

2010 RULES LEGISLATION

The following items have been proposed for legislation at the 2010 Convention. Since this is a non-legislative year, Technical Rules items need a 90% approval vote of the Board of Directors to pass; items in Appendices C through T require a two-thirds vote to pass. The items below include all of the proposals submitted to the Athlete Programs Committee, the Figures Subcommittee, the Masters Subcommittee and the Collegiate Subcommittee. There is also a Housekeeping section which includes items previously approved by the USSS Board of Directors after publication of the 2009 Rulebook as well corrections/clarifications from FINA and text corrections for consistency. Please contact Joanna Scoons regarding Rules; Myrna Hagedorn for Athlete Programs; Betsy Caza for Figures; Beth Borland for Masters and Rebecca Story for Collegiates.

ATHLETE PROGRAMS PROPOSALS

Item 1. Exemption from a second draw number one:

Rule **CP 6.6.3** (Page 23). Amend as follows:

CP 6.6.3 ~~In competitions involving Preliminary and/or Semifinal events as well as Finals, no competitor shall be given the first position in a given event for both preliminary and Semifinals.~~ **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.** If number 1 is drawn a second time, a new number for that routine shall be drawn, with number 1 being available for the rest of the draw.

CP 6.6.3.1 For Age Group competitions, the draw exemption shall apply only to events within a given age division.

Rationale: To align with FINA on draw procedures. In effect, the new rule would exempt a club from appearing twice in draw number one (e.g. first in duet prelims and first in trio prelims) in a given competition or age division.

Item 2. Events and Draw Procedures for the U.S. Senior Open:

Rule **CP 6.2.3** (Page 22). Amend as follows:

CP 6.2.3 For the U.S. Senior Open championship, the Solo, Duet and Team routine events shall consist of Preliminary Technical and Preliminary **Final** Free routine competition. All Solos, Duets and Teams shall participate in both the Preliminary Technical and Preliminary **Final** Free routine competition. ~~The 12 highest scoring entries (combined Technical and Free routine scores) from the Preliminary events shall qualify for the Final Free routine competition. For Final results Calculation, see Rule OD 4.1.2.5.3.~~

CP 6.2.3.1 The draw for the Final Free routine competition shall be done in 2 even groups based upon the results of the Preliminary Technical routine competition. If there is an uneven number of routines, the larger group will be the higher scoring group. A double blind lot public draw will be done for each group with the highest scoring group competing last. If a routine drew number one for a Preliminary Technical competition, they shall be exempt from draw number one for the Final Free routine competition. For the Final Results Calculation, see Rule OD 4.1.2.5.3.

Rationale: To clarify the events in the U.S. Senior Open and to add consistency in draw procedures between U.S. National (see CP 6.2.1.2) and the U.S. Senior Open Championships (e.g. a routine which drew number 1 in Prelim Duet would be exempt from number 1 in the Final Duet competition).

Note: For the U.S. Open, where there could be considerably more (or fewer) than 12 routines in the Preliminary Technical routine competition, we might want to consider a different strategy for the draw such as dividing the routines into groups of 6 rather than dividing the entirety into two groups. For example, if groups of 6 were used and there were 15 routines going into the Final Free Competition, there would be a highest scoring group of 6, a middle scoring group of 6 and a lowest scoring group of 3 with the draw for lowest scoring group going first and the draw for the highest scoring group going last.

Item 3. Scoring: New versus Old Scoring System.

There is some indication that FINA will vote to drop the new (2009) system for judging each category (the “three score” system) or element/component and return to the old system of scoring (e.g. one score for TM and one score for AI etc). This may happen at the 2010 FINA Extraordinary Congress on Synchronized Swimming Rules to be held in Changshu (CHN) on September 15, 2010. The proposed scoring changes as well as other proposed FINA changes follow at the end of this document. Since the Congress occurs at the same time as the 2010 USSS Convention, we may not get the results of the FINA vote until late or possibly after our Convention. Our membership should discuss whether or not we want to return to the old way or retain the new three score system if a change should occur at the Extraordinary Congress. If we elect to follow FINA, OD 4.1.2.3.1, 4.1.2.3.2, 4.1.2.4.1 and 4.1.2.4.2 would return to 2008 wording and the new tables would be deleted.

