



SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC RULE CHANGES

Related to Application of FINA Technical Rule Changes

Following is a summary of the rule changes that have been adopted by Synchro Canada in light of recent changes made at the 2017 FINA Congress in Budapest. Unless otherwise indicated, these changes will take effect in the 2017-2018 competitive season. A revised Synchro Canada rulebook is in production and will be issued in English and French on www.synchro.ca as soon as it is available.

A. General Guideline

Synchro Canada should follow FINA as closely as possible and attempt to reduce the amount of variation in rules in our system currently.

B. Removal of figures events for Junior Age Group

1. FINA has decided that World Junior Championships in 2018 will consist of technical routines and free routines (no figures). In Canada, the following related rule changes will take place and apply to both the junior and senior age groups:
 - All Junior competitors will do technical routines and no figures at national competitions (Qualifier, Open)
 - To enter a free routine competition, athletes/teams must enter the technical routine competition of that same event
 - It will be possible to compete in only the technical routine of an event, but not only the free.
 - Technical and free events at national competitions will be treated separately for results and medals. At National Championships, a combined result will be calculated only for those teams who participate in both the technical routine and the free routine. Champions will be declared based on combined results.
 - In order to be eligible for consideration in the combined championship, teams must compete in both technical and free routine events and compete with not more than 50% change in team members
 - Draws for start orders will be done in accordance with FINA draw rules in the following situations based on the results of the previous part:
 - Following the results of a preliminary round of technical routines (if held) for the technical routine final
 - Following the results of a preliminary round of free routines (if held) for the free routine final
 - In the case where there is no free routine preliminary, following the results of a technical routine final for the free routine final
 - At the national Qualifier, the free solo and duet routine draws will be done according to the existing 20%-60%-20% rule using the technical competition results.
 - The top 12 placing entries in a preliminary technical or free routine event (if held) will progress to the final competition. Draws will be done in groups of 6.

- Technical and free routines will qualify for the Qualifier and National Championships separately, using the existing quota rules. If an entry qualifies its free but not its technical routine, it will be allowed to compete at the ensuing event.
- All technical routines will be performed in black suits, white caps and no goggles.
- There will no longer be pre-swimmers in any event at national competitions
- At National championships, medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each technical and free routine final, and for the combined final. Ribbons will not be awarded. For the National Qualifier event, ribbons will be awarded to the top 6 positions in technical and free routine finals.

2. Related Amendments

- CASSA rules need to be updated to outline that females and males are able to compete in any team event, mixed duet and solo competition. In the case of solo events, medals will be awarded to males separate from the female awards even if they compete in the same solo competition.

3. Provincial Stream Programming (note: not finalized at this time)

- There was suggestion that provincial Juniors should also swim tech routines to be consistent with national stream programming and FINA rules. It was suggested that if provinces wanted to run junior “figures” competitions, they replace traditional figures with the new technical routine elements done in isolation so the training was invested and not spent on something with no competitive future.
- There was considerable discussion that the rules between provinces need to be the same because of cross-over competitions. A provincial standard across the country was felt to be a good thing that should be pursued.
- Recommendation should be that provinces adopt the FINA figures for 11-12 and 13-15 and consider having separate figures only for Novice categories – based on the work and recommendations of the Plan 42 Working Group (details to follow).

C. Other adopted domestic rules as passed by FINA

1. Highlight Routines will be added into Synchro Canada rules and National events as an event option (inclusion in National events to be determined by schedule and announced shortly). The age group will be the same as for free combination (junior/senior)
2. Figure deductions for errors – small/medium/large deductions will be taken for specific errors. Synchro Canada will apply these figure deductions on all FINA figures and will work with Plan 42 working group on nature of further application for swimmers at L2T (this information will follow later in the season)
3. Solo and Duet Tech Routines – elements must be performed parallel to side of pool where judges stand is (like for figures) - penalty for not complying -0.5 per element
4. Team Free routines - now have max 6 highlight moves. Penalty for exceeding is -2.0
5. Clarification of what happens when a zero is given for an element or if one or more judges do not award a mark (take the average of the remaining judges and award that)
6. No more re-starts in figures at any level

7. New: -2.0 point penalty specifically for deviations of plus or minus 180° in the number of rotations in a continuous spin
8. Referees and Assistant Referees will monitor the required elements in tech, free, combo and highlight routines and officials appointed by the referee will monitor the use of the bottom of the pool
9. Change to scoring process: Elements panel assesses synchronization of elements in tech routines; Execution panel assesses synchronization of everything else. Execution of elements 90% for solo, 50% for Duet/Team and Synchronization of elements 10% for solo and 50% for Duet/Team (Avoids the possibilities of synchronization being double counted)
10. Deductions for violations of general requirements and required elements in combo routines = 2.0 – Deduction of 2.0 for one, two, three or four acrobatic movements missing in highlight routines
11. Clarification of tie rules (i.e. what mark breaks a tie in each routine) has been done
12. Now two assistant referees for routines and an assistant referee (or someone designated by Head Referee) for each panel of judges in figures (Note: this has a cost implication for our domestic events so we need to assess the need and assign roles accordingly)
13. Some clarifications to wording on body positions (eg spins must be complete when ankles reach the surface, not heels anymore) and re-defined the requirements for the Manta Ray element
14. Technical routines have 2 highlights – 1 with all team members involved and 1 with 2 sub-groups of team members (removes head first throw and cadence as required highlights in tech routine)
15. HIGHLIGHT ROUTINE Required Elements

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Additional content may be added
2. Time limits as in SS 14.1
3. Required Elements may be performed in any order
4. All members must be involved to perform the required elements.

HIGHLIGHT Required Elements

1. A minimum of four acrobatic movements (Acrobatic movements: A general term for jumps, throws, lifts, stacks, platforms, etc., which is performed at spectacular gymnastic feats and/or risky actions, and is mostly achieved with assistance by another swimmer(s).)
 2. A connected or intertwined action (Connected action: Joined or linked together. Intertwined action: Act of twisting together and around each other in spirals.)
 3. A float to give a kaleidoscopic effect (A float: a formation or pattern swimmers carry out with their bodies at the surface of the water. Some parts of their bodies can be above or below the surface. A kaleidoscopic effect: a symmetrical design or pattern that continuously shifts from one set of relations to another and rapidly changes.)
16. Free combination required elements changed: at least 2 parts must have fewer than 3 competitors and at least 2 parts must have 8-10 competitors

Questions about any of these amendments may be directed to the SC Rules Committee at info@synchro.