



# **ARTISTIC SWIMMING COMPETITION RULES**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
ASCR-1	INTRODUCTION
ASCR-2	LAWS GOVERNING THE SPORT
ASCR-3	ARTISTIC SWIMMING SEASON
ASCR-4	COMPETITIONS
<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>
ASCR-5	AGE GROUP CATEGORIES
ASCR-6	EVENTS IN EACH COMPETITION
ASCR-7	FIGURES AND ELEMENTS
ASCR-8	TIME LIMITS
ASCR-9	POINTS
<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>
ASCR-10	REGISTRATION WITH THE ASA
ASCR-11	ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL SELECTION AND SWIMMERS OF NON-MALTESE NATIONALITY
ASCR-12	GENERAL COMPETITION RULES
ASCR-13	PARTICIPATION FEES
ASCR-14	RESTRICTED AREA AND SECURITY
ASCR-15	ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
ASCR-16	PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS COMPETITIONS
ASCR-17	KIT
ASCR-18	GENERAL CONDUCT
ASCR-19	OTHER RULES
ASCR-20	NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

### **ASCR-1 INTRODUCTION**

- a. These rules are intended to supplement the current ASA Statute and the Disciplinary Code and they shall not in any way supersede any rule contained in the said Statute or Disciplinary Code. If, on any point, there is a conflict between the Statute/Disciplinary Code and these Competition Rules, then the provisions of the Statute/Disciplinary Code shall prevail.
- b. These rules shall remain in force until cancelled and/or amended by the Council.

### **ASCR-2 LAWS GOVERNING THE SPORT**

All laws governing the sport are to be regulated as per FINA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified by local rules and regulations.

### **ASCR-3 THE ARTISTIC SWIMMING SEASON**

The competitive season shall start on any date after the 1<sup>st</sup> October and shall end not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the following year.

### **ASCR-4 COMPETITIONS**

The following competitions shall be organised by the ASA: -

- a. Autumn Figures Competition
- b. Christmas Gala
- c. February Age Group Competition
- d. May Age Group Competition
- e. National Artistic Swimming Championships

The format of the competitions shall be determined during the annual Calendar meeting for Club Officials that will be held by not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September, and shall be approved by Council.

## SECTION 2 - FORMAT

### ASCR-5      AGE GROUP CATEGORIES

- |    |             |   |
|----|-------------|---|
| a. | Age Group A | 8 years and Under                                 |
| b. | Age Group B | 10 years and Under                                |
| c. | Age Group C | 12 years and Under                                |
| d. | Age Group D | 11 years and Over                                 |
|    |             | Novice Athletes during first year of registration |
| e. | Age Group E | 13 – 15 years old                                 |
| f. | Juniors     | 15 – 18 years old                                 |
| g. | Seniors     | 15 years old and Over                             |

### ASCR-6      EVENTS IN EACH COMPETITION

- i) All Age Groups
- Figures
  - Solo
  - Duet
  - Mixed Duet
  - Team
  - Combination
  - Highlight Routine
- ii) Juniors and Seniors
- Solo – Technical Routine
  - Solo – Free Routine
  - Duet – Technical Routine
  - Duet – Free Routine
  - Mixed Duet – Technical Routine
  - Mixed Duet – Free Routine
  - Free Combination
  - Highlight Routine
  - Elements/Figures

### ASCR-7      FIGURES AND ELEMENTS

- a. Age Group A  
 Prior to the start of the competitions, 4 Figures/positions will be chosen from the following list:

1	Back layout to inverted tuck to hanging vertical (DD1.3)
2	Front layout to front pike position (BM 3 DD1.4)

3	Front layout to bent knee returning to front layout (BP 14a)
4	Back layout to tub position returning to back layout (BP15 DD1.2)
5	Back layout to bent knee returning to back layout (BP 14b DD1.3)
6	Inverted split position
7	Back layout to back pike position (BP 11)
8	Back tuck somersault (Figure 310 DD 1.1)
9	Fishtail position (BP 8)

b. Age Group B and Age Group D

Prior to the start of the competitions, 4 Figures/positions will be chosen from the following list:

