

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

Rule	Current Wording	New Wording
Vision Statement	To be a leading sport organization, fostering a culture of inclusiveness, fun and achievement.	To be a competitive sport organization, fostering a culture of fair play, inclusivity, fun and achievement.
Mission Statement	The BC Summer Swimming Association (BCSSA) promotes and encourages the development of athletes and volunteers through participation in speed swimming, diving, water polo and artistic swimming.	The BC Summer Swimming Association (BCSSA) promotes, and encourages the development of athletes, coaches, and volunteers through life-long participation in aquatic activities.
Core Values	Through its member clubs, BCSSA provides opportunities for training, competition, and activities in communities throughout BC and surrounding areas.	No change
	BCSSA promotes the development of an individual's capacity to achieve excellence and life skills through participation in competitive aquatic activities.	BCSSA promotes the development of an individual's capacity to achieve excellence and life skills through participation in speed swimming, diving, water polo and artistic swimming.
Table of Contents		Will need to be updated to reflect all changes.
Definitions		Definitions will be moved to end of each book before the Index. Note will be made that Section 1 will now be found at the end of the book. Each BCSSA Sport will have their own rule book with only definitions related to the individual sport.
2.2 Individual Registration		
2.2.1 Registration Requirements b)	c) At the time of registration, the specific aquatic activities of each athlete shall be correctly recorded.	c) At the time of registration, the specific aquatic activities of each Athlete shall be correctly recorded by the Club registrar or delegate.
2.2.2 Sanctions For Not Meeting Requirements		Add: c) Any athlete determined to have been competing in the wrong category shall be disqualified from all incorrectly entered events. Said disqualification shall occur at the time of determination in the current season.

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

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2.3.1 Registration Timing	c) An athlete who wishes to compete at Regional or Provincial Championships with BCSSA during the competitive season but after the second Thursday of July may do so but will be ineligible to compete at the Regional and the Provincial Championships. All applicable provincial, regional and club fees for such a late registrant shall be paid and submitted to the Provincial Registrar by September 15th	An athlete who wishes to compete with BCSSA during the competitive season, but who registers AFTER the second Thursday of July, may do so but is ineligible to compete at the Regional and the Provincial Championships.
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees	a) An annual Provincial individual registration fee shall be established by the BCSSA Board of Directors prior to the beginning of each competitive season.	a) An annual Provincial individual registration fee shall be established by the BCSSA Board of Directors no later than February 1st of each year.
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees	b) Each Regional Board may levy Regional fees by such amounts as may be deemed necessary for regional activities and expenditures.	no change
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees	c) Each club shall submit a club competitive season individual registration database for each aquatic sport, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by the second Thursday of July.	no change
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees	d) The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar by the Monday two weeks prior to the Swimming Regional Championships.	d) The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar not later than 12 days before the first day of the Regional Swimming Championships.
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees	e) Clubs shall submit any fees relating to late registrants to the Regional Registrar by September 15th.	remove
2.3.2 Registration Database and Fees		e) A penalty of up to \$1,000 may be assessed by the BCSSA Board of Directors to a region or club that fails to submit its registration database or fees by the deadline.
2.4.1 Registration Timing	b) Clubs may commence registration and programs for the non-competitive season on September 1st of each year. The closing date for non-competitive season registrations is March 31st of the following year.	b)The closing date for non-competitive season registrations is as set by each Regional Board, but shall be no later than March 31st.
2.4.1 Registration Timing	c) Each club shall submit a club non-competitive season individual registration database, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by February 28th.	Remove

