



Remaining questions received during our Judges Webinar.
May 27, 2020

1. How can you go to a team after being on one team for so long?

- a. **National Office:** You can apply for an Athlete Transfer request found on our website to change from one club to another club: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Artistic-Swimming/Membership/Sports-Engine-Instructions>

2. I have noticed that there seems to be less concern with preventing bottoms popping up (bubble butt)/not hitting front layout while piking in a free routine - is this not an important technique to practice?

- a. **Judge One:** This is absolutely an important technique to practice as it affects your execution score along with your overall command of the performance in manner of presentation.
- b. **Judge Two:** It shows lack of control in the execution of hybrids.
- c. **Judge Three:** Keep in mind it is only one portion of a hybrid, one portion of a routine.
- d. **Judge Four:** Of course, this is important to practice. Higher scores are rewarded for performing actions correctly.

3. What happens if I let my team down and the judges notice?

- a. **Judge One:** If you let your team down, you will need to be resilient and overcome that adversity for the next swim. Be positive and work on preparedness. If something happens outside of the time you walkout to the music ends, that does not impact your score. Judges are evaluating what is happening during a performance and take that into consideration. Every swim through in front of the panel of judges is a clean slate.



- b. **Judge Two:** The judges will deduct from the score depending on the significance of the swimmer's error. Own it, understand why you did not perform as expected and develop a plan to do better next time.
 - c. **Judge Three:** From a judging standpoint, it would fall into a category. For example, not being synchronized, or not doing the same action as everyone else, or having a lapse in Manner of Presentation would all be deductions in the various categories. It happens, and judges have seen it before. It will help you become a better swimmer in the long run. Failures often lead to greater success.
- 4. Question on pool patterns: Many teams practice in just a few lanes so when creating a pool pattern, is it better to get to both sides of the pool or continue making laps in a few lanes in the middle of the pool?**
- a. **Judge One:** Pool coverage is something many judges are noting under choreography in the artistic impression category. We are judging from a standpoint of a 10 (perfect), so the best teams will use and cover all the space not just the middle.
 - b. **Judge Two:** proper pool coverage - wall to wall and side to side - also affects the difficulty score as it is more difficult to cover the entire pool while performing hybrids, strokes, and lifts.
 - c. **Judge Three:** Pool coverage is specifically addressed in the choreography portion of the Artistic Impression score. It is better to "cover" the pool, and that means getting to both sides.
- 5. You talk about taking notes, what are your tips for quickly taking meaningful notes and not missing what is happening in the water?**
- a. **Judge One:** My advice is to work on writing on your paper without having to look down so much. You do not want to miss something in the pool. I use abbreviations and symbols a lot that I just developed on my own. This skill



comes in handy professionally too during an interview. In my job, I must interview people and I am almost always the only person on the team that is writing, but still making eye contact with the candidate.

- b. **Judge Two:** I developed my own forms that help me write less. You can adopt some specific notation to make sure that you can look at the swimmers and not at your papers. This takes time and practice. You can practice taking notes while watching routines on videos. You can also ask judges when you see them about their techniques on taking notice. This is how I found some new ways of doing artistic swimming shorthand in addition of creating my own.
- c. **Judge Three:** It is worth taking the time to develop your own system, by talking to others and learning what helps you the most. It will help you feel more prepared as you sit down to judge a competition. Sometimes I have tried some new shorthand or strategy and it may or may not have worked. So, understand it may take some trial and error to figure it out.
- d. **Judge Four:** Everyone must develop a system that works for them. I know judges who do a kind of shorthand of the entire routine as it occurs, others note the kinds of figures/hybrids and swimming performed in a kind of tally mark system. Speak to judges in your area, and they may be able to work with you during an event or watching a video to develop a system.

6. Are athletes permitted to get judging notes without a coach?

- a. **Judge One:** It would be best practice that an athlete get feedback from the judges with a coach present, but we would still provide feedback to an athlete if the coach is not present. We are regular people and athletes should not feel intimidated to approach a judge. We are here to support and grow the support that we all love so much.



- b. **Judge Two:** Perhaps if the coach is not available, and the athlete is interested in getting feedback from the judge, she/he can come with a parent or another adult for the feedback.
 - c. **Judge Three:** I believe any adult (18 +) would be able to get judging notes without a coach, or if there were a panel of judges with a group of athletes. One-on-one, athlete under 18 with judge, is not something I would be comfortable doing.
- 7. In terms of feedback, what about if the routine does not make finals (i.e. collegiate where a specific routine was not counted toward finals). Would the judges be open to give feedback after prelims?**
- a. **Judge One:** Even if your routine did not advance to finals, it would be best practice to wait until the final event is over to get judge feedback about your routine. As stated on the recorded call, it is also helpful to know ahead of time you are wanting feedback, so we can note that and keep our papers to discuss with you.
 - b. **Judge Two:** If a routine does not make finals, and the critiques only apply to that specific routine, then I would be open to giving feedback after prelims, if the time permitted it.