FIGURE RULES PROPOSALS

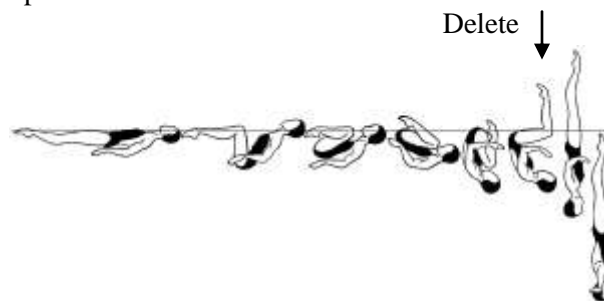
Item 4. 306 **Barracuda, Bent Knee** (Figure Rule VI, Page 29): Amend figure description to align with FINA.

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.

Rationale: Remove confusion regarding the timing of movements and align with FINA.

Item 5. 311 **Kip**, 315 **Kipnus** and 317 **Kip Swirl** (Figure Rule VI, Pages 41-43): Delete chair drawings from the picture descriptions.

e.g. For Kip



Rationale: Align FINA training by removing “chair” drawings from Kip figures.

MASTERS PROPOSALS

Item 6. Appendix L: Masters Technical Elements:

The FINA Masters Technical Committee meets at the end of July in Sweden and there is some expectation that the Masters Technical Elements will continue to use the 2006-2009 elements for remainder of this quad. These changes may or may not have final FINA Bureau approval at the time of the USSS 2010 Convention so we may want to vote in concept whether or not to follow FINA (for later BOD approval if necessary). Appendix L may need to be amended to align with FINA.

Rationale: To align with FINA.

COLLEGIATE PROPOSALS

Item 7. Clarification of Collegiate Participation and computation of Overall Institution Awards.

Rule CO 3.1.1 (Page 44) Insert new 1, renumber and amend 2.

CO 3 COLLEGIATE SCORING:

CO 3.1 Methods of Scoring:

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

1. Participation:

- Each competitor shall swim the Technical competition.
- Each Technical competitor shall be eligible for awards, see CO 5.1.1, regardless if the institution has declared the Technical competition for Overall Institution Awards.

2. Institution Averaging:

- ~~Each competitor shall swim the Technical competition.~~
- The average of the competitor's Technical scores ~~in the declared category(s)~~ from each institution shall determine which place the institution receives in each declared Technical Category for Overall Institution Awards.

Rationale: To clarify that all competitors must participate in a Technical competition and will be considered for an awards place, 1-8, regardless if the institution has declared the Technical competition for Overall Institution Awards. Additionally clarifies who is included in computing institution averages for declared Technical Categories for Overall Institution Awards.

Item 8. Collegiate Placement Points:

Rule CO 4.4 (Page 45) Amend as follows:

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

Rationale: Clarification of placement points.

Item 9. Collegiate eligibility for awards:

Rule CO 5.1.1 (Page 46) Amend as follows:

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 4-8 in Technical Categories A, B, C and D, regardless of the Overall Institution Awards Technical Competition declaration made by any institution (CO 4.4).

Rationale: To clarify that any competitor competing in a Technical competition is eligible for awards placement, 1-8, regardless if the institution has counted the Technical competition toward Overall Institution Awards computations.

- Item 10.** Collegiate eligibility for awards:
Rule CO 5.2.1 (Page 46) Amend as follows:

CO 5.2 Other:

CO 5.2.1 Individual High Point Trophy: The award will be presented to the competitor who accumulates the highest point total, **regardless of citizenship**, using the Collegiate All-American Scoring System from the results of the U.S. Collegiate Championship. For the Collegiate All-American Scoring system, see Rule CO 3.2.2

Rationale: To clarify who is eligible to receive the Individual High Point Trophy. It can be argued that since the All-American Scoring system is used that only US citizens should be eligible for this award, which I don't believe is the intent of this award when compared to other USSS Individual High Point Awards.

- Item 11.** Definition of National Team Competitor for Collegiate Competitions:
Rule CO 2.1.1.1 (Page 43) Amend as follows:

CO 2 COLLEGIATE COMPETITION:CO 2.1 Categories for Technical Competition:

CO 2.1.1 Competitors shall move into 1 of the 4 categories on the basis of an average of all of the Figure and Technical Element scores from their most recent season.

