



JUDGING CLARIFICATIONS

1) Piking in Swordfish/Swordtail figure - For the beginning of the Swordfish and Swordtail, if the swimmer does a Pike Position past 45°, a zero is given. For deviations with some lesser amount of pike, the deduction system we have is used (this is a design error in most instances).

2) Swordfish/Swordtail figure – If starting with head up, it must stay that way. If the figure begins with the face in the water and the leg starts to bend, the head may not be lifted (usually to take another breath). If the head is lifted, they will be given a zero.

3) Reminder - Zeroes will be awarded for - 45 +/- for 180 spins, 90 +/- for 360 spins and 180 +/- for continuous spins.

4) Eggbeatering alongside a routine - Not allowed, routine will be disqualified. If they are staying in pattern, (i.e. lose their noseclip but keeps going while adjusting it), it is considered a judging issue.

5) Why do the athletes that compete in 13-15 combo only at JO's have to compete in figures but, those in the 16-19 age group do not have to compete in figures? Since there are no 16-19 figures anymore, they do not have figures. 13-15's still have figures and thus are still required to do figures if only in combo – this is also a chance for them to be work towards being eligible for national team trials.

6) Notifying scoring of scratches and a DQ if not done in writing prior to 2 hours before the published start time: What happens if the routine has already competed and figures occur after the routine event and a swimmer scratches from figures? Does a 0 get averaged into the routine score or does the routine DQ after the fact? For 12&U and 13-15 Age Group: Team – remove the athlete, average the figure score (including a zero for the athlete(s) scratched from the routine). Solo or Duet – disqualify.

7) In a Solo, Duet or Trio Technical Routine (Trios are only in Intermediate competition) – if an element is not performed parallel to the side of the pool the referee will give a .5 penalty on the penalty slip. Boosts are not required to be performed parallel to the side of the pool. The Armstrokes, immediately following the Boost, are judged by the Execution Panel (not the Element Panel). Note: the only time a referee/controller penalizes in a routine is in Novice routines – otherwise in all other levels the Referee will be the one penalizing mirror images, an element not done parallel to the wall or one of the other listed penalties on the penalty slip.



8) If a swimmer tucks out of a Thrust element at the surface, is it a zero or a judging factor for the elements judge? Is it a .5 deduction by the referees/controllers? If there is no attempt at a vertical descent it will be a 0. Note: the only time a referee/controller penalizes in a routine is in Novice routines – otherwise in all other levels they will be the one penalizing mirror images, an element not done parallel to the wall or one of the other listed penalties on the penalty slip.

9) If an Intermediate swimmer does a Fishtail, Vertical Bent Knee and Vertical in their first hybrid which position is judged? The first position is the position that is judged. Same with the ballet leg position.

10) If swimmers perform any element with different legs, is it a zero? Is it a .5 deduction by referees/controllers? It is a 0 if swimmers do opposite legs on the fishtail, bent vertical, ballet leg, split or different arms for the 1-arm boost - all technical elements must be performed exactly the same. (This applies to all levels of technical routines) Note: the only time a referee/controller penalizes in a routine is in Novice routines – otherwise in all other levels the Referee will be the one penalizing mirror images, an element not done parallel to the wall or one of the other listed penalties on the penalty slip.

11) Interm/Jr/Sr Technical Routines (duet, trio or team) - if one or more swimmers, omit an element or do not perform it properly, is it a zero? If the element is not performed at all or performed incorrectly by one or more swimmers, it is a 0.

12a) Jr/Sr Technical Routines (duet or team) - if one or more swimmers does not perform all of the correct number of spins by the heels is it a zero? Or is it a .5 deduction? It is by the ankles (not heels). If only one person in a duet or team does not complete the appropriate amount of spin it is a 0 for that element. Remember: 45 +/- for 180 spins, 90 +/- for 360 spins and 180 +/- for cont. spins.

12b) Jr/Sr Technical Routines (duet or team) - Is the correct guideline that if all swimmers perform past the 720° on the 1080° spin element it is not penalized? All continuous spins regardless of required amount of the spin have only a 180° leeway.

13) If the element judge misses an element or part of an element for any reason, should they give a score? If for any reason a judge fails to award a score for an element, (for example - did not see it), they should not make up a score. They should enter a zero, or they should leave it blank. At that point, all of the other judges' scores are averaged (done by the scoring room) and entered for that judges' score. THEN - if a 0 is recorded by any judge, the official video (not a parent's up in the bleachers) may be reviewed by the referee. The referee will then determine if it should in fact be a 0 for ALL judges, or if it should have received a score - the scoring room will average all of the scores and use that score for the judges who awarded a zero. If all judges gave a zero and the referee determines that it should not have been a zero, the referee will award a score which will then be the score for all judges.

14) Can the lift or throw in the Mixed Duet be counted also as the connected action by definition of the connected action? These are listed as two different elements so must be performed as 2 different elements. Note: a second lift or throw may not count as a connected action.



15) Giving 0's vs Scores – some Associations have been “flagging” figures or elements and writing down “possible” scores that could be used after video review. This is not an acceptable practice for judging. (Please remember it is not required, and the statement in the manual is “may be reviewed”.)

Below are the correct steps for judging figures:

- 1) At most competitions the panel as a whole will make the decision as to if the score should be a 0 or scored. Some referees may want to make the decision themselves, and that is their prerogative.
- 2) If it is decided that the score should be a 0, the referee will instruct the scoring table and fill out a penalty slip.
- 3) If the judging panel is unable to come to an agreement, the official video may be reviewed. If there is no official video, the referee will make the final decision.
- 4) The referee should notify the athlete (although preferably the coach) of the 0.
- 5) There will be no option for a review if there is no “official” video.

Below are the correct steps for judging elements:

- 1) The judge should write down either a 0 or a score to be turned in.
- 2) The scoring table will notify the referee if there is a discrepancy between scores, i.e. some judges give a 0 and some give scores.
- 3) If there is a discrepancy, the referee will review the video and make the decision as to if the award should have been a 0 or a score.
 - a) If the award should be a 0, the scoring table will be instructed by the referee to change all scores to a 0.
 - b) If the element should not have been awarded a 0, and some judges awarded a score, the average of those scores will be used for the judges who gave a zero.
 - c) If all judges awarded a 0 and it is determined that a score should have been awarded, the referee will review the video and their score will be the one used for the entire panel.