

WORLD AQUATICS CALL FOR ARTISIC SWIMMING TECHNICAL CONTROLLERS

Requirements to apply as a World Aquatics Technical Controller:

The requirements for TC applicants are as follows:

- Artistic Swimming background
- Open to athletes, Coaches, or Judges
- The maximum age for a Technical Controller to be included on the World Aquatics Technical Controllers List is sixty-five (65) years of age
- Retired elite athletes, Coaches, World Aquatics Judges and World Aquatics Evaluators are eligible to apply
- Must have at least a minimum of 24 (twenty-four) months of international experience.
- Availability for training and competitions
- Be comfortable with technology and using cloud platforms
- Ability to communicate in English
- Strong ethics
- Not be a Relative of a Competitor
- Not be a current Coach of a Competitor or Relative of a current Coach of a Competitor
- Not be a Team Manager or relative of a Team Manager at the Competition
- Not be an inhabitant of the same household of the competitor or any of a relative, a Coach or team manager of a competitor
- Preferably, not be someone who receives money from any Member Federation that has athletes competing in the competition. This conflict will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Not be allowed when the TC is currently or has in the past twelve months been the regular Coach/choreographer of the competitor/candidate
- Not be allowed when the livelihood of the TC is dependent on, or is perceived to be dependent on the outcome
- "Relative" refers to a person connected with another by blood or marriage (including partner). Relative also includes step relationships and is any of parent, child, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, first cousin, grandparent, or spouse. "Coach" refers to any person who coaches figures and/or routines on a regular basis to the competitor. All Technical Controllers will be asked to declare their conflicts with their World Aquatics Applications.

The Appointment of Technical Controllers

The appointment of the Technical Controllers shall be managed in the following manner:

- World Aquatics will offer training clinics for selected candidates
- World Aquatics will be responsible for training during the clinic and assessing the performance of candidates in the clinic. It is recommended that the total number of participants at each clinic shall not exceed 15 (fifteen) to 20 (twenty) trainees.

- Candidates will be trained as Synchronization and Difficulty Technical Controllers
- Candidates will be required to write a certification exam
- Technical Controllers will be selected by World Aquatics

Announcement of Appointments

Appointments of World Aquatic Technical Controllers shall become effective on the date determined by World Aquatics. All World Aquatics TCs are appointed by World Aquatics.

Please see attached application to be submitted to the World Aquatics Office at: angela.dubuis@worldaquatics.com. Deadline to submit is February 15th, 2023.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL CONTROLLER (DIFFICULTY AND SYNCHRONISATION)

Please note that this TC information as extracted from the World Aquatics AS Manual will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as needed with the implementation of the new scoring system and may be subject to edits/changes. Every effort will be made to communicate and inform the World Aquatics Family of these changes.

ROLE:

Two (2) groups of three (3) Technical Controllers must officiate in routines: one (1) group to check the number, order of performance and predeclared difficulty of Free Elements, and the performance and predeclared order of Technical Required Elements (technical routines), and one (1) group to register the number and type of synchronization errors observed.

Role of the Difficulty Technical Controllers:

There will be one (1) Difficulty Technical Controller (DTC) and two (2) Difficulty Assistant Technical Controllers (DATC). The purpose of the role is to verify all Elements (Technical Required Elements (technical routines), Hybrids and Acrobatics performed in real time as they occur in a routine. They are also responsible for the identification of any technical errors. Technical errors are differences in what is declared on the Coach Card to what is performed in the water OR an error in a Technical Required Element (technical routines). DTCs also verify that other general requirements have been completed in the routine as per the AS Rules. The DTC will have communication to the Referee.

DTCs are to follow all process and written requirements (general, technical or skill) as per the AS Rules, Appendix II (Technical Routines), Appendix III (Set No. of Elements), Appendix IV (Acrobatic Routine) and Appendix V (Combo) of AS Rules, Introductory Guide for the Application of Declared Difficulty and Addendum (Appendix VI of AS Rules), and the Acrobatics Catalogue (Appendix VII of AS Rules) and Acrobatics Catalogue Quick Reference Sheets for Technical Controllers. If a requirement (general/technical/skill) is not in writing in an official AS document noted above, then the decision should go in favour of the athlete.

