

**2010 USA Synchro Tech Talk**  
**Edited by Joanna Scoons**  
**September 2010**

A number of changes were made at the 2010 USAS Convention. The following is a summary of those changes which take effect January 1, 2011. The details of specific changes are listed in the Athletes Programs and Rules Committee reports posted on the USA Synchro website at <http://www.usasynchro.org/Events/10convention.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate committee chair: Rules-Joanna Scoons, [Joanna@scoons.net](mailto:Joanna@scoons.net), Championship Management-Patty Flanagan, [pflanagan@ywcaworcester.org](mailto:pflanagan@ywcaworcester.org), Athlete Programs-Myrna Hagedorn, [Hagedorn@mywdo.com](mailto:Hagedorn@mywdo.com), Figures-Betsy Caza, [bcaza@cox.net](mailto:bcaza@cox.net), Scoring-Sue Johnson, [suealbjo1@verizon.net](mailto:suealbjo1@verizon.net), Collegiate-Rebecca Story, [story\\_rebecca@wheatonma.edu](mailto:story_rebecca@wheatonma.edu), Sites-Ted Roche, [ted.roche@comcast.net](mailto:ted.roche@comcast.net), Masters Beth Borland, or the USA Synchro VP-Competitive Operations Toby Smith at [ptobysmith@gmail.com](mailto:ptobysmith@gmail.com).

### **Regional and Association alignments:**

East, South, and North Zones are completing realignments that will lead to all zones having four regions, which will be of more equal size than the past, resulting in more equitable qualification of three routines per region to eSynchro Age Group Nationals. Some Associations, that had no membership, were also approved to be merged by the governance committee. Thank you the Athlete Programs Committee and chair Myrna Hagedorn for providing the zones with outstanding data so that each Zone could improve their structure, and thank you to the Zones for your action to promote fair qualification paths.

### **U.S. Junior National Qualifying Score:**

Qualifying Scores to U.S. Junior Nationals were lowered.

Solo	78.0	77.0
Duet	77.0	76.0
Team	75.0	74.0

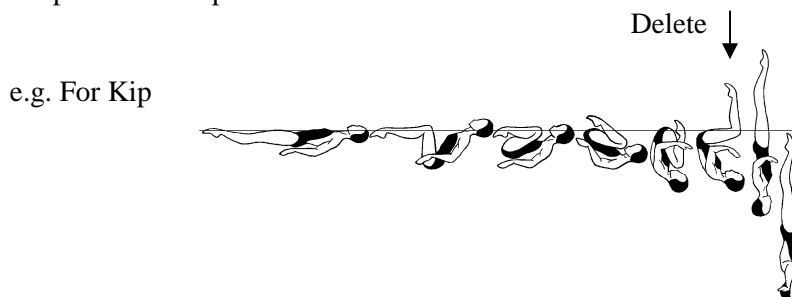
### **Figure Description Changes:**

306 **Barracuda, Bent Knee** (Figure Rule VI, Page 29): Amend figure description to align with FINA.

From a **Back Layout Position**, the legs are raised to vertical as the body is submerged to a **Back Pike Position** with the toes just below the surface. From that position with the legs remaining perpendicular to the surface, ~~a vertical upward *Thrust* of the legs and hips is rapidly executed as the body unrolls and the foot is drawn along the inside of the other extended leg to assume a **Bent Knee Vertical Position** a *Thrust* is executed as one foot is drawn along the inside of the extended leg to assume a **Bent Knee Vertical Position**.~~ Maintaining the **Bent Knee Vertical Position**, the body descends along its longitudinal axis, at the same tempo as the *Thrust*, until the toes are submerged.

**The Kip, Kipnus and Kip Swirl should have the “chair” position deleted from the diagram. Please cross off the position shown with “delete” from your rulebook.**

**Kip, 315 Kipnus and 317 Kip Swirl** (Figure Rule VI, Pages 41-43): Delete chair drawings from the picture descriptions.



### **Masters Information:**

Appendix L: Masters Technical Elements:

These will be discussed at the 2010 US Masters Meet, with the expectation that we will align to the ultimate decision of the FINA Bureau as to whether to adopt “new” elements for the balance of the quad or to stay with “old” elements.