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

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2.4.1 Registration Timing	d) The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar by March 15th	Remove
2.4.2 Registration Database and Fees	a) A non-competitive season provincial registration fee shall be established by the BCSSA Board of Directors each year.	Remove
2.4.2 Registration Database and Fees	b) Each Regional Board may levy Regional fees by such amounts as may be deemed necessary for regional activities and expenditures.	Change to a)
2.4.2 Registration Database and Fees	c) Each club shall submit a club non-competitive season individual registration database, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by April 3rd.	b)Each club shall submit a club non-competitive season individual registration database, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by April 1st.
2.4.2 Registration Database and Fees	d) The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar by April 10th.	Change to c)
2.4.2 Registration Database and Fees		d) A penalty of up to \$1,000 may be assessed by the BCSSA Board of Directors to a region or club that fails to submit its registration database or fees by the deadline.
2.5 Protests Regarding Athlete Eligibility		
2.5.1 Responsibilities	b) Any club wishing to protest the eligibility of an Athlete shall, as soon as possible, forward the protest in writing to their Regional Director and regional registrar, along with any relevant documentation.	b) All protests regarding Athlete eligibility must follow the current BCSSA Athlete Eligibility Protest Policy.
2.5.1 Responsibilities	c) Anonymous protests of Athlete eligibility shall not be investigated.	Remove. Will be covered by Athlete eligibility policy
2.5.2 Process	Entire Section	Remove. To be replaced with the new BCSSA Athlete Eligibility Policy.
2.6 ATHLETE TRANSFER — COMPETITIVE SEASON		
2.6.1	Athletes may not transfer between clubs after the second Thursday of July.	Athletes shall not transfer between clubs: a) until all relevant paperwork is complete and signed by all parties and, b) after the second Thursday of July.
2.6.2 Intra-Region Athlete Transfer:	a) The transfer of an athlete between two clubs within the same region requires the approval of the Athlete's parent or guardian as well as the president or designate of each club.	a) The transfer of an athlete between two clubs of the same BCSSA Sport within the same region requires the approval of the athlete, athlete's parent or guardian if necessary, as well as the president or designate of each club.

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

Rule	Current Wording	New Wording
2.6.2 Intra-Region Athlete Transfer:	b) A transfer shall be initiated by the Athlete using the transfer form available from the BCSSA.	b) The transfer shall be initiated by the athlete and/or parent/ guardian using the BCSSA transfer form.
2.6.2 Intra-Region Athlete Transfer:	c) The receiving club registrar shall submit the transfer form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates, to the Regional Registrar.	c) The receiving club registrar shall submit the completed transfer form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates, to the Regional Registrar.
2.6.3 Inter-Region Athlete Transfer:	a) The transfer of an athlete between two clubs in different regions requires the approval of the presidents or designates of each club and the two Regional Directors or designates.	a) The transfer of an athlete between clubs of the same BCSSA Sport in different regions requires the approval of the athlete, athlete's parent/ guardian if necessary, president of each club, and the two Regional Directors or designates.
2.6.3 Inter-Region Athlete Transfer:	b) The transfer shall be initiated by the Athlete using the transfer form available from the BCSSA.	b)The transfer shall be initiated by the athlete or parent/guardian using the BCSSA transfer form.
2.6.3 Inter-Region Athlete Transfer:	c)The transfer form shall be signed by the club president or designate and Regional Director of the home region prior to sending it to the second region.	Remove
2.6.3 Inter-Region Athlete Transfer:	d) The receiving club registrar shall submit the transfer form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates and the Regional Directors or designates to the Regional Registrar.	c) The receiving club registrar shall submit the completed transfer form to the Regional Registrar.
2.6.3 Inter-Region Athlete Transfer:	e) The Athlete shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fee but may be required to pay any Regional fee assessed by the receiving region. Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.	d) The Athlete shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fees. Regional and Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.
2.7 ATHLETE TRANSFER — NONCOMPETITIVE SEASON		
2.7.1 Process	b) A transfer form is not required for an athlete transfer during the non-competitive season.	b) A transfer form is not required.
2.8 ASSIGNMENT TO A SECOND CLUB TO COMPETE IN AN ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE.		2.8 ASSIGNMENT TO A SECOND CLUB TO COMPETE IN AN ADDITIONAL SPORT.
2.8.1 What is Permitted	a) An Athlete may become a member of a second BCSSA club in order to compete in an aquatic discipline not offered by the home club, as long as the registration takes place prior to the Monday before the second Thursday of July.	a) An Athlete may become a member of a second BCSSA club in their Region in order to compete in a BCSSA Sport not offered by the home club, as long as the assignment form and registration is completed by the Monday before the second Thursday of July.