Role of the Synchronization Technical Controllers

There will be three (3) synchronization Technical Controllers (STC) who will record the number of synchronization errors (unequal actions) they observe during the performance of a routine. They will be seated on deck with a clear view of the pool. The STC panel is present only for Duet and Team routines.

Synchronization is the precision of movements in unison - to have actions happen at the same time or correspond exactly in design. Lack of synchronization can be understood as unequal action or accuracy error when comparing two (2) or more athletes swimming at the same time. Unequal actions can be due to the timing and/or design errors of the movements that make the “picture” imprecise, inaccurate and/or not perfect to what the choreography is intended to demonstrate.

Further, unequal action is any movement performed by two (2) or more swimmers with a difference in timing or positioning (design/shape). Movements that are choreographed as intentional unequal movements shall not be penalized.

- Difference in timing includes:
 - Movements that are not performed in complete unison; or
 - Actions that do not happen at the exact same time

- Difference in positioning includes differences in:
 - Position of head, arms, legs, or other body parts used
 - Water level of head, arms, legs, or other body parts used
 - Spacing and pattern shape

If two (2) or more swimmers show different positioning and it is unknown which athlete performed the intended/correct position and yet it is clear there was a difference, it is considered an unequal action.

Synchronization errors are defined in three categories – small, obvious, or major:

Small Errors	<p>Slight differences that cannot be considered as two (2) different movements but distort the image of perfect synchronization.</p> <p>Small synchronization errors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight differences in timing • All differences in positioning (design/shape) (also considered by Elements panel): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Non-accurate movements in pattern alignment and spacing – Differences in angles or height – Non-parallel walkouts
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Obvious Errors	<p>Any unintentional difference in matching that produces the effect of two (2) movements being done one after the other.</p> <p>Obvious synchronization errors include clear difference in timing.</p>
Major Errors:	<p>Any error that produces an alteration in routine content (missing one or more movements by one or more athletes).</p> <p>Major synchronization errors include missing movements, i.e., any alteration of the routine content by one (1) or more athletes, e.g., one quick backstroke that is missed by an athlete.</p> <p>All major errors must have video review overseen by the Referee since they result in the largest deduction.</p>

STCs are to follow all process and written requirements for recording synchronization errors (unequal actions) as detailed in the Introductory Guide for Scoring Synchronization available here: https://learning.fina.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/10/27_09_2022_Synchronisation_Intro_Guide_v2_Sept_2022.pdf.

RESPONSABILITIES:

DTC and DATC

The responsibilities of the Difficulty Technical Controller (DTC) and Difficulty Assistant Technical Controllers (DATC) are as follows:

- The DTC and DATCs shall receive the Coach Cards after the Coach Card submission deadline and prior to the event practice beginning. Upon receipt of Coach Cards, the

DTC and DATCs are officially assuming their duties for the event and may not discuss Coach Cards with any athletes, Coaches, Judges, or Member Federation representatives.

- The DTC and DATCs shall hold an initial meeting at the event prior to practice observation to review the submitted Coach Cards for inclusion of requirements (such as Hybrid Connection, Acrobatics DD 2.0-2.65 for Tech Teams, etc.) OR any evident errors that can be flagged prior to the event (such as exceeding the set number of Elements, ineligible bonuses for that event, etc.)
- The DTC and DATCs may watch official event practice times to familiarize themselves with the event routines and Coach Card declarations. Notes may be taken. DTCs or DATCs may not give any Coach Card/Routine feedback to any athletes once the event has begun (inclusive of practice).

