

PART THREE
U.S. SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING RULES (USSS RULES)
REFERENCE GUIDE

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PART THREE
(Effective January 1, 2017)

USSS RULES

RULE 1
TECHNICAL RULES (TR)

TR 1 COMPETITION GOVERNANCE:

- TR 1.1** All U.S. Synchronized Swimming Championships shall be subject to the USSS Code. All U.S. Synchronized Swimming Championships shall be subject to the FINA Synchronized Swimming Rules, with the exception of U.S. Collegiate, U.S. Junior Olympic and U.S. Masters Championships.
- TR 1.2** These current rules cancel and supersede all previous rules. USSS rule changes shall occur in the legislative year.
- TR 1.3** Registered Foreign Athletes: An athlete of one country joining a club of another country and participating in the competition of the latter shall be regarded as coming within the jurisdiction of the latter until such time as the athlete resigns the membership and returns home.

TR 2 WAIVER OF THE RULES:

- TR 2.1** Authority to waive application of the rules pertaining to the administration and conduct of USSS programs shall be granted as follows:
 - TR 2.1.1** Vice President Competitive Operations in consultation with the President of USSS and/or a member of the Athletes Executive Council at National competitions.
 - TR 2.1.2** Zone Technical Chair in consultation with the Zone Chair and/or a Zone Athlete Representative at Zone competitions.
 - TR 2.1.3** Technical Chair in consultation with the Administrative Chair and/or an Athlete Representative of the Association in which the Regional competition is held.
 - TR 2.1.4** The Association Technical Chair in consultation with the Association Administrative Chair and/or an Athlete Representative of the Association at all competitions in his/her Association.
- TR 2.2** A request for a waiver of a rule or part thereof shall be made in writing to the appropriate Chair. The request shall be judged on its merits and the Chair shall consider whether the application of a rule will create an unfair situation or whether the waiver of the rule will promote the development of the program. Any approved waiver shall apply to qualifying and Regional competitions.

TR 3 PROTESTS:

- TR 3.1** Protests affecting the right of any competitor to compete in any competition shall be made in writing to the Meet Manager or Meet Referee before competition is held. All protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned to the protestant. If the protest is denied, the fee shall remain with the authority conducting the competition (i.e. Association, Region, Zone, National).
- TR 3.2** Such protest shall be considered by the Meet Committee consisting of:
 - TR 3.2.1** USSS Officers present, Zone Chair of the Zone in which the competition is being held, and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 20% of the Meet Committee are athletes for National competitions.
 - TR 3.2.2** Zone Officers present, the Association Chair of the Association in which the competition is being held, and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 20% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Zone competitions.

- TR 3.2.3** The Meet Manager, Meet Referee, all Association Chairs present, and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 20% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Regional competitions.
- TR 3.2.4** The Meet Manager, Meet Referee, all Association Chairs present, and that number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least 20% of the Meet Committee are athletes for Association competitions.
- TR 3.3** The Meet Committee may allow the competitor to compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the event.
- TR 3.4** Any protest arising from the competition itself shall be made to the Event Referee verbally by the competitor or the competitor's coach within 30 minutes after the completion of the event in which the alleged infraction took place. Any protest and its resolution shall be publicly posted within 30 minutes of the decision.
- TR 3.5** Protests are possible against any decision of the Event Referee. No protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.
- TR 3.6** If the protest is not resolved immediately, the protestant should then make a written protest to the Event Referee who shall deliver it to the Meet Committee for adjudication.
- TR 3.7** Results of any competition conducted under protest, or of any protested competition, shall not be announced, nor prizes and/or scoring points awarded until the protest is officially resolved or final action is determined.

TR 4 COMPETITIVE AREA CONTROL:

- TR 4.1** The competitive area as defined by the Meet Manager shall be kept clear of coaches, teammates and all but working personnel (judges, scorers, etc.) while an event is in progress.
- TR 4.2** A coach shall not instruct or coach a competitor during the competitor's performance (figures/routines).
- TR 4.3** Smoking shall not be permitted during competition or practice periods in competition areas.

TR 5 DOPING CONTROL: USSS shall follow all IOC, FINA and USADA doping control rules.

RULE II

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS (CP)

CP 1 CLASSES OF COMPETITION: The annual competitive programs of USSS shall include Synchronized Swimming Championships in the following divisions, and within time lines where indicated:

CP 1.1 Senior:

CP 1.1.1 National:

CP 1.1.1.1 The date of the U.S. National Championship shall be no later than May 31st in any given calendar year.

CP 1.1.1.2 The Championship shall be conducted under FINA Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.2.1.1.
2. For multiple club entry exception, see Rule CP 3.2.2.1.4.
3. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.1.1.1-4
4. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.
5. For awards exception, see Rule CP 6.2.2.

CP 1.1.2 Open:

CP 1.1.2.1 The Championship shall be conducted under FINA Rules.

1. For multiple club entry exception, see Rule CP 3.2.3.2.1.
2. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.1.2.1-4.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.

CP 1.1.3 Zone:

East: Adirondack, Allegheny Mountain, Connecticut, Lake Erie, Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic, New England North, New England South, New Jersey and Niagara.

North: Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Midsouth, Minnesota East, Minnesota West, Missouri Valley, Ohio, Ozark, Rocky Mountain and Wisconsin.

South: Carolina, Gulf, Northeast Florida, Northwest Florida, Potomac Valley, South Texas, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, Southwestern and Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Hawaii, Inland Empire, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, San Diego/Imperial, Snake River, Southern California, Southern Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

CP 1.1.4 Association

CP 1.2 Junior:

CP 1.2.1 National:

CP 1.2.1.1 The Championship shall be conducted under FINA Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.3.1.1.
2. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.2.1.1-3.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.
4. For awards exception, see Rule CP 6.3.3.

CP 1.2.2 Open:

CP 1.2.2.1 The Championship shall be conducted under FINA Rules.

1. For multiple club entry exception, see Rule CP 3.3.3.1.1.
2. For entry exceptions, see Rule CP 4.1.2.2.1-4.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.

CP 1.2.3 Zone: Same as Senior Zone. See CP 1.1.3.

CP 1.2.4 Association

CP 1.3 13-15:

CP 1.3.1 National:

CP 1.3.1.1 The Championship shall be conducted under FINA Rules.

1. For grade level entry exception, see Rule CP 3.4.1.1.
2. For entry exception, see Rule CP 4.1.3.1.2.
3. For deduction point exception, see Rule CP 5.2.

CP 1.3.2 Zone: Same as Senior Zone. See CP 1.1.3.

CP 1.4 Junior Olympic:

CP 1.4.1 National

CP 1.4.2 Regional:

CP 1.4.2.1 The Junior Olympic Regions:

East Zone:

- Region A Adirondack and Connecticut.
- Region B Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic and New Jersey.
- Region C Allegheny Mountain, Lake Erie and Niagara.
- Region D New England North and New England South.

North Zone:

- Region A Michigan, Midsouth and Ohio.
- Region B Illinois, Indiana, Ozark and Wisconsin.
- Region C Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota East and Minnesota West.
- Region D Missouri Valley and Rocky Mountain.

South Zone:

- Region A Carolina, Potomac Valley and Virginia.
- Region B Northwest Florida and Southwest Florida.
- Region C Gulf, South Texas and Southwestern.
- Region D Northeast Florida and Southeast Florida.

West Zone:

- Region A Alaska, Inland Empire, Montana, Oregon and Pacific Northwest.
- Region B Central California, Pacific, Snake River, Utah and Wyoming.
- Region C Hawaii, San Diego/Imperial and Southern California.
- Region D Arizona, New Mexico and Southern Nevada.

CP 1.4.2.2 Each Zone shall determine the Associations assigned to each Region. If a Zone changes the number of Regions and/or Associations, as published herein, a letter written by the Zone Chair stating the new assignment must be filed with the Vice President Competitive Operations by October 1st prior to the year the assignment takes effect. See Rules CP 3.5.5.3 and 3.5.5.4.

CP 1.4.3 Association

CP 1.4.4 Championships must all be held between January 1 and December 31 of any given year. Regional Championships must be held at least 2 weeks prior to the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.

CP 1.5 Intermediate:

CP 1.5.1 Regional

CP 1.5.2 Association

CP 1.6 Novice: Association

CP 2 OTHER COMPETITIONS: An Association, Region, Zone or National Governing Body may hold any invitational competitions deemed necessary. Associations may conduct their Championships together but present separate awards.

CP 3 ELIGIBILITY:

CP 3.1 General:

CP 3.1.1 Affiliation:

CP 3.1.1.1 Solo competitors may compete unattached.

CP 3.1.1.2 In Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination events, competitors must represent and be registered (USSS) with the same club. Exception: For U.S. National Free Combination event, see Rule CP 3.2.2.1.4. For U.S. Senior Open Team and Free Combination events, see Rule CP 3.2.3.2.1. For U.S. Junior Open Free Combination event, see Rule CP 3.3.3.1.1. For U.S. Junior Olympic, Regional Junior Olympic and Association Junior Olympic Free Combination events, see Rules CP 3.5.5.3.1, 3.5.6.2.1 and 3.5.7.

CP 3.1.2 Number of Events: Each competitor may compete in no more than 3 different routine events in each competition. The Free Combination event does not count as one of the 3 events. Each competitor may only enter 1 Duet or Mixed Duet event in each competition. In U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Junior Open Championships, no more than 3 different routine events in the combined Championships may be entered.

CP 3.1.3 Number of original competitors required to meet qualification standards:

CP 3.1.3.1 For Duet, Mixed Duet, Team or Free Combination, 50% or more of the competitors must remain the same as at the time of qualification. In competitions where both Technical and Free events are held, the total number of competitors actually competing shall be included within the 50% rule.

CP 3.1.3.2 For Trio, 2 or more competitors remain the same as at the time of qualification. In competitions where both Technical and Free events are held, the total number of competitors actually competing shall be included within the 50% rule.

CP 3.1.3.3 Qualification shall also be met if 50% or more have otherwise met the qualification.

CP 3.1.4 Determination of Age: Based on the year of birth.

CP 3.1.5 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.2 Senior:

CP 3.2.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth. For Free Combination age exception, see Rules CP 4.1.1.1.3 and 4.1.1.2.3.

CP 3.2.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 4 for entry into the U.S. National Championship. For grade level requirements, see USSS Synchro Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.2.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. National Championship:

CP 3.2.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 4 Solos, Duets and Teams determined by the combined Free and Technical routine scores in the most recent Senior Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. National Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. National Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. National Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team from the most recent Senior Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. National Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. The top 8 Solos, Duets and Teams, including Exhibition routines, in the most recent U.S. Collegiate Championship Preliminary Event.
3. One Solo, one Duet and one Team entry shall be awarded to the Association hosting the U.S. National Championship, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team from that Association in the most recent Senior Zone Championship.
4. Free Combinations may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.1.1.1-4.
 - A Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.2.2.2 Current Senior National Team members may elect to compete in either Solo or Duet if not otherwise qualified. Current Senior National Team members shall not displace any potential Solo or Duet qualifiers from the most recent Senior Zone Championships.

CP 3.2.2.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.2.3 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Senior Open Championship:

CP 3.2.3.1 Members of the U.S. National Teams are eligible in all events in the current year.

CP 3.2.3.2 For Preliminary events:

1. Solos, Duets, Mixed Duets, Teams and Free Combinations may enter the U.S. Senior Open Championship without regard to qualifications.
 - A Team or Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.2.3.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.2.4 **Qualifications for entry in Zone and Association Championships:** Each Zone or Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championships. Exception: Competitors who are 13-14 years of age may be combined with competitors who are 15 & over in order to enter Honorary Junior and Senior routines in Zone and Association Championships. Honorary competitors in a given event in Senior Zone Championships shall not be eligible for the U.S. National Championship. For Free Combination age exception, see Rules CP 4.1.1.1.3 and 4.1.2.1.2.

CP 3.3 Junior:

CP 3.3.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 15 to 18 years of age based on the year of birth. For Free Combination age exception, see Rules CP 4.1.2.1.2 and 4.1.2.2.3.

CP 3.3.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 4 for entry into the U.S. Junior Championship. For grade level requirements, see USSS Synchro Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.3.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Junior Championship:

CP 3.3.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 6 Solos, Duets and Teams determined by the combined Free routine and Figure scores in the most recent Junior Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. Junior Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. Junior Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. Junior Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team from the most recent Junior Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. Junior Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. One Solo, one Duet and one Team entry shall be awarded to the Association hosting the U.S. Junior Championship, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team from that Association in the most recent Junior Zone Championship.
3. Free Combinations may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.2.1.1-3.

CP 3.3.2.2 For Figure competition, all eligible Solos and Duets which meet the minimum qualifying standards for the event, as noted in CP 3.3.2.1.1-2, may enter the Figure competition, whether or not the routine is entered in the U.S. Junior Championship.

CP 3.3.2.3 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.3.3 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. Junior Open Championship:

CP 3.3.3.1 For Preliminary events:

1. Solos, Duets, Teams and Free Combinations may enter the U.S. Junior Open Championship without regard to qualifications.
 - A Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.3.3.2 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.3.4 Qualifications for entry in Zone and Association Championships: Each Zone or Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championship.

CP 3.4 13-15:

CP 3.4.1 Championships shall be open to all qualified registered competitors 13 to 15 years of age based on the year of birth.

CP 3.4.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 4 for entry into the U.S. 13-15 Championship. For grade level requirements, see USSS Synchro Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.4.2 Qualifications for entry in the U.S. 13-15 Championship:

CP 3.4.2.1 For Preliminary events:

1. The top 4 Solos, Duets and Teams determined by the combined Free routine and Figure scores in the most recent 13-15 Zone Championships shall qualify for the U.S. 13-15 Championship.
 - Each Zone shall receive 1 additional entry for each Solo, Duet or Team routine it places in the Finals at the previous U.S. 13-15 Championship.
 - If a Zone qualifier elects not to compete in the U.S. 13-15 Championship, the next highest ranked Solo, Duet or Team from the most recent 13-15 Zone Championship shall become eligible to enter the U.S. 13-15 Championship. For notification responsibilities, see Rule CP 5.4.
2. One Solo, one Duet and one Team entry shall be awarded to the Association hosting the U.S. 13-15 Championship, if that Association is not otherwise represented in the Championship. This shall be the highest ranked Solo, Duet and Team from that Association in the most recent 13-15 Zone Championship.
3. Free Combinations may enter without regard to qualifications. See Rule CP 4.1.3.1.1-2.

CP 3.4.2.2 Foreign Competitors: See Rule FC.

CP 3.4.3 Qualifications for entry in Zone Championships: Each Zone shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championship.