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

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2.8.1 What is Permitted	b) If another club in the Athlete's home region offers the desired second discipline, then such an assignment may only be made within the same region as the Athlete's home club.	b) If another club in the Athlete's home region offers the desired second BCSSA Sport, then such an assignment may only be made within the same region as the Athlete's home club.
2.8.1 What is Permitted	c) If no club in the Athlete's home region offers the desired second discipline, then such an assignment may be made to a club in a different region as long as the BCSSA assignment form and registration takes place prior to the Monday before the second Thursday of July.	c) If no club in the Athlete's home region offers the desired second BCSSA Sport, then such an assignment may be made to a club in a different region as long as the BCSSA Assignment form and registration is completed by the Monday before the second Thursday of July.
2.8.2 Process	When registering an athlete for a second aquatic discipline, the second club shall indicate the name of the Athlete's home club on the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.	When registering an Athlete for a second BCSSA Sport, the second club shall ensure that the Athlete Transfer form is completed in its entirety.
2.8.3 Intra-region Athlete Assignment	a) An Athlete wishing to compete in a discipline not offered by their home club but offered by another club in the same region shall initiate the assignment process to another club in the region using the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.	a) The assignment of an athlete between two clubs of the same BCSSA Sport within the same region requires the approval of the athlete, athlete's parent or guardian if necessary, as well as the president or designate of each club.
2.8.3 Intra-region Athlete Assignment	b) The Athlete shall not be required to pay any additional Regional or Provincial fees. Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.	b) The assignment shall be initiated by the athlete and/or parent/ guardian using the BCSSA transfer form.
2.8.3 Intra-region Athlete Assignment		c) The receiving club registrar shall submit the completed assignment form to the Regional Registrar.
2.8.3 Intra-region Athlete Assignment		d) The Athlete shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fees. Regional and Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.
2.8.4 Inter-region Athlete Assignment	a) An Athlete wishing to participate in a discipline not offered by any club in their region shall initiate the assignment process to a club in a different region using the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.	a) The assignment of an athlete between clubs of the same BCSSA Sport in different regions requires the approval of the athlete, athlete's parent/ guardian if necessary, president of each club, and the two Regional Directors or designates.
2.8.4 Inter-region Athlete Assignment	b) An assignment to a club in a different region requires written approval from the two clubs and the two Regional Directors involved.	b)The assignment shall be initiated by the athlete or parent/ guardian using the BCSSA transfer form.

Approved Wording changes to Artistic Rules - 2024

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2.8.4 Inter-region Athlete Assignment	c) The assignment form shall be signed by the club president or designate and Regional Director of the home region prior to sending it to the second region.	Remove
2.8.4 Inter-region Athlete Assignment	d) The receiving club registrar shall submit the assignment form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates and the Regional Directors or designates to the Regional Registrar.	c) The receiving club registrar shall submit the completed assignment form to the Regional Registrar.
2.8.4 Inter-region Athlete Assignment	e) The Athlete shall not be required to pay an additional Provincial fee but may be required to pay any Regional fee assessed by the receiving region. Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.	d) The Athlete shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fees. Regional and Club fees are the responsibility of the Athlete.
2.8.5 Exceptions to Intra-Region and Inter-Region	Athlete Assignment may be approved by the home club, receiving clubs, the Regional Directors and the Director of the specific aquatic discipline by June 1st of each year.	Under exceptional circumstances, an Individual Athlete Assignment may be approved by the home club, receiving club, the two Regional Directors and the Director of the specific BCSSA Sport by June 1st of each year. Unanimous approval is required for the assignment to be approved. Four or more assignment requests from the same club must be approved by the BCSSA Board of Directors
3.11 BCSSA APPEALS COMMITTEE		
3.11.1	Any club, Athlete, coach, official or other person may appeal any decision or application of BCSSA rules to the BCSSA Appeals Committee.	a) Any club executive member or coach may appeal any decision or application of BCSSA rules to the BCSSA Appeals Committee.
3.11.1		b) The purpose of the appeals process is to determine whether the appropriate process and application of rules was followed. The appeals process is not to simply re-try an original protest or complaint.
3.11.2	In order for an appeal to be considered, the club or person wishing to appeal shall provide the following to the BCSSA Office:	In order for the appeal to be considered, it must be submitted to the Provincial Office within 2 days of the decision in question and shall include the following:
3.11.3	a) A written description of the matter being appealed, including the reasons why the decision should be changed.	no change
3.11.4	b) A \$100 filing fee.	no change
Artistic Swimming		

