

## Rules Proposals for 2004 Convention

Diane Hunsinger, Rules Chair

Proposed new wording is in **bold** print and deletions are in (( )).

1. Rule II.A.1.c.(3) (page 3) amend as follows:

1. Senior Class
  - c. Zone:
    - (3) South: Arkansas, Border, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf. North Carolina, Potomac Valley, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, Southern, Southwestern, **Tennessee**, Virginia, West Texas, West Virginia

2. Rule II.A.2.c.(3) (page 3) amend as follows:

2. Junior Class
  - c. Zone:
    - (3) South: Arkansas, Border, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf. North Carolina, Potomac Valley, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, Southern, Southwestern, **Tennessee**, Virginia, West Texas, West Virginia

3. Rule II.A.3.b.(1) (page 4) amend as follows:

3. Age Group
  - b. Regional:
    - (1) The Age Group Regions:  
South Zone:

Region A	North Carolina, Potomac Valley, <b>Tennessee</b> , Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina ((, Southeastern))
Region B	Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, <b>Southeastern</b>
Region C	Arkansas, Border, Gulf, South Texas, Southern, Southwestern, West Texas

4. Appendix D (page 1) amend as follows and add new 60:

SOUTH

- |            |                  |               |
|------------|------------------|---------------|
| 15.        | Southeastern     | <b>B((A))</b> |
| <b>60.</b> | <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>A</b>      |

**Rationale:** Are trying to grow synchro in the state of Alabama (Southeastern Association). Finally, we have an active team in this area. However, they have asked to be included in Region B, so they can compete with Georgia and Florida as they feel this is the best way to continue to “grow the area”. The south zone is in agreement that we should do this. An official letter requesting the change iWe want to encourage growth in this area any way we can. Tennessee is added as a new association.

Note: For informational purposes, the L&L submissions pertaining to Rules Items 1-4 are shown below:

Article 6.03 (page 14)

Southeastern – ((The States of Alabama and Tennessee)) **The State of Alabama** and the State of Florida including Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay and Jackson, Calhoun and Gulf Counties west of the Apalachicola River

Article 6.03 (page 14) NEW

**Tennessee – The State of Tennessee**

Article 6.05 (page 15)

South

Arkansas, Border, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf, North Carolina, Potomac Valley, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, Southern, Southwestern, **Tennessee**, Virginia, West Texas and West Virginia]

5. Rule II.E.2 (Page 14) amend as follows:

E. Entry Procedures

2. Bonus Points: In the case of Team competition, whether preliminary, semifinal or final events, **one-tenth** ((one-quarter)) point shall be added to the Total Scores for each additional competitor over 4 on a Team.

**Rationale:** A one-tenth point bonus is more equitable than a one-quarter point bonus for each additional competitor over 4 on a Team, and represents “a more level playing field” for those smaller clubs that are never able to field a Team of 5,6,7 or 8 competitors, while still giving the larger teams a mathematical advantage over the smaller teams since placements are often determine by mere hundredths of a point.

6. Rule III.A.2 (page 21) amend as follows:

A. Foreign Federations: May enter.....under the following provisions and regulations.

2. Numbers: Each Federation or Foreign Club may enter only 1 routine entry per event in a U.S. Championship **except as noted below**. The total number of athletes may not exceed 10.

**Rationale:** If the number changes are accepted for the U.S. Senior and Junior Open championships, then the indicated exception needs to be incorporated.

7. Rule III.A.4.c (page 21) amend as follows:

A. Foreign Federations: May enter.....under the following provisions and regulations.

4. U.S. Senior Open Championship:

- c. Each Foreign Club or National Team may **enter two Solos, two Duets, one Trio and one Team** (( Solo, Duet, Trio and/or Team)). Each Foreign Club or National Team may only enter one routine in the Free Routine Combination Event.

**Rationale:** U.S. Senior Open Championship: For the past two years, a waiver has been requested and granted to allow for 2 solos and 2 duets to enter the competition. We need the opportunity to test National Teams. Foreign Federations do as well (2003 - Japan request, 2004 U.S. request).

8. Rule III.A.5.c (page 21) amend as follows:

A. Foreign Federations: May enter.....under the following provisions and regulations.

5. U.S. Junior Open Championship:

- c. Each Foreign Club or National Team may **enter two Solos, two Duets, one Trio and one Team** ((one Solo, Duet, Trio and/or Team)). Each Foreign Club or National Team may only enter one routine in the Free Routine Combination event.

**Rationale:** U.S. Junior Open Championship: For the past two years, a waiver has been requested and granted to allow for 2 solos and 2 duets to enter the competition. We need the opportunity to test National Teams. Foreign Federations do as well (2003 - Japan request, 2004 U.S. request).