CP 3.5 Junior Olympic:

CP 3.5.1 Championships shall be open to qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.5.1.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 2 for entry into the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship. For grade level requirements, see USSS Synchro Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.5.2 Determination of Age Division:

CP 3.5.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth.

CP 3.5.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.5.2.3 During qualifying and in all subsequent competitions, the age of the older/oldest competitor determines the age division of the Duet, Team or Free Combination. In all subsequent competitions, the age division shall remain the same as during qualifying and at least 1 competitor must remain in the age division.

CP 3.5.3 In a given routine event, the following competitors shall be ineligible for Junior Olympic participation based on final results of the Championships listed below for the exclusion to apply:

CP 3.5.3.1 For Life:

1. **Junior National Team 1 and Senior National Teams** (Foreign or U.S.):
All members are ineligible in all events.
2. **U.S. National Championship** (there shall be more than 12 entries in Team and 18 in Solo and Duet, in each event, for this exclusion to apply):
Solo - top 8.
Duet - top 8.
Team - top 3.
3. **Foreign Competitors:** See Rule FC.

CP 3.5.3.2 For the next 2 U.S. Junior Olympic Championships:

1. **U.S. Senior Open Championship** (there shall be more than 12 entries in Team and 18 in Solo and Duet, in each event, for this exclusion to apply):
Solo - top 3.
Duet - top 3.
Team - top 3.
2. **U.S. Junior Championship:**
Solo - top 8.
Duet - top 8.
Team - top 3.
3. **U.S. Junior Open Championship** (there shall be more than 12 entries in Team and 18 in Solo and Duet, in each event, for this exclusion to apply):
Solo - top 3 (excluding Foreign Federations, Foreign clubs and entries representing the U.S. National Teams).
Duet - top 3 (excluding Foreign Federations, Foreign clubs and entries representing the U.S. National Teams).
Team - first place (excluding Foreign Federations, Foreign clubs and entries representing the U.S. National Teams).

CP 3.5.4 In all Junior Olympic qualifying competitions, only the competitors shall qualify for the next Championship. The routine, music and swimwear may change.

CP 3.5.5 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship:

CP 3.5.5.1 Qualified registered competitors must have attained Grade Level 2 for entry into the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship. For grade level requirements, see USSS Synchro Grade Level Manual.

CP 3.5.5.2 May be held once a year in Figures, Solo, Duet and Team in four age divisions: 12 & under, 13-15, 16-17 and 18-19. A Free Combination event may be held in two age divisions: 13-15 and 16-19. The Solo event shall be a Final event.

CP 3.5.5.3 Each Zone shall qualify up to 8 Solos, 12 Duets and 12 Teams in each age division. Each Zone shall qualify up to 12 Free Combination routines in the 13-15 and 16-19 age divisions.

1. Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.5.5.4 No Region shall have more than its proportionate share of the 12. Each Region shall qualify competitors by ranking in the combined Free routine and Figure scores in Regional Championships in the Solo, Duet and Team events.

1. In the Solo event, 2 entries per region per age division shall qualify to the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.
2. In the Free Combination event, each Region shall qualify its proportionate share of Free Combination routines in the 13-15 and 16-19 age divisions.
 - Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.5.5.5 All competitors shall compete in the Figure competition. Any competitor who does not compete in the Figure competition will be scratched from all routines in which the competitor is entered. The Figure results shall be added to the Preliminary routine score to determine the top 12 Duets and Teams that qualify for the Final routine competition. Number 13 shall be the pre-swimmer.

1. The Figure results shall be added to the Solo Final results to determine final placement.
2. The Free Combination event shall not include figure scores.

CP 3.5.6 Regional Championships:

CP 3.5.6.1 May be held once a year in Figures, Solo, Duet and Team in four age divisions: 12 & under, 13-15, 16-17 and 18-19. A Free Combination event may be held in two age divisions: 13-15 and 16-19. See CP 3.5.5.2-4.

CP 3.5.6.2 Each Association may qualify the top 3 Solos, Duets, Teams and Free Combinations in each age division. Exception: Any Association which is the only participant in its Region in a given year, event and age division, may qualify the top 4 Solos, Duets, Teams and Free Combinations in each age division.

1. Free Combination entries may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.

CP 3.5.6.3 Regions may be combined for competition if so desired.

CP 3.5.7 Association Championships: See CP 3.5.6.1 and 3.5.6.2.1 above.

CP 3.6 Intermediate:

CP 3.6.1 Championships shall be open to qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.6.2 Determination of Age Divisions:

CP 3.6.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth.

CP 3.6.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.6.3 Regional Championships:

CP 3.6.3.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Duet, Trio and Team in five age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17 and 18 & over.

CP 3.6.3.2 Each Region may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 3.6.4 Association Championships:

CP 3.6.4.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Duet, Trio and Team in five age divisions: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17 and 18 & over.

CP 3.6.4.2 Each Association may set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 3.7 Novice:

CP 3.7.1 Championships shall be open to qualified registered competitors.

CP 3.7.2 Determination of Age Divisions:

CP 3.7.2.1 The age of a competitor shall be based on the year of birth.

CP 3.7.2.2 At least 1 competitor must be in the proper age division. Any number of competitors may move up to complete the routine.

CP 3.7.3 Association Championships:

CP 3.7.3.1 May be held in Figures, Solo, Duet, Trio and Team in four age divisions: 8 & under, 9-10, 11-12 and 13 & over.

CP 3.7.3.2 Each Association shall set its own rules for conduct of their Championships.

CP 4 EVENTS:

CP 4.1 Programs:

CP 4.1.1 Senior:

CP 4.1.1.1 For the U.S. National Championship, competition shall consist of Technical routines and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams.

1. There shall be 1 combined Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships conducted as a 100% routine event. Competitors from the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships may be combined in the same Free Combination routine for this event.
2. A Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.
3. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships.
4. U.S. clubs and U.S. National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. National Championship.

CP 4.1.1.2 For the U.S. Senior Open Championship, competition shall consist of Technical routines and Free routines for Solos, Duets, Mixed Duets and Teams.

1. There shall be 1 combined Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships conducted as a 100% routine event. Competitors from the Senior and Junior Open may be combined in the same Free Combination routine for this event.

2. A Senior Team and/or Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.
3. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships.
4. U.S. clubs, Foreign clubs and National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships.

CP 4.1.1.3 For all other Senior Championships, at least 2 of the following 3 competitions are required: Figures, Technical routines, Free routines.

CP 4.1.2 Junior:

CP 4.1.2.1 For the U.S. Junior Championship, competition shall consist of Figures and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams.

1. There shall be 1 combined Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships conducted as a 100% routine event. Competitors from the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships may be combined in the same Free Combination routine for this event.
2. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships.
3. U.S. clubs and U.S. National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. Junior Championship.

CP 4.1.2.2 For the U.S. Junior Open Championship, competition shall consist of Figures and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams.

1. There shall be 1 combined Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships conducted as a 100% routine event. Competitors from the Senior and Junior Open may be combined in the same Free Combination routine for this event.
2. A Free Combination may consist of registered competitors from 2 or more U.S. clubs. The name of a multiple club entry must not reflect a particular club.
 - In addition to the standard entry forms required for the competition, the coach of a multiple club entry must submit a Release Form(s) for each competitor in the event to the USSS National Office, the Meet Manager and the Scoring Chair. The Release Form(s) must be signed by the club coach of each competitor.
3. Competitors who are 13 and 14 years of age may participate in the Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships.
4. U.S. clubs, Foreign clubs and National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships.

CP 4.1.2.3 All other Junior Championships shall consist of Figures and Free routines.

CP 4.1.3 13-15:

CP 4.1.3.1 For the U.S. 13-15 Championship, competition shall consist of Figures and Free routines for Solos, Duets and Teams.

1. There shall be a Free Combination event at the U.S. 13-15 Championship conducted as a 100% routine event.
2. U.S. clubs and U.S. National Teams may enter more than 1 Free Combination in the U.S. 13-15 Championship.

CP 4.1.4 Junior Olympic: Competitions shall consist of Figures and Free routines for each age division.

CP 4.1.5 Intermediate: Competitions shall consist of Figures and/or Technical routines.

CP 4.1.6 Novice: Competitions shall consist of Figures and/or Technical routines.

CP 4.2 Routines:

CP 4.2.1 Routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination events. For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.1.2. For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For U.S. Junior Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.1.1. For U.S. Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1. For U.S. 13-15 Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.3.1.1.

CP 4.2.2 Free Combination:

CP 4.2.2.1 Free Combination has 4 to 10 competitors who make a combination of routines (Solo, Duet, Trio and Team). Two reserves may be listed for a Free Combination routine. For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.1.2. For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For U.S. Junior Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.1.1. For U.S. Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1. For U.S. 13-15 Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.3.1.1.

CP 4.2.2.2 At least 2 parts must have fewer than 3 competitors and at least 2 parts must have 4 to 10 competitors.

CP 4.2.2.3 Start of the first part of the routine may be on the deck or in the water. All of the following parts must start in the water. A new part begins in very close proximity to the previous part.

CP 4.2.2.4 The Free Combination routine is choreographed to music.

CP 4.2.3 Routine composition requirements:

CP 4.2.3.1 Free routines may consist of any figures, swimming strokes, propulsion techniques or parts thereof.

CP 4.2.3.2 Technical routines shall include required elements subject to approval by the Board of Directors and described in Appendix L. Technical routines are choreographed to music.

CP 4.2.3.3 For the deck work in routines, competitors may not execute stacks, towers, or human pyramids.

CP 4.2.4 Time requirements for routines shall be as follows:

CP 4.2.4.1 Solo:	Minutes
1. Free Senior, Junior, 16-17 & 18-19 Age Division	2:30
2. Free 13-15 Age Division	2:15
3. Free 12 & under Age Division	2:00
4. Intermediate Free Routines with Required Technical Elements	2:00
5. Senior Technical Routines	2:00
6. Novice	1:30

CP 4.2.4.2 Duet/Mixed Duet/Trio:

1. Free Senior, Junior, 16-17 & 18-19 Age Division	3:00
2. Free 13-15 Age Division	2:45
3. Free 12 & under Age Division	2:30
4. Intermediate Free Routines with Required Technical Elements	<u>2:30</u>
5. Senior Technical Routines	2:20

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 6. Novice | 1:30 |
|-----------|------|
- CP 4.2.4.3 Team:**
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Free Senior, Junior, 16-17 & 18-19 Age Division | 4:00 |
| 2. Free 13-15 Age Division | 3:30 |
| 3. Free 12 & under Age Division | 3:00 |
| 4. Intermediate Free Routines with
Required Technical Elements | <u>3:00</u> |
| 5. Senior Technical Routines | 2:50 |
| 6. Novice | 1:30 |
- CP 4.2.4.4 Free Combination:**
- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. 12 & under Age Division | 3:30 |
| 2. 13-15 Age Division | 4:00 |
| 3. Junior, 16-19 Age Division & Senior | 4:30 |
- CP 4.2.4.5 Time Allowances:**
- CP 4.2.4.5.1 Walk-On:** In routine events, the walk-on of the competitors from the designated starting point to achievement of a stationary position(s) on deck and/or in the water may not exceed 30 seconds. Timing shall commence when the first competitor passes the starting point and end when the last competitor becomes stationary or assumes a starting position.
- CP 4.2.4.5.2 Deck movements** shall be a maximum of 10 seconds.
- CP 4.2.4.5.3 Free Routines:**
- For all competitions, there shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus or minus the allotted time limit. For Collegiate Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competitions exception, see Rule CO 2.3.5.1. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 2.7.2.
- CP 4.2.4.5.4 Technical Routines:**
- For all competitions, there shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus or minus the allotted time limit. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 2.6.2.
- CP 4.2.4.6 Timing of the routine** shall begin and end with the accompaniment. Timing of deck movements shall end as the last competitor leaves the deck.
- CP 4.2.4.7** At all National Championships, the Sound Center Manager and crew shall be responsible for adjusting the settings per the request of the competitor or their representative. Music shall be marked with the playing time and turned in to the sound center prior to the start of the event or at the direction of the Sound Center Manager.
- CP 4.2.5 Other Requirements:**
- CP 4.2.5.1** Open space for entrance and exit, to include designated starting point for walk-ons.
- CP 4.2.5.2** The accompaniment shall begin on a signal from the Event Referee.
- CP 4.2.5.3** Routines must start and finish with the accompaniment.
- CP 4.2.5.4** The competitor(s) must perform the routine without interruption. See Rule OD 3.6.2.2.2.
- CP 4.2.5.5** The routine must end in the water.
- CP 4.2.5.6** There shall be no deliberate use of the bottom of the pool. See Rule OD 3.6.2.2.1.5.
- CP 4.2.5.7** There shall be no deliberate use of the bottom of the pool to assist another competitor(s). See Rule OC 3.6.2.2.2.1.

CP 4.2.5.8 There shall be no deliberate contact with the pool deck after the competitor(s) have entered the water. The deck shall be defined as any surface perpendicular to the sides of the pool, excluding the bottom.

CP 4.2.5.9 There shall be no diving into the shallow end of a pool when the pool depth is less than 5 feet.

CP 4.2.6 For infractions of rules listed above, see Rule OD 3.6.2.

CP 4.3 Figures:

CP 4.3.1 Each competitor shall perform figures in each age division in which the competitor has a routine qualified.

CP 4.3.2 Figure groups for all Championships are listed in Figure Rule II.

CP 4.3.2.1 Senior Association, Senior Zone and any other Senior Championships: One set of 4 figures shall be performed. This set of figures shall consist of 2 Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures from the Senior Figure Selection Groups listed in Figure Rule II.A.

CP 4.3.2.2 Junior Association, Junior Zone, U.S. Junior, U.S. Junior Open and any other Junior Championships: One set of 4 figures shall be performed. This set of figures shall consist of the 2 Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures from the Junior Figure Selection Groups listed in Figure Rule II.A.

1. **For the U.S. Junior and U.S. Junior Open Championships**, the Junior Figure Selection Group shall be drawn 18-72 hours before the start of the Figure competition.

CP 4.3.2.3 Junior Olympic, Intermediate and Novice Championships: One set of 4 figures shall be performed in each age division where a routine is entered and the figures are different. At the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship, each competitor shall perform figures in each age division, in each event, in which the competitor qualifies.

1. **For Figure competition at Junior Olympic Championships**, the set of figures shall consist of the 2 Age Division Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures, drawn 18-72 hours before the start of the Figure competition, from the appropriate Age Division Figure Selection Groups.

• For the 16-19 Age Division figures, see Figure Rule II.A.