1. Category A: 71.000 or higher or National Team Competitor. **For the purpose of this rule, a National Team Competitor shall be any athlete who has competed for their home country's national team within the last two calendar years.**
2. Category B: 64.000 to 70.999.
3. Category C: 59.000 to 63.999.
4. Category D: 58.999 or lower.

Rationale: To eliminate the possibility of a swimmer having to move up to the A category who has not received national team training in 2 or more years.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Item 12.** Deleting Trio wording for the Sr. Open:
Rule CP 3.4.3.2.2 (Page 12). Amend as follows:

CP 3.4.3.2.2 U.S. Senior Open championship:

- Solo – top 8
- Duet – top 8
- ~~Trio – top 8~~
- Team – top 3

Rationale: There is no longer a Trio event in the Senior Open. Although the rule only applies for two years (effectively removing the trio qualification), it would be cleaner to remove now.

Item 13. Possible change in wording for a Senior Team Element

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.

Rationale: To align with FINA if wording officially changed.

Item 14. R&R Sports Academy Collegiate Scholarship Award.

Rule CO 5.2.5 (Page 47). Delete in entirety and renumber.

~~CO 5.2.5 R&R Sports Academy Collegiate Scholarship Award: Free attendance at an R&R Sports Camp, awarded to the highest scoring Category B competitor, who is a freshman or sophomore.~~

Rationale: The R&R Sports Academy no longer exists (although the Mary Jo Ruggieri Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Scholarship Award remains active). Approved by the BOD on Feb. 15, 2010 and in effect.

Item 15. Qualification of Honorary Competitors to U.S. Nationals.

Rule CP 3.2.2.2.5 (Page 8). Amend as follows:

CP 3.2.2.2.5 In the top 2 based on the Final Free routine score in any of the most recent Senior Zone Championships (excluding Collegiate competitors **and competitors in Honorary routines**).

Rationale: To remove inconsistency between the wording of qualifications of Honoraries for US Nationals. Approved by the BOD on Feb. 15, 2010 and in effect.

FINA HANDBOOK 2009 – 2013
SS RULES CHANGES FOR THE 2010 EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS, Sept. 15, 2010
NEW PROPOSALS FROM THE FINA TSSC, 8 July 2010

SS 4.2

Proposal A

SS 4.2 Technical Routine: Preliminaries / ~~Finals~~

In the Technical Routine each Solo, Duet and Team must perform the required elements described in the Appendix VI of these rules. The required elements are selected by the TSSC every four (4) years, subject to the approval of the FINA Bureau.

Proposal B

SS 4.2 Technical Routine: Preliminaries / Finals

In the Technical Routine each Solo, Duet and Teams must perform the required elements described in the Appendix VI of these rules. The required elements are selected by the TSSC every four (4) years, subject to the approval of the FINA Bureau.

SS 4.4

SS 4.4 ~~Combination~~ Free Combination: Preliminaries / Finals

~~Combination~~ Free Combination has a maximum of ten (10) competitors who make a combination of routines.

SS 5.2

Proposal A

SS 5.2 For World Championships: Technical Routines Preliminaries, ~~Technical Routines Finals~~, Free Routine Preliminaries, **Free Routine Finals, Free Combination Preliminary and Final.**

Proposal B

SS 5.2 For World Championships: Technical Routines Preliminaries, Technical Routines Finals, Free Routine Preliminaries, Free Routine Finals, Free Combination Preliminary and Final.

NEW: SS 5.2.1 In Solo Technical Routine and in Solo Free Routine, the competitors must not be the same athletes. In Duet Technical Routine and in Duet Free Routine, the competitors must not be the same athletes.

SS 7

SS 7 PRELIMINARIES AND FINALS

SS 7.1 If there are more than twelve (12) entries in any Free Routine or **Free** Combination, preliminaries shall be held. Only the twelve (12) best results shall be allowed in the official finals.

Proposal A

~~SS 7.1.1 In World Championships: Applies also for Technical Routines.~~

SS 7.2 If there are less than thirteen (13) entries in any Free Routine or Combination, preliminaries may be held.

SS 7.2.1 In World Championships: Applies also for Technical Routines.

Proposal B

SS 7.1.1 In World Championships: Applies also for Technical Routines. SS 7.2 If there are less than thirteen (13) entries in any Free Routine or Combination, preliminaries may be held.

SS 7.2.1 In World Championships: Applies also for Technical Routines.

