

2026 Routine Factor Adjustments based on 2025 data analysis

Many thanks to our fantastic worldwide Artistic Swimming community for providing us with feedback on how the factors need to improve to perform better in the 2026 season. Without your input and willingness to test these factors we would not have been able to complete this adjustment. These factors will continue to be monitored closely by World Aquatics, and we continue to welcome your feedback.

World Aquatics mandate/rationale for Acro Routine and Technical Routines:

- For ALL Technical routines balance desired is: 60% Elements score, 40% Artistic Impression score – do not want to see the Elements score go over 60% “ceiling”/max.
- Acro routine – 60% Elements (Acros), 40% Artistic Impression score.
- Ensure established goal weights being met via mathematical calculations
- Adjust factors to mitigate the risk of scores getting too high when 3 events are added together (ie 1000+ can't happen with the scoring system)
- To achieve the objectives, use strategy of reducing Element factors, and calibrating AI factors (not just increasing the AI factors)
- Continuous testing on results to see if they meet goal weights or not
- Ensure testing on broad scope (higher dd/score and lower dd/score) to ensure math works

World Aquatics mandate/rationale for Free Routines:

- For Solo, Duet and Team Free balance desired is: 50% Elements, 50% Artistic Impression
 - Mixed Duet Free – a minimum of 60–65% artistic, max of 35–40% elements.
 - Free Combination (Youth/12U) desired balance is: 40% Elements score, 60% Artistic Impression score
 - Ensure established goal weights being met via mathematical calculations
 - Adjust factors to mitigate risk of scores getting too high when 3 events added together (ie 1000+ can't happen with the scoring system)
 - To achieve the objectives, use strategy of reducing Element factors, and calibrating AI factors (not just increasing the AI factors)
 - Ensuring testing on broad scope (higher dd/score and lower dd/score) to ensure math works
 - For Youth and 12U a Figures factor implemented to balance total score as 60% routine, 40% figures, rationale being:
 - Coaches are not training figures/caring about results because they don't have enough of an impact, and this is affecting athlete development, figures need to matter
 - Regarding figure factors, and their specific calculation by event:
 - Since the number and type of elements vary between events, as well as the expected DD and judges scores, the final scores of routines will differ between events
 - To ensure figures account for the correct goal weight (40% of the total score) in each discipline and age group, the figures factor must also be adjusted to support the variation in the routine event results
-
- ***RE: 12U – Not enough data gathered last season. It is recommended to not change until more data is collected for this age group. Continental/National data and recommendations are welcome.***

ACROBATIC & TECHNICAL ROUTINES

| Recommended factors are based on goal weights desired (percentages in blue): | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|-----|--------------------------------|------|-------|
| | <i>Elements 60%</i> | | | <i>Artistic Impression 40%</i> | | |
| ACRO ROUTINE | Acro | Hybrid | TRE | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 100% | - | - | 35% | 30% | 35% |
| | 0.6 | - | - | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Recommendation: | 0.6 | - | - | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines within an acceptable range of tolerance. No change is recommended for 2026. | | | | | |
| TECH SOLO | Acro | Hybrid | TRE | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | - | 20% | 80% | 35% | 30% | 35% |
| | - | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Recommendation: | - | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines within an acceptable range of tolerance. No change is recommended for 2026. | | | | | |
| TECH W DUET | Acro | Hybrid | TRE | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 10% | 20% | 70% | 35% | 30% | 35% |
| | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Recommendation: | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines within an acceptable range of tolerance for the latest events of the season. No change is recommended for 2026. | | | | | |
| TECH MIXED DUET | Acro | Hybrid | TRE | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 20% | 30% | 50% | 35% | 30% | 35% |
| | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Recommendation | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines within an acceptable range of tolerance, given the speed of evolution of mixed duets. No change is recommended for 2026. | | | | | |
| TECH TEAM | Acro | Hybrid | TRE | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 10% | 30% | 60% | 35% | 30% | 35% |
| | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Recommendation: | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines within an acceptable range of tolerance for the latest events of the season. No change is recommended for 2026. | | | | | |