9. Rule IV.C.5.a.(2) (Page 27) amend as follows:

C. Referee

5. Application of Penalties:

a. Figure Competition

(1) Remains the same.

(2) **One** ((Two)) Point Penalties shall be give a competitor who:

(a) Makes a balk, false start or otherwise fails to complete a figure which has been started.

i. Remains the same.

ii. Remains the same

(b) Executes a figure other than the listed figure announced.

i. Remains the same

ii. Remains the same.

**Rationale:** A one-point penalty for any infraction is sufficient. A two-point penalty is excessive.

10. Rule IV.C.5.a.(3) (Page 27) amend as follows:

- C. Referee
  - 5. Application of Penalties:
    - a. Figure Competition
      - (3) **Two ((Five))** Point Penalty : A competitor who competes out of the order of draw shall be given a penalty of 5 points off the Total Figure Score, except for unusual circumstances as determined by the Meet Referee.

**Rationale:** A two-point penalty for any infraction is sufficient. A five-point penalty is excessive

11. Rule IV.C.5.b.(2) (Page 28) amend as follows:

- C. Referee
  - 5. Application of Penalties
    - b. Routine Competition
      - (2) **One-Half ((One))** Point Penalties:
        - (a)-(i) Remain the same.

**Rationale:** A one-half point penalty for any infraction is sufficient. A one-point penalty is excessive.

12. Rule IV.C.5.b.(4) (Page 28) amend as follows:

- C. Referee
  - 5. Application of Penalties
    - b. Routine Competition
      - (4) **Two ((Five))** Point Penalty: A competitor who competes out of the order of draw....determined by the Event Referee.

**Rationale:** A two-point penalty for any infraction is sufficient. A five-point penalty is excessive.

**Note: Items 13-21 pertain to Collegiate Competition and came from the Collegiate Committee Coaches' Meeting at Collegiate Nationals.**

13. Rule V.C.2 (page 35) amend as follows:

- 2. Collegiate Season:
  - a. Remains the same
  - b. **Please refer to the institutions' NCAA Division Rulebook for specific Season lengths.** ((In Division I and II, the playing season may not exceed 132 days. In Division III, the playing season may not exceed 21 weeks.))
  - c. Remains the same.
  - d. Remains the same.

14. Rule V.C.3(a) (page 35) amend as follows:

- 3. Eligibility:
  - a. Undergraduate **and Graduate** students **who meet the one-time transfer rule** who are officially enrolled on a full-time basis and who meet their respective institution's **NCAA** eligibility standards shall be eligible to compete. All eligibility and recruiting questions not otherwise addressed by USSS or FINA Rules shall be governed by each institution's **NCAA** governing body.
  - b-g. Remain the same.

15. Rule V.C. (page 35) add new 4 and renumber:

- 4. **Compliance:**
  - a. **All questions or requests for waivers shall be directed to the Collegiate Compliance Committee.**
  - b. **This committee shall be composed of one representative each from a Division 1 Varsity, Division 2/NAIA Varsity, Division 3 Varsity and Division 1 Club. One of these individuals will be the Collegiate Chair.**
  - c. **All questions or requests for waivers shall be directed to the Collegiate Compliance Ad Hoc Committee. After review, the Collegiate Compliance Ad Hoc Committee will forward appropriate requests for waivers of the rules to the Technical Vice President for decision.**

16. Rule V.C. 7 (page 36) amend as follows (Housekeeping: if Item 15 passes this will be V.C.8):

7. Collegiate Technical Competition:

a. Technical Competition:

- (1) Remains the same
- (2) Remains the same
- (3) Remains the same
- (4) Category D figures shall be **the D figures as listed in Figure Rule II.D and shall rotate by even or odd year categories.** ((one of the following groups:

Group I Odd Years

303	Somersault, Back Pike	1.5
360	Walkover, Front	2.1
321	Somersub	2.0
311	Kip	1.8

Group II Even Years

101R/L	Ballet Leg, Single	1.6
349	Tower	1.8
420	Walkover, Back	2.0
342	Heron	2.1))

- b. Remains the same
- c. Remains the same

**Rationale:** Remove the list of D figures from Rules and place in Figure Rule II adding D.

17. Figure Rule II (page 7) add new D (Housekeeping if Item 16 passes).

**D. FIGURE GROUPS FOR COLLEGIATE “D” COMPETITIONS**

**Group (I) 1. Odd Years**

<b>303</b>	<b>Somersault, Back Pike</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>360</b>	<b>Walkover, Front</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<b>321</b>	<b>Somersub</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>311</b>	<b>Kip</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**Group(II) 2. Even Years**

