included in the average. In the case of a Team routine, the deduction points shall be based on the actual number of competitors swimming the routine.

1. In the Duet and Trio events, the figure score of the reserve is used to determine the Total Score for the Duet or Trio.
2. In Team, the higher figure score of the 2 reserves is used to determine the Total Score for the Team.

CP 6.1.3.2 The routine figure average shall be computed using the figure score of the competitors who actually swam in the routine.

CP 6.1.4 Final Routine Competition:

CP 6.1.4.1 For all competitions:

1. The 12 highest scoring entries (combined Figure/Technical routine competition and Preliminary routine scores) shall qualify for the Final routine competition. The figure score shall be the average score of the competitors participating in the Duet, Trio and Team Preliminary routine competition.
2. The 13th highest scoring entry (combined Figure and Preliminary routine scores) shall be the pre-swimmer for the Final routine competition. In no event shall a Foreign competitor be the pre-swimmer.

CP 6.1.4.2 The order for Final routine competition may be Trio, Duet, Solo, Team, Free Combination and Acrobatic Routine.

CP 6.1.4.3 Once Finals in an event have started, no runner-up routine shall be allowed to move into the Finals in the event of a disqualification of 1 of the finalists.

CP 6.2 Additional Event Progression for the U.S. National Championship, the U.S. Junior Championship, the U.S. Senior Open Championship and the U.S. Junior Open Championship:

CP 6.2.1 For the U.S. National Championship and the U.S. Junior Championship, the Solo, Duet and Team Technical routine events shall be a Final Technical routine competition. The Solo, Duet and Team Free routine events shall consist of a Preliminary Free routine competition followed by a Final Free routine competition. The Acrobatic Routine event shall consist of a Final routine competition.

CP 6.2.1.1 When the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships are held together, there shall be 1 combined Acrobatic Routine event and all competitors shall compete for the same awards.

CP 6.2.2 For the U.S. National Championship and the U.S. Junior Championship, competitors will receive points from the Acrobatic Routine event toward the High Point (individual or team) awards. To qualify for Team points, an Acrobatic Routine must have at least 1 competitor participating at the respective championship. To qualify for Individual points, a competitor must participate in at least 1 other event at the respective championship.

CP 6.2.3 For the U.S. Senior Open Championship and the U.S. Junior Open Championship, the Solo, Duet and Team Technical routine events shall consist of a Preliminary Technical routine competition followed by a Final Technical routine competition. The Solo, Duet and Team Free routine events shall consist of a Preliminary Free routine competition followed by a Final Free routine competition. The Acrobatic Routine event shall consist of a Final routine competition.

CP 6.2.4 The order of events shall be determined by the Vice President Competitive Programs and the Meet Manager.

CP 6.3 Additional Event Progression for U.S. Youth Championship:

CP 6.3.1 For the U.S. Youth Championship, competitors will receive points from the Free Combination event toward the High Point (individual or team) awards. To qualify for Team points, a Free Combination routine must have at least 1 competitor participating in other U.S. Youth Championship events. To qualify for Individual points, a competitor must participate in at least 1 other U.S. Youth Championship event.

CP 6.4 Additional Event Progression for Junior Olympic Championships:

CP 6.4.1 At the discretion of the Meet Referee, Preliminary events may be waived in the Junior Olympic programs; thus, the order of events would be Figure or Technical routine competition followed by Free routine competition.

CP 6.4.2 The Regional Junior Olympic Championship and Association Junior Olympic Championship Free routine events shall be considered Final events.

1. All 12 & under and Youth competitors shall perform figures. The Figure scores shall be added to the Preliminary Free routine scores to determine the competitors who advance to the next level.
2. For 15-17 and 18-19/20 age divisions, the Technical routine events shall be considered Final events.
3. The Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination shall be considered Final events.
4. The order of events shall be determined by the respective Technical Chair and the Meet Manager.

CP 6.5 Order of Appearance:

CP 6.5.1 Prior to the competition, the drawing for order of appearance in the Preliminary and Direct Final events shall be held.

CP 6.5.2 The order of appearance for Technical routines, Free Routine Preliminaries, Acrobatic Routine Preliminaries or Free Combination Preliminaries shall be decided by a double blind lot draw announced and held in a public place. In competitions where a computer will be used, the order of appearance may be computer generated.

CP 6.5.3 The order of the draw shall be Teams, Free Combinations, Acrobatic Routines, Duets, Trios, and Solos Preliminaries. For competitions involving both Technical and Free routines, the draw for the event's Technical routine shall first be held followed by the Free routine draw (Team Technical, Team Free Preliminary, Free Combination Preliminary, Acrobatic Routine Preliminary, Duet Technical, Duet Free Preliminary, Trio Free Preliminary, Solo Technical, Solo Free Preliminary).

CP 6.5.3.1 The orders of draw for the U.S. Junior Open Championship and the U.S. Senior Open Championship shall be conducted independently and shall not include the U.S. Open Acrobatic Routine Preliminary.

CP 6.5.4 At all National Championships, with the exception of the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship and U.S. Masters Championship, where possible, when a club draws start number 1 in a Technical routine Preliminary or Free routine Preliminary (including Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination Preliminaries) or Direct Finals, this club shall be exempt from start number 1 in all remaining preliminary or Direct Final sessions in the family the club drew first. (i.e., Solo family includes Technical and Free routines for all Solo event categories).

CP 6.5.4.1 For any competition where the Solo, Duet and Team Technical or Free routine sessions are Direct Final events, the order of draw shall be a random draw.

CP 6.5.4.2 For Junior Olympic competitions, the draw exemption shall apply only to events within a given age division.

CP 6.5.5 A drawing shall be held for the order of appearance in Finals as follows:

CP 6.5.5.1 For all competitions: After the Figures and/or Technical routines, Free routine Preliminaries, Acrobatic Routine Preliminary and Free Combination Preliminary, the first 12 by total score shall compete in the Finals.

1. The order of appearance in Finals shall be determined by lot in groups of 6 competitors. Those who placed 1-6 per CP 6.5.5.1 shall draw for start numbers 7-12. Those who placed 7-12 per CP 6.5.5.1 shall draw for start numbers 1-6. If the number of competitors is not divisible by 6, the smallest group must start first.
2. For the Final draw, the highest qualifier in each group shall draw first, with the next qualifiers drawing in order of placement. If there is a tie for placement within the same group of 6, the names of the tied competitors shall be drawn by lot to determine the competitor to draw first for the order of swim. If there is a tie for places 6 and 7 (different groups), those routines will form their own group in the draw (1-5, 6-7, 8-12).

CP 7 AWARDS

CP 7.1 Minimum Standards for Medals and Ribbons:

CP 7.1.1 Figure and Collegiate Technical Awards:

CP 7.1.1.1 For the U.S. Junior Olympic and U.S. Collegiate Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-12 in each age division (12 & under and Youth) or Collegiate Technical Category, respectively.

CP 7.1.1.2 For the U.S. Youth Championship, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3.

CP 7.1.1.3 For the U.S. Masters Championship, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8 in each Figure Competition Division.

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 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 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.

CP 7.1.3 Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the host and/or USAAS.

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 & under and Youth), 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.

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 in their actual age division and shall have a U.S. Honorary placement in any other Novice or Intermediate age division in which they swim a routine.

CP 7.3 Scoring System for Dual Meet Competitions: In Dual meet competitions, a club may enter a total of 8 routines with no more than 2 routines in each event.

CP 7.3.1 Scoring shall be as follows:

Team/Free Combination/Acrobatic	8 for first; 0 for second place.
Duet/Trio	7 for first; 4 for second; 2 for third place.
Solo	5 for first; 3 for second; 1 for third place.

CP.7.4 Scoring System for Team and Individual High Point Trophies: For U.S. National Championship and U.S. Junior Championship additional event progression, see Rule CP 6.2.2. For U.S. Youth Championship additional event progression, see Rule CP 6.3.1. Refer to [USAAS Awards](#) (Appendix R).

Place	Solo Tech/ Free	Duet, Trio Tech/ Free	Team Tech/ Free	Free Combination/ Acrobatic Routine
1st	12	18	24	24
2nd	11	17	22	22
3rd	10	16	20	20
4th	9	15	18	18
5th	8	14	16	16
6th	7	13	14	14
7th	6	12	12	12
8th	5	11	10	10
9th	4	10	8	8
10th	3	9	6	6
11th	2	8	4	4
12th	1	7	2	2

RULE III

RULES APPLICABLE TO FOREIGN COMPETITORS (FC)

FC 1 FOREIGN FEDERATIONS: May enter competitors in USA Artistic Swimming National Championship events under the following provisions and regulations:

FC 1.1 Entries: Foreign competitors may enter only with the written approval of their own Federations.

FC 1.1.1 In each Championship, Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.

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 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.

FC 1.3 U.S. National Championship:

FC 1.3.1 Must be 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth.

FC 1.3.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics Rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.3.3 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 3 Women Technical Solos, 3 Women Free Solos, 3 Men Technical Solos, 3 Men Free Solos, 3 Women Technical Duets, 3 Women Free Duets, 3 Technical Mixed Duets, 3 Free Mixed Duets, 1 Open Technical Team, 1 Open Free Team and/or 1 Open Acrobatic Routine.