• For the 13-15 Age Division figures, see Figure Rule II.B.

• For the 12 & under Age Division figures, see Figure Rule II.C.

2. **For Figure competition at Intermediate Championships**, the set of figures shall consist of the 2 Intermediate Compulsory Figures combined with 1 group of 2 figures, drawn 18-72 hours before the start of the Figure competition, from the appropriate Intermediate Figure Selection Groups. Intermediate Group A or B will be determined by the coach or the host of the competition.

• For the Intermediate A figures, see Figure Rule II.B.

• For the Intermediate B figures, see Figure Rule II.C.

3. **For Novice Championship Figure competition**, the set of figures shall consist of the 4 Novice Compulsory Figures in Figure Rule II.D.

CP 4.3.3 Figure Performance Regulations:

CP 4.3.3.1 Figures are to be performed in an area designated by the Meet Referee.

CP 4.3.3.2 Figures are to be performed in a relatively stationary position unless otherwise called for in the rules. A standard swimming stroke shall not be used to initiate the execution of a figure.

CP 4.3.3.3 All figures shall commence at a signal from the Event Referee or Event Vice Referee.

- CP 4.3.3.4** Performance and judging of the figure shall begin on a signal from the Panel Referee.
- CP 4.3.3.5** If a competitor does not understand the name of the announced figure, the competitor must ask for a repeat announcement before actually beginning the figure. See Rule OD 3.6.1.1. Failure of the competitor to understand the announced figure shall not be sufficient reason for claiming a balk or false start.
- CP 4.3.3.6** For Figure competition, 1 to 4 panels of judges may be used. The competitors shall be divided into 4 approximately equal groups:
1. With 4 panels of judges, starting the groups simultaneously, the competitors perform 1 figure in front of each panel and rotate until they have performed all of the figures.
 2. With 2 panels of judges, Groups 1 and 2 start at Panel 1 with figure one while Groups 3 and 4 start at Panel 2 with figure two and rotate to complete these two figures. For the second round, Groups 2 and 3 start at Panel 1 with figure three while Groups 4 and 1 start at Panel 2 with figure four and rotate to complete these figures.
 3. With 1 panel of judges, all competitors, in order of draw, shall perform figure one. Beginning with Group 2, all competitors perform figure two. This procedure is repeated, starting with Group 3 for figure three, and Group 4 for figure four, until all figures have been performed by all competitors.
- CP 4.3.3.7** In National, Zone and Regional Figure competition, all competitors shall wear a plain, one-piece black suit and plain white swim cap, devoid of club and National Team emblems. Goggles and nose clips may be worn. Jewelry is not allowed.

CP 5 ENTRY PROCEDURES:

- CP 5.1 Numbers of Competitors:** A Team shall consist of 4, but no more than 8 competitors. For Free Combination exception, see Rule CP 4.2.2.1.
- CP 5.2 Deduction Points:** In the case of Team competition, whether Preliminary, Semifinal or Final events, 1/4 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8 on a Team. See Rule OD 3.6.2.1.
- CP 5.3 Reserves:** One reserve may be listed for a Duet, Mixed Duet and Trio and 2 reserves for a Team and Free Combination.

CP 5.4 Notification Responsibilities:

- CP 5.4.1** In the event a qualifier is not able to compete in the next level of competition, the coach of the qualifier must notify the coach of the next runner-up.
- CP 5.4.2** If a routine is not duly entered into the competition for which it qualified, the next routine(s) in order of placement from the qualifying competition shall be allowed the option of entering by submitting Entry Forms and Fees, regardless of the deadline.

CP 5.5 Entry Forms and Deadlines:

- CP 5.5.1** Entries for the U.S. Collegiate Championship must be received via electronic registration 21 days prior to the first day of the competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 21 and 7 days prior to the first day of the U.S. Collegiate Championship. For all remaining National Championships, entries must be received via electronic registration 28 days prior to the first day of the respective competition and will be subject to late fees if received between 28 and 7

days prior to the first day of the respective competition. See Appendix C. For Entry Deadline exceptions, see Rules CP 5.4.1-2 and 5.5.3.

CP 5.5.2 Entries for Zone and Regional competitions must be postmarked 14 days prior to the first day of the competition. No entries shall be accepted after entries close. Certificate of mailing will establish posting date. For Entry Deadline exceptions, see Rules CP 5.4.1-2 and 5.5.3.

CP 5.5.3 If a qualifying event is held after the entry deadline for the National, Zone or Regional competition, a provisional entry must be submitted in accordance with CP 5.5.1 or 5.5.2 above. Within 72 hours of the completion of the qualifying competition, the proof of qualification must be submitted by phone/email and in writing (postmarked) to the National, Zone or Regional Meet Manager by the provisional entrant.

CP 5.5.4 Payment for all qualified competitors by the original entry deadline must accompany the entry. Payment for any entries that become qualified after an entry deadline shall accompany the written notification to the National, Zone or Regional Meet Manager.

CP 5.5.5 The hosts for National Championships may request information forms.

CP 5.6 Changes and/or Scratches:

CP 5.6.1 All scratches must be made in writing and given to the Scoring Chair at least 2 hours prior to the start of the specific event.

CP 5.6.2 Changes of the names of the competitors in Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination must be made in writing and given to the Scoring Chair at least 2 hours prior to the start of the specific events. The names of the competitors to be substituted must already be entered in the competition and listed as reserves. No substitutions shall be made in the Solo event. One substitution may be made in Duet, Mixed Duet and Trio events. Two substitutions may be made in the Team and Free Combination events. Failure to notify at least 2 hours before the event begins will result in disqualification of the routine unless a club representative pays to USSS a \$100.00 fine.

CP 5.6.3 Exceptions to the 2 hour period may be allowed by the Event Referee for circumstances beyond the control of the competitor.

CP 5.6.4 In the event of an unposted scratch, or extenuating circumstances in any routine event, the next listed competitor shall be allowed up to 5 minutes prior to being announced and commencing the routine competition.

CP 5.6.5 If scratching a competitor in a Team event results in a reduction in the number actually participating, the coach shall notify both the Scoring Chair and/or the Event Referee and the deduction points shall be adjusted accordingly. For any Team swimming with fewer than 8 competitors, the Event Referee shall verify with the Scoring Chair that the correct number of competitors is listed on the Official Club Entry Form.

CP 5.7 Starting Responsibilities:

CP 5.7.1 Competitors or their representative shall be responsible for presenting their accompaniment as specified in the meet announcement to the sound center prior to the start of the event or at the direction of the Sound Center Manager and crew.

CP 5.7.1.1 The music shall be identified as to name of competitor, club, number in order of performance and any special instructions.

CP 5.7.1.2 The competitor or representative shall be given an opportunity to verify speed of playback before performance.

CP 5.7.2 Competitors shall inform themselves of the time of starting, shall be prompt at the starting point of each event which they enter and shall be personally responsible for reporting to the Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee in time to compete in the order of draw. For Late Arrivals, see Rule CP 5.7.3.

CP 5.7.3 Late Arrivals:

CP 5.7.3.1 For Figure competition, late arrivals shall compete in a position designated by the Event Referee.

CP 5.7.3.2 For routine competition, late arrivals must swim 2 routines after their arrival on deck.

CP 5.7.4 Interrupted routines shall swim no more than 2 routines after their original draw.

CP 6 EVENT PROGRESSION: Preliminary, Semifinal, Final Events

CP 6.1 General Event Progression:

CP 6.1.1 For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.1.2. For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.1.2.1. For U.S. Junior Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.1.1. For U.S. Junior Open Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.2.2.1. For U.S. 13-15 Championship exception, see Rule CP 1.3.1.1. For U.S. Junior Olympic Championship exception, see Rule CP 3.5.5.5. For U.S. Collegiate Championship exception, see Rule CO 4.7.

CP 6.1.2 The order of events shall be Preliminary/Semifinal routine competition followed by Figure competition and Final routine competition.

CP 6.1.3 If there are more than 10 entries in Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team or Free Combination events in National competition, then Preliminary and/or Semifinal events shall be held in these events.

CP 6.1.4 Preliminary routine events may be waived:

CP 6.1.4.1 If there are fewer than 15 entries.

CP 6.1.4.2 If 5 or less routines will be eliminated.

CP 6.1.4.3 At the discretion of the Vice President Competitive Operations or appointed representative and/or Meet Referee.

CP 6.1.5 Semifinal Routine Competition:

CP 6.1.5.1 May be waived at the discretion of the Meet Referee.

CP 6.1.5.2 The 10 highest scoring entries in each Preliminary routine event shall qualify for the Semifinal routine competition. The 11th highest scoring entry in the Preliminary routine competition shall be the pre-swimmer for the Semifinal routine competition in that event.

CP 6.1.5.3 Whenever there are fewer than 20 semifinalists after adding the 10 places from Preliminaries, additional places will be added to allow 20 semifinalists in each event.

CP 6.1.6 Figure Competition:

CP 6.1.6.1 The 10 highest scoring entries in each Semifinal routine event shall qualify for the Figure competition.

CP 6.1.6.2 If a competitor is not able to complete the Figure competition due to illness, the figure average for the routine shall be determined by averaging the scores of the remaining competitors in the Semifinal event. If the routine qualifies for Finals, the reserve's figure score shall then be included in the average. In the case of a Team routine, the deduction points shall be based on the actual number of competitors swimming the routine.

CP 6.1.6.3 The routine figure average shall be computed using the figure score of the competitors who actually swam in the routine.

CP 6.1.7 Final Routine Competition:

CP 6.1.7.1 For all competitions:

- 1.** The 8 highest scoring entries (combined Figure and Semifinal routine scores) shall qualify for the Final routine competition. The figure score shall be the average score of the competitors participating in the Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio and Team Semifinal routine competition.

2. The 9th highest scoring entry (combined Figure and Semifinal routine scores) shall be the pre-swimmer for the Final routine competition. In no event shall a Foreign competitor be the pre-swimmer.

CP 6.1.7.2 The order for Final routine competition shall be Trio, Duet, Mixed Duet, Solo and Team.

CP 6.1.7.3 Once Finals in an event have started, no runner-up routine shall be allowed to move into the Finals in the event of a disqualification of 1 of the finalists.

CP 6.2 Additional Event Progression for the U.S. National Championship and the U.S. Senior Open Championship:

CP 6.2.1 For the U.S. National Championship, the Solo, Duet and Team routine events shall consist of a Preliminary Technical routine competition followed by a Preliminary Free routine competition followed by a Final Free routine competition. The combined Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S. Junior Championships shall consist of a Preliminary and Final routine competition and all competitors shall compete for the same awards.

CP 6.2.1.1 If a club draws start number 1 for Preliminary Technical routine competition, that club shall be exempt from start number 1 for all remaining preliminary sessions. See Rule CP 6.6.4.

CP 6.2.1.2 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. For Final Awards, see Rule CP 7.1.2.2.

CP 6.2.2 For the U.S. National Championship, competitors will receive points from the Free Combination event toward the High Point (individual or team) or All-American awards. To qualify for Team points, a Free Combination routine must have at least 1 competitor participating in other U.S. National Championship events. To qualify for Individual points, a competitor must participate in at least 1 other U.S. National Championship event.

CP 6.2.3 For the U.S. Senior Open Championship, the Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet and Team routine events shall consist of a Preliminary Technical routine competition followed by a Preliminary Free routine competition followed by a Final Free routine competition. The combined Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships shall consist of a Preliminary and Final routine competition and all competitors shall compete for the same awards.

CP 6.2.3.1 If a club draws start number 1 for Preliminary Technical routine competition, that club shall be exempt from start number 1 for all remaining preliminary sessions. See Rule CP 6.6.4.

CP 6.2.3.2 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. For Final Awards, see Rule CP 7.1.2.2.

CP 6.2.4 The order of events shall be determined by the Vice President Competitive Operations and Meet Manager.

CP 6.3 Additional Event Progression for the U.S. Junior Championship:

CP 6.3.1 Figure Competition:

CP 6.3.1.1 All competitors shall perform figures.

CP 6.3.1.2 Figure competition shall occur on the first day of the Championship.

CP 6.3.1.3 The figure scores shall be added to all routine scores to determine the competitors who advance to the next level.

CP 6.3.2 **Routine Competition:** The events shall consist of Preliminary and Final routine competition. The combined Free Combination event at the U.S. National and U.S.

Junior Championships shall consist of a Preliminary and Final routine competition and all competitors shall compete for the same awards.

CP 6.3.3 Competitors will receive points from the Free Combination event toward the High Point team awards. To qualify for Team points, a Free Combination routine must have at least 1 competitor participating in other U.S. Junior Championship events.

CP 6.4 Additional Event Progression for the U.S. Junior Open Championship:

CP 6.4.1 **Figure Competition:** All competitors shall perform figures. The figure scores shall be added to all routine scores to determine the competitors who advance to the next level.

CP 6.4.2 **Routine Competition:** The events shall consist of Preliminary and Final routine competition. The combined Free Combination event at the U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championships shall consist of a Preliminary and Final routine competition and all competitors shall compete for the same awards.

CP 6.4.3 The order of events shall be determined by the Vice President Competitive Operations and the Meet Manager.

CP 6.5 Additional Event Progression for Junior Olympic Championships:

CP 6.5.1 At the discretion of the Meet Referee, Preliminary events may be waived in the Junior Olympic programs; thus, the order of events would be Figure competition followed by routine competition.

CP 6.5.2 The Regional Junior Olympic Championship and Association Championship routine events shall be considered Final events. All competitors shall perform figures. The figure scores shall be added to all routine scores to determine the competitors who advance to the next level. The order of events shall be arranged by the respective Chair and the organizing Meet Manager.

CP 6.5.3 For the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship, the order of events shall be Preliminary routine competition followed by Figure competition and Final routine competition. See Rule CP 3.5.5.5.

CP 6.6 Order of Appearance:

CP 6.6.1 Prior to each competition, the drawing for order of appearance in the Preliminary, Semifinal and Final events shall be held.

CP 6.6.2 The order of appearance shall be decided by a double blind lot draw announced and held in a public place. In competitions where a computer will be used, the order of appearance may be computer generated.

CP 6.6.3 The order of the draw shall be Teams, Free Combination, Duets, Mixed Duets, Trios and Solos Preliminaries or Semifinals. For competitions involving both Technical and Free routines, the draw for the event's Technical routine shall first be held followed by the Free routine draw (Team Technical, Team Free Preliminary, Free Combination Preliminary, Duet Technical, Duet Free Preliminary, Mixed Duet Technical, Mixed Duet Free Preliminary, Trio Free Preliminary, Solo Technical, Solo Free Preliminary).

