



World Wide Seminar November 1–3, 2013

St. Petersburg, Russia

RULES clarifications:

Referee and Assistant Referee power and responsibilities have increased. There will be no technical monitors for Tech Routines. A referee can put in a reserve judge only @ the beginning of an event.

Highlight Routine:

- 2 point penalty for any element missing.
- 1st element is defined as 4 acrobatic moves so if one or more of the 4 required acrobatic moves is missing it is a 2 point penalty. (Not 2 points per acrobatic move missing).
- This routine is judged same as Free Routine.
- Kaleidoscopic effect can be as little as one movement on the surface, (floating action) but it is preferable to have two or more pattern changes. A kaleidoscope is a symmetrical design that continuously shifts and that is the intent of this element.
- The connected action can be done in any pattern as long as all swimmers are connected in some manner. Judgement will be based on having a strong link, or clear lock, spacing, symmetry, efficiency of motion, pleasing to the eye, clear and efficient transitions and synchronization. All swimmers must be involved.

Technical Teams:

- If an element is missing the element panel judges will award zero for that element.
- If **any** element panel judge awards a zero the video will be reviewed by the referee. If the element is missing all judge scores will be zero. If the element has been performed then any scores awarded will be averaged and these averages will replace the zero scores.
- If part of an element is missing, this is considered under execution. There were no guidelines as to how much the judges should deduct but the principle would apply that as elements have replaced figures, that the judges consider the error the same as they do with figures and mark according to the judge marking scale.

- If an element is performed out of order, it is zero for that element.
- Duet – if one of the duet members misses an element it is zero for that element.
- Team – if any one member of a team misses an element it is zero for that element.
- Federations will be advised as soon as possible if they have received a zero score for any element so that if they wish to protest they can within the required time limit.
- Scoreboard will display individual marks for Execution and Impression Panels; average score will be displayed for Elements Panel.

NOTE: THE FINA Video of Figures and Technical Elements has inaccuracies in how the figures/elements are to be ideally performed. It is a guide ONLY.

FIGURE Clarifications from questions received from the Synchro Canada Community:

London:

- What is the emphasis for the design of the ballet leg to tuck? **The ballet leg should follow a vertical line down to tuck to achieve shins perpendicular. This means the hips will back up and that is acceptable. There should be minimal lateral movement. Toe of horizontal leg should remain @ the surface.**
- What should the tempo be for the spin? **Same as root figure – ie KIP speed**
- How fast is the ballet leg supposed to be? Is it “routine” speed or just faster than a normal figure speed? **Rapid speed should be the same as all figures that have rapid in description.**

Manta Ray

- Need to clarify the mid way transition on the manta ray. 1/2 way into roll back the extending leg should be where? I think about 90 degrees and below the knee height but wish clarification. **YES.**
- And also the end of the manta ray.....the bent knee is straightened and with continuous motion an arch to back layout is executed. This is the same wording as the end of the knight.....and we have always shown the surface arch and then rolled out. So.....just clarifying this would be good. **Yes – show a good surface arch before up to back layout.**

- The figure description states “A Flamingo is executed to a **Surface Flamingo Position**. As the body unrolls the bent knee is extended horizontally to assume a **Fishtail position**.”
To me the rule description is clear that the horizontal leg extends horizontally and should not be lifted up and then over (as the UANA conversation was given last weekend. **TSSC says the knee should remain on the surface so the foot comes up, the audience felt the knee should drop below the surface so the foot stays on the surface. It is still unclear.**
- Manta Ray – is the extending leg supposed to be at knee level during the entire roll back. **See above.**

Butterfly:

- The butterfly description (in my opinion) is a bit contradictory. It has the split position bolded and then a comma and then 'without hesitating'. I think the split should be in italics and then it would allow the action to be rapid (like the American video demonstrated....they created this figure. **There should be a “show and go” as even though Split Position is bolded it is then clarified that it is without a pause to the next movement.**
- When is the cross over position for the legs from fishtail to split? And should the front leg touch before the back leg? **Mid-way, and no touching. Both legs arrive in the split at the same time.**
- Is a vertical hit between the fishtail and the split, or is it a "V"? Do both legs move at the same time or just one then both to the split? **There is no vertical defined in the figure but the legs pass through @ the ½ way point. Both legs move at the same time but the horizontal legs move 180 while the vertical leg only moves 90 so it is more of a “V”.**

Aurora Twirl: From the Submerged Ballet Let Double Position to Knight Position the action can either be “unroll” of the trunk or not. (There is nothing in the description that states the body unrolls.) The desired action is to stay on the spot with the leg remaining vertical and to achieve the final height of the knight position when the transaction is complete.