FC 1.4 U.S. Senior Open Championship:

FC 1.4.1 Must be 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth.

FC 1.4.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics Rules.

FC 1.4.3 Each Foreign club or National Team may have unlimited entries in all Technical and Free routine events (Women Solo, Men Solo, Women Duet, Mixed Duet, Open Team and Open Acrobatic Routine).

FC 1.5 U.S. Junior Open Championship:

FC 1.5.1 Must be 15 to 19 (15 to 20 for men) years of age based on the year of birth.

FC 1.5.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics rules.

FC 1.5.3 Each Foreign club or National Team may have unlimited entries in all Technical and Free routine events (Women Solo, Men Solo, Women Duet, Mixed Duet, Open Team and Open Acrobatic Routine).

FC 1.6 U.S. Junior Championship:

FC 1.6.1 Must be 15 to 19 (15 to 20 for men) years of age based on the year of birth.

FC 1.6.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.6.3 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 3 Women Technical Solos, 3 Women Free Solos, 3 Men Technical Solos, 3 Men Free Solos, 3 Women Technical Duets, 3 Women Free Duets, 3 Technical Mixed Duets, 3 Free Mixed

Duets, 1 Open Technical Team, 1 Open Free Team and/or 1 Open Acrobatic Routine.

FC 1.7 U.S. Youth Championship:

FC 1.7.1 Must be 13 to 15 (13 to 16 for men) years of age based on the year of birth.

FC 1.7.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.7.3 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 3 Women Solos, 3 Men Solos, 3 Women Duets, 3 Mixed Duets, 1 Open Team and/or 1 Open Free Combination.

FC 1.8 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship: Foreign competitors are not eligible to compete.

FC 1.9 U.S. Masters Championship: Entries shall not be limited.

FC 2 EVENT PROGRESSION

FC 2.1 With the exception of the U.S. Open Championships, Foreign competitors who qualify for any of the Final routine events shall compete in addition to the top qualifying USAAS competitors and shall receive an honorary award for their final placement. The USAAS competitors shall be listed in final placement and given awards without regard to the placement of Foreign competitors. Foreign competitors shall not be eligible to be pre-swimmer(s).

RULE IV

OFFICIALS AND DUTIES (OD)

OD 1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

OD 1.1 Officials Membership: All Officials must be a member of USAAS at the appropriate level. Refer to [USAAS Officials Certification Policy](#) (Appendix G) for complete list of official requirements.

OD 1.2 Officials Uniform:

OD 1.2.1 National Competitions: The national uniform of the day is a white top with a black bottom unless otherwise designated by the Officials' Committee Chair.

OD 1.2.2 Other Competitions: The required uniform as determined by the respective Officials Chair (or appointed representative).

OD 2 JUDGES

OD 2.1 Eligibility:

OD 2.1.1 Categories of National Judges:

OD 2.1.1.1 Category 1: All Level 4 and 5 Judges who participate in judging at the Association, Regional or Zone Championships annually and who are unaffiliated at a specific competition.

OD 2.1.1.2 Category 2: All Level 4 and 5 Judges who meet the above requirements but are affiliated at a specific competition. These judges may be unaffiliated for some events at this competition and may judge as an unaffiliated judge in those events.

OD 2.1.2 All other Rated Judges: Judges who are on the current accredited list with the appropriate rating for that Championship. Level 2 and above shall be considered equal at all Association Championships.

OD 2.2 Minimum Performance Standards:

OD 2.2.1 Should a judge not meet the minimum evaluation standards, in a specific event (Solo, Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine or Free Combination), where possible, that judge shall not be seated into successive levels of competition in that specific event.

OD 2.2.2 The Scoring Chair shall provide the Officials Chair (or appointed representative) with all information required for evaluations.

OD 2.2.3 The judge shall be seated only if the minimum evaluation standards have been met.

OD 2.2.4 If multiple panels are used in a specific event, the judge shall be excluded only from the one in which the minimum evaluation standards have not been met.

OD 2.3 Selection Procedures:

OD 2.3.1 All National Judges shall declare which competitions they shall be able to attend as an unaffiliated judge and which they shall be able to attend as an affiliated judge.

OD 2.3.2 The Officials' Committee Chair shall draw a minimum of 10 judges from the list of eligible Category 1 Judges for each competition. These judges shall be officially notified that they have been selected and are guaranteed to judge at least 1 event. The individual judges shall officially accept or reject this selection. For the U.S. Senior Open Championship, only World Aquatics judges shall be selected.

OD 2.3.3 Factors to be considered in the Selection of Judges:

OD 2.3.3.1 Affiliation: A judge shall be considered unaffiliated with a club after a 1 year period following separation of activity with that club.

OD 2.3.3.2 Judge Utilization: Where possible, the judges shall be drawn for Preliminary events in such a manner that no judge shall be used twice until all eligible unaffiliated judges have been used. The same procedures shall apply to Final events.

OD 2.3.3.3 Back to Back Judging: Where possible, a judge shall not be selected to judge consecutive Preliminary events on the same day.

OD 2.3.4 Selection of Judges:

OD 2.3.4.1 Judges shall be selected in the order of events.

OD 2.3.4.2 Judges shall be selected from a list of eligible judges as determined by the Officials' Committee.

OD 2.3.4.3 If, for any reason, it is necessary to include affiliated judges from any club, Association, Region or Zone, affiliated judges will be selected with Zone balance as primary consideration.

OD 2.3.4.4 Eligible judges are those on the current accredited list with the appropriate rating for that competition. (Example: At Senior Association Championships, Level 2 and higher ratings shall be considered equal.) Under no circumstances shall a judge with an inappropriate rating be selected until all available judges with appropriate ratings have been seated.

OD 2.3.4.5 Where possible, the panel selection priority shall include:

1. Not more than 1 judge per club on a specific panel.
2. Not more than 2 judges per Association on a specific panel.
3. Not more than 2 judges per Zone on a specific panel in all National Championships.
4. No coach, mother, father, sister or brother of a competitor on a specific panel.

OD 2.4 Duties/Responsibilities:

OD 2.4.1 When judging an event, a judge shall possess only those papers approved by the Event Referee.

OD 2.4.2 Each judge shall be provided with a means of recording and a visible signaling of awards.

OD 2.4.2.1 At the completion of each routine the judges record their scores on a judging system (paper or electronic) provided by the Meet Management Committee. All scores shall be received and reviewed by the Event Referee (or appointed representative) before the scores are simultaneously presented manually, displayed on the scoreboard or announced, and shall then be the accepted score in case of error or dispute. When an electronic system is used, if a judge(s) makes an error inputting a score, the judge shall notify the Event Referee prior to the announcement of the scores for the routine, or the announcement of the next routine, whichever comes first.

OD 2.4.2.2 On a signal of the Event Referee, the judges' scores will simultaneously be presented manually or electronically for each panel.

OD 2.4.3 No judge shall communicate with another individual while a competitor(s) is performing.

OD 2.4.4 Judges once seated may not leave their positions without the Event Referee's approval.

OD 2.4.4.1 A judge who leaves the assigned position without approval shall be declared ineligible to judge for the remainder of that competition.

OD 2.4.4.2 If a second infraction occurs, the judge shall be declared ineligible to judge for 1 year from the date of the infraction.

OD 2.5 Judging Panels:

OD 2.5.1 Figure Competition:

OD 2.5.1.1 Judges shall be placed, when possible, in elevated positions in such locations as to have a profile view of the competitors.

OD 2.5.1.2 One to 4 panels may be used.

OD 2.5.1.3 Panels shall consist of 5 judges.

OD 2.5.2 Routine Competition:

OD 2.5.2.1 Judges shall be placed in elevated positions on opposite sides of the pool.

OD 2.5.2.2 At all National Championships, 2 panels of 5 judges shall officiate in all routine events; one panel for Elements and one panel for Artistic Impression.

- When 6 to 8 judges are available, 2 panels of either 3 or 4 judges shall be used.

OD 2.5.2.3 Two Event Assistant Referees may be assigned for routine competition to assist the Event Referee with assessment of penalties. See Rule OD 4.6.2.

OD 2.6 Methods of Scoring:

OD 2.6.1 Figure Competition:

OD 2.6.1.1 Judges shall award scores from 0-10, with one-tenth point increments.

1. If 1 or more judge(s), by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for any one figure, the average of the scores of the other remaining judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point. For Methods of Scoring, see Rule OD 5.1.2.2.

OD 2.6.1.2 Judging begins with the initiation of the figure by the competitor.

OD 2.6.1.3 The judges' scores shall be flashed simultaneously and announced immediately after each figure on a signal from the Panel Referee. Judges' scores may only be flashed on the scoreboard or be sent to the computer after approval by the Panel Referee.

OD 2.6.1.4 Breakdown of Figure Competition Scoring:

1. All judgments are made from the standpoint of perfection considering design and control, with each transition of the figure having a numerical value based on its difficulty (NVT).

