

# **DECISION OF THE JURY OF APPEAL OF ARTISTIC SWIMMING AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024**

Decision by:

**Husain Al Musallam (Kuwait)**

**Matthew Dunn (Australia)**

**Antonio Silva (Portugal)**

**Vanja Udovicic (Serbia)**

**Erik Van Heijningen (Netherlands)**

**Cheryl Gibson (Canada)**

**Errol Clarke (Barbados)**

**Monica Amon Changanamuno (Malawi)**

In the matter related to:

**The incorrect execution of the Eye position by Team Italy during the Team Free Routine on 6 August 2024 at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.**

Paris, 6 August 2024

\* \* \* \*

## I. Factual background

- On 6 August 2024 during the Team Free Routine of Artistic Swimming at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the Judges gave a base mark to the Italian team for incorrectly executing the Eye position:

|    |                                                                                   |           |                |                                      |                                                                        |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 |  | Eye<br>ey | Stand on 1 leg | Yes +<br>blind grip<br>moving<br>leg | Leg<br>backward<br>135 (0,25) +<br>torso forward<br>almost 90<br>(0,1) |
|    |                                                                                   |           | 0,1            | 0,2                                  | 0,35                                                                   |

- More specifically, the Judges deemed that the athlete grabbed her right leg with her right arm, instead of grabbing her leg with either both arms or with the opposite arm.
- At 21:08 CET on the same day, the Team Leader of the Italian team filed a protest with the Referee of the competition, pursuant to Article 13 (part one) of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations (the "Protest"). In their Protest, the Team leader argued that the World Aquatics Acrobatics Catalogue of positions did not specify that the leg had to be grabbed with either both arms or with the opposite arm.
- After review of the Protest filed, the Referee rejected the Protest and informed the Team Leader.
- After receipt of this decision, the Team Leader informed World Aquatics that she wished to appeal the rejection of the Protest to the Jury of Appeal, pursuant to Article 13.1.3 (part one) of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations.
- On 6 August 2024 at 22h00 CET, the Jury of Appeal met in the Aquatics Centre and reviewed the appeal of the Protest.

## II. DECISION OF THE JURY OF APPEAL

7. Upon review of the Protest and of the decision of the referee and after hearing the Team Leader of Italy, the Jury of Appeal decided to reject the appeal.
8. The World Aquatics Artistic Swimming Acrobatic Moves Q&A published on the World Aquatics website and communicated to all teams in May 2023 clearly states that the Eye position requires grabbing the leg with either both arms, or with the opposite arm:  
*“Positions that MUST have a hand capture (group B or P) of opposite or both arms = Glass, Eye, Pin, Drop, Queen”*
9. The Judges and the Referee correctly applied this rule as it relates to the Italian team.
10. During the hearing, the Team Leader of Italy acknowledged that this rule means that the Eye position requires grabbing the leg with both arms or the opposite arm. However, she said she was not aware of it and that the rules are now too complicated. While it is unfortunate that the Italian team was not aware of this requirement, all teams are responsible for reading all applicable regulations and supporting documentation before the competition to ensure they comply with them.
11. Pursuant to Article 13.2.1 (part one) of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations, this decision is final and is not subject to appeal.