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7.1 ATHLETE CATEGORIES, SKILL LEVELS AND AGE DIVISIONS		
Summer Categories ("S")	Beginner Athletes can stay as a beginner as long as needed to competently (*7.1.2) complete the beginner elements in a technical routine.	Once an athlete's marks from element panel from the technical routine reaches 4.6, they will move up to Intermediate.
	Intermediate Athletes can stay as an intermediate as long as needed to competently (*7.1.2) complete the intermediate elements in a technical routine.	Once an athlete's marks from element panel from the technical routine reaches 5.6, they will move up to Advanced
	Advanced Athletes can stay as advanced as long as needed to competently (*7.1.2) complete the advanced elements in a technical routine. Athletes compete the same elements as the o-category 1 athletes.	Advanced Athletes can stay as advanced once the marks from the technical routine reaches 5.6 and they remain in this category.
7.1.2 Skill Level and Age Division	An artistic athlete's age as of April 30th each year, artistic swimming participation in the winter season, and combined marks of either regionals or provincials from the previous season shall be used to determine the Athlete's category/skill of competition.	An artistic athlete's age as of December 31st each year, artistic swimming participation in the winter season, and combined marks of either regionals or provincials from the previous season shall be used to determine the Athlete's category/skill of competition.
7.1.2 Skill Level and Age Division	a) The coach will determine their skill level at the beginning of the season based on which elements of the technical routine they can competently compete	a) The coach will determine their skill level at the beginning of the season based on the swimmer's marks from the previous season. If they are a new swimmer, the coach will decide the level based on which elements of the technical routine they can competently compete
7.3 RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS		
7.3.1 General	c) Make-up that provides a natural, clean and healthy glow is acceptable. Theatrical make-up, nail polish, jewelry, accessory equipment and/ or additional clothing is not permitted, unless required for medical reasons, except for medical alerts and Kira religious bracelets. Medical certification must be submitted to the Chief Referee/ Judge at least 30 minutes before the event.	c) Make-up that provides a natural, clean and healthy glow is acceptable. Theatrical make-up, nail polish, jewelry, accessory equipment, goggles and/ or additional clothing is not permitted, unless required for medical reasons, except for medical alerts and spiritual/religious bracelets/ jewelry. Medical certification must be submitted to the Chief Referee/ Judge at least 30 minutes before the event.
	d) White caps and black suits are permitted for technical routines. Caps are permitted for free routines if desired.	

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		e) The use of goggles during routine events is not permitted unless required by medical reasons.
7.4 Awards		
7.4.1	7.4.1 Final placing for each figure event is determined by the combined four figure scores and final placing for the routine event is determined by the routine score. Double ribbons will be awarded to the top three finishers in each figure and routine event. Single ribbons will be awarded from the 4- 8 place in each figure and routine event.	7.4.1 All technical and free routines are scored in their individual category and level with awards for each. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each category events (free and technical). Ribbons will be awarded for the 4- 8 place in each category events (free and technical).
7.4.2	7.4.2 Final placing for the championship score is 50% of the combined figure score and 50% of the routine score. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers from the championship score. Single ribbons will be awarded from the 4-8 place.	Remove
7.4.3	The type of awards (ribbons and medals) are provided by the regional directors at regionals and awards (ribbons and medals) are provided by BCSSA at provincials.	Renumbered to 7.4.2 - The type of awards (ribbons and medals) are provided by the regional directors at regionals and provincial awards (ribbons and medals) are provided by BCSSA at provincials.

All numbering will be revised to make bullet points small Roman numerals. Eg (i), (ii), (iii), etc.

Example:

2.1.2 New Clubs

a) To affiliate a new club,.....

- (i) the club must
- (ii) The club must
- (iii) there must be
- (iv) The club must

(1) submit paperwork

All references to Discipline as it relates to swimming/ diving/ artistic/ water polo sports will be changed to BCSSA Sport.

All references to him/ her or himself/herself will be changed to them or themselves.

All references to swimmer shall be changed to athlete.

All references to FINA have been changed to World Aquatics.