

### **Masters Webpage Updated!**

The Masters webpage has been updated and can be accessed in the following ways:

- **Easiest:** Visit [USA Artistic Swimming Masters](#)
- **Alternative Navigation:**
  1. Go to the USAAS homepage.
  2. Click on the circle next to the USAAS logo in the top left.
  3. Select **CLUBS** from the dropdown menu.
  4. Scroll down to **Masters** and click to access the page.

The Masters Committee will provide updates four times a year, and additional information will be sent as needed.

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### **Rules Changes: Your Input Needed!**

Last year, major changes aligned Masters Artistic Swimming with World Aquatics. Some potential rule changes under discussion include:

- **Figures:** Should they be eliminated, changed, or incorporated into the high-point trophy?
- **Routine Start Time:** Should the 20-second time limit be extended to accommodate mobility issues?
- **Mixed Ability Category:** Should this category be a permanent part of the competition?

There also has been discussion regarding:

- **Tech Element Card:** the confusion of Tech Element Cards only being required if you change the order of the tech figures. It would seem to be less confusing if all routines required the cards.
- **Judging system:** In addition, with the changed judging system, and judges use of it at all levels except Masters, should revisions to the system be made?

The Masters Committee will discuss with the Competition Vice President and others.

**Have thoughts on these topics?** Let your committee know! Rule change proposals must be submitted to the Rules Committee by late May or early June.

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### **World Masters Championship – Singapore 2025**

Planning to compete? Contact **Betty Hazle** ([bettyhazle@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyhazle@yahoo.com)) for approval with the Club Option form. Registration details are available on the [World Aquatics website](#) (Kennedy, please verify the link). **Registration closes June 26, 2025.**

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### **Masters Yearly Meeting**

- **When:** September 2025 (via Zoom)
  - More details to follow.
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### **US Masters Nationals**

Mark your calendar and start preparing!

- **Dates:** October 23-26, 2025
  - **Location:** Shawnee Mission School District Aquatic Center, Overland Park, KS
  - Additional information coming soon.
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### **Judges' Comments from 2024 Nationals**

We are fortunate to have judges at our competitions, and the Masters committee asked for some general comments to help us prepare for 2025. Here are the comments from a couple of the judges:

*Judge #1 comments:*

I am going to focus on the Artistic Impression side of judging in my comments. Masters athletes compete with a wide range of abilities and often focus on gaining additional technical skill, but all can also strengthen the artistic components of a routine. In terms of choreography and musicality, use music that you as an athlete relate to and enjoy. Also, make sure you have good quality recordings. Sometimes when the quality of the music is not good it detracts from the interpretation and thus the performance. If a piece of music has words, understand that in a poor reproduction, the words are lost. Often, depending on the acoustics of the facility, words may not be understood by the judges. That's not to say you should not use music with words, but make sure the words are understandable if that's your choice. In terms of choreography, vary your moves. Do not begin every hybrid with a pike pull down or a ballet leg transition. Show a mix of entries and exits into all your hybrids. Also, if you incorporate eggbeater or stroking sections, make sure to look at the judges and do not write your routine so you look at the ends of the pools. Your performance is based on how engaging you are with the audience that includes the officials! Often, I see athletes look straight on at the entry point where there is no audience or judges. A 90-degree turn to the side will enhance the performance of the routine. If you are performing with others in a duet, trio or team, engage with them as well. Interact even if it is with less difficult pair moves or pass throughs. Show that you are working together and not swimming as separate soloists at the same time.

In terms of technical skill, focus on synchronization. Routines that are synchronized have a way of showing ease of performance. They are often more captivating even though the routine may be less difficult than others. One of the most significant challenges is trying to balance difficulty with synchronization and execution. I strongly recommend focusing on synchronization and execution. If even one athlete in your routine cannot perform the difficulty, the score will go down on both the technical and artistic scores.

When writing your choreography, think about pool coverage. Do not just swim up and down the center of the pool. Try to swim diagonally towards the two sides where judges are located and often the audience. Incorporate **swimming** in your routines since we are artistic **swimming**.

As a judge, I enjoy the Masters competitions as they are truly evidence of the life-long love of the sport. Whether athletes are new and just beginning the sport or have competed at the highest level of the sport, the camaraderie is contagious. Athletes are competing but also supporting one another. Friendships are made or rekindled. Commitment to health and well-being is apparent. I appreciate all the work that you and the Masters Committee do to support our athletes.

*Judge #2 comments:*

Since many of us have gone through the Synchronization Technical Controller training (STC), it makes us even more aware of various synchronization errors that can occur in a routine. I began to wonder if Masters realized that, with the current Masters rules, fifty percent of the Execution score is synchronization. That can hugely affect the score given by an Execution judge. Also, when an athlete decides to wear goggles during the routine, it does negatively impact the Artistic Impression score as the eye contact is an important part of the presentation part of the routine. Of course, we understand when there is a medical reason that the goggles are being worn.

I agree that the reference to 'swimming' - means covering the pool with your routine! Use of the music is also very important. You don't want your routine to look like it could have been performed to any music.

Masters competitions celebrate lifelong dedication to the sport. Judges appreciate the camaraderie and commitment athletes bring to each event.

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### **USAAS Gender Regulation in Sports**

Read the USAAS statement on federal-level gender regulation changes:

USAAS Members,

As many of you are aware, the President of the United States has issued an executive order that does not allow men to participate in women's sports. USA Artistic Swimming (USAAS) leadership has reviewed the order and discussed how it impacts USAAS. USAAS is committed to an athlete first and inclusive sport environment. The executive order does not change our commitment.

The executive order does not change any of our rules. Some important information to know is that the executive order is specific to programs that receive government funding. More important to the values of the organization, our sport rules are inclusive as many of our events are mixed gender. For those events that are not mixed gender we have set rules which guide our competitions. These rules have been in place for the last two seasons and will remain in place. To reference rules, see Technical Rules Here: <https://www.usaartisticsswim.org/rule-book>

Artistic swimming is a sport for ALL and USAAS will continue to lead in ensuring that it continues to be.

## #WEMOVEASONE

### **Masters Committee & Elections**

The current committee has guided Masters for two years and will conclude their term at Masters Nationals in October.. While the committee members may seek re-election, we welcome new candidates for:

- **Masters Chair**
- **Zone Masters Representatives (East, North, South, West)**
- **Two At-Large Representatives**

For questions, contact any committee member.

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### **Your Masters Committee**

- **Chair:** Nancy Weiman ([nancyweiman@gmail.com](mailto:nancyweiman@gmail.com))
- **Athlete Reps:** Holly Seguine ([hseguine@hotmail.com](mailto:hseguine@hotmail.com)), Chrissy Stabile ([1600m90s@gmail.com](mailto:1600m90s@gmail.com))
- **East Zone Rep:** Anna Georgieva ([annageorgievakondic@gmail.com](mailto:annageorgievakondic@gmail.com))
- **North Zone Rep:** Linda Gilliam ([linda.gilliam2kids@gmail.com](mailto:linda.gilliam2kids@gmail.com))
- **South Zone Rep:** Joanne Wright ([mnjwright@verizon.net](mailto:mnjwright@verizon.net))
- **West Zone Rep:** Lorri Geiger ([lg\\_cct@yahoo.com](mailto:lg_cct@yahoo.com))

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Looking forward to a fantastic Artistic Swimming season,

**Your Masters Committee**