OD 2.6.1.5 Figure Scoring:

Perfect	10.0
Near Perfect	9.5 to 9.9
Excellent	9.0 to 9.4
Very Good	8.0 to 8.9
Good	7.0 to 7.9
Competent	6.0 to 6.9
Satisfactory	5.0 to 5.9
Deficient	4.0 to 4.9
Weak	3.0 to 3.9
Very Weak	2.0 to 2.9
Hardly Recognizable	0.1 to 1.9
Completely Failed	0

OD 2.6.2 Routine Competition:

OD 2.6.2.1 Judges shall award scores from 0–10, with 0.25 point increments.

1. If 1 or more judge(s), by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a routine, the average of the scores of the other remaining judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. For Methods of Scoring, see Rules OD 5.1.2.3.
2. If an unexpected situation occurs during the session and 1 or more judges cannot give a score for a routine, the Event Referee may disrupt the session and performance. After the settlement of the matter and safe confirmation, the Event Referee shall resume the session and allow the competitor to swim again.

OD 2.6.2.2 The accompaniment shall begin upon a signal by the Event Referee (or appointed representative). After the signal, the competitor(s) must perform the routine without interruption.

OD 2.6.2.3 At the completion of each routine:

1. Judges shall record their scores and submit them on a judging system (paper or electronic) provided by the Meet Management Committee.
2. When the Event Referee (or appointed representative) determines that all scores have been received, the Event Referee shall signal for the results to be simultaneously presented manually, displayed on the scoreboard or to be announced. Judges' scores shall not be changed after being posted on the scoreboard or announced.
3. At the discretion of the Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) at all National Championships or the appropriate Technical Chair (or appointed representative) at all other competitions, the display of routine scores may be waived. If the scores are not displayed, the following alternate scoring method may be used.
 - When the Event Referee determines that all scores have been received, the Event Referee shall signal for the start of the next routine.
 - Scores from routine # 1 shall be read upon completion of routine # 2 and the competitors shall be introduced at that time.
 - This procedure shall be followed throughout the event.
4. Scores are only official once signed by the Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) or the appropriate Technical Chair (or appointed representative) at the conclusion of the competition.

OD 2.6.2.4 For all routines, each judge shall award score(s) from 0-10 points, using 0.25 point increments.

First Panel - Elements

1. Elements panel judges shall award 1 score for the execution of each declared Element (Free and Technical routines).

EXECUTION consider: The level of excellence in performing highly specialized skills. Execution of all declared Elements: Technical Required Elements and Elements (Hybrids and Acrobatics).

Second Panel - Artistic Impression

1. Artistic Impression panel judges shall award 3 scores, one score for Choreography and Musicality, one score for Performance and one score of Transitions.

CHOREOGRAPHY and MUSICALITY consider: The creative skill of composing a routine that combines artistic and technical elements. The design and weaving together of variety, creativity and innovation of all movements including elements and transitions, the pool coverage. Expressing the mood of the music, use of the music's structure and the movements and synchronization with the music.

PERFORMANCE consider: The manner in which the competitor(s) presents(s) the routine to the viewers including the walk-on and deck movements. The use of the body language to express physical and emotional power, confidence and total command of the performance.

TRANSITIONS consider: The artistry and mastery of varied and purposeful movements, propulsions and strokes that link the routine elements.

OD 2.6.2.5 Routine Scoring:

Perfect	10.0
Near Perfect	9.5 to 9.75
Excellent	9.0 to 9.25
Very Good	8.0 to 8.75
Good	7.0 to 7.75
Competent	6.0 to 6.75
Satisfactory	5.0 to 5.75
Deficient	4.0 to 4.75
Weak	3.0 to 3.75
Very Weak	2.0 to 2.75
Hardly Recognizable	0.25 to 1.75
Completely Failed	0

OD 3 TECHNICAL CONTROLLER

OD 3.1 Eligibility: An Official with the appropriate training.

OD 3.2 Selection Procedures:

OD 3.2.1 All Technical Controllers shall declare which competitions they shall be able to attend as a Technical Controller.

OD 3.2.2 The Officials' Committee Chair shall draw 6 Technical Controllers from the list of eligible Technical Controllers for each competition. These Technical Controllers shall be officially notified that they have been selected and are guaranteed to officiate at least 1 event. The individual technical controllers shall officially accept or reject this selection.

OD 3.3 Duties/Responsibilities of the Technical Controllers:

OD 3.3.1 Two groups of 3 Technical Controllers shall officiate in all routines: 1 group to check the number, order of performance and predeclared difficulty of Elements (Hybrids and Acrobatics) and the performance and predeclared order of the Technical Required Elements (Technical routines) and 1 group to register the number and type of synchronization errors observed.

OD 3.3.2 Difficulty Technical Controllers:

OD 3.3.2.1 There shall be 1 Difficulty Technical Controller (“DTC”) and 2 Difficulty Assistant Technical Controllers (“DATC”).

OD 3.3.2.2 The Difficulty Technical Controllers shall verify all of the Technical Required Elements (Technical routines) and the Elements (Hybrids and Acrobatics) performed in real time as they occur in a routine. They are also responsible for the identification of any “technical errors” which are differences in what is declared on the Coach Card/Element Card to what is performed in the water or an error in a Technical Required Element (Technical routines).

OD 3.3.2.3 The Difficulty Technical Controllers check the predeclared difficulty on the submitted Coach Card/Element Card. The Difficulty values may be found in World Aquatics Appendices 6 and 7.

OD 3.3.2.4 The Difficulty Technical Controllers will have communication with the Event Referee.

OD 3.3.3 Synchronization Technical Controllers:

OD 3.3.3.1 There shall be 3 Synchronization Technical Controllers (“STC”) who record the number of synchronization errors (unequal actions) observed in real time during the performance of a routine.

OD 3.3.3.2 The STCs shall be placed in elevated positions on opposite sides of the pool, on the deck with a clear view of the pool.

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).

OD 4 REFEREE

OD 4.1 Eligibility: A judge with the appropriate rating for the class of competition.

OD 4.2 Selection Procedures:

OD 4.2.1 Meet Referee:

OD 4.2.1.1 The Vice President Competitive Programs (or appointed representative) shall preside as Meet Referee at all National Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 4.2.1.2 The Zone Technical Chair (or appointed representative) shall preside as Meet Referee at all Zone Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 4.2.1.3 The Association Technical Chair (or appointed representative) of the Association in which the competition is held shall preside as Meet Referee at all Regional Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 4.2.1.4 The Association Technical Chair (or appointed representative) shall preside as Meet Referee at all Association competitions until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 4.2.2 Event Referee: Follow judge selection procedures as outlined in Rule OD 2.3.

OD 4.3 Duties/Responsibilities of the Meet and Event Referees:

OD 4.3.1 The **Meet Referee** shall have full jurisdiction over the event and shall:

OD 4.3.1.1 Enforce all rules and decisions of USAAS.

OD 4.3.1.2 Decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules.

OD 4.3.1.3 Have authority to interfere in a competition at any stage to ensure that the rules are observed.

OD 4.3.1.4 Have the power to call off or postpone to a future date any event, even though the same has started, if the competition cannot be conducted or completed in a satisfactory manner and in fairness to the competitors.

1. At the discretion of the Meet Committee, such postponed events can be conducted with the competitors who reported on the first date, at a future date as though the competition had never started.

OD 4.3.2 The **Event Referee** shall:

OD 4.3.2.1 Be given a list of the officials and shall assign specific duties.

OD 4.3.2.2 Ensure that each assigned official understands all responsibilities as indicated by the rules.

OD 4.3.2.3 Have the authority to change any assignments of duty.

OD 4.3.2.4 In emergencies, be authorized to assign reserve officials from the accredited list.

OD 4.3.2.5 Penalize competitors(s) for any violations of the rules, including disqualification and shall inform the coach and competitor of the infraction before the completion of the event.

OD 4.3.2.6 Ascertain that all officials are in place and their needs are tended to as necessary.

OD 4.3.2.7 Intervene in the event at any stage to ensure that the rules are observed and that the safety of the competitor(s) is not compromised.

OD 4.3.3 In the event of a request for a waiver of a rule, see Rule TR 2.

OD 4.3.4 In the event of a protest, see Rule TR 3.

OD 4.4 Duties/Responsibilities of the Event Vice Referee:

OD 4.4.1 Obtain an order of draw and ascertain that the competitors are in readiness 1 routine preceding their competitive turn.

OD 4.4.1.1 Ascertain that the number and names listed for all routines are the same as those who swim.

OD 4.4.1.2 Other than for Solos, ascertain whether a listed reserve is to replace another listed competitor.

OD 4.4.1.3 Notify the Event Referee of any variations from the entry.

OD 4.4.2 Time the walk-on of the routine. See Rule OD 4.6.2.3.2.1.

OD 4.4.3 When needed, time the deck movements of the routine. See Rule OD 4.6.2.3.2.2.

OD 4.4.4 Assist the Event Referee with assessment of penalties. See Rule OD 4.6.2.

OD 4.4.5 Keep order on the deck during the competition.

OD 4.4.6 Carry out any further duties as assigned by the Event Referee.