<b>101R/L</b>	<b>Ballet Leg, Single</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>349</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>420</b>	<b>Walkover, Back</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>((342</b>	<b>Heron</b>	<b>2.1))</b>
<b>301</b>	<b>Barracuda</b>	<b>2.0</b>

18. Figure Rule II.C. amend as follows:

C. FIGURE GROUPS FOR COLLEGIATE “C” COMPETITIONS

Group 2

<b>((125</b>	<b>Eiffel Tower</b>	<b>2.7))</b>
<b>115</b>	<b>Catalina</b>	<b>2.2</b>
342	Heron	2.1
<b>((401</b>	<b>Swordfish</b>	<b>2.0))</b>
<b>327</b>	<b>Sunfish</b>	<b>2.4</b>
423	Ariana	2.2

19. Rule V.11. (page 38) new g and renumber:

11. U.S. Collegiate Championship:

- a-f. Remain the same.
- g. Finals: The top 12 routine scores shall qualify for Final Routine Competition. Number 13 shall be the pre-swimmer.**

20. Rule V.C.11.a.(2).(a) (page 38) amend as follows:
- (2) Placement in the prior year's U.S. Collegiate Championship:
    - (a) Competitors placing in finals ( places 1-~~12~~((8)) ) shall qualify for the next U.S. Collegiate Championship. A routine already qualified through this method shall be excluded from the Region's top 12 qualifiers.
    - (b) Remains the same.
21. Rule II.F.1.a. (page 16) amend as follows:
- 1. General Event Progression:
    - a. For U.S. National Championship exception, see Rule II.A.1.a.(2). For U.S. Senior Open Championship exception, see Rule II.A.1.b.(1). For U.S. Junior Open championship exception, see Rule II.A.2.b.(1). **For U.S.Collegiate exception, see Rule V.C.11.g**
    - b-d. Remain the same.

**Note: The following items (22-23) pertain to the Masters program.**

22. Rule V.D. 2. (page 40-41). Delete a-f, add new a-i and renumber old g-h to j-k.

- V. Special Programs
  - D. Masters/Grand Masters
    - 2. Events:
      - (( a. Solo, Duet, Trio and Team
      - b. Figure Competition
      - c. Technical Individual Routine
      - d. Number of Events: Competitors must compete in Figure Competition or Technical Routine Competition. In addition, each competitor may compete in no more than three (3) different Free Routine events in each competition.
      - e. Free Routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Routines consisting of any figures, swimming strokes, propulsion techniques or parts thereof.
      - f. Technical Routines shall consist of an Individual Routine with the following requirements. Items I-4 shall be performed in the order listed:
        - (1) SPLIT POSITION, followed by a walkout, Front or a Walkout, back
        - (2) KIP (complete figure)
        - (3) Traveling Ballet Leg combination, to include at least 2 of the following positions: BALLET LEG, with right leg, BALLET LEG, with left leg, BALLET LEG DOUBLE, FLAMINGO.
        - (4) Heron (complete figure).
        - (5) A minimum of 2 different types of propulsion (other than sculling): placement is optional
        - (6) Supplementary elements may be added, placement is optional
        - (7) Figure elements shall be executed according to the requirements described in AppendixL.1.B. Of the Synchronized swimming rules.
        - (8) Total distance traveled should be equivalent to 20 meters
        - (9) Swimwear must be according to FINA Rule GR6. These shall be black and the competitor shall wear a white cap. Goggles and nose clips may be worn.

Refer to the USSS Code, Article 10c for changes to these elements by FINA. The 2003 FINA elements shall be used.))

- g. Remains the same.
- h. Remains the same.