Jupiter:

One additional comment for the Jupiter is to standardize the wording with that of the Surface Prawn that has a similar transition. The wording for both figures should be the same.

Surface Prawn 362 "One foot is moved in horizontal arc of 180 at the surface to a **Split Position**

vs

Jupiter 325 the horizontal leg is moved in a 180 arc at the surface of the water to a **Fishtail Position**. **There may be some updates in the Coach/Judge**

Manual to this wording and others as suggested in the Seminar when it is published.

Barracuda:

Need definition of 'just below the surface' for all barracuda thrusts (start position). **No more than foot length below the surface.**

Porpoise Twist Spin:

Is there a pause between the twist and spin? Is the spin a 720 to the ankles? **This is defined in the Manual under Basic Movement 13 (g). There is no pause and the spin of 720 is to the HEELS and continues through submergence.**

Albatross 1/2 Twist 240a:

Is there a pause between the two twists or is it a continuous movement? **Show and go.**

SPINS:

Define “**rapid** speed” for spins.....this is an ongoing issue internationally. **Rapid is defined as quick, speedy, fast, or swift. When Rapid is in the figure description there must be a noticeable increase in speed.**

Technical Elements Clarifications:

Solo Element 1: “Show and go” from Split Position. Continuous spin must start @ the height of the vertical; after the heels reach the surface it is free to do any degree of rotation but the ideal is continuous even drop spaces continuing through submergence.

Solo Element 4: Emphasis was made on the following points: Body must remain on the longitudinal axis with the descent tempo being uniform and controlled. There should be no pause between the Full Twist and the Combined Spin and no pause between the descending spin and ascending spin.

Duet Element 3: Fishtail rotations are rapid – emphasis on “rotation” and no pause anywhere in this movement. Foot should be on the surface throughout the rotations. Continuous spin should be the same tempo as the rotations. The horizontal leg is not lifted during the descent; it stays on the surface and feet meet @ the surface on the descent.

Duet Element 6: Lift or throw can be head or foot first.

Team Element 2: Emphasis on the shin being horizontal to the surface. Continuous Spin is as per Basic Movement 13(f).

Team Element 6:

- Cadence action can be arms or legs but not both. There can be more than one cadence action but it needs to follow sequentially. Patterns may be changed during the cadence action. The Cadence action is the only time a circle can be performed due to “no mirror actions”. Cadence can be connected and go from 1-8, 8-1, and so on as per the last quad rules.
- More than one swimmer can be “lifted” or “thrown”.
- Mirror actions are not permitted.

Free Routine Clarification:

COMBO: For Solo and Duet parts the remaining swimmers must be still (not distracting from the solo and duet). The Solo and Duet can be a little as a body boost. Logic is that the Solo or Duet is only 1 or 2 swimmers respectively so if there is movement by other swimmers this is not a solo or duet. This will be a referee issue to determine if the “2 parts less than 3 swimmers” requirement has been met.

FINA TSSC will be strict on theatrical make-up and jewellery. Tattoos as they can't be removed are allowed (there is nothing in the rules regarding tattoos); it would be best to cover them.

2016 Olympic Games will have 8 teams and 24 duets.

2014 Junior Worlds date remains October in Tampere, Finland. Federations may only be allowed to send one judge, not two as in the past. A 2nd judge may be allowed if a Federation enters all events.

2014 World Cup is August 28, 29, 30, Quebec City. The Highlight Routine will be included in the programme; there will be no solo event.

There will be no judge evaluations or promotions in 2014. This is a 1 year trial period. The rationale used is that this will take the pressure off the judges. It is hoped that the judges will feel more freedom to judge as they see fit. The TSSC is expecting to see a more accurate assessment of the athletes' skills in the various components with no formal evaluation.

There is no longer any consideration of “balance” or Continental representation for FINA judge selection to major competitions (World Championships, Olympic Games). All judges are considered neutral and only the best judges will be selected. It was left unclear how that determination will be made.

The TSSC was tasked with developing ideas for a more quantifiable measure of judge performance vs the subjective evaluation process currently in place. Synchro Canada welcomes your ideas regarding this.