1	Kipnus (Figure 316 DD1.4)
2	Ballet leg (Figure 101 DD 1.6)
3	Flamingo (DD1.4)
4	Somersault front pike (Figure 320 DD1.7)
5	Blossom (Figure 302 DD 1.4)
6	Neptunus (Figure 344 DD 1.8)
7	Walkout Front (BM 6a)
8	Back layout to surface arch bent knee
9	Vertical with a vertical descent (BM 10)

c. Age Group C

Prior to the start of the competitions, athletes must perform the compulsory figures/elements and select 1 of the Optional Groups from the below:-

	FINA Code No	FINA Figure Name	Difficulty
<b>COMPULSORY</b>			
1	106	Straight Ballet Leg	1.6
2	301	Barracuda	1.9
<b>OPTIONAL GROUPS</b>			
<b>Group 1</b>			
3	420	Walkover Back	1.9
4	327	Ballerina	1.8
<b>Group 2</b>			
3	311	Kip	1.6
4	401	Swordfish	2.0
<b>Group 3</b>			
3	226	Swan	2.1
4	363315	Water Drop	1.5

d. Age Group E

Prior to the start of the competitions, athletes must perform the compulsory figures/elements and select 1 of the Optional Groups from the below:-

	FINA Code No	FINA Figure Name	Difficulty
<b>COMPULSORY</b>			
1	423	Ariana	2.2
2	143	Rio	3.1
<b>OPTIONAL GROUPS</b>			
<b>Group 1</b>			
3	351	Jupiter	2.8
4	437	Oceanea	2.1
<b>Group 2</b>			
3	240a	Albatross Half Twist	2.2
4	403	Swordtail	2.3
<b>Group 3</b>			
3	355f	Porpoise Continuous Spin 720°	2.1
4	315	Seagull	2.1

e. Juniors

The athletes in this category have to compete in Technical Routine as per FINA Rules. Therefore, in all Figure Competitions, athletes may perform Figures or Elements, or both. In the National Championships, Junior athletes must perform Technical Routines and not Figures/Elements.

Prior to the start of the competitions, athletes must perform the compulsory figures/elements and select 1 of the Optional Groups from the below:-

	FINA Code No	FINA Figure Name	Difficulty
<b>COMPULSORY</b>			
1	308i	Barracuda Airborne – Split Spin up 360°	3.3
2	355g	Porpoise Twist Spin	2.5
<b>OPTIONAL GROUPS</b>			
<b>Group 1</b>			
3	154j-2	London Combined Spin 720°	2.9
4	327	Aurora Twirl	2.8
<b>Group 2</b>			
3	364	Whirlwind	2.7
4	343	Butterfly	2.5
<b>Group 3</b>			
3	320	Kipswirl Split Closing 180°	2.3
4	440	Ipanema	3.0

The draws for the Optional Figure Group will be held between 18 and 72 hours prior to the start of the Championships.

**ASCR-8            TIME LIMITS**

- i)     The time limits for the Age Group C, Age Group E, Juniors and Seniors will be as per FINA Rules.
  
- ii)    The time limits for Age Group B will be as follows +/- 15 second, including the stipulated 10 seconds on deck:-

Solo	1 minute 30 seconds
Duet	2 minutes
Team	2 minutes 30 seconds
Combo	2 minutes 30 seconds

**ASCR-9            POINTS**

Points will be awarded to individual swimmers in each event they compete in.

- a)     Autumn Figures Competition, the Christmas Gala, the February Age Group Competition and the May Age Group Competition

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	8 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	6 points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 points
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 points
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 point

The Club obtaining the highest total number of points after the four events will be awarded the League Trophy.