CP 6.6.3.1 The orders of draw for the U.S. Junior Open Championship and the U.S. Senior Open Championship shall be conducted independently and shall not include the U.S. Open Free Combination Preliminary.

CP 6.6.4 At all National Championships, with the exception of the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship and U.S. Masters Championship, when a club draws start number 1 in a Technical routine or Free routine Preliminary, this club shall be exempt from start number 1 in all remaining preliminary sessions.

CP 6.6.4.1 For Junior Olympic competitions, the draw exemption shall apply only to events within a given age division.

CP 6.6.5 A drawing shall be held for the order of appearance in Finals as follows:

CP 6.6.5.1 For all competitions: After the Figures and/or Technical routines and Free routine Preliminaries and Free Combination Preliminary, the first 12 by total score shall compete in the Finals.

1. The order of appearance in Finals shall be determined by lot in groups of 6 competitors. Those who placed 1-6 per CP 6.6.5.1 shall draw for start numbers 7-12. Those who placed 7-12 per CP 6.6.5.1 shall draw for start numbers 1-6. If the number of competitors is not divisible by 6, the smallest group must start first.
2. For the Final draw, the highest qualifier in each group shall draw first, with the next qualifiers drawing in order of placement. If there is a tie for placement within the same group of 6, the names of the tied competitors shall be drawn by lot to determine the competitor to draw first for the order of swim. If there is a tie for places 6 and 7 (different groups), those routines will form their own group in the draw (1-5, 6-7, 8-12).

CP 7 AWARDS:

CP 7.1 Minimum Standards for Medals and Ribbons:

CP 7.1.1 Figure and Collegiate Technical Awards:

CP 7.1.1.1 For the U.S. Junior Olympic and U.S. Collegiate Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-12 in each age division or Collegiate Technical Category, respectively.

CP 7.1.1.2 For all remaining National Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 6.1.

CP 7.1.2 Routine Awards:

CP 7.1.2.1 For all National Championships, standard USSS Championship medals shall be awarded.

CP 7.1.2.2 For the U.S. National and U.S. Senior Open Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 in each Final event. Medals shall be given to reserves who swim either the Preliminary Technical routine or Preliminary or Final Free routine.

CP 7.1.2.3 For the U.S. 13-15, U.S. Junior and U.S. Junior Open Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 in each Final event.

CP 7.1.2.4 For all remaining National Championships, medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to all remaining finalists. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 6.2.

CP 7.1.3 Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the host and/or USSS.

CP 7.2 Figure Awards for Competitions held in Age Divisions:

CP 7.2.1 When a competitor is entered in multiple age divisions and multiple Figure competitions, the competitor shall be listed in the results in the youngest age division in which the competitor was entered in a routine (including Free Combination) and shall have a U.S. Honorary placement in any other age divisions entered. At the discretion of the competition host, the competitor may receive a U.S. Honorary Award. Honorary Placement is indicated by an "H" in the results and does not change the number placement of the competitors in the event.

CP 7.3 Scoring System for Dual Meet Competitions: In Dual meet competitions, a club may enter a total of 8 routines with no more than 2 routines in each event.

CP 7.3.1 Scoring shall be as follows:

Team/Free Combination	8 for first; 0 for second place.
Duet/ <u>Mixed Duet</u> /Trio	7 for first; 4 for second; 2 for third place.
Solo	5 for first; 3 for second; 1 for third place.

CP 7.4 Scoring System for Team Trophies: For U.S. National Championship additional event progression, see Rule CP 6.2.2. For U.S. Junior Championship additional event progression, see Rule CP 6.3.3.

Place	Team	<u>Duet*/Trio</u>	Solo	FINA	U.S.
				Free	Free
				Combination	Combination
1st	18	15	14	20	16
2nd	16	13	12	18	14
3rd	14	11	10	16	12
4th	13	10	9	14	11
5th	12	9	8	12	10
6th	11	8	7	10	9
7th	10	7	6	9	8
8th	9	6	5	8	7
9th	8	5	4	7	6
10th	7	4	3	5	5
11th	6	3	2	3	4
12th	5	2	1	1	3

* Includes Mixed Duet

CP 7.5 Scoring System for Individual High Point Trophies: For U.S. National Championship additional event progression, see Rule CP 6.2.2.

Place	Team	<u>Duet*/Trio</u>	Solo/Figures	FINA	U.S.
				Free	Free
				Combination	Combination
1st	18	15	14	20	16
2nd	16	13	12	18	14
3rd	14	11	10	16	12
4th	13	10	9	14	11
5th	12	9	8	12	10
6th	11	8	7	10	9
7th	10	7	6	9	8
8th	9	6	5	8	7
9th	8	5	4	7	6
10th	7	4	3	5	5
11th	6	3	2	3	4
12th	5	2	1	1	3

* Includes Mixed Duet

RULE III

RULES APPLICABLE TO FOREIGN COMPETITORS (FC)

FC 1 FOREIGN FEDERATIONS: May enter competitors in U.S.A. National Synchronized Swimming Championships under the following provisions and regulations:

FC 1.1 Entries: Foreign competitors may enter only with the written approval of their own Federations.

FC 1.2 Numbers:

FC 1.2.1 Each Federation or Foreign club may send a maximum of 2 FINA/UANA Judges to the combined U.S. Senior/Junior Open Championship.

FC 1.3 U.S. National Championship:

FC 1.3.1 Must be 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth.

FC 1.3.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with FINA Rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.3.3 Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.

FC 1.3.4 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 2 Solos, 2 Duets, 1 Team and/or 1 Free Combination.

FC 1.3.5 Competitors are limited to 3 of the following events: Solo, Duet or Team. They may in addition enter the Free Combination event.

FC 1.4 U.S. Senior Open Championship:

FC 1.4.1 Must be 15 years of age or older based on the year of birth.

FC 1.4.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with FINA Rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.4.3 Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.

FC 1.4.4 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 2 Solos, 2 Duets, 2 Mixed Duets and/or 1 Team.

FC 1.4.5 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter more than 1 routine in the Free Combination event. Each competitor may be entered in only 1 Free Combination routine.

FC 1.4.6 Competitors are limited to 3 of the following events: Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet or Team. Each competitor may only enter one Duet or Mixed Duet event. They may in addition enter the Free Combination event.

FC 1.5 U.S. Junior Open Championship:

FC 1.5.1 Must be 15 to 18 years of age based on the year of birth.

FC 1.5.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with FINA rules, with noted exceptions.

FC 1.5.3 Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.

FC 1.5.4 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 3 Solos, 3 Duets and/or 1 Team.

FC 1.5.5 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter more than 1 routine in the Free Combination event. Each competitor may be entered in only 1 Free Combination routine.

FC 1.5.6 Competitors are limited to 3 of the following events: Solo, Duet or Team. They may in addition enter the Free Combination event.

FC 1.6 U.S. Junior Championship:

- FC 1.6.1 Must be 15 to 18 years of age based on the year of birth.
- FC 1.6.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with FINA rules, with noted exceptions.
- FC 1.6.3 Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.
- FC 1.6.4 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 1 Solo, 1 Duet, 1 Team and/or 1 Free Combination.**
- FC 1.6.5 Competitors are limited to 3 of the following events: Solo, Duet or Team. They may in addition enter the Free Combination event.

FC 1.7 U.S. 13-15 Championship:

- FC 1.7.1 Must be 13 to 15 years of age based on the year of birth.
- FC 1.7.2 Shall be conducted in accordance with FINA rules, with noted exceptions.**
- FC 1.7.3 Foreign Federations may have multiple club entries including their National Teams.
- FC 1.7.4 Each Foreign club or National Team may enter 1 Solo, 1 Duet, 1 Team and/or 1 Free Combination.**
- FC 1.7.5 Competitors are limited to 3 of the following events: Solo, Duet or Team. They may in addition enter the Free Combination event.

FC 1.8 U.S. Junior Olympic Championship: Foreign competitors are not eligible to compete.

FC 1.9 U.S. Masters Championship: Entries shall not be limited.

FC 2 EVENT PROGRESSION:

FC 2.1 With the exception of the U.S. Open Championships, Foreign competitors who qualify for any of the Final routine events shall compete in addition to the top qualifying USSS competitors and shall receive an honorary award for their final placement. The USSS competitors shall be listed in final placement and given awards without regard to the placement of Foreign competitors. Foreign competitors shall not be eligible to be pre-swimmer(s).

RULE IV

OFFICIALS AND DUTIES (OD)

OD 1 GENERAL REGULATIONS:

OD 1.1 Officials Membership: The judges at all competition levels must be registered members in good standing of USSS.

OD 1.2 Officials Uniform:

OD 1.2.1 At Zone and National Competitions: The national uniform of the day is a white top with a black bottom unless otherwise designated by the Administrator of the Judges' Programs.

OD 1.2.2 Other Competitions: The required uniform as determined by the Association Officials Chair.

OD 2 JUDGES:

OD 2.1 Eligibility:

OD 2.1.1 Categories of National Judges:

OD 2.1.1.1 Category 1: All Level 4F, 4JO/Master, 4, 5 and 6 Judges who participate in judging at the Association, Regional or Zone Championships annually and who are unaffiliated at a specific competition.

OD 2.1.1.2 Category 2: All Level 4F, 4JO/Master, 4, 5 and 6 Judges who meet the above requirements but are affiliated at a specific competition. These may be unaffiliated for some events at this competition and may judge as an unaffiliated judge in these events.

OD 2.1.2 All other Rated Judges: Judges who are on the current accredited list with the appropriate rating for that Championship. Level 2 and above shall be considered equal at all Association Championships.

OD 2.2 Minimum Performance Standards:

OD 2.2.1 Should a judge not meet the minimum evaluation standards, in a specific event (Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team or Free Combination), where possible, that judge shall not be seated into successive levels of competition in that specific event.

OD 2.2.2 The Evaluations Chair shall notify the Officials Chair or designated representative of the evaluations.

OD 2.2.3 The judge shall be seated only if the minimum evaluation standards have been met.

OD 2.2.4 If multiple panels are used in a specific event, the judge shall be excluded only from the one in which the minimum evaluation standards have not been met.

OD 2.3 Selection Procedures:

OD 2.3.1 All National Judges shall declare which competitions they shall be able to attend as an unaffiliated judge and which they shall be able to attend as an affiliated judge.

OD 2.3.2 The Administrator of the Judges' Programs shall draw 15 judges from the list of eligible Category 1 Judges for each competition. These judges shall be officially notified that they have been selected and are guaranteed to judge at least 1 event. The individual judges shall officially accept or reject this selection.

OD 2.3.3 Factors to be considered in the Selection of Judges:

- OD 2.3.3.1** Affiliation: A judge shall be considered unaffiliated with a club after a 1 year period following separation of activity with that club.
- OD 2.3.3.2** Judge Utilization: Where possible, the judges shall be drawn for Preliminary events in such a manner that no judge shall be used twice until all eligible unaffiliated judges have been used. The same procedures shall apply to Semifinal and Final events.
- OD 2.3.3.3** Back to Back Judging: Where possible, a judge shall not be selected to judge consecutive Preliminary and Semifinal events on the same day.

OD 2.3.4 Selection of Judges:

- OD 2.3.4.1** Judges shall be selected in the order of events.
- OD 2.3.4.2** Judges shall be selected from a list of eligible judges as determined by the Judges' Board.
- OD 2.3.4.3** If, for any reason, it is necessary to include affiliated judges from any club, Association, Region or Zone, affiliated judges will be selected with Zone balance as primary consideration.
- OD 2.3.4.4** Eligible judges are those on the current accredited list with the appropriate rating for that competition. (Example: At Senior Association Championships, Level 2 and higher ratings shall be considered equal.) Under no circumstances shall a judge with an inappropriate rating be selected until all available judges with appropriate ratings have been seated.
- OD 2.3.4.5** Where possible, the panel selection priority shall include:
 1. Not more than 1 judge per club on a specific panel.
 2. Not more than 2 judges per Association on a specific panel.
 3. Not more than 2 judges per Zone on a specific panel in all National Championships.
 4. No coach, or mother, father, sister or brother of a competitor on a specific panel.

OD 2.4 Duties/Responsibilities:

- OD 2.4.1** When judging an event, a judge shall possess only those papers approved by the Event Referee.
- OD 2.4.2** Each judge shall be provided with a means of recording and a visible signaling of awards.
 - OD 2.4.2.1** At the completion of each routine the judges record their scores on judging papers provided by the Meet Management Committee. These judging papers shall be collected before the scores are displayed or announced, and shall be the accepted score in case of error or dispute.
 - OD 2.4.2.2** On a signal of the Event Referee, the judges' scores will simultaneously be presented manually or electronically for each panel.
- OD 2.4.3** No judge shall communicate with another individual while a competitor(s) is performing.
- OD 2.4.4** Judges once seated may not leave their positions without the Event Referee's approval.
 - OD 2.4.4.1** A judge who leaves the assigned position without approval shall be declared ineligible to judge for the remainder of that competition.
 - OD 2.4.4.2** If a second infraction occurs, the judge shall be declared ineligible to judge for 1 year from the date of the infraction.
 - OD 2.4.4.3** When a pre-swimmer is available, judges may assemble following the pre-swim to discuss the routine or figure scores awarded.

OD 2.5 Judging Panels:

OD 2.5.1 Figure Competition:

- OD 2.5.1.1** Judges shall be placed, when possible, in elevated positions in such locations as to have a profile view of the competitors.
- OD 2.5.1.2** One to 4 panels may be used.
- OD 2.5.1.3** Panels shall consist of 4 to 7 judges, where possible.

OD 2.5.2 Routine Competition:

- OD 2.5.2.1** Judges shall be placed in elevated positions on more than 1 side of the pool, where possible. Judges for the Team event shall be placed only on the sides of the pool.
- OD 2.5.2.2** At all National Championships, 3 panels of 5 judges shall officiate in Free routines and Free Combination; one panel for Execution, one panel for Artistic Impression and one panel for Difficulty. For all other competitions, when one panel of 4-7 judges is used, each judge shall award 3 scores (Execution, Artistic Impression and Difficulty). When 9 or 12 judges are available, 3 panels of either 3 or 4 judges shall be used and each judge shall award 1 score (either Execution, Artistic Impression or Difficulty).
- OD 2.5.2.3** At all National Championships, 3 panels of 5 judges shall officiate in Technical routines; one panel for Execution, one panel for Impression and one panel for Elements. For all other competitions, a minimum of 3 panels of either 9 or 12 judges shall be used and each judge shall award scores for either Execution, Impression or Elements.