OD 4.5 Duties/Responsibilities of the Event Assistant Referee:

OD 4.5.1 Monitor the use of the bottom of the pool.

OD 4.5.1.1 When available, monitor the image from an underwater television camera and report to the Event Referee any infraction for deliberate use of the bottom of

the pool during a routine. (Mandatory at National Championships.) See Rule OD 4.6.2.3.3.2.

OD 4.5.1.2 The Event Assistant Referee must monitor the image continuously and the image must be continuously available throughout the routine.

OD 4.5.2 Perform any other duties as assigned by the Event Referee.

OD 4.6 Application of Penalties:

OD 4.6.1 Figure Competition:

OD 4.6.1.1 For the 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.

OD 4.6.1.2 For the Youth category, 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 Panel Referee shall inform the judges and the competitor that the result will be a zero for that figure.

OD 4.6.1.3 In all Figure competitions, if the award for the figure is a zero, the Panel Referee and 2 other panel judges, unaffiliated if possible, may review the official video a maximum of 3 times. If a definite decision cannot be reached after 3 video reviews, no zero shall apply.

OD 4.6.2 Routine Competition:

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, 1/4 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8.

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.

OD 4.6.2.2 All Elements (Hybrids and Acrobatics) have a calculated **Base Mark** ([World Aquatics Appendix 4](#) and [7](#)) that is the minimum Degree of Difficulty (“DD”) that will be applied if 1 or more components of the element is not performed or is not in conformance to what is declared on the Coach Card/[Element Card](#).

OD 4.6.2.3 Penalties in Technical Routines, Free Routines, Acrobatic Routines and Free Combinations:

OD 4.6.2.3.1 A Half Point Penalty shall be deducted from the **Artistic Impression** score:

1. In Mixed Duet Free and Youth Team, for each additional required movement in [World Aquatics Appendix 3](#) not performed. For the Mixed Duet Free, a 0.5 penalty shall be assessed for each Surface connected movement not performed.

OD 4.6.2.3.2 A One Point Penalty shall be deducted from the **Routine** score if:

1. The time limit of 20/30 seconds for the deck walk-on is exceeded.
2. The time limit of 10 seconds for deck movements is exceeded.
3. There is a deviation from the specified routine time limit allowed (less or more than) for the routine in accordance with Rule CP 4.2.2.

OD 4.6.2.3.3 A Two Point Penalty shall be deducted from the **Routine** score if:

1. A routine is interrupted by a competitor during the deck movements and a new start is allowed.

2. A competitor has made deliberate use of the bottom of the pool during a routine to propel themselves or assist another competitor. No penalty will be applied when the contact with the bottom of the pool results from the competitor's self-protection from injuries by impact.

OD 4.6.2.3.4 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score:

1. For each Element exceeding the predetermined number assigned to the particular event and category.

OD 4.6.2.3.5 Synchronization Errors:

1. For all routines, the sum of the synchronization errors (unequal actions) observed by the Synchronization Technical Controllers ("STC") (each factored by its assigned value) will be deducted from the **Elements** score.

Types of Synchronization errors and penalty values:

Small	0.1 points
Obvious	0.5 points
Major	3.0 points

2. The description of small, obvious and major synchronization errors (unequal actions) can be found in the [World Aquatics AS Manual for Judges, Coaches and Referees](#). Maximum deductions can reduce the Elements score to zero, but not to a negative Elements score.

OD 4.6.2.4 Additional Penalties and Technical Required Element Penalty procedures in Senior, Junior, 15-17 and 18-19/20 Technical Routines:

OD 4.6.2.4.1 If 1 or more competitor(s) omits all or part of a Technical Required Element, or performs an incorrect action in a Technical Required Element, the Difficulty Technical Controllers ("**DTC**") shall make note that the declared movement was not correct. If the video review confirms the error (review performed by the Event Referee and 2 unaffiliated individuals, if possible), a zero will be assigned as the Degree of Difficulty for this particular Technical Required Element.

OD 4.6.2.4.2 The Difficulty Technical Controller ("**DTC**") shall inform the Scorer to submit a zero for each Technical Required Element # 1-5 swum out of order declared on the Coach Card/**Element Card** (each violation of [Article 1, Section 1.02](#) in Appendix L).

OD 4.6.2.4.3 A **Half Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score for each violation of [Article 2, Section 2.04](#) in Appendix L.

OD 4.6.2.4.4 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score for each violation of routine additional requirements in Appendix L as follows:

- [Solo requirement # 6](#).
- Duet requirement # 6.
- Mixed Duet requirement # 6.
- Team requirement # 6 and 7.

OD 4.6.2.5 Additional Penalties in Acrobatic Routine:

OD 4.6.2.5.1 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Routine** score for each violation of [Acrobatic Routine](#) General Requirement # 3 in Appendix L.

OD 4.6.2.5.2 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score for each required Acrobatic Movement not performed or not conforming to the Acrobatics groups specified in Appendix L.

OD 4.6.2.6 Additional Penalties in Free Combination:

OD 4.6.2.6.1 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Routine** score for violations of each **Free Combination** General Requirement # 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Appendix L.

OD 4.6.2.6.2 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score for each violation of the Technical Required Elements # 1 and 2 in Appendix L.

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:

OD 4.6.2.7.1 A **Half-Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Execution** score for violations of required elements of Appendix L as follows:

- Novice Duet, Trio and Team required elements # 6 and 8.
- Intermediate Solo required element # 7.
- Intermediate Duet and Trio required elements # 6 and 8.
- Intermediate Team required elements # 6 and 9.
- Masters Solo required element # 6.
- Masters Duet and Trio required elements # 6, 7 and 8.
- Masters Team required elements # 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

OD 4.6.2.7.2 In **Novice and Intermediate Solo, Duet and Trio Free Routines with Technical Required Elements**, a **Half-Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the **Elements** score if an element (# 1-5) is not performed parallel to the sides of the pool where the panels of judges have been placed.

OD 4.6.2.7.3 **Two Point Penalty:** If 1 or more competitor(s) omits all or part of a Technical Required Element, or performs an incorrect action in a Technical Required Element, the Difficulty Technical Controllers (“DTC”) shall make a note that the declared movement was not performed and shall inform the Event Referee. If the video review confirms the error (review performed by the Event Referee and 2 unaffiliated individuals, if possible), a 2 point penalty shall be deducted from the **Elements** score.

Exception: In Intermediate Free Routines with Technical Required Elements, a zero will be assigned as the Degree of Difficulty for this particular Technical Required Element.

OD 4.6.2.7.4 **Two Point Penalty:** Any change in the order of the Technical Required Elements performed as declared on the Coach Card/**Element Card** or as stated in Appendix L.

Example: Element # 1, 2, 4, 3, 5 (incorrect order).

The Difficulty Technical Controllers (“DTC”) shall inform the Event Referee and a 2 point penalty shall be deducted from the **Elements** score.

OD 4.6.2.8 Disqualification:

OD 4.6.2.8.1 Failure to notify the Scoring Chair and/or the Event Referee, in writing, before swimming, of all changes or scratches will result in disqualification of the routine.

OD 4.6.2.8.2 A Team and Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4, but no more than 8 competitors. A Free Combination shall consist of 4, but no more than 10 competitors. The number of Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination competitors may not increase between the Preliminary and Final event, or between Technical and Free routines.

1. If the lack of a reserve reduces the Team, Acrobatic Routine or Free Combination size to less than that defined in rule OD 4.6.2.8.2, the routine shall be disqualified.

Exception: For U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Championships, an Acrobatic Routine shall consist of 4 but not more than 10 competitors.

- OD 4.6.2.8.3** If 1 or more competitor(s) stops swimming or makes clear support use of the pool wall before the routine is completed, the routine will be disqualified. The Event Referee shall assess if the cessation is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the competitor(s). The Event Referee may allow the routine to be re-swum during the session.

OD 4.6.3 **Swimwear:** Artistic Swimming swimwear must be dignified and appropriate for athlete competition. In routines, the swimwear must conform to [World Aquatics Competition Regulations Part One, Section 7](#) and USAAS Rules OD 4.6.3-4.6.5. Swimwear for Men shall not extend above the navel nor below the upper thigh.

OD 4.6.3.1 In the event that the Event Referee thinks the competitor(s) swimwear does not conform, the competitor(s) shall not be permitted to compete until changing into appropriate swimwear. Swimwear may represent character or theme of the music being used. The swimwear must not give the effect of excessive nudity inappropriate for the discipline.

OD 4.6.4 **Accessory Equipment:** With the exception of the U.S. Masters Championship, the use of accessory equipment, goggles or additional clothing is not permitted at National competitions, unless required for medical reasons. Nose clips may be worn.

OD 4.6.4.1 For safety reasons, only small stud jewelry is permitted. Competitors must remove all dangling jewelry, or dangling items from headpieces or swimwear prior to the start of the event.

Exception: For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS [4.2.1](#).

OD 4.6.4.2 In the event that the Event Referee observes or is informed by the Event Vice Referee that the competitor(s) does not conform, the competitor will not be permitted to compete until in conformance.

