



2017-2018 RULE CHANGES FAQ

As of September 29, 2017

TEAM/ROSTER QUESTIONS

1. With the tech and free does the rule that an athlete can only swim 4 routines no longer apply?

This rule has been amended to allow athletes to swim 1 solo event, 1 duet event, 1 team event, 1 combo event, 1 highlight routine event. In Junior and Senior FINA 1 solo is considered 1 tech solo and/or 1 free solo, 1 duet is considered 1 tech duet and/or 1 free duet, 1 team is considered 1 tech team and/or 1 free team. In all other age groups 1 solo is considered 1 solo plus figures, 1 duet plus figures, 1 team plus figures. The exception to the rule that a Junior athlete may compete in both Junior and Senior team events remains.

2. A) There was talk about allowing teams to name 12 swimmers and be able to use any of them for any meet, without having to name a certain 8 or 10 prior to the competition. Do you know whether this is going to happen or not?

You still must name 10 per competition on the entries due date. This can change from meet to meet. You can, however, enter 10 of the twelve roster names into tech and a different 10 of the twelve roster names into free (as long as 4 athletes are entered and swim both tech and free) All twelve athletes would then be eligible to receive awards in the combined category plus the event in which they were entered (either tech or free)

B) Does the roster still exist for teams? Can you explain the rule of the 50%?

Yes, the roster rule still exists. From a roster of 11 or 12 at any meet any 10 athletes may be listed on the tech team (8 plus 2 alternates) and as long as 50% of the athletes (not listed alternates) who swam tech swim free (4 athletes on a team of 8) any other 6 athletes from the roster can be listed on the free team (8 plus 2 alternates) At the next meet the list of athletes entered can change as long as they are on the roster.

C) I am unclear about the 12-person roster – can I still list 12 athletes on a Junior Free Team – I understand that I have to list the same 12 on Junior Tech Team – what happens to person 11 and 12 that are not officially listed at the first meet?

Athletes 11 and 12 are fully eligible to be entered in the next and any subsequent meets. Once they are listed on a roster any of those athletes can be entered in a competition.

3. Can you please confirm I can name 12 athletes to a 13-15 team roster even if we have to name 8 or 10 for every meet.

Yes. You can name up to 10 for each event and the names can change from event to event as long as they are on the original roster.

- 4. A) I have a swimmer born in 2003 who is currently straddling two age groups (13-15 and junior), and I am wondering if it is possible for her to swim on our 13-15 FINA team, as well as our junior tech team this season? Given that this is allowed between junior and senior, I am assuming that the same would apply for 13-15 and junior, but I do not want to run into any problems later on so I wanted to check first!**

No, it is not possible. By rule an athlete can swim on only one team (13-15 team and figures OR Junior team tech and free). The rule that allows a Junior age athlete to swim on team in both Junior and Senior does not apply to 13-15 and Junior.

- B) My understanding was that technical routines are meant to replace figures, and given that in the past a 15 year old would be allowed to swim on a 13-15 team, but also compete in junior figures, I don't see why the same rule wouldn't apply for junior tech team. For example, if junior figures had not been eliminated, I would have likely entered this athlete in both 13-15 and junior figures this season. I understand how the rule would apply to 13-15 team and junior free team, but don't see how the same rule should apply for tech as well.**

The athlete in question B would only have been able to attend Open and compete in Junior figures as an age eligible competitor trying out for a National Team. Without a Junior routine event she would not have been eligible to enter Junior figures in any other competition (ie Qualifiers.). In a province, she might have been allowed to enter Junior figures without a Junior routine but not at any National event. So, if she swims a 13-15 team then she becomes ineligible to swim any other team routine event.

- 5. If I swim 2 tech teams so that every swimmer I have will be in a tech team – can I then enter Free Team with a combination of swimmers from both teams?**

Yes - If the coach had 12 athletes and swam 2 tech teams of 6, the free team could only have 6 athletes or if there were 16 athletes, there could be two tech teams of 8 and one free team of 8. The number of athletes on the free team would have to match the number of athletes on one of the tech teams. This team would not be eligible for the combined awards. This club would submit rosters for each of the tech teams and a roster for the free team.

- 6. If I have an athlete swimming on our senior tech team, can she swim on our free junior team?**

Yes - as long as she is listed on the rosters for the Junior team and the Senior team and competes as a member of the senior tech team (not just the alternate).

- 7. If a 13-15 athlete participates in a Combo, does her participation in the 13-15 figure event qualify her for the combo? Or does she have to participate in a Junior technical event on top of that?**

The 13-15 athlete in question can compete in the combo without swimming a tech routine as long as 50% of the remaining combo members have competed a tech team (so on a combo of 10

- at least 5 of the remaining 9 athletes would have had to swim tech team.) Her figures do not fulfill the requirement of an athlete who must swim the tech routine.

8. Can an athlete listed on the roster of a team event swim a combo or a highlight routine even if she didn't swim the technical or the free team event.