- b)     National Artistic Swimming Championships

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	8 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	6 points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 points
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 points
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 point

The Club obtaining the highest number of points will be awarded the National Artistic Swimming Championships Trophy.

### SECTION 3 - GENERAL

#### **ASCR-10 REGISTRATION WITH THE ASA**

- i) Registration Forms for artistic swimmers of Maltese nationality shall be submitted to the ASA office not later than the closing date for the submission of Preliminary Entry Forms of the competition in which the athlete will be participating in.
- ii) Only those swimmers that are properly registered with the ASA as Artistic Swimmers will be eligible to participate in any ASA organized artistic swimming event. The ASA reserves the right to deny participation of a swimmer in an ASA organized artistic swimming event or to disqualify the swimmer if the swimmer is not properly registered with the ASA as an artistic swimmer. This rule does not apply for foreign visiting teams that have been accepted to participate in an ASA organized artistic swimming event.
- iii) An artistic swimmer must be in possession of an ASA Identity Card before he/she is eligible to participate in any Artistic Swimming competition. These identity cards are issued when a recent passport-sized photograph is submitted to the ASA Secretariat together with the Registration Form not later than the closing date for the submission of Preliminary Entry Forms of the competition in which the athlete will be participating in. A swimmer without the required card shall not be eligible to participate in any swim meet. It is the responsibility of the club's officials to make the necessary arrangement to collect the swimmers' Identity Cards from the ASA Office. Cards may be inspected by the Meet Referee or an Appointed Person prior or during any swim meet.
- iv) Loan Registration Forms shall be submitted to the ASA Office at any given time during a season but not later than the closing date for the submission of Preliminary Entry Forms of the competition in which the athlete will be participating in.

#### **ASCR-11 ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION AND SWIMMERS OF NON-MALTESE NATIONALITY**

- a. All ASA Rules regulating the registration of artistic swimmers shall apply for the registration of players of non-Maltese nationality with the exception of Rule 34(a)(viii)(g): "Signature of any two of the Club officials of the previous Club (if applicable) authorising the transfer".
- b. The following rules shall apply and shall regulate the registration of artistic swimmers of non- Maltese nationality:
  - i) Swimmers of non-Maltese nationality are not eligible for COMEN, LEN or FINA competitions with the exception of FINA World Series as it is where clubs can participate with approval of the ASA.
  - ii) Swimmers of non-Maltese nationality, resident in Malta, are eligible to compete in Club Competitions, locally and overseas, with ASA approval.



- iii) Swimmers of non-Maltese nationality, resident in Malta but not in possession of a Maltese passport, will not be recognised as National Champions in competitions.
- iv) Any results obtained by swimmers of non-Maltese nationality will be valid, however they will be excluded from medal classifications if they place in the first 3 places.
- v) The National Team will be selected by the National Coach and approved by the ASA Executive Committee.

**ASCR-12                      GENERAL COMPETITION RULES**

- a) During each competition, the organising team office will be located at the pool deck level and will deal with all documentation required as per regulations including:
  - Submission of the start list
  - Submission of music
  - Draws for finals
  - Results
- b) The Referee will resolve all matters pertaining to the competition
  - Protests
  - Any other enquiries.
- c) Forms for preliminary entry, final entry forms and withdrawals, need to be submitted to the ASA as follows:
  - Preliminary entry form:                      15 days before
  - Final entry form:                                7 days before
  - Withdrawals/reserve/changes:            Maximum 2 hours before

Should a club cancel the entries of any of their athletes 72 hours prior to the start of the competition, no sanction will be imposed on such club for such withdrawal.

For all Age Group Competitions that have direct finals, withdrawal forms will only be accepted for medical reasons and must be supported by a medical certificate which should be presented not later than two hours prior to competition start.

If a swimmer feels unwell and withdraws from an event on the day of competition, he/she cannot participate in any other events he/she may have entered.