SS 15.3

~~SS 15.3 Team Managers / Coaches are responsible for individually labeling tapes and/or discs (Minidisc or CD or DAT) as to speed, name of the competitor and country.~~

~~Each competitor is entitled to trial test of a part of her music accompaniment prior to her start to adjust the volume and speed. If the sound reproduction is not working during the competition, the Team Manager is entitled to bring another copy immediately to the Sound Centre Manager. If it also fails to work, then the competitor(s) will have a one (1) point penalty. In case the tapes, Minidisc, CD or DAT are sent before the competition at the final entry date to the Management Committee, the Sound Center Manager will be responsible for correct execution of the music.~~

Teams Managers / Coaches are responsible for labeling three individual discs for each routine as to speed, name of competitor and national federation. The deadline for receiving the discs is 15 days prior to the start of practice sessions. The Sound Center Manager is entirely responsible for correct execution of the music.

If the sound reproduction is not working at the beginning or during the competition, the Team manager is entitled to bring immediately additional discs of the music. If the additional discs fail again, the competitor is disqualified.

SS 16 ROUTINE PANELS

~~SS 16.3.1 On a signal of the referee (or assistant referee), all judges will simultaneously flash their scores the results will be displayed on the scoreboard or will be announced.~~

SS 17 JUDGEMENT OF ROUTINES

~~SS 17.2.3 In the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, for the Free Routine and Combination sessions, each judge shall ~~enter~~ **award** three scores, from 0-10 points each (see SS 17.1). Technical Merit judges shall ~~enter~~ **award** scores for Execution, Synchronisation and Difficulty. Artistic Impression judges shall ~~enter~~ **award** scores for Choreography, Music Interpretation, and Manner of Presentation. The scorers shall calculate the Technical Merit scores of each judge (see SS 17.2.1) and Artistic Impression scores of each judge (see SS 17.2.2).~~

~~Example:~~

~~For the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, the scorers shall calculate the total score for each individual judge by multiplying the judge's score for the component times the weighting for that component (see SS 17.2.1, SS 17.2.2 and 17.3.2). The component scores for the judge shall be added together to get the score for that judge (to two decimal places).~~

TECHNICAL MERIT EXAMPLE	ARTISTIC IMPRESSION EXAMPLE
JUDGE 1	JUDGE 1
CAT %	CAT %
E 40 9.4 3.76	C 50 9.5 4.75
S 30 9.5 2.85	MI 30 9.5 2.85
D 30 9.4 2.82	MP 20 9.4 1.88 9.43 9.48

SS 17.3.3

~~SS 17.3.3 In the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, for the Technical Routine session, the Execution judges shall record an individual score for each required element. the scorers shall calculate the Execution scores.~~

~~In addition to the required elements, the Execution judges shall also consider the strokes, other figures and parts thereof, propulsion techniques and the precision of patterns.~~

~~Execution of required elements (Solo, Duet, Team) = 70%~~

~~Execution of the rest of the routine (Solo, Duet, Team) = 30 %.~~

~~Example for Element Score Calculation:~~

~~For the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, the scorers shall calculate the Required Element score for each judge by adding the judge scores for the elements, dividing by the number of elements, multiplying by 0.7 and rounding the result to four decimal places. The judge score for the rest of the routine shall be multiplied by 0.3.~~

Judge's Execution Score = (Required element score *0.7) + (Rest of Routine score *0.3)

EXECUTION EXAMPLE

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

#1 1 9.3 9.30

#2 1 8.4 8.40

#3 1 8.1 8.10

#4 1 8.7 8.70

#5 1 9.2 9.20

#6 1 9.2 9.20

#7 1 8.7 8.70

7.0 61.60

Norm 8.8000

elem 70% 6.1600

rest 30% 9.0 2.7000

TOTAL 100% 8.8600

SS 17.3.4

~~**SS 17.3.4** In the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, for the Technical Routine session, the Overall Impression judges shall record an individual score for each component (Choreography and Use of Music, Synchronisation, Difficulty and Manner of Presentation).~~

~~The scorers shall calculate the Overall Impression scores.~~

OVERALL IMPRESSION EXAMPLE

JUDGE 1

CAT %

C 40 8.5 3.40

S 30 8.4 2.52

D 20 8.7 1.74

MP 10 8.7 0.87