JUNIOR AND SENIOR FREE ROUTINES

| Recommended factors based on goal weights desired (percentages in blue): | | | | | |
|--|--|--------|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| SOLO | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic Impression | | |
| | - | 100% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% |
| | - | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Recommendation: | - | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.3 |
| Event summary: | Artistic Impression weight is slightly below the 50% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Recommendation to increase artistic factors to 1.4/1.4/2.3 – with Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. | | | | |
| WOMEN'S DUET | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic increase | | |
| | 20% | 80% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% |
| | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Recommendation: | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.3 |
| Event summary: | This event is reaching World Aquatics goals for top routines (50/50 balance) within an acceptable range of tolerance. Recommendation to adjust AI factors so Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. | | | | |
| MIXED DUET | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 35-40% Elements | | 60-65% Artistic Impression | | |
| | 40% | 60% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% |
| | 1.0 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| Recommendation: | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.6 |
| Event summary: | Element's weight is slightly above the 35-40% goal established by World Aquatics. Balance between acro and hybrids needs to be adjusted to meet 40%/60% respective goals. Recommendation to lower acro factor to 0.8 and hybrid to 0.2. Recommendation to adjust AI factors so Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. | | | | |
| TEAM | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic Impression | | |
| | 30% | 70% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% |
| | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Recommendation: | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.2 |
| Event summary: | Artistic Impression weight is below the 50% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Within AI score Transitions need to be valued more for well-balanced routines. Recommendation to reduce Acro and Hybrid factors and adjust Artistic impression factors to achieve revised goal weights. | | | | |

YOUTH

| Recommended factors based on goal weights desired (percentages in blue): | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| SOLO | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans | Figures |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic Impression | | | 40% of total score |
| | - | 100% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% | |
| | - | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Recommendation | | 0.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.8 |
| Event summary: | Elements weight is slightly above the 50% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Hybrid factor recommended to be lowered to 0.3. Recommendation to adjust AI factors so Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. Figures adjusted to ensure worth 40% of total score. | | | | | |
| WOMEN'S DUET | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans | Figures |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic Impression | | | 40% of total score |
| | 20% | 80% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% | |
| | 1.3 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Recommendation | 1.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Recommendation | Hybrid weight is above the 80% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines, recommend reducing to 0.2. Recommendation to adjust AI factors so Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. Figures adjusted to ensure worth 40% of total score. | | | | | |
| MIXED DUET | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans | Figures |
| Goals and current factors: | 35-40% Elements | | 60-65% Artistic Impression | | | 40% of total score |
| | 40% | 60% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% | |
| | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Recommendation | 0.9 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| Event summary: | Elements weight is above the 35-40% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Acro weight is below 40%. Recommend 0.9 Acro, 0.2 Hybrid. Recommendation to adjust AI factors so Transitions valued more for well-balanced routines. Figures factor does not require adjustment. | | | | | |
| TEAM | Acro | Hybrid | ChMu | Perf | Trans | Figures |
| Goals and current factors: | 50% Elements | | 50% Artistic Impression | | | 40% of total score |
| | 30% | 70% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% | |
| | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Recommendation | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Event summary: | Elements weight is above the 50% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Acro weight is below 30%. Figures weight needs to be adjusted to meet 40% goal. Recommend 0.5 Acro, 0.2 Hybrid, 2.0 Figures. Align with revised Free Team Artistic Impression weights for ChMu, Perf, Trans. | | | | | |
| COMBO | Acro | Hybrid (Incl. ChoHY) | ChMu | Perf | Trans | Figures |
| Goals and current factors: | 40% Elements | | 60% Artistic Impression | | | n/a |
| | 30% | 70% | 27.5% | 27.5% | 45% | |
| | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.8 | |
| Recommendation | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.6 | |
| Event summary: | Elements weight is above the 40% goal established by World Aquatics for top routines. Acro weight is below 30%. Recommend Acro 0.4 and Hybrid 0.2. Align with revised Free Team Artistic Impression weights for ChMu, Perf, Trans. | | | | | |