OD 2.6 Methods of Grading:

OD 2.6.1 Figure Competition:

- OD 2.6.1.1** Judges shall award scores from 0-10, with one-tenth point increments. All judgments are made from a standpoint of perfection. For Methods of Scoring, see Rule OD 4.1.2.2.
- OD 2.6.1.2** Judging begins on a signal from the Panel Referee.
- OD 2.6.1.3** The judges' scores shall be flashed simultaneously and announced immediately after each figure on a signal from the Panel Referee.
- OD 2.6.1.4** In the event of a balk or false start, the judges shall not take this into consideration, but shall score the final performed figure as though there had been no balk. The Panel Referee will instruct the scorers to record the appropriate penalty. See Rule OD 3.6.1.1.
- OD 2.6.1.5 Breakdown of Figure Competition Scoring:**
 1. All judgments are made from the standpoint of perfection.
 2. **Design:** 5 points.
Consider the accuracy of positions and transitions as specified in the figure description.
 3. **Control:** 5 points.
Consider extension, height, stability, clarity and uniform motion, unless otherwise specified in the figure description.
 4. Figures are executed in a stationary position, unless otherwise specified in the figure description.

OD 2.6.1.6 Figure Scoring:

Perfect	10.0
Near Perfect	9.5 to 9.9
Excellent	9.0 to 9.4
Very Good	8.0 to 8.9
Good	7.0 to 7.9
Competent	6.0 to 6.9
Satisfactory	5.0 to 5.9
Deficient	4.0 to 4.9
Weak	3.0 to 3.9
Very Weak	2.0 to 2.9
Hardly Recognizable	0.1 to 1.9
Completely Failed	0

Note: Minor infractions shall not be judged zero.

OD 2.6.2 Routine Competition:

OD 2.6.2.1 Judges shall award scores from 0–10, with one-tenth point increments. All judgments are made from a standpoint of perfection.

1. If a judge, by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a routine or element, the average of the scores of the other judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. For Methods of Scoring, see Rules OD 4.1.2.3 and 4.1.2.4.

OD 2.6.2.2 The accompaniment and judging shall begin upon a signal by the Event Referee or appointed official. After the signal, the competitor(s) must perform the routine without interruption.

OD 2.6.2.3 At the completion of each routine:

1. Judges shall record scores and shall hand the recorded scores to a Runner.
2. When the Event Referee determines that all Runners have received the scores, the Event Referee shall signal for the results to be simultaneously presented manually, displayed on the scoreboard or to be announced.
3. At the discretion of the Vice President Competitive Operations of USSS at all National Championships or the appropriate Technical Chair at all other competitions or appointed representative, the display of routine scores may be waived. If the scores are not displayed, the following alternate scoring method may be used.
 - When the Event Referee determines that all Runners have received the scores, the Event Referee shall signal for the start of the next routine.
 - Scores from routine #1 shall be read upon completion of routine #2 and the competitors shall be introduced at that time.
 - This procedure shall be followed throughout the event.

OD 2.6.2.4 For Senior Technical routines, each judge shall award score(s) from 0-10 points. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 4.

1. Execution judges shall award 1 score for Execution of all movements that do not have an assigned degree of difficulty and Synchronization. The Execution score shall be weighted 30% of the Total Score.

	Solo	Duet/Mixed Duet	Team
EXECUTION – the level of excellence in performing highly specialized skills. Execution of all movements that do not have an assigned degree of difficulty.	90%	50%	50%
SYNCHRONIZATION – the precision of movement in unison, one with the other, and the accompaniment above, at and below the surface. Synchronization of timing of one with another and with the music.	10%	50%	50%

2. Impression judges shall award 1 score for Difficulty, Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation. The Impression score shall be weighted 30% of the Total Score.

	Solo	Duet/Mixed Duet	Team
DIFFICULTY – the quality of being hard to achieve. Difficulty of all movements that do not have an assigned degree of difficulty and synchronization.	50%	50%	50%
CHOREOGRAPHY – the creative skill of composing a routine that combines artistic and technical elements. The design and weaving together of variety and creativity of all movements.	50%	50%	50%
MUSIC INTERPRETATION - expressing the mood of the music, use of the music's structure.			
MANNER OF PRESENTATION – the manner in which the competitor(s) present(s) the routine to the viewers. The total command of the performance of the routine.			

3. Elements judges shall award individual scores for the execution of each required element with an assigned degree of difficulty. The Elements score shall be weighted 40% of the Total Score.

EXECUTION – the level of excellence in performing highly specialized skills. Execution of each required element with an assigned degree of difficulty.
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OD 2.6.2.5 For Free Routine, Free Combination, Intermediate Free Routine with Required Technical Elements and Novice Technical Routines, each judge shall award 1 score from 0-10 points. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rule MS 4.

1. Execution judges shall award 1 score for Execution and Synchronization. The Execution score shall be weighted 30% of the Total Score.

	Solo	Duet/ <u>Mixed</u> Duet/Trio	Team / Free Combination
EXECUTION – the level of excellence in performing highly specialized skills. Execution of all movements.	90%	50%	50%
SYNCHRONIZATION – the precision of movement in unison, one with the other, and the accompaniment above, at and below the surface. Synchronization of timing of one with another and with the music.	10%	50%	50%

2. Artistic Impression judges shall award 1 score for Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation. The Artistic Impression score shall be weighted 40% of the Total Score.

	Solo	Duet/ <u>Mixed</u> Duet/Trio	Team / Free Combination
CHOREOGRAPHY – the creative skill of composing a routine that combines artistic and technical elements. The design and weaving together of variety and creativity of all movements.	100%	100%	100%
MUSIC INTERPRETATION - expressing the mood of the music, use of the music’s structure.			
MANNER OF PRESENTATION – the manner in which the competitor(s) present(s) the routine to the viewers. The total command of the performance of the routine.			

3. Difficulty judges shall award a score for Difficulty. The Difficulty score shall be weighted 30% of the Total Score.

	Solo	Duet/ <u>Mixed</u> Duet/Trio	Team / Free Combination
DIFFICULTY – the quality of being hard to achieve. Difficulty of all movements and of synchronization.	100%	100%	100%

OD 2.6.2.6 Routine Scoring:

Perfect	10.0
Near Perfect	9.5 to 9.9
Excellent	9.0 to 9.4
Very Good	8.0 to 8.9
Good	7.0 to 7.9
Competent	6.0 to 6.9
Satisfactory	5.0 to 5.9
Deficient	4.0 to 4.9
Weak	3.0 to 3.9
Very Weak	2.0 to 2.9
Hardly Recognizable	0.1 to 1.9
Completely Failed	0

OD 3 REFEREE:

OD 3.1 Eligibility: A judge with the appropriate rating for the class of competition.

OD 3.2 Selection Procedures:

OD 3.2.1 Meet Referee:

OD 3.2.1.1 The Vice President Competitive Operations of USSS or appointed representative shall preside as Meet Referee at all National Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 3.2.1.2 The Zone Technical Chair or appointed representative shall preside as Meet Referee at all Zone Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 3.2.1.3 The Association Technical Chair of the Association in which the competition is held, or appointed representative shall preside as Meet Referee at all Regional Championships until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 3.2.1.4 The Association Technical Chair or appointed representative shall preside as Meet Referee at all Association competitions until the Event Referees are selected.

OD 3.2.2 Event Referee: Follow judges selection procedure as outlined in Rule OD 2.3.

OD 3.3 Duties/Responsibilities of the Referees:

OD 3.3.1 The Meet Referee shall have full jurisdiction over the event and shall:

OD 3.3.1.1 Enforce all rules and decisions of USSS.

OD 3.3.1.2 Decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules.

OD 3.3.1.3 Have authority to interfere in a competition at any stage to ensure that the rules are observed.

OD 3.3.1.4 Have the power to call off or postpone to a future date any event, even though the same has started, if the competition cannot be conducted or completed in a satisfactory manner and in fairness to the competitors.

1. At the discretion of the Meet Committee, such postponed events can be conducted with the competitors who reported on the first date, at a future date as though the competition had never started.

OD 3.3.2 The Event Referee shall:

OD 3.3.2.1 Be given a list of the officials and shall assign specific duties.

OD 3.3.2.2 Ensure that each assigned official understands all responsibilities as indicated by the rules.

OD 3.3.2.3 Have the authority to change any assignments of duty.

OD 3.3.2.4 In emergencies, be authorized to assign alternate judges from the accredited list.

- OD 3.3.2.5** Penalize competitor(s) for any violations of the rules and shall inform the coach and competitor of the infraction before the completion of the event.
- OD 3.3.2.6** Ascertain that all judges are in place and their needs are tended to as necessary.
- OD 3.3.2.7** Intervene in the event at any stage to ensure that the rules are observed and that the safety of the competitor(s) is not compromised.
- OD 3.3.3** In the event of a request for a waiver of a rule, see Rule TR 2.
- OD 3.3.4** In the event of a protest, see Rule TR 3.

OD 3.4 Duties/Responsibilities of the Event Vice Referee:

- OD 3.4.1** Obtain an order of draw and ascertain that the competitors are in readiness 1 routine preceding their competitive turn.
 - OD 3.4.1.1** Ascertain that the number and names listed for all routines are the same as those who swim.
 - OD 3.4.1.2** Other than for Solos, ascertain whether a listed reserve is to replace another listed competitor.
 - OD 3.4.1.3** Notify the Event Referee of any variations from the entry.
- OD 3.4.2** Keep order on the deck during the competition.
- OD 3.4.3** Carry out any further duties as assigned by the Event Referee.

OD 3.5 Duties/Responsibilities of the Event Assistant Referee:

- OD 3.5.1** When facilities allow, observe competition from an underwater window and report to the Event Referee any infraction for deliberate use of the bottom of the pool and/or any infraction for deliberate use of the bottom of the pool to assist another competitor(s). (Mandatory at National Championships.)
- OD 3.5.2** When available, monitor the image from an underwater television camera and report to the Event Referee any infraction for deliberate use of the bottom of the pool and/or any infraction for deliberate use of the bottom of the pool to assist another competitor(s). (Mandatory at National Championships.)
 - OD 3.5.2.1** The Event Assistant Referee must monitor the image continuously and the image must be continuously available throughout the routine.
- OD 3.5.3** Perform any other duties as assigned by the Event Referee.

OD 3.6 Application of Penalties:

OD 3.6.1 Figure Competition:

OD 3.6.1.1 A Two Point Penalty shall be deducted when:

- OD 3.6.1.1.1** A competitor stops voluntarily and requests to do the figure again.
- OD 3.6.1.1.2** A competitor does not perform the announced figure, or if the figure does not have all the required elements, the Panel Referee shall advise the judges and the competitor. The competitor shall have another opportunity to perform the announced figure.

OD 3.6.1.2 If the competitor makes the same or another mistake or does not attempt to perform the figure again, then the result of this figure will be zero.

OD 3.6.2 Routine Competition:

OD 3.6.2.1 In Team competition, whether in Free Routine Preliminary/Semifinal, Free Routine Final or Technical Routine, 1/4 point penalty shall be deducted from the Total Score for each competitor less than 8.

OD 3.6.2.2 Penalties in Free Routines, Technical Routines and Free Combinations:

- OD 3.6.2.2.1 A One Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the routine score if:
 1. The time limit of 10 seconds for deck movements is exceeded.

2. There is a deviation from the specified routine time limit allowed (less or more than) for the routine in accordance with Rule CP 4.2.4.
3. The time limit of 30 seconds for the deck walk-on is exceeded.
4. For each violation in the Free Combination event of Rules CP 4.2.2.2 and 4.2.2.3.
5. A competitor has made a deliberate use of the bottom of the pool during the routine.

OD 3.6.2.2 A **Two Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the routine score if:

1. A competitor has made deliberate use of the bottom of the pool during a routine to assist another competitor.
2. A routine is interrupted by a competitor during the deck movements and a new start is allowed.
3. If during deck movements in routines competitors are executing stacks, towers or human pyramids.

OD 3.6.2.3 Additional Penalties in Novice, Senior and Master Technical Routines and Intermediate Free Routine with Required Technical Elements:

OD 3.6.2.3.1 A **Half-Point Penalty** shall be deducted from the Execution score for violations of Senior Duet required elements 6 and 7, Senior Mixed Duet required elements 6, 7 and 8 and Senior Team required elements 6 and 7 of Appendix L.

OD 3.6.2.3.2 A **Half-Point Penalty** shall be deducted for violations of Novice, Intermediate and Master required elements of Appendix L.

OD 3.6.2.4 Disqualification:

OD 3.6.2.4.1 If one (or more) competitor(s) stops swimming before the routine is completed, the routine will be disqualified. If the cessation is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the competitor(s), the Event Referee shall allow the routine to be re-swum during the session.

OD 3.6.2.4.2 Failure to notify the Scoring Chair and/or the Event Referee, in writing, before swimming, of all changes or scratches will result in disqualification of the routine.

OD 3.6.2.4.3 A Team shall consist of at least 4 but not more than 8 competitors. The number of Team competitors may not increase between the Preliminary and Semifinal event or the Semifinal and Final event, or between Technical and Free routines. For Free Combination exception, see Rule CP 4.2.2.1.

OD 3.6.3 Swimwear: In the event that the Event Referee thinks competitor(s) swimwear does not conform to the current concept of the appropriate, the competitor(s) shall not be permitted to compete until changing into appropriate swimwear.

OD 3.6.4 The use of accessory equipment, goggles or additional clothing is not permitted at National competitions, unless required for medical reasons, excluding the U.S. Masters Championship. Nose clips or plugs may be worn. Jewelry is not allowed except at the U.S. Masters Championship.

OD 3.6.5 Theatrical make-up shall not be worn. Straight makeup that provides a natural, clean and healthy glow is acceptable.

OD 4 SCORING STAFF:

OD 4.1 Scorers:

OD 4.1.1 Duties:

OD 4.1.1.1 Check the Official Club Entry Form for any irregularities prior to the competition and inform the competitors of the necessary corrections to be made.

- OD 4.1.1.2** Conduct a double blind lot public draw to determine the order of appearance for the competitors in the events and inform the competitors. In competitions where a computer will be used, the order of appearance may be computer generated.
- OD 4.1.1.3** In Figure competition, announce the order of performance and the sequence of figures to be performed.
- OD 4.1.1.4** Individually record the scores and make the necessary computations as directed in Rule OD 4.1.2. The written score shall be the official score.
- OD 4.1.1.5** There shall be a multiple check of all scores.
- OD 4.1.1.6** The Scoring Chair or his/her designee at that competition shall be responsible for the release of official scores to the press except at all National Championships, where the appropriate USSS National Office Staff member shall be responsible for the release of official scores to the press.

