

**USA ARTISTIC
SWIMMING**

Competitive Structure Task Force Recommendations



Caveats

- These are **recommendations** from the task force
 - Proposals will go through the usual rules process
 - Each idea/proposal will be considered on its own
- Looking for feedback/thoughts before we start writing formal proposals
 - Goal is to start working with the Rules committee by April
- FINA Judging/scoring changes are out of scope
 - Linda L is currently working to investigate different options and what the impact is



Male Athletes

- Look at increasing high point value for Mixed Duet
 - Potential method to encourage clubs to find/develop male athletes
- Male Solo
 - Add to elite track and developmental (JO) track
 - Experiment with masters with fewer age groups
 - Consider high point change as well
- Note: if FINA changes age ranges for “Youth” for Male/Female the elite track would follow suit
 - JOs would not



Athletes with Disability

- Keep with JOs as long for now
 - Re-evaluate structure if size increases
 - Open invitational
- Note: US is attempting to develop a common set of rules with other Federations



Elite Meets

- National Championship, Junior Championship, etc
- Should be very similar to FINA in terms of events, categories and rules
- Qualify top 6 from each Zone for National (Seniors) Championship and 13-15 Championship to be consistent with Junior Championship
 - Bonus entries remain as is
- Combo/Highlight will follow whatever FINA does



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Junior Olympics



Major Changes

- Age Groups: 12U, 13-14, 15-16, 17-19
 - Having a 3-year age group during peak growth years for puts younger athletes at a significant disadvantage
 - Move the 3-year age group to the oldest set of athletes where the difference in ages is likely to be less significant
- Tech elements instead of tech routines
 - Event would be run like figures
 - Eliminates a set of routines, reducing the training time needed
 - Tech elements instead of figures allows easier transition from elite (FINA rules) meets



JO Qualification/Overqualification

- Remove overqualification from JR/SR Open
- Change JR/SR Nationals overqualification from top 8 solos and duets to top 6
- Remove requirement to have association championships to qualify for regional championships
 - Associations are still free to have their championships, but not required to qualify for the regional championships/national JO championship



May change based on FINA proposals

- Reduce routine lengths to 3/4 of current times
 - FINA may be doing another round of cutting routine lengths
 - Depending on the significance of the cuts, this may or may not be useful
 - Drop minimum time penalty
- Evaluate what age groups have Combo
 - FINA is making noises about Combo for 13-15, Highlight for JR/SR



Other Changes

- Office/Championship Management will be looking at the JO schedule
 - May end with more of a hard split between age groups
 - Possibly with a break day in the middle





Questions?