



*The following information summarizes rule changes that were made during the 2020 USAAS Convention. The summary does not replace the rules that will be updated in the 2021 rulebook and posted on USA Artistic Swimming's website in the coming weeks.*

## Major Rule Changes

### Athletes with Disabilities (AWD)

A new category, Athletes with Disabilities, was added for "athletes who have a physical and/or cognitive disability that prevents them from engaging in meaningful competitions against able-bodied competitors". See the final Rules report from convention or the 2021 rule book (once published) for more details. In 2021, there will be a AWD invitational co-located with the Junior Olympic championship. Athletes may compete in AWD events while also competing non-AWD events. AWD athletes competing in non-AWD events must still meet all of the qualification requirements for the non-AWD events.

Athlete compete in two categories: physical or cognitive. Routines that include competitors with a cognitive disability and competitors with a physical disability shall compete in the physical disability category.

Within each category, athletes compete in one of four tiers. Tier levels are based on skill. The coach for each athlete determines which tier the athlete shall compete in. Athletes from different tiers may compete together, the average level will determine the competitive level for the routine.

ISS MMS added support for the AWD figures and events in the 4.83 release.

### Grand Masters

The Grand Master category has been removed from Masters competition. Awards for competitors will only be divided by age groups.

### Masters Figures

The Grand Master division and all Age Groups divisions have been removed from figures. Awards will be given in the A, B, and C categories only.

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Have a question? Additional questions about Technical rules that were adopted at this years convention may be sent to the VP of Competitive Operations Chris Leahy [leahycm@gmail.com](mailto:leahycm@gmail.com)



## **Masters Team Age Groups**

The team age groups have been changed to be more like the FINA age groups (15 year groups). The combo and team age groups are now: 20-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65-79, 80 & older

### **"Filling" events**

If a National Championships has fewer entries in a category than the maximum allowed (Ex. a Region only sends 2 13-15 duets to Junior Olympics), then a random draw may be conducted from provisional entries to "fill" that category. The provisional entries must be submitted by the entry deadline and meet all eligibility and qualification standards other than placement (i.e. grade levels, competing at qualifying event, etc).

Details on how to enter provisional routines for this lottery will be published in the Final Meet Announcement for each of the Championships.

## **Blanket Rule Waivers for 2021**

### **Junior**

For the 2021 season **only**, FINA has changed the definition of the Junior division (ASAG 2.2). Athletes that are 15-19 to years of age for the year 2021 are eligible to compete in the Junior divisions. As all of the national championships that have a Junior category are under FINA rules (TR 1.1), this waiver automatically applies to the U.S. Junior Championship and U.S. Junior Open.

This waiver does not affect Junior Olympic events such as the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.

### **Collegiate**

For the 2021 season, all of CO 4.1 is waived. There shall be no competition requirements for collegiate clubs. Any collegiate routine that wishes to enter the Collegiate Championship may do so without having to qualify at another competition.

The minimum time requirement of CO 2.3.5.2 is also waived for 2021. Routines may be shorter than the required time and will not receive a penalty. Routines that are longer than the required time will still receive a penalty.

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## **National Championships and Invitationals**

There have been a number of changes to which championships are held at the same place and time as well as the addition of several new invitationals. See below for details.

This is the planned event schedule for 2021. Due to COVID-19 and/or travel restrictions these events may change. Check the [USA Artistic Swimming website](#) for the latest updates. If it is not safe to hold an event, the event may be canceled or postponed. The health & safety situation will be evaluated 60 days and 30 days prior to an event. If any changes are required, announcements will be made at that time.

### **U.S. Open**

The date and location of the U.S. Open is still being evaluated at this time. Once the date and location have been finalized the information will be posted on the USAAS website.

### **U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships**

The U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships will be held April 7–11 in Oro Valley, Arizona. Athletes must have passed Grade Level 5 to compete in either championship.

### **U.S. Collegiate Championship**

The U.S. Collegiate Championship will be held April 15–17 at Stanford University. See the [Collegiate Waivers](#) section for details on the waives for this event.

### **U.S. 13-15 Championship and 12 & Under Invitational**

The U.S. 13-15 Championship and 12 & Under Invitational will be held April 21–25 in Mesa, Arizona. Athletes must have passed Grade Level 4 to compete in the 13-15 Championship.

The 12 & Under Invitational is a new competition for this season. Routines do not have to qualify at another competition to attend this competition. The schedule for this event will determine how many routines are able to compete in each category (solo, duet, mixed duet, team). Once registration opens, the entries for each category will be on a "first come, first served" basis. Details on registration and the number of routines in each category will be published in the Final Meet Announcement. Grade level 2 is required for all athletes to compete in this invitational.

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## **U.S. Junior Olympic Championship and AWD Invitational**

The Junior Olympic Championship will be held June 26–July 3 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This site is at a high elevation. Please see the event page for guidance on preparing to compete at elevation.

This event will also include an [AWD](#) invitational. This invitational will be open to all AWD athletes. There is no grade level requirement for the AWD portion of the event. The Final Meet Announcement will have more details on this invitational.

## **U.S. Masters Championship**

The U.S. Masters Championship will be held October 21–24, *tentatively* in Henderson, Nevada. Please wait to make travel arrangements until the location is confirmed and posted on the USA Artistic Swimming Website.

## **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 2021 U.S. National, Junior and 13-15 Championships, the bonus entries awarded are based on the final placements at the 2019 championships as the 2020 championships were canceled. The bonus entries awarded for 2021 are as follows:



## 2021 Tech Talk

Updates & information from 2020 Convention

November 8, 2020

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

U.S. National Free			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	1	1
West	2	2	1
North	3	3	1
South	6	6	2

U.S. Junior			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	4	4	4
West	6	8	6
North	1	0	0
South	1	0	2

U.S. 13-15			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	2	3
West	10	10	6
North	0	0	2
South	1	0	1

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