OD 4.1.2 Methods of Scoring:

OD 4.1.2.1 Rounding Rule: Use for all computations.

OD 4.1.2.1.1 Determine the last digit to keep by referring to Rule OD 4.1.2.

OD 4.1.2.1.2 Increase that digit by 1 if the next digit is 5 or more (this is called rounding up).

OD 4.1.2.1.3 Leave that digit the same if the next digit is 4 or less (this is called rounding down).

OD 4.1.2.1.4 Examples:

1. Round to the 4th decimal place: If the value of the 5th decimal place is 7, round the 4th decimal place up.
2. Round to the 3rd decimal place: If the value of the 4th decimal place is 4, round 3rd decimal place down.

OD 4.1.2.2 Figure Competition:

OD 4.1.2.2.1 Record the individual scores, each time in the same consecutive order on a score sheet.

OD 4.1.2.2.2 If a judge, by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for any one figure, the average of the scores of the other judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point. If a judge misses more than 1 figure, all scores given by that judge are removed for that event.

OD 4.1.2.2.3 If 7, 6 or 5 judges are used, cancel only the highest and lowest scores (one each). If 4 judges are used, determine a fifth score by taking the average of the 4 scores and round to the nearest 0.1 point. Cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each) and proceed using OD 4.1.2.2.4.4. If 3 judges are used, there shall be no cancellation.

OD 4.1.2.2.4 Add the remaining scores and calculate score points as follows:

1. **7 judges:** Add the 5 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 5 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.
2. **6 judges:** Add the 4 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 4 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.
3. **5 judges:** Add the 3 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.

4. **4 judges:** Add the 3 remaining scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.
5. **3 judges:** Add the 3 scores. Then divide the sum by 3 and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. The result shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1

OD 4.1.2.2.5 Add the scores for the individual figures for each competitor.

OD 4.1.2.2.6 The sum of the 4 figures shall be divided by the total of the degree of difficulty of the group and multiplied by 10, then the penalties shall be deducted. This sum is the Total Figure Score for the competitor.

OD 4.1.2.2.7 In Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio and Team competition, add the Total Figure Score for each competitor who actually swam in the routine and divide by the number of competitors in the routine. The result of the division shall be rounded to 4 decimal places using the Rounding Rule. See Rule OD 4.1.2.1.

OD 4.1.2.3 Free Routine, Free Combination, Intermediate Free Routine with Required Technical Elements and Novice Technical Routine Competition:

OD 4.1.2.3.1 For each panel of the Free routine, Free Combination, Intermediate Free routine with required technical elements and Novice Technical routines (Execution, Artistic Impression and Difficulty), the score shall be calculated as follows for each category:

1. If a judge, by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a routine, the average of the scores of the other judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point.
2. If a panel consists of 7, 6 or 5 judges, the highest and the lowest scores for each panel are cancelled (one high, one low). If a panel consists of 4 judges, determine a fifth score by taking the average of the 4 scores and round to the nearest 0.1 point. Cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each). If a panel consists of 3 judges, no scores are cancelled.
3. The Execution score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2 and multiplied by 3.
4. The Artistic Impression score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2 and multiplied by 4.
5. The Difficulty score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2 and multiplied by 3.
6. The Final routine score shall be the sum of the Execution score (30%), the Artistic Impression score (40%) and the Difficulty score (30%), less any penalty deductions from Rule OD 3.6.2.

**FREE ROUTINE SCORING EXAMPLE
WITH FIVE JUDGES**

	WT	1	2	3	4	5	TOT- HILO	AVER	CALC	
EXEC	30	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.5	8.5	25.6	8.5333	25.6000	30%
AI	40	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.3	25.4	8.4667	33.8667	40%
DIFF	30	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.4	25.1	8.3667	25.1000	30%
								TOTAL	84.5667	

OD 4.1.2.4 Senior Technical Routine Competition:

OD 4.1.2.4.1 For each panel of the Senior Technical routine (Execution, Impression and Elements), the score shall be calculated as follows for each category:

1. If a judge on the Elements panel, by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a particular required element (a zero), the Event Referee will review the official video. If the required element has been executed, then the average of the scores of the other judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point.
2. If a judge, by reason of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, has given no score for a routine, the average of the scores of the other judges shall be computed and shall be considered as the missing score. This shall be calculated to the nearest 0.1 point.
3. If a panel consists of 7, 6 or 5 judges, the highest and the lowest scores for each panel or required element with an assigned degree of difficulty are cancelled (one high, one low). If a panel consists of 4 judges, determine a fifth score by taking the average of the 4 scores and round to the nearest 0.1 point. Cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each). If a panel consists of 3 judges, no scores are cancelled.
4. The Execution score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2 and multiplied by 3.
5. The Impression score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2 and multiplied by 3.
6. The Elements score is the sum of the remaining scores in the category, divided by the number of judges less 2. The result is multiplied by the degree of difficulty for that element. The sum of the Elements scores shall be divided by the total degree of difficulty for the required elements and multiplied by 10. This result is multiplied by 4.
7. The Senior Technical routine score shall be the sum of the Execution score (30%), the Impression score (30%) and the Elements score (40%), less any penalty deductions from Rule OD 3.6.2.

SENIOR TECHNICAL ROUTINE EXAMPLE WITH FIVE JUDGES

							TOT- HILLO	AVER	CALC		
	WT	1	2	3	4	5					
EXEC	30%	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.8	8.6	25.9	8.6333	25.9000	25.9000	30%
IMPR	30%	8.6	8.3	8.8	8.4	8.4	25.4	8.4667	25.4000	25.4000	30%
ELEM	DD										
#1	2.3	8.1	7.9	8.1	7.8	8.2	24.1	8.0333	18.4767		
#2	2.9	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.6	8.6	25.7	8.5667	24.8433		
#3	1.7	8.6	8.4	8.7	8.5	8.8	25.8	8.6000	14.6200		
#4	2.7	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.4	25.3	8.4333	25.7700		
#5	2.5	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.5	8.3	25.8	8.6000	21.5000		
SUM DD	12.1							RAW TOTAL	102.2100		
								Divide by 12.1x10	84.4711	33.7884	40%
									TOTAL	85.0884	

OD 4.1.2.5 Calculation of Final Results:

1. The Final result is determined by adding the final score of each performed session. Each session is worth a maximum of 100 points. If both Preliminary and Final routine sessions are held, the routine score from the

Final session shall replace that of the Preliminary session to determine the Final result.

2. In events that include 1 session – Figures OR Free Combination OR Technical routine OR Free routine – the result shall be the score of that session, for a maximum of 100 points. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 4.1.2.1.
3. In events that include 2 sessions – Figures and Free routine OR Technical routine and Free routine – the results shall be the sum of each session, for a maximum of 200 points. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 4.1.2.1.
4. In events that include 3 sessions - Figures, Technical routine and Free routine - the result shall be the sum of each session, for a maximum of 300 points. The result shall be rounded to 3 decimal places using the Rounding Rule and the result placed in the Total Box. For Rounding Rule, see Rule OD 4.1.2.1.

OD 4.1.2.6 Ties:

OD 4.1.2.6.1 In the case of the same Final result (calculate to 4 decimals) in Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination, a tie shall be declared for the particular place(s). If a decision has to be made to go to Finals, to be qualified, to be promoted/demoted, the following procedure will be used:

1. Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Trio and Team:
 - The higher Free routine scores of the Final result will decide.
 - If they are still the same, the Execution score of the Free routine determines the position.
 - If they are still the same, the higher Technical routine scores will decide.
 - If they are still the same, the Elements score of the Technical routine will determine the position.
2. Free Combination:
 - The higher Execution score shall decide.
 - If they are still the same, the higher Artistic Impression score shall decide.
3. For competitions with point systems, in case of a tie, the Final result, according to Rule OD 4.1.2.5, of all events shall be added and the higher total sum shall decide. For Scoring Systems, see Rules CP 7.3-7.5.

OD 4.1.2.7 Error in Results:

OD 4.1.2.7.1 The results shall become final after 14 days.

OD 4.1.2.7.2 If an error is discovered within 14 days after the results are published, the computations shall be redone, results reproduced correctly and medals/ribbons distributed correctly.

OD 4.2 Typists/Computer Operators: The Typists shall type and duplicate information given them by the Scoring Chair and Meet Manager.

OD 4.3 Timers:

OD 4.3.1 In all routine events, there shall be 3 Timers.

OD 4.3.2 The 3 Timers shall check and record the overall time of the routine as well as that of the deck movements.

OD 4.3.2.1 The official deck and total routine times shall be recorded on the computation sheet.

1. If the time of 2 watches agree, that time shall be the official time.
2. Should the times of all 3 watches differ, the intermediate time shall be the official time.
3. If the time of either the overall routine or the deck movements does not fall within the specified time limits, a Timer shall so inform the Event Referee. See Rule OD 3.6.2. For Collegiate Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competitions exception, see Rule CO 2.3.5.1. For U.S. Masters Championship exception, see Rules MS 2.6.2 and 2.7.2.

OD 4.4 Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee: The Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee shall obtain the order of draw and ascertain that all competitors are present. Failure of a competitor to report to the Clerk-of-Course or Vice Referee at the starting time shall be reported immediately to the Event Referee.

OD 4.5 Runners:

OD 4.5.1 Judges in routine competition shall be provided with Runners.

OD 4.5.2 Runners shall deliver score forms as directed by the Event Referee.

OD 5 OTHER COMPETITION PERSONNEL:

OD 5.1 Meet Manager: The Meet Manager shall be responsible for those duties as outlined in the bid application, the Meet Management Guide and as directed by the Vice President Competitive Operations of USSS.

OD 5.2 Sound Center Manager:

OD 5.2.1 The Sound Center Manager and crew shall:

OD 5.2.1.1 Play back the recorded music using the settings requested by the competitor or their representative for the accompaniment of each routine during the assigned practices and in the competition.

OD 5.2.1.2 Use a decibel meter to measure and maintain the sound levels so that no listener is subjected to sound levels that exceed 90 decibels continuous sound, or the sound level safety tolerances as published by OSHA, whichever is the lesser.

OD 5.3 Announcer(s):

OD 5.3.1 The Announcer(s) shall make only such announcements as are authorized by the Meet Referee and/or Meet Manager.

OD 5.3.1.1 In Figure competition, the Announcer shall announce the number of the competitor and the name of the figure to be performed.

OD 5.3.1.2 In Figure competition, the Announcer shall announce the judges' scores in sequence.

OD 5.3.1.3 In routine competition in all events, the Announcer shall:

1. State the number of the competitor(s), and may state their name(s) and club affiliation, including location of the club, prior to the competitor(s) performance.
2. After scores have been given, may announce the name(s) and affiliation of the competitor(s).

OD 5.4 Deck Marshall(s): The Deck Marshall(s) shall monitor order in the competitive area as directed by the Event Referee.

RULE V

NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM (NT)

NT 1 NATIONAL TEAM:

NT 1.1 Candidates must meet the established qualifying criteria:

NT 1.1.1 United States Citizenship.

NT 1.1.2 Competitors who have attained places as listed in the current Rulebook, Appendix E, are qualified to participate in the National Team Trials.

NT 1.2 Special Consideration: Competitors who have not met the eligibility requirements for Team selection due to extenuating circumstances, may petition the National Team Review Subcommittee. Consideration shall be given to the timeliness of such application.

NT 1.3 Governance: National Team Trials shall be conducted under FINA Rules and in accordance with the procedures for National Team selection listed in the current Rulebook, Appendix E.

RULE VI

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS (HS)

These rules can be found at www.usasynchro.org.

RULE VII

COLLEGIATE PROGRAM (CO)

CO.1 COLLEGIATE GOVERNANCE:

The Collegiate competition is dedicated to the educational value of athletics as part of a larger educational program. Note: Student-Athletes who are not enrolled in an institution with a Synchro program may enter U.S. Collegiate competition by meeting the below listed eligibility requirements.

CO.1.1 Collegiate competition occurs when a student-athlete:

- CO 1.1.1** Represents an institution in any event against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified.
- CO 1.1.2** Participates in any athletic event (including on the club team of an institution that conducts a varsity program in the sport or on an outside Team) that is open only to Collegiate student-athletes or involves individuals or Teams from Collegiate institutions participating in competition to score points for their respective institutions, even when the student-athlete's performance is not included in the scoring of the event, or is considered an "exhibition" or occurs in an "open" event involving non-collegiate competitors that is conducted in conjunction with Collegiate competition.
- CO 1.1.3** Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, utilizes any apparel (excluding apparel no longer utilized by the institution) or equipment received from the institution that includes institutional identification.
- CO 1.1.4** Competes and receives expenses (i.e. transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

CO 1.2 Collegiate Season:

- CO 1.2.1** The playing season (i.e. practice and competition) is the period between the date of an institution's first officially recognized practice session, and the conclusion of the National Governing Body Championship. An institution is permitted to conduct officially recognized practice and competition each academic year only during the playing season.
- CO 1.2.2** The length of a program's playing season in synchronized swimming shall be limited to a 132-day season, which may consist of 2 segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required days off and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods.
- CO 1.2.3** Each institution is expected to follow current playing and practice season regulations set forth in the Division I NCAA Manual – Bylaw 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons).

CO.1.3 Eligibility:

A program shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements and USSS has certified the student-athlete's eligibility. Each institution is expected to follow eligibility and amateurism regulations set forth in the Division I NCAA Manual – Bylaw 12 (Amateurism) and Bylaw 14 (Eligibility). Exception to Bylaw 12.8.3.2.1.1: Student-Athletes representing the National Team of their Federation shall have a maximum of 3 years after their high school graduation date to enroll full time in a collegiate institution.

- CO 1.3.1** Undergraduate student-athletes who meet the one-time transfer rule who are officially enrolled on a full-time basis and who meet their respective institution's NCAA eligibility standards shall be eligible to compete. All eligibility and recruiting questions not otherwise addressed by USSS, FINA or NCAA Rules

shall be governed by the U.S. Synchronized Swimming Collegiate Competitive Rules Board or the Collegiate Compliance Rules Board.

CO 1.3.2 All student-athletes shall complete the Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit 2 times per year. The Technical Affidavit can be found on the USSS website. In the spring semester, the affidavit must be completed even though there may be no changes.

CO 1.3.3 Each competing program is required to submit a declaration of playing season, team roster and proof of student-athlete and club registration to the Collegiate Secretary no later than January 1st of each year.

CO 1.3.4 Transfer student-athletes must abide by their institution's governing rules.

CO 1.3.5 A student-athlete may not represent both a club/organization and a college/university in the same competition.