OD 4.6.5 **Make-up:** Theatrical make-up shall not be worn. Natural makeup that represents the competitor's unique personality and/or theme of the routine may be used.

OD 5 SCORING STAFF

OD 5.1 Scorers:

OD 5.1.1 Duties:

OD 5.1.1.1 Check the Official Club Entry Form for any irregularities prior to the competition and inform the competitors of the necessary corrections to be made.

OD 5.1.1.2 Conduct a double blind lot public draw to determine the order of appearance for the competitors in the events and inform the competitors. In competitions where a computer will be used, the order of appearance may be computer generated.

OD 5.1.1.3 In Figure competition, announce the order of performance and the sequence of figures to be performed.

OD 5.1.1.4 Individually record the scores (on paper, or electronically, or via computer) and make the necessary computations as directed in Rule OD 5.1.2. The score shall be final once verified and displayed or announced.

OD 5.1.1.5 There shall be a multiple check of all scores.

OD 5.1.1.6 The Scoring Chair (or appointed representative) at that competition shall be responsible for the release of official scores to the press except at all National Championships, where the appropriate USAAS National Office Staff member shall be responsible for the release of official scores to the press.

OD 5.1.2 Methods of Scoring:

OD 5.1.2.1 Rounding Rule: Use for all computations.

OD 5.1.2.1.1 Determine the last digit to keep by referring to Rule OD 5.1.2.

OD 5.1.2.1.2 Increase that digit by 1 if the next digit is 5 or more (this is called rounding up).

OD 5.1.2.1.3 Leave that digit the same if the next digit is 4 or less (this is called rounding down).

OD 5.1.2.1.4 Examples:

1. Round to the 4th decimal place: If the value of the 5th decimal place is 7, round the 4th decimal place up.
2. Round to the 3rd decimal place: If the value of the 4th decimal place is 4, round 3rd decimal place down.

OD 5.1.2.2 Figure Competition:

OD 5.1.2.2.1 Record the individual scores, each time in the same consecutive order on a score sheet.

OD 5.1.2.2.2 If 1 or more judge(s), by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for any one figure, the average of the scores of the other remaining judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point.

OD 5.1.2.2.3 If 5 judges are used, cancel only the highest and lowest scores (one each). If 4 judges are used, determine a fifth score by taking the average of the 4 scores and round to the nearest 0.1 point. Cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each) and proceed using OD 5.1.2.2.4.2. If 3 judges are used, there shall be no cancellation.

OD 5.1.2.2.4 Add the remaining scores and calculate score points as follows:

1. **5 judges:** Add the 3 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 5.1.2.1.
2. **4 judges:** Add the 3 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 5.1.2.1.
3. **3 judges:** Add the 3 scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 5.1.2.1

OD 5.1.2.2.5 Add the scores for the individual figures for each competitor.

OD 5.1.2.2.6 The sum of the 2 or 4 figures shall be divided by the total of the degree of difficulty of the group and multiplied by 10, then the penalties shall be deducted. This sum is the Total Figure Score for the competitor.

OD 5.1.2.2.7 In Duet, Trio and Team competition, add the Total Figure Score for each competitor who actually swam in the routine and divide by the number of competitors in the routine. The result of the division shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 5.1.2.1 and Rule CP 6.1.3.1.

OD 5.1.2.3 Routine Competition:

OD 5.1.2.3.1 For each panel (Elements and Artistic Impression) for all routines, the score shall be calculated as follows for each category:

1. If 1 or more judge(s), by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a routine, the average of the scores of the other remaining judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.25 point.
2. If a panel consists of 5 judges, the highest and the lowest scores of each score component or Element for each panel are cancelled (one high, one low). If a panel consists of 4 judges, determine a fifth score by taking the average of the 4 scores and round to the nearest 0.25 point. Cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each). If a panel consists of 3 judges, there shall be no cancellation.
3. The Elements score is the sum of the 3 remaining scores for each Element, divided by 3 to obtain the average score for each Element, which is then multiplied by the corresponding DD.
4. The Artistic Impression score is the sum of the 3 remaining scores in each score component (Choreography and Musicality, Performance and Transitions).
5. The Final routine score shall be the sum of the Elements score and the Artistic Impression scores, less any penalty deductions from Rule OD 4.6.2.
 - **Note:** Factoring may be applied. World Aquatics reserves the right to adjust, if necessary.

**FREE ROUTINE SCORING EXAMPLE
WITH FIVE JUDGES**

Panel 1	1	2	3	4	5	TOT-HILO	AVER	DD	CALC
EL1	7.5	6.75	8.25	7.25	7.0	21.75	7.2500	2.4	17.4000
EL2	7.25	6.75	6.25	6.5	7.5	20.50	6.8333	2.0	13.6667
EL3	6.5	5.25	5.75	6.0	6.25	18.00	6.0000	1.8	10.8000
EL4	8.5	8.25	7.75	8.0	7.25	24.00	8.0000	1.2	9.6000
EL5	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.75	6.25	17.75	5.9167	2.2	13.0167
EL6	6.75	7.75	7.25	8.0	7.5	22.50	7.5000	1.5	11.2500
EL7	8.0	7.75	8.75	7.0	7.5	23.25	7.7500	1.1	8.5250
								Sync Errors	21.6000
								TOTAL	62.6584

Panel 2	1	2	3	4	5	TOT- HILO
C&M	8.00	8.25	8.50	8.75	9.00	25.50
PERF	7.75	7.00	8.75	6.75	8.50	23.25
TRAN	7.50	7.25	9.00	6.25	6.00	21.00
					TOTAL	69.75

Elements	62.6584
Artistic Impression	69.7500
Penalties	2.0000
Routine Total	130.4084

OD 5.1.2.4 Calculation of Final Results:

1. The Final result is determined by adding the final score of each performed session. If both Preliminary and Final routine sessions are held, the routine score from the Final session shall replace that of the Preliminary session to determine the Final result.
2. In events that include 1 session – Figures OR Technical routine OR Free routine OR Acrobatic Routine OR Free Combination – the result shall be the score of that session. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 5.1.2.1.
3. In events that include 2 sessions – Figures and Free routine OR Technical routine and Free routine – the results shall be the sum of each session. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 5.1.2.1.
4. In events that include 3 sessions – Technical routine, Free routine and Acrobatic Routine – the result shall be the sum of each session. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 5.1.2.1.

OD 5.1.2.5 Ties:

OD 5.1.2.5.1 In the case of the same Final result (calculate to 4 decimals) in Solo, Duet, Trio, Team, Acrobatic Routine and Free Combination, a tie shall be declared for the particular place(s). If a decision has to be made to go to Finals or draws, to be qualified, to be promoted/demoted, the following procedure will be used:

1. For all routines:
 - The highest Elements Panel score shall decide.
 - If there is still a tie, the highest Choreography and Musicality score in the Artistic Impression Panel determines the position.
 - If there is still a tie, the highest verified total declared degree of difficulty in the Elements Panel will decide.
2. For events with combined results (Technical, Free and Acrobatic Routines):
 - The highest Free Routine score of the Final result shall decide.
 - If there is still a tie, the Elements Panel score of the Free Routine determines the position.
 - If there is still a tie, the highest Choreography and Musicality score in the Artistic Impression Panel of the Free routine determines the position.

- If there is still a tie, the highest Elements Panel score from the Technical Routine shall decide.

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

Exception: For Collegiate Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competition exceptions, see Rule CO 2.4.5.1. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rules MS 4.3.3 and 4.4.2.

OD 5.2.1 Method 1 - Pre-timed Music:

OD 5.2.1.1 The Sound Center Manager shall pre-time all routines before the event begins and prepare a report indicating the overall time for each routine. If the overall time of a routine does not fall within the specified time limits, the Sound Center Manager shall so inform the Event Referee.

OD 5.2.2 Method 2 - Use of Timers:

OD 5.2.2.1 In all routine events, there shall be 3 Timers when the Sound Center Manager has not pre-timed the music selections.

OD 5.2.2.2 The 3 Timers shall check and record the overall time of the routine as well as that of the deck movements.

OD 5.2.2.3 The official deck and total routine times shall be recorded on the computation sheet. See Rule OD 4.4.3.

1. If the time of 2 watches agree, that time shall be the official time.
2. Should the times of all 3 watches differ, the intermediate time shall be the official time.
3. If the time of the overall routine or the deck movements does not fall within the specified time limits, a Timer shall so inform the Event Referee. For Routine Competition Penalties, see Rule OD 4.6.2.

Exception: For Collegiate Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competition exceptions, see Rule CO 2.4.5.1. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rules MS 4.3.3 and 4.4.2.

OD 5.3 Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee: The Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee shall obtain the order of draw and ascertain that all competitors are present. Failure of a competitor to report to the Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee at the starting time shall be reported immediately to the Event Referee.

OD 6 OTHER COMPETITION PERSONNEL

OD 6.1 Meet Manager: The Meet Manager shall be responsible for those duties as outlined in the bid application, the Meet Management Guide and as directed by the Vice President Competitive Programs.

