

WORLD AQUATICS MANUAL FOR JUDGES, COACHES, AND REFEREES

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

February 2026 Version

OFFICIALS SECTION

- Significant portion of this section was removed from the manual with reference to World Aquatics web page
- Introduction to Referees moved from the back of the Manual to Officials section
- To avoid discrepancies, majority of Technical Controllers (TC) section was removed as TC have their own dedicated materials that are subject to different updates schedule. Assistant TC removed.
- Added definition of bias (negative, positive, country, etc.)

HEIGHT CHARTS

- Eggbeater height chart now include eggbeater with no arms, one arm and double arm
- Rejoin height on diagram
- Male athlete included in one of the diagrams

FIGURES

- Deduction tables for Figures moved to their respective Figure to avoid moving back and forth between pages
- Deviation Types / Deductions/ Inaccuracies changed to small, obvious, major

HYBRIDS

- Added athlete proximity to Expanded Marking Scale for Hybrid Execution

ACROBATICS

- Refreshed definition
- Refreshed and improved diagrams
- Added male athletes to diagrams
- Added 3 (or less) category to Guiding Scale for Height Quality
- Diagrams indicate 4.0 and greater
- New diagram for Pair Acrobatics Jump variants, now judged similarly to Team Acro A
- Acro C fly over bridge with support on heads, now judged under Acro A
- Added the concept of the 'cone'

- Added diagrams for phases
- Added diagram for Falls, Fails, and execution errors
- Added Pair Acrobatics examples to Inaccuracy Identification Table

TECHNICAL REQUIRED ELEMENTS (TRE)

- Added Deviation Guidelines after each TRE as in Figures section
- Team TRE 5B - Rocket Split Bent Knee Hybrid - 'rapid' added
- Mixed Duet TRE 3 - Manta Ray Half Twist - 'rapidly' added

ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

- Further descriptions for Complexity
- Updated the Expanded Marking scale for Artistic Impression

MIXED DUET

- Revised section with expanded wording on artistic impression
- Clarified that artistic impression expanded marking scale applies to technical mixed duets

DEFINITIONS

- Updated definitions section – added a few new definitions and obsolete definitions removed

PENALTY SECTION

- Updated penalty section in line with AS Rules

FORMATTING

- Hyperlinked Table of Contents