CO 1.3.6 **Graduate Student-Athlete/Post Baccalaureate Participation:** A student-athlete who is enrolled in a graduate or professional school of the same institution from which he or she previously received a baccalaureate degree, a student-athlete who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution, or a student-athlete who has graduated and is continuing as a full-time student-athlete at the same institution while taking course work that would lead to the equivalent of another major or degree as defined and documented by the institution, may participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided the student-athlete has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable 5 year period set forth in Division I NCAA Manual Bylaws 12.8 and 14.2.2.1.4.

CO 1.3.6.1 **One-Time Transfer Exception:** A graduate student-athlete who is enrolled in a graduate or professional school of an institution other than the institution from which he or she previously received a baccalaureate degree may participate in intercollegiate athletics if the student-athlete fulfills the conditions of the one-time transfer exception set forth in Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10 and has eligibility remaining per Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 12.8.

1. A graduate student-athlete who does not meet the one-time transfer exception due to the restrictions of Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10-(a) shall qualify for this exception, provided:

- The student-athlete fulfills the remaining conditions of Division I NCAA Manual Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10;
- The student-athlete has at least 1 season of competition remaining; and
- The student-athlete's previous institution did not renew his or her athletically related financial aid for the following academic year.

CO 1.3.7 A Collegiate student-athlete must hold a USSS membership. To compete outside the Collegiate program the institution must petition the NCAA, or its governing body, for each exception and the student-athlete must hold a regular USSS membership.

CO 1.3.8 A student-athlete shall be an amateur, as defined by USSS, FINA and NCAA.

CO 1.3.9 Any student-athlete desiring to compete for his or her institution must be granted permission by the institution to use the school's name.

CO 1.3.10 In the year in which the World University Games occurs, any Collegiate student-athlete who is within 1 year of eligibility to compete may participate at the U.S. Collegiate Championship and be allowed to enter Solo and the Technical Category A competition without replacing a current Collegiate student-athlete.

CO 1.3.11 **International Student-Athlete:** The eligibility of an International Student-Athlete shall be certified through a letter from the athlete's Federation stating whether or not the International Student-Athlete has or has not competed on a National Team within the last 2 calendar years. The letter must be maintained in a file at the institution and shall be available for examination upon request by the Collegiate Technical Chair.

CO 1.4 Compliance:

CO 1.4.1 All questions regarding rules, infractions or requests for waivers shall be directed to the Collegiate Technical Chair. The Collegiate Technical Chair will answer questions about NCAA, USSS and FINA rules, research infractions and forward waiver requests to the Collegiate Competitive Rules Board or Collegiate Compliance Rules Board for discussion. The Collegiate Technical Chair will coordinate quick and efficient responses or decisions from the boards. The Collegiate Technical Chair is a liaison and does not vote on either board.

CO 1.4.1.1 Waiver requests must be submitted to the Collegiate Technical Chair in a timely manner. If the waiver request involves a competitive event, the request must be submitted at least 1 week prior to the start of the competition.

CO 1.4.2 The Collegiate Competitive Rules Board will address waivers or infractions related to FINA or USSS rules. The Collegiate Competitive Rules Board shall be composed of 1 representative each from a Division I Varsity, Division II/NAIA Varsity, Division III Varsity, club program and the Collegiate Student-Athlete Advisor.

CO 1.4.3 The Collegiate Compliance Rules Board will address waivers or violations related to the NCAA regulations. The Collegiate Compliance Rules Board shall be composed of 2 retired coaches, 1 compliance officer from an institution, 1 attorney and a retired student-athlete. If the Collegiate Compliance Rules Board determines there is a violation, they shall recommend to the Collegiate Technical Chair that the Corporation's Board of Directors review the violation in accordance with Rule TR 3.

1. The Collegiate Chair shall:

- Serve as Chair of the Collegiate Committee and any other collegiate meetings at the U.S. Collegiate Championships and USAS Convention.
- Represent Collegiate Programs at the USAS Convention.
- Attend no less than 1 conference and 1 USSS National Championship where age group athletes compete to serve as the Collegiate representative.
- Conduct, or select a representative to conduct, annual informational meetings at all USSS National Championships where recruitable athletes are competing.
- Oversee the completion of all tasks included in the Collegiate Strategic Plan.

2. The Collegiate Technical Chair shall:

- Be present at all collegiate meetings including USAS Convention.
- Fully understand the NCAA, USSS and FINA rules.
- Supervise the submission of Student-Athlete Technical Affidavits.
- Serve as a liaison, interpret rules and make recommendations to the Collegiate Competitive Rules and Collegiate Compliance Rules Boards.
- Check scores and placement.

3. The Collegiate Program Development Chair shall:

- Be present at all collegiate meetings including USAS Convention.
- Attend no less than 1 conference and 1 USSS National Championship where age group athletes compete.
- Oversee the development of all collegiate synchronized swimming programs (Club and Varsity).
- Oversee the development and progress of Collegiate club programs.
- Maintain records of all programs within the collegiate group.
- Provide information to assist in the formation of new Collegiate clubs.
- Complete all tasks included in the Collegiate Strategic Plan.

- Assist Collegiate clubs in the development of alumnae networks.
4. The Collegiate Secretary shall:
- Be present at all collegiate meetings including USAS Convention.
 - Maintain the membership list of the Collegiate Committee and the Collegiate Competitive Rules and Collegiate Compliance Rules Boards.
 - Maintain records of student-athlete eligibility.
 - Act as an aid to the Collegiate Program Development Chair.
 - Send notice of meetings as instructed by the Collegiate Chair or Collegiate Technical Chair.
 - Forward to the Executive Director of USSS such reports as required by USSS.
5. The Collegiate Student-Athlete Advisor shall:
- Be present at all collegiate meetings including USAS Convention.
 - Represent the Collegiate student-athletes on the Collegiate Competitive Rules Board
 - Assure communication among all student-athletes both within the Collegiate program and USSS.

CO 1.5 Institutional Membership: The institution shall hold a USSS membership.

CO 1.6 Individual Membership:

CO 1.6.1 Collegiate student-athletes must hold 1 of 2 types of individual memberships:

1. Introductory Collegiate: A student-athlete who competes only in non-Championship Collegiate competitions. See Appendix C.
2. Competitive Collegiate: A student-athlete who competes only in Collegiate competitions, including Collegiate Championships. See Appendix C.

CO 1.7 Recruiting: A member of an institution’s athletics staff or a representative of its athletics interests shall not contact a prospective student-athlete until July 1 following completion of the student-athlete’s sophomore year of high school. Each institution is expected to follow current recruiting regulations set forth in the Division I NCAA Manual – Bylaw 13 (Recruiting).

CO 1.7.1 Each institution may provide a maximum of 8 full scholarships per year.

CO 1.8 Coaching Limitation: Each institution may have a maximum of 1 head coach, 1 assistant coach, 1 volunteer and 1 graduate assistant/volunteer on deck at the same time. Only the head coach and assistant coach may be paid.

CO 2 COLLEGIATE COMPETITION:

CO 2.1 Categories for Technical Competition:

CO 2.1.1 Student-Athletes shall move into 1 of the 4 categories on the basis of their qualifying average Technical Category (Figure or Technical Element routine) score from their most recent competitive season. The Student-Athlete Technical Affidavit shall provide the qualifying average score for placement in a Technical Category. For International Student-Athlete exception, see Rule CO 1.3.11.

1. Category A: 71.000 or higher or National Team student-athlete.
 - For the purpose of this rule, a National Team student-athlete shall be any student-athlete who has competed for their home country’s National Team within the last 2 calendar years.

- International Student-Athletes who have competed for their Federation's Junior or Senior National Teams within the last 2 calendar years and have achieved an average figure score below the Technical Category A minimum (71.000) may swim in the Technical Category of the corresponding average in the most recent year.
2. Category B: 64.000 to 70.999.
 3. Category C: 59.000 to 63.999.
 4. Category D: 58.999 or lower.

CO 2.1.2 Movement Between Technical Categories:

1. The student-athlete's average Technical score from the previous season shall be used to determine the Technical Category (Figure or Technical Element routine) for the student-athlete's first season of Collegiate competition.
2. The student-athlete's average Technical score from the first season of Collegiate competition will determine the Technical Category for the remaining seasons of Collegiate competition and the remainder of the student-athlete's Collegiate career. After each competitive season, the student-athlete shall be permitted to move up to a higher Technical Category between seasons. Once the student-athlete moves up, they shall remain in the Technical Category (or higher) for the remainder of the student-athlete's Collegiate career.
3. The student-athlete shall compete in the Technical Category designated by the average Technical score of the Technical Affidavit for every Collegiate competition within the season.

CO 2.2 Technical Competition:

CO 2.2.1 Category A shall be a compulsory routine with 4 of the Senior Team Technical Elements. This routine shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year. See Appendix L.

CO 2.2.2 Category B shall be the Junior Figures as listed in Figure Rule II.A and shall rotate through the figure selection groups per the Collegiate chart in Figure Rule II.E. This group shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year.

CO 2.2.3 Category C shall be the 13-15 Age Division Figures as listed in Figure Rule II.B and shall rotate through the figure selection groups per the Collegiate chart in Figure Rule II.E. This group shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year.

CO 2.2.4 Category D shall be the 12 & under Age Division Figures as listed in Figure Rule II.C and shall rotate through the figure selection groups per the Collegiate chart in Figure Rule II.E. This group shall be used for all Collegiate competitions that year.

CO 2.2.5 For each Dual, Invitational and Regional competition, each institution may count a maximum of 4 Technical Categories but must count a minimum of 1 category.

CO 2.2.6 All student-athletes must enter 1 of the Technical Categories in each competition. Institutions who provide false or misleading information are subject to having all entries in the Technical Category in question disqualified or allowed only as Exhibition. For Resolution of Protests, see Rule TR 3.

CO 2.2.7 Application of Penalties: Refer to Appendix L, Sections 1.03 and 1.04 for application of penalties and procedures for Technical Category A and Rule OD 3.6.1 for application of penalties for Technical Categories B, C and D.

CO 2.3 Routine Competition:

CO 2.3.1 The competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio and Team events.

CO 2.3.2 For each Dual, Invitational and Regional competition, an institution may select a maximum of 7 events to receive placement points. Those 7 events must include at least 1 of the Technical Categories A, B, C or D.

1. No more than 2 routines in each event.
2. Additional routines as Exhibition.

CO 2.3.3 Number of Events: Each student-athlete may compete in no more than 3 different routine events, including Exhibition routines, in each competition. (Exception: In the Region/Regional Championships, a student-athlete may enter a maximum of 4 events, one of which shall be an Exhibition routine.)

CO 2.3.4 Reserves: One reserve may be listed for a Duet and Trio and 2 reserves for a Team. If the reserve swims, the event shall be counted as 1 of the 3 permitted for that student-athlete.

CO 2.3.5 Time requirements for routines shall comply with USSS Rules:

1. For Dual, Invitational, Regional and other routine competitions, there shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus the allotted time limit. There shall be no minimum time limit.
2. For the U.S. Collegiate Championship, time limits shall comply with those used at the U.S. National Championship:

Events	Minutes
Solo	2:30
Duet/Trio	3:00
Team	4:00

3. For the U.S. Collegiate Championship, there shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus or minus the allotted time limit.

CO 2.3.6 Timing procedures shall comply with USSS Rules.

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 student-athlete shall swim the Technical competition.
 - Each Technical student-athlete shall be eligible for awards (See Rule CO 5.1.1) regardless if the institution has declared the Technical competition for Overall Institution Awards.
2. Institution Averaging:
 - The average of the student-athlete's Technical scores from each institution shall determine which place the institution receives in each declared Technical Category for Overall institution Awards.

CO 3.1.2 Routine Competition:

CO 3.1.2.1 Routines shall be computed according to USSS Rules.

CO 3.1.2.2 Technical scores shall not be added to routine scores.

CO 3.2 Scoring Systems:

CO 3.2.1 Collegiate Competition and Overall Institution Awards: The following scoring system is used for any Collegiate competition as well as determining the Overall Institution Awards at the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Event												
Cat. A	12	11	10	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	5.5	5
Cat. B	10	9	8	7	6.5	6	5.5	5	4.5	4	3.5	3
Cat. C	8	7	6	5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1
Cat. D	6.5	6	5.5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
Trio	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Duet	15	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Solo	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Team	18	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

CO 3.2.2 Collegiate All-American Awards and Individual High Point Trophy: The following scoring system is used for the Technical Category A competition for the Collegiate All-American Awards and the Individual High Point Trophy at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Routine scoring will follow CO 3.2.1.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points	25	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12	11
Place	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

CO 3.2.3 All-Collegiate Awards: The following scoring system is used for the Technical Category B competition for the All-Collegiate Awards at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Routine scoring will follow CO 3.2.1.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points	15	12	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1

CO 4 THE U.S. COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

CO 4.1 Institution Qualification:

CO 4.1.1 To attend the U.S. Collegiate Championship, a Collegiate club shall have attended a minimum of 3 competitions, 2 of which shall be Collegiate competitions. One must be the Regional Championship.

CO 4.1.2 To attend the U.S. Collegiate Championship, a Varsity program shall have attended a minimum of 6 competitions, 2 of which shall be Collegiate competitions. One must be the Regional Championship.

CO 4.1.3 Placement attained in the Collegiate Regional Championships:

1. Student-Athletes placing in the top 12 in each routine event shall qualify.
2. Exhibition routines shall qualify by earning a routine score equal to or higher than the 12th place official routine score in that event.

CO 4.1.4 Placement in the prior year's U.S. Collegiate Championship:

1. Student-Athletes placing in Finals (places 1-12) shall qualify for the next U.S. Collegiate Championship. A routine already qualified through this method shall be excluded from the Region's top 12 qualifiers.
2. The USSS 50% rule shall apply.

CO 4.2 Squad Size: An institution may bring no more than 20 student-athletes to the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 4.3 Event Declaration for the U.S. Collegiate Championship:

CO 4.3.1 A coach may enter student-athletes into any number of events by submitting the required entry forms.

CO 4.3.2 No less than 2 hours prior to the first coaches meeting (the day before the first event), the coach must scratch the student-athlete from events which are beyond the maximum number of events for that student-athlete.

CO 4.3.3 These changes must be presented in writing to the designated Scoring Chair.

CO 4.3.4 See USSS Rules for substitutions and reserves.

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

CO 4.5 Eligibility: Student-Athletes must have participated in a majority of their institution's Collegiate season and have their eligibility certified by an affidavit signed by their institution and athletic department.

CO 4.5.1 Definition of participation in majority of the season: Student-Athletes actively taking part in the majority of the squad practices and competing in the majority of competitions.

