



# 2025-2026 PRE-SEASON UPDATES

In advance of the 2025-2026 Competitive season, the Ontario Rules and Competitions Committee have convened to discuss potential changes to existing OAS competitions, including age-group specific rules, scoring adjustments, and competition format.

These changes and further processes will be developed over Summer 2025 and provided to clubs ahead of the start of the training season via technical memos and an updated OAS Rulebook Addendum.

## Updates to 11-12 Team Event

Improving execution and performance in the 11-12 Age Category has been identified as a key focus area for the 2025-2026 season.

To support this, OAS is considering implementing a number of routine-related rules in the 11-12 Team event, including:

- Limiting the number of movements per hybrid
- Limiting declarations based on difficulty
- Introducing required actions
- Adjustments to STC protocol and limits

Further information will be provided to clubs no later than August 1, 2025.

## Removal of 11-12 Solo at OAS Events

In response to feedback from surveys and an assessment of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 11-12 Solo event, OAS will be removing 11-12 Solo from the competitive event lineup for 2025-2026.

This shift will provide a more streamlined 11-12 program, and aims to focus athlete development in Figures, Team and Duet events before entering the Solo event in the Youth Category. The rationale for this focus, combined with the modifications to the 11-12 team rules, is to improve the basic technical skill level in our younger athletes and better prepare them for the Youth category.

In exceptional cases, an 11-12 athlete may be permitted to swim up in the Youth solo category. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will involve an application to the Technical Director, who will review the request along with the Provincial Jury of Appeal.

A full description of the application process will be released no later than August 1, 2025.



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## Update on Solo Event Quotas

Based on the above changes to Solo events, no further limits will be imposed on Solo entries per club. The limits outlined in 2024-2025 Technical Memo #1 will remain in place for the 2025-2026 season.

## Shifting of Adapted Level 1 to Regional League

Beginning in 2025-2026, all Adapted Level 1 (Cognitive and Physical) athletes will be shifted from the Competitive Stream to Regional League. This shift is to support a growing Adapted community within OAS events, as we continue to work to provide meaningful competition opportunities at all levels and better align the Adapted and mainstream athlete pathways.

Adapted athletes in Levels 2-5 who choose to compete at the Regional League level instead of the Competitive level due to travel or other constraints will still be permitted to do so.

## New Scoring System Adaptation: Regional League

Regional League events will move to using the new scoring system starting in 2025-2026.

OAS is currently working to develop the framework for this level, pulling from existing supports already in place in the Competitive 10U, 11-12 and Adapted levels, including:

- Use of Team TRE's (similar to existing team requirements at 13-15 and 16-20 levels)
- Limiting or excluding the use of synchronization technical controllers
- Limiting DTC criteria for pass/fail on elements, keeping the DTC role similar to current Tech Monitors

Full details on this framework will be made available to clubs by Friday, August 1, 2025.

## New Scoring System Adaptation: Masters

The AQUA Masters Committee has been tasked with creating a framework for using the new scoring system within the Masters category. Should this framework not be developed ahead of the 2025-2026 season, Canada Artistic Swimming has committed to work with OAS and other provinces to provide a working framework for 2025-2026.



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## **New Clarification on Provincial-National Entries**

Beginning in 2025-2026, the following clarification will be enforced on athletes swimming both Provincial and National stream routines:

Athletes swimming on Provincial Stream Teams will continue to be permitted to compete in the Solo and Duet category as a National Stream athlete. Athletes in this situation will compete in National level Figures at streamed OAS events.

Athletes swimming on National Stream Teams will no longer be eligible to compete in Provincial Solo and Duet categories, and must instead swim in the National Stream event.

This shift will align with the “swimming up” versus “swimming down” protocol followed in cases of age group categories.