



2022 Tech Talk

Updates & Information from the 2021 USAAS Convention

Posted: November 1, 2021

The following information summarizes rule changes made during the 2021 USAAS Convention. This summary does not replace the rules that will be updated in the 2022 rulebook and posted on USA Artistic Swimming's website.

I. Major Rule Changes

There are no changes to figures and elements for 2022. Due to the delay of the 2020 Olympics, major changes to the rules (FINA and USAAS) have also been delayed. Looking forward to 2023, there are multiple significant changes coming from FINA. Keep an eye out on the USAAS educational resources for discussions and explanations of what is being proposed by FINA.

a. Provisional Entries

The rule allowing late entries for national championships if the qualifying event for the championship is after the registration deadline has been removed. Please ensure that all qualifying events for all National Championships, including the Junior Olympic Championship, are scheduled to complete before the registration deadline. To help with scheduling, the national office has posted the dates for future championships on the USAAS website.

If a qualifying event cannot be completed before the registration deadline, contact the Vice-President of Competitive Operations to request a waiver under TR 2.

b. Late fees for Coaches and Chaperones

Coaches and chaperones who do not have up to date certifications (Background Check, First Aid/CPR, SafeSport, etc.) by the registration deadline for National Championships will be subject to late fees. Additionally, if the coach or chaperone does not complete the missing certifications by 14 days before the start of the event, that person will not be allowed on deck at the event.

If a situation comes up where a last-minute coach or chaperone is needed, please get in touch with the USAAS office to discuss waiving the late fees.

c. Grade Level Requirements

The grade level requirements have not changed and remain the same as the 2021 requirements for all Championships. Athletes that "provisionally" passed a grade level in 2021 will need to complete the water portion of grade level in 2022. The waiver for virtual grade level testing will not be extended into 2022. If there is a situation that does not allow for in-person testing please contact Shari Darst.

Questions – send an email to Vice President of Competitive Operations, [Chris Leahy](#).



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II. Blanket Rule Waivers for 2022

Unless mentioned below, all blanket waivers for the 2021 season no longer apply. The only blanket waivers for the 2022 season are those listed in this document.

a. Free and Technical Routines

The requirement to compete in both a free routine and technical routine (CP 6.3.1, CP 6.6.2) is waived for the Junior Championship and Junior Olympic Championship. Competitors may enter a free routine, a technical routine, or both. There will be separate awards for the free and technical programs.

Note: Due to the schedule, technical routine events are likely to be finals-only at all national championships.

b. Overqualification for the Junior Olympic Championship

Placement at the 2021 National and Junior Championships will not affect the ability to participate in the 2022 Junior Olympic Championship. CP 3.5.3 applies for all other years including placement at the 2022 Championships.

III. National Championships and Invitationals

Check the USA Artistic Swimming website for details on the dates and locations of the 2022 Championships.

a. Experimental Events

b. Male Solo

Male Solo will continue to be an experimental event at the following competitions: National Championship, Junior Championship, 13-15 Championship, 12 & Under Invitational, and Junior Olympic Championship. Grade level requirements and qualification requirements for Male Solo are the same as Solo.

c. Highlight

FINA is looking at pushing Highlight rather than Combination as a possible additional event for the Olympics. To give athletes, coaches, and judges more familiarity with Highlight routines, a Highlight Event will be added to the Nation/Junior Championships as well as the Junior Olympic Championship. At the Junior Olympic Championship, the Highlight event will be offered in one age division: 13 & Over.



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Grade level and qualification requirements for Highlight will be the same as the requirements for Combination at each of the Championships.

Note: Due to the schedule, at the Junior Olympic Championship, athletes may compete in the Combination event or Highlight event but not both events.

d. 12 & Under Invitational

The 12 & Under Invitational will be co-located with the 13-15 Championship. 12 & Under routines do not have to qualify at another competition to attend this competition. Each club will be allowed two entries in each event (Solo, Male Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, and Team). Grade level 2 is required for all athletes to compete in this invitational.

e. AWD Invitationals

USAAS is excited to see the growth of the AWD (athletes with disabilities) category. The Junior Olympic Championship and Masters Championship will also include an AWD Invitational. These invitationals are open to all AWD athletes. There are no grade level requirements for the AWD invitationals. The Final Meet Announcement for each championship will have more details on the invitationals.

USAAS is also working with FINA to co-locate a worldwide AWD competition with the Youth World Championship in August. More details will be announced as they are available.

f. Junior Olympic Championship

Athletes who are competing only in the Combination or Highlight events will not be entered into the figure competition.



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g. Bonus Entries

Each zone receives one additional entry for each solo, duet, or team routine it places in finals at the previous U.S. National, Junior, or 13-15 Championships. If an eligible entry from the zone is unable to attend, the next highest-ranked entry from the most recent zone championship (Senior, Junior, 13-15) will become eligible to enter the respective championship. For the 2022 U.S. National, Junior and 13-15 Championships, the bonus entries awarded are as follows:

U.S. National Tech			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	0	0	0
West	1	1	3
North	1	0	0
South	2	1	0

U.S. National Free			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	1	0
West	2	1	3
North	1	0	0
South	3	4	0

U.S. Junior Tech			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	0	3	2
West	11	8	4
North	0	0	3
South	1	1	3

U.S. Junior Free			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	2	1
West	11	8	5
North	0	0	4
South	0	2	2

U.S. 13 – 15			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	1	2
West	9	9	6
North	1	0	1
South	1	2	3



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IV. Tools for Competitions

The championship management team has developed a few tools for National Championships that may be helpful to other organizing events. If you have any questions about these tools please contact Chris Leahy leahycm@gmail.com.

a. Measure Routine Lengths

https://measure-routines.web.app/measure_routines.html

This website measures the length of a routine, ignoring silences at the beginning and end of the file. If the routine category (13-15 Solo, Junior Mixed Duet, etc.) can be determined based on the name of the file, the length will be checked to determine if the routine is over or under the time limits.

b. Drawing figures

https://figure-draw.web.app/create_figure_draw.html

This website can be used to generate a shareable link containing a selection of one of the optional groups of figures. Due to how the selection is done, the link can be shared ahead of time, but the selection of the optional group cannot take place until after a specified date/time.

This allows meet organizers to share a link that will contain the optional figure group for a competition in a meet announcement, while still only selecting the optional group 18-72 hours before the start of the competition. It also allows everyone with the link to know which figure group was selected without having to wait for an email from the meet organizers.