CO 4.6 Order of Draw: All events shall be decided by a double blind lot public draw. In competitions where a computer will be used, the order of appearance may be computer generated.

CO 4.7 Finals: The top 12 routine scores shall qualify for Final routine competition. Number 13 shall be the pre-swimmer. The draw shall be held as FINA, with the top six (1-6) finishing places drawing for places 7-12 in the order of draw and the second six (7-12) finishing places drawing for places 1-6 in the order of draw.

CO 4.8 Fees: Same as USSS.

CO 4.9 Selection of Judges and Event Referees: The order of preference and priority for judges and officials selection shall be: (1) USSS National rating, (2) U.S. Junior Olympic/Masters rating and (3) Zone/Collegiate Regional rating.

CO 4.10 Rule Changes:

CO 4.10.1 All proposed amendments to these rules shall be discussed at the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 4.10.2 Any rule changes approved by the Collegiate coaches present shall be submitted to the USSS Collegiate Committee for adoption in the subsequent year.

CO 4.10.3 No rules voted upon for change at the U.S. Collegiate Championship shall be in effect for that competition. Rules will be added and finalized at the USAS Convention in that same year.

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 4-12 in Technical Categories A, B, C and D, regardless of the Overall Institution Awards Technical Competition declaration made by any institution. See Rule CO 4.4.

CO 5.1.2 Routine Awards:

1. Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 for each event.
2. Ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-12 for each event.

CO 5.1.3 Overall Institution Awards: Places shall be awarded by total points accumulated using the Overall Institution Awards Scoring System. See Rule CO 3.2.1. It is suggested that trophies be awarded to places 1 to 3 and plaques be awarded to places 4 through 6.

CO 5.1.4 In the U.S. Collegiate Championship, placement points for places 1-12 shall be determined by places from Finals.

CO 5.2 Other:

CO 5.2.1 Individual High Point Trophy: The award will be presented to the student-athlete who accumulates the highest point total, regardless of U.S. 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.

CO 5.2.2 Collegiate All-American Awards: Using the Collegiate All-American Scoring System, student-athletes shall receive points based upon the rank order of finish in all routine entries counting toward the Overall Institution Award at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Exhibition routine entries are excluded. For the Collegiate All-American Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.2. Only those student-athletes entered in the Technical Category A competition are eligible to be considered for the Collegiate All-American Awards.

1. Only Technical Category A shall count for placement points. Exhibition Technical entries will be eligible but are excluded from points in that category.
2. The top 14 student-athletes (excluding non-U.S. Citizens) shall receive Collegiate All-American Awards. Non-U.S. Citizens shall be listed as honorary and given honorary Collegiate All-American Awards for their placement in the top 14.
3. The Collegiate All-American Awards shall be announced on the USSS website within a week of completion of the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 5.2.3 All-Collegiate Awards: Using the All-Collegiate Scoring System, student-athletes shall receive points based upon rank order of finish in all routine entries counting toward the Overall Institution Award at the U.S. Collegiate Championship. Exhibition routine entries are excluded. For the All-Collegiate Scoring System, see Rule CO 3.2.3.

1. Only Technical Categories A and B shall count for placement points. Exhibition Technical entries are excluded.

2. The top 3 student-athletes, regardless of U.S. Citizenship, will be named in each of the following categories:
 - Varsity Division I
 - Varsity Division II and NAIA
 - Varsity Division III
 - Club
3. The All-Collegiate Awards shall be announced on the USSS website within a week of completion of the U.S. Collegiate Championship.

CO 5.2.4 Collegiate Outstanding Synchronized Swimmer of the Year: To be based equally on athletics, academics and community service. Awarded following the U.S. Collegiate Championship by a vote of 1 coach from each institution and 1 Athletes Representative from each Region/Regional. This award shall be administered by the U.S. Collegiate Championship Meet Manager.

CO 5.2.5 Academic Award: A certificate of recognition shall be awarded to all student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher (on a 4-point scale) and who participate in the U.S. Collegiate Championship. A certificate will be given to each student-athlete earning an award but only the name of the student-athlete who achieves a 4.0 GPA will be announced.

CO 6 SANCTIONS:

CO 6.1 All Collegiate competitions, including developmental competitions, shall be sanctioned by USSS.

RULE VIII

MASTERS PROGRAM (MS)

The Technical Rules shall apply to all Masters/Grand Masters competitions except as noted in this section.

MS 1 MASTERS/GRAND MASTERS:

MS 1.1 Masters Synchronized Swimming is open to all competitors 20 years of age or older who are no longer engaged in USSS competition. For Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination average age exception, see Rule MS 2.10.3.2. Those competitors registered for Masters Synchronized Swimming competitions may participate in non-USSS aquatic activities, competitions, exhibitions, demonstrations, etc. without jeopardy to their eligibility to participate in Masters Synchronized Swimming competitions.

MS 1.2 Grand Master: A Grand Master is defined as any Masters Synchronized Swimming competitor who has previously achieved any 1 of the following:

MS 1.2.1 Solo, Duet or Trio:

1. Semifinalist in a Senior/U.S. National Championship.
2. Finalist in a Junior National/U.S. Junior Championship.
3. First in a National/U.S. Junior Olympic, International Age Group Trial or National/U.S. Age Group Championship.
4. Finalist in a U.S. Collegiate Championship.
5. Participant in an Olympic Games, a World Championship, a Junior World Championship or a Continental Championship.

MS 1.2.2 Team:

1. Member of a U.S. National or Olympic Team.
2. Finalist and/or Semifinalist in a Senior/U.S. National Championship.
3. Finalist in a Junior National/U.S. Junior Championship.
4. Finalist in a U.S. Collegiate Championship.
5. Participant in an Olympic Games, a World Championship or a Continental Championship.
6. Finalist in a Junior World Championship.

MS 1.3 Routines are assigned to the Grand Masters category according to the following criteria:

MS 1.3.1 Solo: If the competitor is a Grand Master.

MS 1.3.2 Duet: If one or both competitors are Grand Masters.

MS 1.3.3 Trio: If two or more competitors are Grand Masters.

MS 1.3.4 Team: If 50% or more of the competitors are Grand Masters.

MS 1.3.5 Free Combination: If 50% or more of the competitors are Grand Masters.

MS 1.4 A competitor who qualifies as a Grand Master in 1 event shall be considered a Grand Master in all events.

MS 2 EVENTS:

MS 2.1 Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Free routines.

MS 2.2 Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Technical routines.

MS 2.3 Figure competition.

MS 2.4 Free Combination. For Free Combination Event Definition, see Rule CP 4.2.2.

MS 2.4.1 Free Combination shall consist of a minimum of 4 competitors and a maximum of 10 competitors.

MS 2.5 **Number of Events:** Each competitor may compete in no more than 3 different Free routine events (Solo, Duet, Trio or Team) in each U.S. Masters Championship. The Free Combination event does not count as one of the 3 events.

MS 2.6 Competitors must compete in a Technical routine for each Free routine event entered (Solo, Duet, Trio or Team).

MS 2.6.1 **Technical Routine Time Limits:**

Events	Minutes
Solo	1:30
Duet/Trio	1:40
Team	1:50

MS 2.6.2 There shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit. For Time Allowances for Walk-On and Deck Movements, see Rules CP 4.2.4.5.1 and 4.2.4.5.2.

MS 2.7 Free routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio, Team and Free Combination routines consisting of any figures, swimming strokes or parts thereof.

MS 2.7.1 **Free Routine Time Limits:**

Events	Minutes
Solo	2:30
Duet/Trio	3:00
Team	4:00
Free Combination	4:30

MS 2.7.2 There shall be an allowance of 15 seconds plus the allotted time limit, but there shall be no minimum time limit. For Time Allowances for Walk-On and Deck Movements, see Rules CP 4.2.4.5.1 and 4.2.4.5.2.

MS 2.8 **General Requirements for Technical Routines:**

MS 2.8.1 Supplementary elements may be added.

MS 2.8.2 Unless otherwise specified in the description of an element:

1. All figures or components thereof shall be executed according to the requirements described in Appendix L, Section 1.02.
2. All elements shall be executed high and controlled, in uniform motion with each section clearly defined.
3. Time limits as specified in MS 2.6.1.
4. Swimwear shall be black and the competitor shall wear a white cap. Goggles may be worn.

MS 2.9 **The Technical Routine Requirements** for Solo, Duet/Trio and Team shall be found in Appendix L.

MS 2.10 **Routine Age Divisions:**

MS 2.10.1 Solo, Duet, Trio, Team:

1. Master or Grand Master: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, etc. (as high as necessary to accommodate all age entries).

MS 2.10.2 Free Combination:

1. Master or Grand Master: 20-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65 & older.

MS 2.10.3 Age for each routine entry is determined by averaging the ages of the competitors.

MS 2.10.3.1 If a reserve is used in a routine, the average age of the competitors actually swimming must remain in the same age division, as originally entered.

MS 2.10.3.2 Competitors who are 18 or 19 years of age may compete in a Duet, Trio, Team or Free Combination routine event as long as the average age of the routine is not less than 20.

MS 3 FIGURE COMPETITION:

MS 3.1 Age Divisions: Masters and Grand Masters shall participate together in the following age divisions: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, etc. (as high as necessary to accommodate all entries).

MS 3.2 The Figure Groups shall be found in Figure Rule II.E.

MS 3.3 Figure Competition Draw:

MS 3.3.1 In Division A, all competitors (Masters and Grand Masters) shall be divided into groups of not more than 32 competitors, each group comprised of 1 or more age divisions. These groups comprised of 1 or more age divisions shall be mixed chronologically. Awards shall be given by classifications and age divisions.

MS 3.3.2 Divisions B and C may be combined in 1 draw or drawn as 2 separate groups.

MS 3.3.3 The starting age division for each event shall be the age division which participated last in each event from the preceding U.S. Masters Championship.

MS 4 JUDGING AND SCORING:

MS 4.1 Routine events shall be judged and scored as follows:

MS 4.1.1 Judging Free Routines: Each judge shall award 3 scores, 0-10 points each.

1. The Technical Merit judges shall award scores for Execution, Synchronization and Difficulty.
2. The Artistic Impression judges shall award scores for Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation.

MS 4.1.2 Scoring Free Routines, where judges are giving 3 scores each:

1. For each of the 6 components of the Free routine, the scorer shall cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each) for each set of awards.
2. The remaining scores are added, and the sum is divided by the number of judges less 2.
3. For the Technical Merit score, the Execution score is multiplied by 40%, the Synchronization score by 30% and the Difficulty score by 30%. The Technical Merit score shall be the sum of these 3 results.
4. For the Artistic Impression score, the Choreography score is multiplied by 50%, the Music Interpretation score by 30% and the Manner of Presentation score by 20%. The Artistic Impression score shall be the sum of these 3 results.
5. The Technical Merit score shall be the sum of the Execution, Synchronization and Difficulty scores. The Artistic Impression score shall be the sum of the Choreography, Music Interpretation and Manner of Presentation scores.
6. The Free routine score shall be the sum of 50% of the Technical Merit score and 50% of the Artistic Impression score, less any penalty deductions.

MS 4.1.3 Judging Technical Routines: Each judge shall award a single score for Execution or Overall Impression, from 0 to 10 points each. The panels will each be 50% of the routine score.

1. The Execution judges shall award a score for Execution of the required elements and Execution of the rest of the routine.
2. The Overall Impression judges shall award a score for Choreography and Use of Music, Synchronization, Difficulty and Manner of Presentation.

MS 4.1.4 Scoring Technical Routines:

1. The scorer shall cancel the highest and lowest scores (one each) for each set of awards, Execution and Overall Impression.
2. The remaining scores are added, the sum is divided by the number of judges less 2 and the result is multiplied by 5 for a maximum of 50 points.
3. The Technical routine score shall be the sum of the Execution score and the Overall Impression score, less any penalty deductions.

MS 4.1.5 The Final result is determined by adding the results of the Free routine and Technical routine scores for a maximum of 200 points. For Final Results Calculation, see Rule OD 4.1.2.5.3.

MS 4.2 Figures and Free Combination shall be scored as separate events.

MS 4.3 Deduction points shall be calculated according to Rule OD 3.6.2.1.

MS 5 RESULTS: In routine and Figure competition, the results shall be determined by separating the competitors by age division.

MS 6 AWARDS:

MS 6.1 Figure Awards: Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8 in the following:

MS 6.1.1 Divisions: Masters and Grand Masters

MS 6.1.2 Categories:

Division A

Division B

Division C

MS 6.1.3 Ages: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, etc. (as high as necessary to accommodate all age entries).

MS 6.2 Routine Awards:

MS 6.2.1 Medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 and ribbons shall be awarded to places 4-8 in all events.

MS 6.3 High Point Team Awards for the U.S. Masters Championship shall be awarded by total points accumulated as per scoring system for Team trophies. See Rule CP 7.4 only for Solo, Duet/Trio, Team and U.S. Free Combination. A trophy shall be awarded to first place and plaques to second and third place.

MS 7 ENTRY FEES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS:

MS 7.1 Entry fees as established by USSS.

MS 7.2 An additional surcharge may be levied by the host organization.

MS 7.3 There shall be a meet entry surcharge of \$2.00 per competitor. These funds will be credited to the Masters Athlete Representative Travel Fund. This fund shall be administered by the Masters Chair and will be evenly divided among Masters Athlete Representatives to help defray expenses related to their attendance at the annual USAS Convention.

MS 7.4 There shall be a meet entry surcharge of \$2.00 per competitor to cover USSS FINA Judges' travel expenses for Club Options.

MS 8 U.S. MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP:

MS 8.1 **Selection of Judges and Event Referees:** The order of preference and priority for judges and officials selection shall be: (1) USSS National rating (2) U.S. Junior Olympic/Masters rating, (3) Zone/Collegiate Regional rating, and (4) Association/Junior Olympic Regional rating.

MS 8.2 The figure draw for Division A shall be 2 separate draws. One draw includes competitors in the 20-40-60-80 age divisions and the other draw includes competitors in the 30-50-70 age divisions.

MS 8.3 The draw for Individual Technical routines shall be in 10-year age divisions. The starting age division for this event shall be the age division that participated last in Free routines in the preceding U.S. Masters Championship.

MS 9 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS:

MS 9.1 Participation in international Masters competitions is provided through the Club Option Program. Refer to the following policies for further information:

MS 9.1.1 Administrative Rules, Article 25, Section 25.05 for Travel Permits.

MS 9.1.2 Appendix F, Club Option and International Club Exchange Policies.

RULE IX

STATE GAMES (SG)

Each state may set its own rules for State Games.