- The DTC and DATCs shall hold a meeting prior to each event to review the Difficulty Guide, rules, and their roles and to prepare in general for the specific event that they will be controlling. This includes discussing any notes they may have taken during practice that may better prepare them for the event.
- The DTC and DATCs shall be seated together on deck with a clear view of the pool. The DTC shall sit in the middle with the DATCs on either side of the DTC.
- The DTC will have communication with the Referee.
- The DTC/DATC panel will operate as follows with shared and divided tasks for controlling/checking required difficulty components as per the AS Rules:
 - Technical Required Elements (TRES): Technical routines only - verification that the athlete(s) did the TRES as declared and as defined in the rules
 - Hybrids
 - Base Mark: No. of Movements and Time Underwater – noting as per the rules if incorrect the DTC/DATC panel has the authority to adjust.
 - Declared movements: (Family/Level) and any other requirements as per the rules.
 - Bonuses: Traveling, Angles, Placement, Synchronization and Pattern Changes (as applicable to each discipline/event).
 - Acrobatics
 - Other requirements as defined in the AS Rules (Appendix II, III, IV or V)

Event:	DATC-1	DTC	DATC-2
Solo Tech	Base Mark TREs Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses TREs Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses TREs Set No. of Elements
Solo Free	Base Mark Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Set No. of Elements
Duet Tech	Base Mark TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements
Mixed Duet Tech	Base Mark TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Incl. Hybrid Connection TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Incl. Hybrid Connection TREs + Pair Acro Set No. of Elements
Duet Free	Base Mark Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Pair Acro Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Pair Acro Set No. of Elements
Mixed Free Duet	Base Mark Pair Acro Two Connected Surface Movements completed Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Incl. Hybrid Connection Pair Acro Two Connected Surface Movements completed Set No. of Elements	Family/Level + Bonuses Incl. Hybrid Connection Pair Acro Two Connected Surface Movements completed Set No. of Elements

Team Tech	Base Mark TREs Acrobatics + DD 2.0- 2.65 Set No. of Elements App II - Gen Req. #6 1 Circle max	Family/Level TREs Incl. Cadence Action Acrobatics + DD 2.0- 2.65 Set No. of Elements App II - Gen Req. #6 1 Circle max	Bonuses TREs Incl. Cadence Action Acrobatics + DD 2.0- 2.65 Set No. of Elements App II - Gen Req. #6 1 Circle max
Team Free (JR/SR)	Base Mark Acrobatics Set No. of Elements	Family/Level Acrobatics Set No. of Elements	Bonuses Acrobatics Set No. of Elements
Team Free (Youth)	Base Mark Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements	Family/Level Incl. 1 Thrust & Spin 720 Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements	Bonuses Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements
Team Free (12U)	Base Mark Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements	Family/Level Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements	Bonuses Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements
Acrobatic Routine	Acrobatics Set No. of Elements	Acrobatics Set No. of Elements	Acrobatics Set No. of Elements
Free Combo	Base Mark Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements Theme declared App V - Req Elem. #1	Family/Level Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements Theme declared App V - Req Elem. #1	Bonuses Acrobatics + max DD Set No. of Elements Theme declared App V - Req Elem. #1

- Each DTC and DATCs then watches the routine and confirm or denies if the declared difficulty has been performed as declared on the Coach Card and if any other requirements as per the rules have been completed or are incomplete. This is done electronically or via pencil and paper method depending on the scoring system in place for the competition. The DTC and DATC may also select “Review” if they need to re-watch an Element or requirement to validate their decision to “confirm” or “deny”.
- If the DTC or a DATC select “deny” or “review” then the entire DTC panel must review the Element/requirement and decide together. If a unanimous decision cannot be reached by the DTCs after reviewing three (3) times, the ruling will go in favour of the athlete.
- The DTC or DATC may use video replay (max three times (3x) at normal speed) to confirm a decision on an Element or requirement.
- Action when declared difficulty is denied is as per the AS rules:
 - Base Mark for Hybrids and Acrobatics,
 - Zero (0) for Technical Required Elements, and

- Applicable penalties (as per the AS rules) for missing requirements or violations of requirements.
 - In case that an DTC/DATC is absent due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, a substitute/reserve DTC/DATC may be put in place that is available at the event (for example a Judge that is not on a panel and is also a TC). The DTC panel should always operate with three (3) DTCs.
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Review of Declared Difficulty