In the case of competitions having Preliminary and Finals, a swimmer is allowed to withdraw from an event, pay the relevant Sanction as outlined in the Disciplinary Code and other Rules and Regulations of the ASA and participate in subsequent events he/she may have been entered for or qualified for.

Failure to submit the respective forms/certificates indicated above will make the swimmer/team/club liable under the Disciplinary measures indicated in the ASA Disciplinary Code in place at the time of the competition.

The administrative costs of the Competition will be handled by ASA.

1. The ASA will appoint a Referee for each event. The Referee's instructions and decisions shall be final.
2. During competitions, the Organising Team will publish the official competition/championship results when approved and endorsed by the Referee as soon as possible after the end of each event. These will be put on a notice board in the designated area for the specific competition/championship.
3. In case of a protest, Team Leaders/Head Coaches are asked to submit their protest to the Organising Team at the Competition Office, who will take up the matter with the Referee. This has to be done within half an hour of the results being published. A deposit of €50.00 has to accompany the protest at the time the protest is submitted. In case the review of the official video of the Technical elements and figures is required in a protest and the protest is dismissed, the deposit will be forfeited in favour of the ASA.
4. No strapping and/or taping is allowed unless a medical certificate is presented by the athlete and approved by the Referee two hours prior to the start of the competition. In such cases, only skin-coloured strapping/tape may be applied
5. Make-up is to be reduced to eyes and lips only – no theatrical make-up and/or jewellery is allowed.
6. Swimming suits have to be in good taste with no offensive symbols or signs and must be in accordance to FINA rules.
7. In case of a highlight routine, all the elements that are going to be used have to be approved by the Referee or Competition Director in the Technical Meeting before the Competition.
8. The Competition Committee will be composed of the Competition Director, Referee, Coach Representative and Delegate Representative. The Coach and Delegate Representative will be drawn in the technical meeting prior to competition. The Director and Referee will be appointed by ASA.

9. During each competition, warm-up procedures as per FINA Rules are to be followed unless other specific procedures are agreed to.
  - a. A designated supervisor shall be on deck during the entire warm-up period;
  - b. Each team shall be allocated music time according to the events they are participating in;
  - c. The Competition Warm-Up schedule will be listed in the Competition Programme.

**ASCR-13 PARTICIPATION FEES**

- a. The club participation fee for each competition including the National Artistic Swimming Championships shall be of €20 per club;
- b. Additionally, there shall be an entry fee of €1 per event per swimmer during each competition including the National Artistic Swimming Championships

**ASCR-14 RESTRICTED AREA AND SECURITY**

The Restricted Areas at the National Pool during artistic swimming competitions consist of

- The VIP stand;
- The referees' office at pool deck level.
- Those areas reserved for the referees, judges, the competition secretariat, athletes and team officials.
- The whole pool deck (including the deck surrounding the Diving Pool)
- Those sections on pool stands/terraces that are indicated to be Guest or VIP areas.

Only swimmers taking part in the event, Team Officials and other persons authorised by the Organising Team are allowed to enter the Restricted Areas.

Unauthorised entry into the restricted areas may result in disciplinary action being taken against the individual/s involved.

**ASCR-15 ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Championships will be held as per FINA Rules and Regulations and results will be obtained accordingly and as stipulated hereunder:-

Age Group C:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Figures                         | 100%                      |
| • Solo, duet, mixed duet and team | 50% figures + 50% routine |
| • Free routine Combination        | 100% routine              |

Age Group E:

- Figures 100%
- Solo, duet, mixed duet and team 50% figures + 50% routine
- Free routine Combination 100% routine

Juniors:

- Solo Free Routine 100%
- Solo Technical Routine 100%
- Duet Free Routine 100%
- Duet Technical Routine 100%
- Mixed Free Routine 100%
- Mixed Duet Technical Routine 100%
- Team Free Routine 100%
- Team Technical Routine 100%
- Highlight Routine 100%
- Free Routine Combination 100%

Seniors:

- Solo Free Routine 100%
- Solo Technical Routine 100%
- Duet Free Routine 100%
- Duet Technical Routine 100%
- Mixed Free Routine 100%
- Mixed Duet Technical Routine 100%
- Team Free Routine 100%
- Team Technical Routine 100%
- Highlight Routine 100%
- Free Routine Combination 100%

Judges

All judges for local competitions will be appointed by the ASA. The ASA will cover the costs of any appointed foreign judges.

