



TECHNICAL MEMO

2024-2025 Competitive Season Technical Memo #1

Rule Changes & Competitive Season Updates

Adoption of World Aquatics Updated Rules

All Competitive OAS Events will be scored according to the updated Hybrid Difficulty Catalog and Acrobatic Difficulty Catalog, and using the most recent updated version of the ISS scoring software.

National Stream events at OAS competitions will be held in alignment with CAS rules. Routines will receive full basemark for hybrids which are not successfully completed. In addition, full restrictions on repeated acrobatics will be enforced.

Provincial Stream events at OAS competitions will be held under the same rules, with the following modifications:

- Hybrids which are not successfully completed will receive partial basemarks (meaning that the DTC will remove only the DD of components which are not successfully completed, as was done in late 2023-2024) **up to a maximum of 3 deductions**. Should 4 or more components of a hybrid not be successfully completed, the hybrid will receive a full basemark of 0.5 DD.
- Acrobatic constructions, connections, and positions may be repeated in a routine, however repetition of the exact same acrobatic code will be prohibited. Identical acrobatics will be penalized.

Provincial Stream Acrobatic Team events will be held in alignment with CAS (AQUA) rules.

At competitions with both Provincial and National Stream athletes, separate draws will be provided for National and Provincial streams. Warm up and event scheduling time will continue to be shared, but the events will be considered entirely separate from a scoring perspective.

The Jolyn Invitational (formerly Hilton) will be held entirely under Provincial Stream rules. National Stream entries will continue to be entered and awarded as exhibition.



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Modifications to 10U Routine Requirements

10U routines will now have the following required elements:

- **10U Duet:** maximum 1 pair acro, 4 hybrids (less is permitted)
- **10U Team:** maximum 2 team acros (less is permitted), **3 mandatory TREs** (can be performed in any order), 1 free hybrid (optional)

10U Team TREs are as follows:

Barracuda

From a submerged Back Pike Position, a thrust is executed to Vertical Position. A Vertical Descent is executed at the same tempo as the Thrust.

Neptunus

From a Front Pike Position, one leg is lifted to a Fishtail Position. The horizontal leg is bent to assume a Bent Knee Vertical Position. A Vertical Descent is executed as the bent knee is extended to meet the vertical leg as the ankles submerge.

Front Walkover

From a Front Pike Position, one leg is lifted in a 180° arc over the surface of the water to a Split Position. A Walkout Front is executed, finishing when the face emerged in extended Back Layout.

Free hybrid components may not exceed the following difficulty limits:

- Level 3 of Thrusts (T), Airborne Weight (A), Flexibility (F), and Connections (C)
- Level 2 of Spins (S) and Twists (R)

Acrobatic movements will continue to be limited to groups A, B or P, and will now have a safety limit of 2.5.

10U Routines will continue to define a hybrid as **3 or more movements**, as opposed to the new AQUA definition (5 or more movements).

There will be **no minimum height or execution levels** required to claim a component (for example, a thrust may count as complete even if height attained is not at a 3.5). However, height will be taken into account by Elements Judges in accordance with scoring guidelines.

DD of 10U Team TREs will be set and available for choosing in an upcoming update of Coach Card Software. DD of free hybrids will be in accordance with its components. DD of team and pair acros will be as per the updated World Aquatics Acrobatics Guide.

Synchronization in 11-12 Duet & Team Events

Synchronization Technical Controllers will now deduct for all small, obvious and major synchronization errors in 11-12 Duet and Team events with the following modifications:

- Small and Obvious synchronization errors will be worth a deduction of 0.1
- Major synchronization errors will be worth a deduction of 0.5
- Total synchronization error deductions will be capped at a maximum of 10.00

Penalties in Provincial Stream Youth Figures

Provincial Stream Youth Figure events will adopt the same penalty rules as the 11-12 and 10U figures:

7.4.2: The athlete will be allowed to perform this figure again and a 1 point penalty should be applied. If the athlete fails again, then a zero shall be awarded.

National Stream Youth Figure events will continue to follow rule 7.4.1.

Youth Figure Event Structure at Provincial Competitions

To accommodate the above, National Stream and Provincial Stream Youth Figures will be separated, with National Stream athletes competing first, followed by Provincial Stream athletes.

Order of Swim for Masters Events

Following the shared warm-up period for Masters events, the order of competition of the age groups will be oldest age group to youngest age group.

Limits to Out of Province Entries at OAS Events

Out of province (OOP) entries are permitted to attend OAS events as exhibition entries and will be awarded as such, subject to OOP athlete fees and permission from their governing body to attend.

OOP clubs are permitted to enter 2 solos per each team entered into the event, in an effort to stay in line with the Competitive Stream Solo cap.

Competitive Stream Solo Cap

Following data analysis of last season's solo routines and competitive athlete registration numbers to date for this season, OAS will be applying a cap to the number of solo routine entries for each club. This cap will correspond to the number of mainstream age group competitive athletes that are registered with your club.

Solo routines may be distributed amongst the age groups however you decide, as long as the total number of solo routines does not exceed the cap. A Tech Solo and a Free Solo count as 2 separate routines, regardless of whether they are the same swimmer. Clubs that do not have a team routine in a Competitive age group (excluding Senior) may be eligible for additional allotment of solo routines.

Adapted and Masters are excluded from this cap and solos in those categories do not count towards your club's numbers.

The Solo cap per number of athletes is as follows:

- 10 athletes or less: 2 solo routines
- 11-20 athletes: 4 solo routines
- 21-30 athletes: 6 solo routines
- 31-40 athletes: 8 solo routines
- 41-50 athletes: 10 solo routines
- 51-60 athletes: 12 solo routines
- 61+ athletes: please contact OAS if you plan on assigning more than 12 solo routines

Competition Scheduling & Structure

The Virtual Skills Assessment has been removed from the OAS Competition Schedule.

The Lisa Alexander Figure & Skills Meet will be held regionally in December. This event is mandatory (unless a bye is requested) for all Competitive Stream age groups, and will consist of Figures (10U, 11-12, Youth & Adapted) and Skills Testing (all age groups).

The January Routine Meet will be held in January. This event is optional and open to all athletes 11-12 and up. Events will be held under full OAS rules and results will be published, however awards will not be given for this event.

To accommodate growing event sizes, extra routine warm up times will be shortened at Competitive events. Further details will be released in competition information packages.



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Old System Scoring in Masters & Regional League Streams

The 2024-25 competitive season will be the final season of the old rules and scoring system being used for Masters & Regional League streams in Ontario.

OAS will release the rules for the 2025-26 Regional League season by June of 2025.

OAS will attempt to remain in alignment with AQUA and CAS for Masters. However, if there are no updates from those governing bodies by September 2025, OAS will announce a Masters rules strategy that can be accommodated using the new scoring system.