OD 6.2 Sound Center Manager:

OD 6.2.1 The Sound Center Manager shall be responsible for the securing and properly presenting the accompaniment for each routine.

OD 6.2.1.1 When pre-timing music, the Sound Center Manager shall be responsible for the timing of the overall routine and for preparing a report indicating the overall time for each routine. The Sound Center Manager shall notify the Event Referee in the event the time does not comply with Rule CP 4.2.2. See Rule OD 5.2.1.

OD 6.2.1.2 The Sound Center Manager shall play back the recorded music using the settings requested by the competitor (or their appointed representative) for the

accompaniment of each routine during the assigned practices and in the competition.

- OD 6.2.1.3** A decibel (sound level) meter shall be used to monitor the sound level and ensure that no listener is exposed to sound levels that exceed the sound level safety tolerances as published by the [U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA).

OD 6.3 Announcer(s):

- OD 6.3.1** The Announcer(s) shall make only such announcements as are authorized by the Meet Referee and/or Meet Manager.

OD 6.3.1.1 In Figure competition, the Announcer shall announce the number of the competitor and the name of the figure to be performed.

OD 6.3.1.2 In Figure competition, the Announcer shall announce the judges' scores in sequence.

OD 6.3.1.3 In routine competition in all events, the Announcer shall:

1. State the number of the competitor(s), and may state their name(s) and club affiliation, including location of the club, prior to the competitor(s) performance.
2. After scores have been given, may announce the name(s) and affiliation of the competitor(s).

OD 6.4 Deck Marshall(s): The Deck Marshall(s) shall monitor order in the competitive area as directed by the Event Referee.

RULE V

NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM (NT)

Refer to [USAAS National Team, Olympic Development Program and National Elite Camp Selection Procedures](#) (Appendix E) for National Team Program rules.

RULE VI

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS (HS)

Each Junior and Senior High School program may set its own rules.

RULE VII

COLLEGIATE PROGRAM (CO)

The Technical Rules shall apply to all Collegiate competitions
except as noted in this section.

CO 1 COLLEGIATE GOVERNANCE

The Collegiate competition is dedicated to the educational value of athletics as part of a larger educational program. Note: Student-Athletes who are not enrolled in an institution with an artistic swimming program may enter U.S. Collegiate competition by meeting the below listed eligibility requirements.

CO 1.1 Collegiate competition occurs when a student-athlete:

- CO 1.1.1** Represents an institution in any event against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified.
- CO 1.1.2** Participates in any athletic event (including on the club team of an institution that conducts a varsity program in the sport or on an outside Team) that is open only to Collegiate student-athletes or involves individuals or Teams from Collegiate institutions participating in competition to score points for their respective institutions, even when the student-athlete's performance is not included in the scoring of the event, or is considered an "exhibition" or occurs in an "open" event involving non-collegiate competitors that is conducted in conjunction with Collegiate competition.
- CO 1.1.3** Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, utilizes any apparel (excluding apparel no longer utilized by the institution) or equipment received from the institution that includes institutional identification.
- CO 1.1.4** Competes and receives expenses (i.e., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

CO 1.2 Collegiate Season:

- CO 1.2.1** The playing season (i.e., practice and competition) is the period between the date of an institution's first officially recognized practice session, and the conclusion of the National Governing Body Championship. An institution is permitted to conduct officially recognized practice and competition each academic year only during the playing season.
- CO 1.2.2** The length of a program's playing season in artistic swimming shall be limited to a 132-day season, which may consist of 2 segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required days off and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods.
- CO 1.2.3** Each institution is expected to follow current playing and practice season regulations set forth in the [Division I NCAA Manual](#) – Bylaw 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons).

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.

- CO 1.3.1** Undergraduate student-athletes who meet the one-time transfer rule who are officially enrolled on a full-time basis and who meet their respective institution's [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) ("NCAA") eligibility standards shall be eligible to compete.
- CO 1.3.2** All student-athletes shall complete the Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit 2 times per year. The Technical Affidavit can be found on the USAAS website. In the spring semester, the affidavit must be completed even though there may be no changes.
- CO 1.3.3** Each competing program is required to submit a declaration of playing season, team roster and proof of student-athlete and club registration to the Collegiate Technical Chair no later than January 1st of each year.
- CO 1.3.4** Transfer student-athletes must abide by their institution's governing rules.
- CO 1.3.5** A student-athlete may not represent both a club/organization and a college/university in the same competition.
- CO 1.3.6 Graduate Student-Athlete/Post Baccalaureate Participation:** A student-athlete may participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided the student-athlete:
- Has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable 5 year period set forth in Division I NCAA Manual Bylaws 12.8 and 14.2.2.1.5.
 - Is enrolled in a graduate or professional school of the same institution from which they previously received a baccalaureate degree, or;
 - Is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution, or;
 - Has graduated and is continuing as a full-time student-athlete at the same institution while taking course work that would lead to the equivalent of another major or degree as defined and documented by the institution.
- CO 1.3.6.1 One-Time Transfer Exception:** A graduate student-athlete who is enrolled in a graduate or professional school of an institution other than the institution from which they previously received a baccalaureate degree may participate in intercollegiate athletics if the student-athlete fulfills the conditions of the one-time transfer exception set forth in Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10 and has eligibility remaining per Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 12.8.
1. A graduate student-athlete who does not meet the one-time transfer exception due to the restrictions of Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10-(a) shall qualify for this exception, provided:
 - The student-athlete fulfills the remaining conditions of Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10;
 - The student-athlete has at least 1 season of competition remaining; and,
 - The student-athlete's previous institution did not renew their athletically related financial aid for the following academic year.
- CO 1.3.7** A Collegiate student-athlete must hold a USAAS membership. To compete outside the Collegiate program the institution must petition the NCAA, or its governing body, for each exception and the student-athlete must hold a USAAS Competitive Athlete membership.
- CO 1.3.8** A student-athlete shall be an amateur, as defined by USAAS, World Aquatics and NCAA.

CO 1.3.9 Any student-athlete desiring to compete for an institution must be granted permission by the institution to use the school's name.

CO 1.3.10 In the year in which the World University Games occurs, any Collegiate student-athlete who is within 1 year of eligibility to compete may participate at the U.S. Collegiate Championship and be allowed to enter Solo and the Technical Category A competition without replacing a current Collegiate student-athlete.

CO1.3.11 International Student-Athlete: The eligibility of an International Student-Athlete shall be certified through a letter from the athlete's Federation granting the International Student-Athlete permission to participate in U.S. Collegiate artistic swimming. The letter must be maintained in a file at the institution and must be submitted to the Collegiate Technical Chair prior to the International Student-Athlete's first date of competition.

CO 1.4 Institutional Membership: The institution shall hold a USAAS membership.

CO 1.5 Individual Membership:

CO 1.5.1 Collegiate student-athletes must hold 1 of 2 types of individual USAAS memberships:

1. Athlete: A student-athlete who competes in local activities, non-qualifying competitions and Collegiate competitions, not including the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Refer to Appendix C.
2. Competitive Athlete: A student-athlete who competes in qualifying competitions and National Championships. Refer to Appendix C.

CO 1.6 Recruiting: A member of an institution's athletics staff (or a representative of its athletics interests) shall not contact a prospective student-athlete until July 1 following completion of the student-athlete's sophomore year of high school. Each institution is expected to follow current recruiting regulations set forth in the Division I NCAA Manual – Bylaw 13 (Recruiting).

CO 1.6.1 Each institution may provide a maximum of 8 full scholarships per year.

CO 1.7 Coaching Limitation: Each institution may have a maximum of 1 head coach, 1 assistant coach, 1 volunteer and 1 graduate assistant/volunteer on deck at the same time. Only the head coach and assistant coach may be paid.

CO 2 COLLEGIATE COMPETITION

CO 2.1 Types of Competition:

CO 2.1.1 Collegiate competitions consist of dual and invitational meets, regional championships and National Championships.

CO 2.1.2 The Collegiate Regions are the same as the Senior Zones. See Rule CP 1.1.3.

CO 2.2 Categories for Technical Competition:

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.

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.
2. Category B: 64.000 to 70.999.
3. Category C: 52.000 to 63.999.
4. Category D: 51.999 or lower.

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.
2. The student-athlete's average Technical score from the first season of Collegiate competition will determine the Technical Category for the remaining seasons of Collegiate competition and the remainder of the student-athlete's Collegiate career. After each competitive season, the student-athlete shall be permitted to move up to a higher Technical Category between seasons. Once the student-athlete moves up, they shall remain in the Technical Category (or higher) for the remainder of the student-athlete's Collegiate career.
3. The student-athlete shall compete in the Technical Category designated by the average Technical score of the Technical Affidavit for every Collegiate competition within the season.

CO 2.3 Technical Competition:

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

CO 2.3.2 Category B shall be a compulsory routine with 4 of the Team Technical Required Elements B. This routine shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year. Refer to Appendix L.

CO 2.3.3 Category C shall be the Collegiate Technical Category C Figures as listed in Figure Rule II.G and shall rotate through the figure selection groups per the Collegiate chart in Figure Rule II.E. This group shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year.

