



The following information summarizes rule changes made during the 2022 USAAS Convention. This summary is not complete and does not replace the rules that will be updated in the 2023 rulebook and posted on USA Artistic Swimming's website in the coming weeks.

1 Major Rule Changes

For details on the exact proposal approved by the USAAS Board of Directors, please see the "Post-Convention FINAL Rules Packet" document on the [2022 USAAS Convention Webpage](#).

1.1 FINA Rule Changes

This document does not contain any rule changes based on the proposals to the FINA Technical Congress that will be held on October 3rd. Once those changes have been approved by the USAAS Board of Directors, a 2nd tech talk document will be published with an overview of those changes.

The proposed FINA legislation can be found at <https://www.fina.org/corporate-events/fina-technical-congress>.

Links to the information about the USAAS meetings and proposals related to the new FINA rules will be found on the [USAAS rulebook page](#).

1.2 Qualification procedures for 13-15/JR/SR Championships

Qualification for the U.S. National Championship, U.S. Junior Championship, and U.S. 13-15 Championship is now the top 6 routines for all three championships rather than a mix of top 4 & top 6 depending on the championship.

In addition, CP 3.2.2.1/3.3.2.1/3.4.2.1 has been tweaked to allow representation for the association in which these championships are held rather than having a requirement that the association host the championship.

1.3 Grade Level Requirements

Grade Level 6 is now required for entry into the U.S. National Championship ("Seniors"). Requirements for all other championships remain the same.



1.4 Overqualification changes

Placement at the U.S. Junior/Senior Open Championships can no longer make athletes ineligible for the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship.

Placement at the U.S. National and Junior National Championships making athletes ineligible for the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship is limited to the following.

- Top 6 Solos
- Top 6 Duets
- Top 6 Mixed Duets

For this ineligibility to apply, a minimum number of entries are required in the events (see CP 3.5.3).

1.5 Free & Technical routines as separate events

Athletes at the U.S. Junior Championship and U.S. Junior Olympic Championship are no longer required to compete in both a free routine and technical routine. Competitors may enter a free routine, a technical routine, or both. There will be separate awards for the free and technical programs.

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

1.6 0s in Novice, Intermediate & Masters routines

For Novice, Intermediate, and Masters routines, an incorrect element will result in a 2-point deduction rather than a score of zero for that element.

1.7 0s in Novice, Intermediate & 12 & Under figures

For Novice, Intermediate, and 12 & Under figures, an athlete who performs an incorrect figure, will be allowed to perform again, but with a 1-point penalty. If the athlete does an incorrect figure on their second attempt, the athlete shall receive a score of zero for that figure.



1.8 AWD Tiers

The Athletes with Disabilities (AWD) category now has 6 tiers instead of 4. The additional tiers should provide more opportunities for developing athletes who have difficulty with the current Tier 1.

1.9 New figures and elements

There are new elements and figures for all categories of competition. Novice, Intermediate, AWD, Collegiate, and Masters figures can be found in the convention report, and in the 2023 USAAS rulebook (when it is published).

See item #28, item #29, figure item #1, and figure item #2 in the final rules report for details on the new elements and figures.

In particular, please note that while the Water Drop remains one of the 12 & Under figures, the description of the figure has changed! The figure now includes a half twist:

"From a **Front Layout Position**, as the trunk moves downward to assume a **Surface Front Pike Position**, the buttocks, legs, and feet travel along the surface until the hips occupy the position of the head at the beginning of this action. Without movement of the trunk, the legs are lifted simultaneously to a **Bent Knee Vertical Position**. *A Half Twist is executed*. A descending spinning 180° is executed in the same direction as the bent knee is extended to assume a **Vertical Position** and completed as the ankles reach the surface of the water. Maintaining the **Vertical Position**, the body descends along its longitudinal axis until the toes are submerged."

1.10 New events and routine times

Intermediate routine times have changed, see the rules report, item #28 for details. Other programs (Age Group, Junior, etc) are likely to change to align with the new proposed FINA times. Full details about new events and routine times for all events will be published in the second "Tech Talk" document.



2 Blanket Rule Waivers for 2022

None at this time

3 National Championships and Invitationals

Check the [USA Artistic Swimming website](#) for details on the dates and locations of the 2023 Championships.

3.1 12 & Under Invitational

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

3.2 AWD Invitationals

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

3.3 Bonus Entries

Each zone receives one additional entry for each solo, duet, or team routine it places in finals at the previous U.S. National, Junior, or 13-15 Championships. If an eligible entry from the zone is unable to attend, the next highest-ranked entry from the most recent zone championship (Senior, Junior, 13-15) will become eligible to enter the respective championship. For the 2023 U.S. National, Junior, and 13-15 Championships, the bonus entries awarded are as follows:



2023 Tech Talk Part 1

Updates & information from the 2022 Convention

September 28, 2022

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

U.S. National Free			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	2	0	0
West	6	4	2
North	2	2	1
South	2	3	2

U.S. Junior Tech			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	0	3	2
West	11	8	5
North	1	0	3
South	0	1	2

U.S. Junior Free			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	1	2	2
West	10	7	6
North	0	1	1
South	1	2	3

U.S. 13-15			
Zone	Solo	Duet	Team
East	4	5	3
West	8	7	7
North	0	0	0
South	0	0	2

Have a question? Send an email to the Vice-President of Competitive Operations, [Chris Leahy](#)



4 Tools for Competitions

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

4.1 Measure Routine Lengths

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

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

Warning: this tool has not been updated for new routine lengths or events. The way routines are measured may also undergo a slight change. An update will be posted on the website when these changes are complete.

4.2 Drawing figures

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

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

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

Warning: this tool has not been updated with any new figures, or FINA's proposed method of drawing Youth/13-15 figure groups. An update will be posted on the website when these changes are complete.