



ARTISTIC SWIMMING

COMPETITION RULES

October 2023

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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 WA 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 1st October and shall end not later than the 31st May of the following year.

ASCR-4 COMPETITIONS

The following competitions shall be organised by the ASA: -

- a. Autumn Figures Competition
- b. Ian Ruggier Christmas Gala
- c. Winter Figure Competition
- d. Winter Routine 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 30th September, and shall be approved by the 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. | Youth | 13 – 15 years old |
| f. | Juniors | 15 – 19 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
 - Acrobatic 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
 - Acrobatic Routine
 - Elements/Figures

ASCR-7 FIGURES AND ELEMENTS

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

For compulsory figures MT12 and MT13, the figure must begin & end in a table top position. Scoring for these figures will be based on the execution of the figure and whether the figure will fall to a Base Mark (BM) or not according to the WA guidelines for Routines. These figures will be judged by both execution judges and Difficulty Technical Controllers.

a. Age Group A

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

Group & Figure Number	Figure Name	DD
Compulsory		
MT05	Back Layout Bent Knee	1.2
MT06	Back Layout Back Pike	1.0
Optional Groups:		
Group 1		
MT07	Kip Down	1.1
MT08	Ariana Rotation	1.2
Group 2:		
MT09	Surface Arch Position (BP 14)	1.2
MT10	Front Layout to Front Pike	1.0
Group 3:		
310	Somersault Back Tuck	1.1
MT11	Eggbeater to Body Boost	1.0

b. Age Group B and D

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

Group & Figure Number	Figure Name	DD
Compulsory		
101	Ballet Leg Single	1.6
301	Barracuda	1.8
Optional Groups:		
Group 1		
MT01	Surface Arch Bent Knee Position (BP 14d)	1.5
344	Neptunus	1.6
Group 2:		
MT02	Flamingo Bent Knee to Submerged Double Ballet Leg	1.7
316	Kipnus	1.4
Group 3:		
MT03	Arianna Rotation with walk out front	1.7
MT04	Vertical Descent 360	1.2

c. Age Group C

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

Code No.	Figure Name	Difficulty
Compulsory:		
106	Straight Ballet Leg	1.6
301	Barracuda	1.9
MT12	R3 - 180° Twirl	N/A
Optional Groups:		
Group 1:		
359	Front Arianna	1.9
348	Tower	1.8
Group 2:		
363	Water Drop	1.6
401	Swordfish	2.0
Group 3:		
311	Kip	2.1
227d	Swanita Spinning 180°	1.5

d. Youth

In the youth category, the figure section (A, B or C) shall be drawn first, then the order of appearance shall be drawn. The athlete draw list will be divided into two equal groups one (1) and two (2) (if numbers are not equal, group one (1) will have the extra swimmer). Then one of the two (2) figure groups of the drawn section will be assigned by lot to each athlete group (one (1) and two (2)).

Code No.	Figure Name	Difficulty
Compulsory		
MT13	R5 - 360° Twirl	N/A
Section A:		
Group 1:		
140g	Flamingo Bent Knee Twist Spin	2.9
437	Cyclone, Open 180°	2.6
Group 2:		
308h	Barracuda Airborne Split Spin Up 180°	2.9
407	Swordfish Straight Leg Arianna Rotation	2.6
Section B:		
Group 3:		
356f	Whip Continuous Spin 720°	3.0
441	Saturn	2.5
Group 4:		
352	Venus	3.0
240i	Albatross Spin Up 360°	2.5
Section C:		
Group 5:		
144	Rio Straight Leg	3.1
421	Walkover Back Closing 360°	2.4
Group 6:		
440d	Ipanema Spinning 180°	3.1
311j	Kip Combined Spin	2.4

e. Juniors/Seniors

Prior to the start of the competitions, athletes must perform the Team Technical Required Elements B category.

Code No.	Element Name	Difficulty
TRE1B	Flying Fish Hybrid	2.3
TRE2B	Vertical – Half Twist to Bent Knee – Half Twist to Vertical – Split - Walkout	2.3
TRE3B	Two Fouette Rotations – Vertical – Spinning 360°	2.3
TRE4	Butterfly Hybrid	2.9
TRE5B	Rocket Split Bent Knee Hybrid	2.1

ASCR-8 **TIME LIMITS**

- i) The time limits for Age Group C, Youth, Juniors and Seniors will be as per WA Rules.
- ii) The time limits for Age Group B/D will be as follows +/- 5 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 Ian Ruggier Christmas Gala, the Winter Figure Competition and the Winter Routine Competition.

1 st Place	10 points
2 nd Place	8 points
3 rd Place	6 points
4 th Place	5 points
5 th Place	4 points
6 th Place	3 points
7 th Place	2 points
8 th 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 st Place	10 points
2 nd Place	8 points
3 rd Place	6 points
4 th Place	5 points
5 th Place	4 points
6 th Place	3 points
7 th Place	2 points
8 th 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 WA competitions with the exception of WA 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 the 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 WA.
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 €100.00 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, excessive nudity or signs and must be in accordance with WA 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 WA 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 National Competitions is €20 per club and as per invitation for the National Artistic Swimming Championships.

- b. Entry fees for local artistic swimming club athletes per entry are as follows:

Event:	Price:
Figures	€10
Solo	€15
Duet (including Mixed Duet)	€25
Team (including all Team events)	€45

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 CHAMPIONSHIP

The National Championship will be held as per WA 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

Youth:

- 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%
- Acrobatic 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%
- Acrobatic 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.

Judges are to wear a white polo shirt and black trousers when nominated to judge in local competition unless otherwise stated.

Awards

Medals will be awarded for 1st – 3rd 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 teammates, 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 WA Rules and in accordance with the applicable procedures which may be established from time to time;
- iv) Participation in National events may also be taken into consideration;
- 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.