1. Technical Required Elements, Hybrids, Acrobatics, or other requirements are reviewed in the order they were performed.
2. The DTC first states what Element/requirement is being reviewed, the level (if applicable), and asks the DATC who called the review for the reason.
3. During the routine - if the DTC or an DATC sees a reason to review an Element or requirement they select "Review" on the scoring program screen or they may say "Review" as they flag the Element/requirement on the Coach Card if there is no technology involved.
4. The DTC guides all discussions in any review including final decision based on the vote among the three members. If a unanimous decision cannot be reached by the TCs after reviewing three (3) times, the ruling will go in favour of the athlete.
5. How the DTC is to handle the decisions on deductions: DTC confirms all deductions (TC obligation) based on discussion and decision of the panel of DTCs.
6. Unless there is a numerical/calculation error, NO changes can be made once the results have been announced for each routine.
7. Prior to the announcement of the score, the DTC and DATCs may continue to review and confirm or deny elements/requirements. The DTC must ask the DATCs if they have any other items to discuss PRIOR to authorizing what was submitted on the Coach Card/ observed in the routine.
8. If it was already authorized and the scores have not been announced, alert the Referee immediately to stop the announcement of the score so an error can be corrected.
9. It is NOT possible to change Elements (Technical Required Elements, Hybrids, or Acrobatics) once the score has been announced.
10. Any feedback requested by a Coach/athlete can be provided after the competition.
11. Refer to AS Rule 18.10 for Technical Controller (DTC/DATC/STC) Review Request.
12. The Scorer inputs the codes/levels of difficulty of the Technical Required Elements, Hybrids and Acrobatics into the computer system.

STC

- The STCs may watch official event practice times to familiarize themselves with the event routines. STCs may not give synchronization feedback to any competing athlete(s) once the event has begun (inclusive of practice).
- The STCs shall hold a meeting prior to Duet and Team events to review the Synchronization Guide, rules, and their roles and to prepare in general for the specific event that they will be controlling.
- The STCs may be seated together or in different seating locations on deck with a clear view of the pool. The STC seating locations will be communicated by the event Referee.
- The STCs will use the synchronization operating system for the event as specified by the scoring system in use and as directed by the Referee. Process as per the Introductory Guide for Scoring Synchronization (Synchronization Device, Synchronization App or Pencil and Paper method/using tally counters and synchro error sheet/chits).
- Synchronization errors entered by STCs are validated as follows:
 - Electronic method
 - At least two (2) STCs must coincide in time to validate an observed synchronization error (unequal action)
 - A maximum delay of 0.5 seconds between observations by two (2) STCs will be allowed to validate the observed unequal action
 - In case a different type of synchronization error is observed by two (2) STCs, the less punitive error is validated (e.g., when small and obvious error is observed, small error is validated)
 - Pencil and paper method
 - Number and type of the synchronization error is calculated as average number of errors observed by STCs per type and lap
- STCs shall submit their synchronization errors (small, obvious, and major) for each competitor to the scorer/data input operator.
- In the case that a major error has been identified – a video review overseen by the Referee will take place as they result in the largest deduction.
- STCs do not take notes and should not discuss results with Coaches or competing athletes after the event has concluded.

- In the case that an STC is absent due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, a substitute/reserve STC may be put in place that is available at the event (for example a Judge who is not on a panel and is also a TC). In the case that a substitute can't be found the STC panel may operate with two (2) STCs.

Review of Major Synchronization Errors:

1. If a STC logs a major error, video review by the entire STC panel will take place and will be overseen by the Referee.
2. In the case where the synchro device is in place the Referee will automatically see that a major error has taken place and will initiate the video review.
3. In the case where technology is not in place (pencil and paper method), the STC should communicate to the Referee that they have logged a major error.
4. The Referee then oversees the review of the major error(s) with the STC panel by video review
5. The video may only be reviewed a maximum of three (3) times at normal speed (for each part with the major error(s) identified).
6. If a unanimous decision cannot be reached by the STCs after reviewing three (3) times, the ruling will go in favour of the athlete.
7. At the conclusion of the review the Referee will communicate the final decision of the STC panel regarding major errors to the Scorer.