

WHAT TO EXPECT 2025/2026

As we await the rule changes and updates for the 2025-2026 season from Canada Artistic Swimming and World Aquatics, BC Artistic Swimming is sharing a summary of **'what to expect'** for the coming season. That said, at this time, no major changes are expected at the National or International levels this season. The information presented below is not confirmed or approved and is **subject to change** between now and the release of the 2025-2026 BCAS Technical Package. Please note that there may be other changes that are not included below.

Rule changes adopted by World Aquatics and CAS may affect each level of competition in BC differently. National Stream will align with national and international changes ensuring our BC athletes and routines are prepared for national competitions. All other streams may be affected with additional modifications. Please refer to the individual NS and PS sections herein.

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE SERIES

BC Artistic Swimming will be creating a **Technical Conference Series** that will run in the fall in place of one of the in-person event from previous seasons (i.e. eliminating TM1). The series will focus on developmental sessions over a 4–6-week period that highlight some key learnings for different membership groups. Following the series, we will include some in-person learnings that tie in some of what was introduced during the series at our December Training Meet & Technical Conference.

PROVINCIAL STREAM INFORMATION

As we continue the progressive rollout of the new judging system, BCAS will be implementing more of, and aligning with more of the new system changes for the 2025-2026 season. BCAS remains committed to supporting our members with education and training as we continue the new judging system to B.C.!

FIGURES

In alignment with National/International rules, we will keep four figures for under 12 age groups while reducing to two figures for 13+ age groups (Note: AdAS will align with CAS and remain at 2 figures).

PROVINCIAL STREAM

- 🌸 AG 10 & Under – 4 figures
- 🌸 AG 11-12 – 4 figures
- 🌸 13-15 – 2 figures
- 🌸 16-20 – 2 figures

MASTERS REC – 2 figures

AdAS – 2 figures

ROUTINES

ACROSS ALL PS AGE GROUPS

- 🚩 New system alignment – Coach Card submissions will be monitored by Technical Controllers.
- 🚩 Adherence to routine requirements will be monitored and penalties/deductions will be made as appropriate.

PROVINCIAL STREAM

Be prepared for only minor modifications to the NS/CAS rules.

- 🚩 Acrobatic – safety limits remain by age group.
- 🚩 Removal of difficulty table limits by age group.
 - Note: It is expected that coaches are choreographing routines based on ability of their swimmers as technical controllers will adhere to standards as laid out in the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming Rules.
- 🚩 Full base mark for incomplete/incorrect declarations.
- 🚩 Removal of 10&U team required elements.
- 🚩 Synchronization – only deductions for obvious (0.1) and major (0.3) errors (Note: exact deduction value is under consideration). Minor errors will be taken into artistic impression scoring as it affects the overall impression of the routine.

MASTERS REC/COMPETITIVE

TBC – expected new system implementation with modifications in alignment with World Aquatics & CAS.

AdAS COMPETITIVE

**See separate AdAS Appendix from CAS Rulebook posted on the BCAS [website](#).*

New system implementation with modifications in alignment with World Aquatics & CAS.

LIMITED COMPETITIVE

- 🚩 Acrobatic – possible 1-2 two codes permitted as determined by BCAS in consultation with other provincial technical leads.
- 🚩 Penalty or disqualification for acrobatics that do not align with the permitted codes.
- 🚩 Addition of LC Advanced Figure Category – in alignment with 10&U figures.

NATIONAL STREAM INFORMATION

Align with CAS on all rules.



LTAD TESTING SUBMISSION

BCAS is aiming to adjust the LTAD submission deadlines to better suit the timelines of the clubs yearly planning. We will move towards more of a pre-season and post-season submission that gives coaches/athletes a better picture of how the athlete started (pre-season) and how they finished (post-season).

IGNITE 2025-2026

To be communicated separately.

ENTERING THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

Athletes who want to experience a high-performance environment can enter the high-performance pathway at the annual Assessment Camp in June. The Assessment Camp is open to any athlete who is on the high-performance pathway. Typically, it is athletes in National Stream; however, the Assessment Camp is also a great introduction for PS athletes who may be looking to transition into high-performance or National Stream.

There are specific criteria/assessments that athletes will need to know in advance of the camp. Most will work on the criteria all season, but some may learn it later in the season. The added criteria may be too much for some 13-15 athletes to learn on top of their current technical load (12 figures) so it is important for a coach to determine when the right time is to have their athlete add more to their technical workload.

As a general guideline, BCAS directs all athletes/families to their personal coach or club head coach to find out if the high-performance pathway is right for them.