

2023-2024 RULE CHANGES & COMPETITION SEASON DETAILS

Acrobatic routine roster

The number of athletes for acrobatic routines in the 2023-2024 season will be 8 + 2 alternates, as per World Aquatics rules.

Youth athlete registration rules change

Youth athletes will be allowed to register for 5 routine events with no restriction as to age group, including a maximum of 3 team events (*team events include Youth Team, Junior/Senior Tech/Free Team, Free Combination, Acrobatic Routine*).

This new rule, put in place to provide more flexibility to clubs, removes the restriction of age category for teams and just mandates a maximum entry of events for Youth athletes. This means that a Youth athlete could take part in Youth Team, Junior Tech OR Free Team and Acrobatic Routine, for example. The rationale is that this makes it easier for clubs to allow for participation of all athletes in events.

Please note that this also means that a Youth athlete could swim a Youth duet and a Junior duet (while staying within the 5-routine maximum), although the rule will stipulate that it can't be with the same partner (you can't use this rule to register one duet in 2 age groups to give athletes more competition opportunities. The same applies to teams - a team composed of the same athletes can't compete in 2 different age groups).

Please also note that it will be impossible for us to avoid different age group events being back to back in event schedules and that you must realize that a decision to have athletes swim in different age groups will invariably lead to scheduling challenges.

Qualifying from National Qualifier to Canadian Championships

For the first time since 2019, the qualifying process from Qualifier to Canadian Championships will be in place for 2024 for all solo and duet events. As a reminder, qualification rules are first 20 routines + highest-ranked routines from any province not in top 20 + byes (as approved by Qualifier Selection Committee).

Rule changes from past years

The CAS-specific rules below have been put in place over the past few years, and we can confirm that they will become permanent going forward for the purposes of planning. They will be included in the revised CAS Rulebook.

- Youth athletes who are not part of any other youth event can still take part in the Youth figures event
- Junior/Senior athletes do not have to do Tech routine to compete in corresponding Free routine
- It is allowed to enter Acrobatic routine or Free Combination events without having to register another routine
- One first year Senior (20-year-old female/21-year-old male) can swim down to a Junior team, likewise one first year Junior (16-year-old female/17-year-old male) can swim down to a Youth team. Please note the same [set of restrictions from previous years](#) remain.
- No prelims in Solo Tech and Duet Tech at Nationals. Finals are seeded according to Qualifier results with 30-40-30 distribution rule. Byes are all considered to have finished last before distribution is drawn.
- International swimmers can enter Qualifier as exhibition, remembering that exhibition athletes are not eligible for awards.
- Youth figure events will feature only 2 figures, which will be the same for everyone.

INFORMATION

Questions may be directed to **Stéphane Côté** at stephane@artisticswimming.ca.