- a. **Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Free Routines**
- b. **Solo, Duet, Trio and Team Technical Routines**
- c. **Figure Competition**
- d. **Number of events: Competitors must compete in a Technical Routine for each solo, duet, trio or team entered. Each competitor may compete in no more than three (3) events Free Solo, Duet, Trio or Team routine or figure competition in each competition.**
- e. **Free Routine competition shall consist of Solo, Duet, Trio or Team Routines consisting of any figures, swimming strokes or parts thereof.**
- f. **Technical routines:**
  - (1) **With the exception of deck work and entry, all elements required and supplementary shall be performed simultaneously and facing the same direction. Variation in propulsion permitted only during pattern changes. Mirror actions are not permitted.**
  - (2) **Supplementary elements may be added, placement is optional.**
  - (3) **Figure elements shall be executed according to the requirements described in appendix L.1.B.**
  - (4) **Total distance traveled should be equivalent to 20 meters**
  - (5) **Swimwear shall be black and the competitor shall wear a white cap. Goggles and nose clip may be worn.**
  - (6) **Technical routines shall consist of the following requirements. Items 1-4 shall be performed in the order listed.**
- g. **Solo Technical Routine Requirements**
  - (1) **Split position followed by a walkout, front or walkout, back**
  - (2) **Porpoise, complete figure**
  - (3) **Traveling Ballet leg combination, to include at least 2 of the following positions: Ballet Leg, with right leg, Ballet Leg, with left leg, Ballet Leg double, Flamingo**
  - (4) **Heron Thrust starting from the submerged double ballet leg position.**
  - (5) **Two (2) forms of propulsion techniques, including one with one arm above the water surface.**
  - (6) **Elements 1-4 must be performed in order.**
  - (7) **Element 5 may be performed at any time**
- h. **Duet/Trio Technical Routine Requirements**
  - (1) **Split position followed by a walkout, front or walkout, back**
  - (2) **Porpoise, complete figure**
  - (3) **Traveling Ballet leg combination, to include at least 2 of the following positions: Ballet Leg, with right leg, Ballet Leg, with left leg, Ballet Leg double, Flamingo**
  - (4) **Heron Thrust starting from the submerged double ballet leg position.**
  - (5) **Two (2) forms of propulsion techniques, including one with one arm above the water surface.**
  - (6) **A Joined Action - must include one of the following: figure, float or stroking.**
  - (7) **Element 6 may be performed at any time.**

22. Continued: New a-i under Rule V.D. 2. (page 40-41)

**i. Team Technical Routine Requirements**

- (1) **Split position followed by a walkout, front or walkout, back**
- (2) **Porpoise, complete figure**
- (3) **Traveling Ballet leg combination, to include at least 2 of the following positions: Ballet Leg, with right leg, Ballet Leg, with left leg, Ballet Leg double, Flamingo**
- (4) **Heron Thrust starting from the submerged double ballet leg position.**
- (5) **Two (2) forms of propulsion techniques, including one with one arm above the water surface.**
- (6) **Cadence Action - identical movements performed sequentially one by one by all team members. When one or more cadence action is performed, they must be consecutive, and not separated by other optional or required elements.**

**23. NEW MASTERS TECHNICAL ELEMENT PROPOSAL 2**

- A) Only Free Routines will count toward the Overall Team Trophy (as it always was prior to this year).
- B) A Technical Element, of the competitor's choosing, **MUST** be completed in order to compete in Free Routine Events.
- C) A competitor may choose to do any one of the following (to complete requirement B.)
  - 1) Individual Technical Routine
  - 2) Duet Technical Routine
  - 3) Trio Technical Routine
  - 4) Team Technical Routine

**Rationale:** This proposal means that up to 8 team members could complete their technical requirement swimming a team technical routine, or they could choose any other of options 1-4. For example, a Club with 2 teams of 8: one team could choose to swim Team Technical routine and the other team might choose to swim two Trio Technical routines, one Individual Technical routine, and one in C Category Figures. This would result in a total of 4 Technical routines and one Figure competitor instead of 15 Individual Technical routines and one figure competitor. The net savings (in time) would be 16 and one half minutes (15 routines vs. 4). This club could have reduced the time even more by swimming 2 Team Technical routines. (All technical routines are 1 minute 30 seconds)

\*\*\*\*\*.Adoption of this proposal would result in a much shorter meet for all of the competitors as well as less stress for the judges and other officials. Dawn's additional comments, since the basis of requiring a technical element is to assure that the sport does not become "all show" and that competitors have met basic standards, there is no reason they need to all do them one at a time. A coach would not place a beginner on a team Technical if all members of the team could not do those basic elements. Also it allows for any competitors considering international events to be able to compete on the Technical routine required for at least one of the events, so coaches are not having to practice swimmers in things they will not be doing internationally. As, for example, I had 22 Individual Technical Routines in this competition, all different routines. Only 6 of those swam solos but all swam on one of our 3 teams. With this requirement, I would have had 3 Technical routines, not 22, 16 of which we will never use again until next Masters Nationals. Note, we also do not have a team of all experienced swimmers. Of those 22 I had in these nationals, only 7 ever swam in USSS/AAU programs. Four of our swimmers had participated in high school or summer rec programs, but the rest all learned as adults. Two were brand new this year; one more began last year, and three more now are in their third year.....all these ladies started as adults.

**From the Rules Committee Chairperson:** Please be sure to be familiar with all of these proposals so we can have efficient discussion at our meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Hunsinger <[diane@cfm.net](mailto:diane@cfm.net)>. Reminder: The rules committee presents all suggestions as we receive them. Discussion on each of these items will occur during our committee meetings. If you will not be at convention, please make any concerns you may have known me or to someone in your Association.