Yes - as long as a minimum of 50% of the athletes on the highlight routine or free combination routine competed in a technical team

9. A) If I have a team with a roster of 8 athletes can they swim the technical event with 6 swimmers only – respecting the rule of max 2 alternates – and then take part to the free routine with 8 swimmers.

B) The new rules state that 50% of a team needs to remain the same for tech and free. Could one do a team free with 8 and a tech with 4 or 5? Or for the tech I guess swim and list alternates.

The number of athletes competing on tech team shall be the same number competing on free Team. Extenuating circumstances (illness, injury) will be allowed by the Chief Referee of the competition.

10. If I have an athlete that turns 15 in 2018, is she able to swim on a senior team?

Yes, a 15 year old (synchro age) can swim on a Senior team.

DUET QUESTIONS

1. Is a 13-15 swimmer who swims duet in her category allowed to swim technical duet in Juniors as well? Is she allowed to swim a Junior Free duet?

No - an athlete can only compete in 1 duet (either 13-15 duet and figures or Junior tech duet and free)

2. We have an alternate for Junior technical duet. Is she allowed to swim free duet without swimming the tech?

Yes - the three names would be considered part of the duet so 2 of the 3 could swim tech and the same or different 2 of the 3 could swim free.

3. With the new rules in place, Is this possible:

- Athlete A and B swim together for a senior tech duet (1 is junior, 1 is senior)
- Athlete C and D swim together for a senior tech duet (1 is junior, 1 is senior)
- Athlete A and C swim together for a junior free duet (both are junior)

Yes, this can be done. The only thing is they (A and C Junior free duet) would not be eligible for combined awards in Junior duet since their tech duet was in the Senior category.

SOLO QUESTIONS

- 1. I have a Junior National athlete that would like to only swim a Technical Junior Solo. Is she still eligible to Qualify for Qualifiers only doing tech and not free?**

Yes, an athlete can do a tech routine only and qualify for Qualifiers from your provincial meet. She would have to qualify as per the normal rules (provincial quota for Junior Solo)

OTHER QUESTIONS

- 1. To enter a free routine competition, athletes/teams must enter the technical routine competition of that same event. What if an athlete/team is duly listed as a competitor in the technical and the free routine of an event but scratches, at the meet, the technical routine? Can they still swim the free routine? Or does it automatically disqualify them?**

If an athlete scratches from the technical event they are considered scratched from the free event. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Chief Referee of the competition.

- 2. Can you please clarify that a swimmer who would normally be in the 10&Under Age Group (aka synchro age = 9 years), is permitted to swim up one age category, to an 11-12 Team. In this case, the athlete would compete the 11-12 figures (age of her team).**

There are two answers to this question – depending on if the athlete in question is only swimming at the provincial level or if the athlete in question wants to compete in 11&12 at Espoir. At the provincial level, Provincial rules are followed, but in the SC rulebook guidelines an athlete may swim up an age category in team and compete figures in her correct age group (10&U). At the National level, Espoir 11&12 teams, may only be comprised of synchro age 11&12 year olds. There is no swimming up an age group allowed at this meet.

- 3. The Plan 42 identifies length of routines for 11-12 years old. But FINA identifies a different length of routines for U12 (15 sec longer). Which length of routines will be used for Espoir? Ours or FINA's?**

The rulebook will have the Plan 42 times for 9&10, and 11&12. It will have the FINA rule of plus/minus 15 seconds for all routines both national and provincial (of course the provinces can amend as they see fit) So for all routines 11-12, provincial and domestic (Espoir) the Plan 42 routine times are the ones to follow. Coaches and clubs who expect they may attend an International Competition i.e.: UANA or such for 12U's, should plan to have their routine finish in the upper 15 sec allotment, to be OK for FINA times when they go International.

- 4. Is the exemption to the penalty for less than eight on a team remaining for events in Canada?**

Yes - The domestic rule regarding no penalty for teams of less than eight is staying. The rationale for differing from FINA was that teams of less than eight were already penalized in terms of patterns, highlights, choreography, pool coverage etc and it was not fair to discourage teams as those routine skills were extremely important in the overall development. It was also believed

that in the younger age groups routine skills were often developed better with smaller teams and this should not be discouraged.

- 5. The rule was just changed at the end of last season to allow the same roster of 12 to be listed in Junior Free Team and Senior Free Team – by saying they MUST swim the corresponding Tech Team we are taking this option away. Why the change from allowing Senior Team Free and Team Tech to be standalone events? I think an option could be that you leave Senior as standalone events tech / free and allow clubs to swim their 12-person Junior Free Team as a Senior Free Team if they are swimming in Junior Tech. The other option is allowing the same rule SSO is using – each swimmer must be entered in ONE tech routine in order to compete in any Free routine.**

The general consensus was that the Senior and Junior rules should be the same, that it was important for skill development that tech routines be swum. So if a club wants to use the rule and compete in both Junior and Senior free team then they need to do techs in both with the way the rules are now written. SC will review the new rules (Junior Tech routines etc.) after this season and any rule change proposals can be submitted at that time (March, 2018)