CO 2.3.4 Category D shall be the Collegiate Technical Category D Figures as listed in Figure Rule II.H and shall rotate through the figure selection groups per the Collegiate chart in Figure Rule II.F. This group shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year.

CO 2.3.5 For each Dual, Invitational and Regional competition, each institution may count a maximum of 4 Technical Categories but must count a minimum of 1 category.

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.

CO 2.3.7 **Application of Penalties:** Refer to Appendix L, Section 3.03 for procedures for Technical Category A and B and Rules OD 4.6.1 2-3 for application of Figure Competition Penalties for all Technical Categories.

CO 2.4 Routine Competition:

CO 2.4.1 The competition shall consist of Solo, Men Solo (Honorary only), Duet, Mixed Duet (Honorary only), Trio and Team events.

CO 2.4.2 For each Dual, Invitational and Regional competition, an institution may select a maximum of 7 events to receive placement points. Those 7 events must include at least 1 of the Technical Categories A, B, C or D.

1. No more than 2 routines in each event.
2. Additional routines as Exhibition.

CO 2.4.3 **Number of Events:** Each student-athlete may compete in no more than 3 different routine events, including Exhibition routines, in each competition.

Exception: In the Regional Championships, a student-athlete may enter a maximum of 4 events, one of which shall be an Exhibition routine.

CO 2.4.4 **Reserves:** One reserve may be listed for a Duet and Trio and 2 reserves for a Team. If the reserve swims, the event shall be counted as 1 of the 3 permitted for that student-athlete.

CO 2.4.5 **Time requirements** for routines shall comply with USAAS Rules:

1. For Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competitions, there shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus the allotted time limit. There shall be no minimum time limit.
2. For the U.S. Collegiate Championship, time limits shall comply with those used at the U.S. National Championship:

Events	Minutes
Solo/ <u>Men</u> Solo	2:15
Duet/Mixed Duet/Trio	2:45
Team	3:30

3. For the U.S. Collegiate Championship, there shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus or minus the allotted time limit.

CO 2.4.6 Timing procedures shall comply with USAAS Rules.

CO 3 COLLEGIATE SCORING

CO 3.1 Methods of Scoring:

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

1. **Participation:**
 - Each student-athlete shall swim the Technical competition.
 - 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.
2. **Institution Averaging:**
 - The average of the student-athlete's Technical scores from each institution shall determine which place the institution receives in each declared Technical Category for Overall institution Awards.

CO 3.1.2 Routine Competition:

CO 3.1.2.1 Routines shall be computed according to USAAS Rules.

CO 3.1.2.2 Technical competition scores shall not be added to routine scores.

CO 3.2 Scoring Systems:

CO 3.2.1 Collegiate Competition and Overall Institution Awards: The following scoring system is used for any Collegiate competition as well as determining the Overall Institution Awards at the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Event												
Cat. A	12	11	10	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	5.5	5
Cat. B	10	9	8	7	6.5	6	5.5	5	4.5	4	3.5	3
Cat. C	8	7	6	5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1
Cat. D	6.5	6	5.5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
Trio	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Duet	15	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Solo	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Team	18	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

CO 3.2.2 USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards and Individual High Point Trophy: The following scoring system is used for the Technical Category A competition for the USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards and the Individual High Point Trophy 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	25	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12	11
Place	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

CO 3.2.3 USAAS All-Collegiate Awards: The following scoring system is used for the Technical Category B competition for the USAAS All-Collegiate 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

CO 4 THE U.S. COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

CO 4.1 Institution Qualification:

CO 4.1.1 To attend the U.S. Collegiate Championship, a Collegiate club shall have competed in a minimum of 3 separate dates of competitions, 2 of which shall be Collegiate competitions. One must be the Regional Championship.

CO 4.1.2 To attend the U.S. Collegiate Championship, a Varsity program shall have competed in a minimum of 6 separate dates of competitions, 2 of which shall be Collegiate competitions. One must be the Regional Championship.

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

1. Student-Athletes placing in Finals (places 1-12) 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 4.1.4 Placement attained in the Collegiate Regional Championships:

1. Student-Athletes placing in the top 12 in each routine event shall qualify.
2. Exhibition routines shall qualify by earning a routine score equal to or higher than the 12th place official routine score in that event.

CO 4.2 Squad Size: An institution may bring no more than 20 student-athletes to the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 4.3 Event Declaration for the U.S. Collegiate Championship:

CO 4.3.1 A coach may enter student-athletes into any number of events by submitting the required entry forms.

CO 4.3.2 No less than 2 hours prior to the first coaches meeting (the day before the first event), the coach must scratch the student-athlete from events which are beyond the maximum number of events for that student-athlete.

CO 4.3.3 These changes must be presented in writing to the designated Scoring Chair.

CO 4.4 Entry Rules: An institution may select a maximum of 7 events to receive placement points for the Overall Institution Awards. See Rule CO 5.1.3. Those 7 events must include at least 1 of the Technical Categories A, B, C or D.

CO 4.5 Eligibility: Student-Athletes must have participated in a majority of their institution's Collegiate season and have their eligibility certified by an affidavit signed by their institution and athletic department.

CO 4.5.1 Definition of participation in majority of the season: Student-Athletes actively taking part in the majority of the squad practices and competing in the majority of competitions.

CO 4.6 Rule Changes:

CO 4.6.1 All proposed amendments to these rules shall be discussed at the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 4.6.2 Any rule changes approved by the Collegiate coaches present shall be submitted to the USAAS Collegiate Committee for adoption in the subsequent year.

CO 4.6.3 No rules voted upon for change at the U.S. Collegiate Championship shall be in effect for that competition. Rules will be added and finalized at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation in that same year.

CO 5 AWARDS FOR THE U.S. COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

CO 5.1 Competition Awards:

CO 5.1.1 Technical Awards: Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-12 in Technical Categories A, B, C and D, regardless of the Overall Institution Awards Technical Competition declaration made by any institution. See Rule CO 4.4.

CO 5.1.2 Routine Awards:

1. Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 for each event.
2. Ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-12 for each event.

CO 5.1.3 Overall Institution Awards: Places shall be awarded by total points accumulated using the Overall Institution Awards Scoring System. See Rule CO 3.2.1. It is suggested that trophies be awarded to places 1 to 3 and plaques be awarded to places 4 through 6.

CO 5.1.4 In the U.S. Collegiate Championship, placement points for places 1-12 shall be determined by places from Finals.

CO 5.2 Other:

CO 5.2.1 Individual High Point Trophy: The award will be presented to the student-athlete who accumulates the highest point total, regardless of U.S. Citizenship, using the USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Scoring System from the results of the U.S. Collegiate Championship. For the USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.2.

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 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 will be eligible but are excluded from points in that category.
2. The top 14 student-athletes (excluding non-U.S. Citizens) shall receive USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards. Non-U.S. Citizens shall be listed as honorary and given honorary USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards for their placement in the top 14.
3. The USAAS Collegiate All-America Team Awards shall be announced on the USAAS website within a week of completion of the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

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 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 are excluded.
2. The top 3 student-athletes, regardless of U.S. Citizenship, will be named in each of the following categories:

Varsity Division I
Varsity Division II and NAIA
Varsity Division III
Club

3. The USAAS All-Collegiate Awards shall be announced on the USAAS website within a week of completion of the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 5.2.4 Collegiate Outstanding Swimmer of the Year: To be 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 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.

CO 6 SANCTIONS

CO 6.1 All Collegiate competitions, including developmental competitions, shall be sanctioned by USAAS.

RULE VIII

MASTERS PROGRAM (MS)

The Technical Rules shall apply to all Masters competitions except as noted in this section.

MS 1 MASTERS

MS 1.1 **Masters Artistic Swimming** is open to all competitors 20 years of age or older. Those competitors registered for Masters Artistic Swimming competitions may participate in non-USAAS aquatic activities, competitions, exhibitions, demonstrations, etc., without jeopardy to their eligibility to participate in Masters Artistic Swimming competitions.

Exception: For Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination average age exception, see Rule MS 4.1.3.2.

MS 2 EVENTS

MS 2.1 Figure competition

MS 2.2 Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Technical routines. See Rule CP 3.1.1.

MS 2.3 Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Free routines. See Rule CP 3.1.1.

MS 2.4 Free Combination. See Rule CP 3.1.1.

MS 2.4.1 A Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.

1. In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USAAS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

MS 2.5 **Number of Events:** Each competitor may compete in an unlimited number of events in each U.S. Masters Championship.

MS 3 FIGURE COMPETITION

MS 3.1 The Figure Groups for each Figure Competition Division shall be found in Figure Rule II.I.

MS 3.2 **Figure Competition Divisions:** Competitors shall participate in 2 age divisions (20-44, 45 & over) in the following Figure Competition Divisions: A, B or C.

MS 3.3 **Swimwear:** The use of accessory equipment, goggles or additional clothing is permitted at competitions. Nose clips may be worn.

MS 3.3.1 All competitors shall wear a plain, one-piece black suit and plain white swim cap, devoid of club and National Team emblems. Goggles and nose clips may be worn.