### **Senior Open Changes:**

We amended rules to follow what we actually do, which is to swim Preliminary Tech Routines, and then Final Free Routines. FINA draw procedures are also being adopted.

### **Changes to Order of Draw:**

We changed draw procedures at all national championships except US Masters to adopt the FINA procedure: when a club draws start number one in a Technical routine or Free routine Preliminary or Semifinal, this club shall be exempt from start number one in another Technical routine or Free routine Preliminary or Semifinal. For Age Group competitions, the draw exemption shall apply only to events within a given age division.

### **Senior Team Element: Possible change in wording for a Senior Team Element if FINA changes.**

Appendix L (Page 9): New FINA Sr. Team Element Wording

Current Sr. Team Element 7. *Rocket Split* is executed to an **Airborne Split Position**, maintaining maximum height the legs are lifted to a **Vertical Position** as a *Twirl* is executed with a rapid *Vertical Descent*. [DD 2.6].

Possible Revised Wording: *Rocket Split* is executed to an Airborne Split Position. Maintaining maximum height the legs are lifted to a Vertical Position as a *Twirl* is executed. A rapid Vertical Descent is executed.

## **Collegiate Information:**

Collegiate rules were amended to clarify several items:

Technical Category qualification (Category A if National team participation in last two calendar years)

Eligibility for awards (All competitors swim technical competition and are eligible for awards regardless of whether their institution declared their category for overall institution awards.)

Technical awards for places 1-12.

Individual high points eligibility is regardless of citizenship.

## **Judging / Scoring Method:**

The FINA TSSC voted to retain the 3 score system but highs and lows will be dropped by category rather than by judge. The FINA Bureau is expected to approve this legislation in December.

Scoring tools will be updated and proposed rulebook wording is below.

### **OD 4.1.2.3 Free Routine, Combination, 10 & Under Age Group Free Routine with Required Technical Elements, Intermediate and Novice Technical Routine Competition:**

#### **OD 4.1.2.3.1 Technical Merit Score and Artistic Impression Score computation if judges give a single score**

- 1. Record the individual scores, each time in the same consecutive order on a score sheet.**
- 2. If a judge by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has made no award for any one routine, the average of the awards of the other five (5) or six (6) judges shall be computed and shall be considered as that of the missing award. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point. If a judge misses more than one routine, all scores given by that judge are removed for that event.**
- 3. If 7, 6, 5 or 4 judges are used, cancel the 1 highest and 1 lowest score from each set of scores. If 3 judges are used, there shall be no cancellation. Add the remaining scores. Multiply the result by 5 and divide by the total number of judges less 2.**
- 4. The resulting computation shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.**

#### **OD 4.1.2.3.2 Technical Merit Score and Artistic Impression Score computation if judges give scores by component**

- 1. Record the judge scores for each element / component.**
- 2. If a judge by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has made no award for any one routine, the average of the awards of the other five (5) or six (6) judges shall be computed and shall be considered as that of the missing award. This shall be calculated to**

the nearest 0.1 point. If a judge misses more than one routine, all scores given by that judge are removed for that event.

3. For each of the six components of the Free Routine (Technical Merit: Execution, Synchronization and Difficulty; Artistic Impression: (Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation), cancel the highest and lowest award (one each) for each set of components. If 3 judges are used, there shall be no cancellation.
4. Add the remaining awards and divide the sum by the number of judges less two (2).
5. Multiply each result by its factor in OD 2.6.2.5 to get the component score.
6. The Technical Merit Score shall be 50% of the sum of the Execution, Synchronization and Difficulty scores. The Artistic Impression Score shall be 50% of the sum of the Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation Scores.

**SOLO FREE ROUTINE SCORING EXAMPLE**

**TECHNICAL MERIT EXAMPLE**

JUDGE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVG		SCORE
CAT	%									COMP	50%
E	50	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.34	46.700	
S	10	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.5	9.34	9.340	
D	40	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.44	37.760	
										93.800	46.900

**ARTISTIC IMPRESSION EXAMPLE**

JUDGE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVG		SCORE
CAT	%									COMP	
C	50	9.5	8.9	8.9	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.26	46.300	
MI	20	9.5	9.3	9.0	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.38	18.760	
MP	10	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.2	9.30	27.900	
										92.960	46.480
										TOTAL	93.380