In the case of overseas club competitions and local international competitions, the ASA will not cover the costs of the participating foreign judges accompanying the clubs or national teams to the competitions.

In the case that a participating nation has no possibility to provide a judge, their Federation shall be financially responsible for one judge of another Federation to be appointed.

Awards

Medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in all events.

The draws for the Optional Figure Group will be held between 18 and 72 hours prior to the start of the Championships.

## SECTION 4 – MISCELLANEOUS

### ASCR-16 PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS COMPETITIONS

Any club wishing to participate in an overseas competition is to inform the General Secretary in writing. The ASA must approve such participation. After the competition, the club must inform the National Coach and the ASA of all the swimmers' results within 1 week from the end of the said competition. The ASA must also receive the official results document.

### ASCR-17 KIT

- i) The National Artistic Swimming Team is to wear the kit provided by the ASA at all times.
- ii) Permission not to wear the national Team Kit can only be granted by the Team Manager, Coach or ASA Official.
- iii) The Team Kit must be kept in an acceptable state at all times during any commitment.
- iv) The Team Kit must be worn at all medal ceremonies and media calls.

### ASCR-18 GENERAL CONDUCT

- i) The decisions of the Team Manager, Coaches or ASA Official are final.
- ii) At no time is any swimmer to act in a way that would harm the name of Malta or the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta.
- iii) Swimmers shall show respect and courtesy to their team mates, coach, team administrators and fellow competitors at all times.
- iv) Swimmers will be at any designated meeting place or event at the time stated by the team officials.
- v) Swimmers are expected to show good sportsmanship at all times during team commitments.
- vi) Team members will refrain from any inappropriate behaviour that would detract from a positive image of the team, or be detrimental to its performance.
- vii) Any inappropriate behaviour and/or the possession or use of drugs is strictly prohibited. The consumption of alcohol and/or any other illegal substance is strictly forbidden.
- viii) Swimmers are expected to remain with the team at all times during overseas trips unless permission is obtained from a team official. In the case permission is granted refer to rule above.
- ix) Curfews will be established daily by the team officials and no team member may leave their room after curfew.
- x) Any damage caused during the trip will be the responsibility of the offending swimmer
- xi) No loud or obnoxious behaviour will be tolerated in any public areas of the hotel/complex.

- xii) Excessive noise in rooms will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- xiii) The Team officials may establish any other rules as deemed necessary. The instructions and decisions of the coach/team officials are final.

**ASCR-19      OTHER RULES**

For all National Team events overseas listed in the Official ASA Artistic Swimming Calendar, parents, relatives or acquaintances of participating swimmers that are travelling to the event are not allowed to reside in the same premises as the team. This rule does not apply to those who have been designated as officials with the team.

**ASCR-20      NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA**

- i) All prospective athletes must meet the established qualifying criteria announced before the start of the Artistic Swimming Competitive Season;
- ii) The Selection Criteria will be decided by the Artistic Swimming National Coach and approved by the ASA Executive Committee;
- iii) National Team Trials shall be conducted under FINA Rules and in accordance with the applicable procedures which may be established from time to time;
- iv) The dates of the National Team Trials will be communicated to all clubs during the Calendar Meeting or not later than two months prior to the actual date;
- v) Results obtained in the National Artistic Swimming Championships may also be taken into consideration;
- vi) Should all clubs compete in the same overseas competition, the results obtained may be taken into consideration.