MS 3.3.2 Jewelry is allowed, with the exception of dangling jewelry. Competitors must remove all dangling jewelry prior to the start of the event.

MS 3.3.3 In the event that the Panel Referee observes that the competitor(s) does not conform, the competitor will not be permitted to compete until in conformance.

MS 4 ROUTINE COMPETITION

MS 4.1 **Routine Age Divisions:** Competitors shall compete in the following age divisions per event.

MS 4.1.1 Women Solo, Women Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio:

1. Master: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, etc. (as high as necessary to accommodate all age entries).

MS 4.1.2 Men Solo, Men Duet, Gender Inclusive Solo and Duet, Team, Free Combination:

1. Master: 20-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65-79, 80 & older.

MS 4.1.3 The Routine Age Division for each routine entry is determined by averaging the ages of the competitors. The average age of the competitors in a routine shall be determined by adding the ages of the actual competitors (not including the reserves), dividing by the number of competitors (not including the reserves) and dropping any resulting fraction or decimal. (For example, if the average age of the Team is 49.833, the Team would compete in the 35-49 age division).

MS 4.1.3.1 If a reserve is used in a routine, the average age of the competitors actually swimming must remain in the same age division, as originally entered.

MS 4.1.3.2 Competitors who are 18 or 19 years of age may compete in a Duet, Trio, Team or Free Combination routine event as long as the average age of the routine is not less than 20.

MS 4.2 Swimwear: The use of accessory equipment, goggles or additional clothing is permitted at competitions. Nose clips may be worn.

MS 4.2.1 Jewelry is allowed, with the exception of dangling jewelry. Competitors must remove all dangling jewelry, or dangling items from headpieces or swimwear prior to the start of the event.

MS 4.2.2 In the event that the Event Referee observes or is informed by the Event Vice Referee that the competitor(s) does not conform, the competitor will not be permitted to compete until in conformance.

MS 4.3 Technical Routine Competition: Technical routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio and Team routines. All Technical routine events shall be Final events.

MS 4.3.1 The Technical Routine Requirements for Solo, Duet, Trio and Team shall be found in Appendix L.

MS 4.3.1.1 Supplementary elements may be added.

MS 4.3.1.2 Unless otherwise specified in the description of an element:

1. All figures or components thereof shall be executed according to the requirements described in Appendix L.
2. All elements shall be executed high and controlled, in uniform motion with each section clearly defined.
3. Time limits as specified in MS 4.3.2

MS 4.3.2 Technical Routine Time Limits, including 10 seconds for Deck Movements:

Events	Minutes
<u>Solo</u>	<u>2:00</u>
<u>Duet/Trio</u>	<u>2:20</u>
<u>Team</u>	<u>2:50</u>

MS 4.3.3 There shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit. For Time Allowances for Walk-On and Deck Movements, see Rules CP 4.2.2.6.2 and 4.2.2.6.3.

MS 4.4 Free Routine Competition: Free routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination routines. All Free routine events shall be Final events.

MS 4.4.1 Free Routine Time Limits, including 10 seconds for Deck Movements:

Events	Minutes
<u>Solo</u>	<u>2:15</u>
Duet/Trio	<u>2:45</u>
Team	<u>3:30</u>
Free Combination	4:00

MS 4.4.2 There shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit. For Time Allowances for Walk-On and Deck Movements, see Rules CP 4.2.2.6.2 and 4.2.2.6.3.

MS 5 JUDGING AND SCORING

MS 5.1 Routine events shall be judged and scored according to OD 2.6.2 and OD 5.1.2, respectively.

MS 5.2 Figures, Technical routines, Free routines and Free Combination shall be scored as separate events.

MS 5.3 Deduction points shall be calculated according to Rule OD 4.6.2.1.

MS 6 AWARDS

MS 6.1 Figure Awards: Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8 in all Figure Competition Divisions listed in Rule MS 3.2.

MS 6.2 Routine Awards: Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8 in all Routine Age Divisions listed in Rule MS 4.1.1-2.

MS 6.3 High Point Team Awards for the U.S. Masters Championship shall be awarded by total points accumulated as per scoring system for Team trophies. See Rule CP 7.4. A trophy shall be awarded to first place and plaques to second and third place.

MS 7 U.S. MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

MS 7.1 The starting age divisions for events at the U.S. Masters Championship will be noted in the Meet Announcement and will be rotated annually.

MS 8 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS:

MS 8.1 Participation in international Masters competitions is provided through the Club Option Program. Refer to the following policies for further information:

MS 8.1.1 Administrative Rules, Article 25, Section 25.05 for Travel Permits.

MS 8.1.2 [USAAS Club Option and Private Invitation Procedures](#) (Appendix F).

RULE IX

ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES (AD)

The Technical Rules shall apply to all Athletes with Disabilities competitions except as noted in this section.

AD 1 ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ELIGIBILITY

- AD 1.1** Artistic Swimming is open to any athlete who has a physical and/or cognitive disability that prevents the athlete from engaging in meaningful competitions against able-bodied athletes.
- AD 1.2** USAAS shall define an athlete with a disability as an individual who has a physical or cognitive impairment that substantially limits 1 or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment. A physical or cognitive impairment is defined as any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting 1 or more body systems, such as neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine.
- AD 1.3** Athletes shall be eligible to compete in either the physical or cognitive category in USAAS competitions, when held in pool environments that offer the necessary accommodations for athletes with disabilities.

AD 2 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- AD 2.1** Competitions shall consist of Figures and Free routines for the physical and cognitive categories, respectively. All competitors shall perform Figures. See Rule CP 3.1.1.
- AD 2.2** Competitions for competitors with physical or cognitive disabilities are based on Tier level only.
- AD 2.2.1** Competitors from different disability categories may compete together in Duet, Trio and Team routines. Routines that include both competitors with a cognitive disability and competitors with a physical disability shall compete in the physical disability category.
- AD 2.3** The coach is responsible for declaring the competitor's physical or cognitive category and the Tier level on the Official Club Entry Form.
- AD 2.3.1** In order to determine the Tier level for a Duet, Trio and/or Team, the Tier levels shall be averaged, and if necessary, rounded up to the next highest Tier.
- AD 2.4** Competitors participating in the physical and cognitive categories will be exempt from TR 4.2, allowing a coach to instruct the competitor during the Figure and Free routine competitions.

AD 3 FIGURE COMPETITION

- AD 3.1** The Figure Tiers for both physical and cognitive disability categories are listed in Figure Rule II.E.

AD 4 ROUTINE COMPETITION

AD 4.1 Free Routines:

AD 4.1.1 The competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio and Team events in each competition.

AD 4.1.2 Maximum time requirements for routines shall be as follows:

Tier	Solo	Duet/Trio	Team
Tier 1	1:00	1:00	1:00
Tier 2	1:00	1:00	1:00
Tier 3	1:45	2:15	2:30
Tier 4	2:00	2:30	3:00
Tier 5	2:15	2:45	3:15
Tier 6	2:15	2:45	3:30

AD 4.1.3 There shall be an allowance of 5 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit.

AD 4.1.4 Walk-On: In routine events, the walk-on of the competitors from the designated starting point to the achievement of a stationary starting position(s) on deck and/or in the water may exceed 30 seconds. (Exemption from Rule CP 4.2.2.6.2).

1. Competitors with disabilities are allowed to have assistance or be guided to the correct starting point on deck or in the water.

AD 4.1.5 Deck movements are suggested to be 10 seconds as the competitors are exempt from the maximum allotment of Rule CP 4.2.2.6.3.

AD 5 APPLICATION OF PENALTIES

AD 5.1 Figure Competition: Penalties shall not apply.

AD 5.2 Routine Competition:

AD 5.2.1 A **One Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the routine score if:

1. There is a deviation from the specified routine time limit allowed (more than) for the routine in accordance with Rule AD 4.1.2.
2. Rules OD 4.6.2.3.2.1-2 do not apply.

AD 5.2.2 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the routine score if:

1. A competitor has made deliberate use of the bottom of the pool during a routine to propel themselves or assist another competitor. No penalty will be applied when the contact with the bottom of the pool results from the competitor's self-protection from injuries by impact.
2. During deck movements in routines, competitors are executing stacks, towers or human pyramids.
3. Rule OD 4.6.2.3.3.1 does not apply.

AD 5.3 Disqualification:

AD 5.3.1 If 1 or more competitor(s) stops swimming or makes clear support use of the pool wall before the routine is completed, the routine may be disqualified. The Event

Referee shall assess if the cessation is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the competitor(s). The Event Referee may allow the routine to be re-swum during the session.

1. If the Event Referee stops the swim of the routine a second time because of a competitor who is in distress, the routine shall be disqualified.

AD 6 JUDGING AND SCORING

AD 6.1 Routine events shall be judged and scored according to Rule OD 2.6.2 and Rule OD 5.1.2, respectively.

AD 6.2 The routine figure average shall be computed using the figure score of the competitors who actually swam in the routine.

AD 6.3 The average Figure score shall be added to the Free routine score to determine the Final score for placement in the category.

RULE X

STATE GAMES (SG)

Each state may set its own rules for State Games.