WORLD AQUATICS

MUSIC GUIDELINES FOR ARTISTIC SWIMMING COMPETITIONS

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WORLD AQUATICS
RULES FOR MUSIC USE RIGHTS
AND
GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND ATHLETES
("Music Guidelines")

1. GENERAL

WHAT ARE MUSIC RIGHTS AND WHY ARE MUSIC RIGHTS IMPORTANT?

Music rights protect the copyright of authors, composers and producers and the performance rights of the performer of the music. These rights are usually created automatically when the music is created.

Under copyright protection, the author has the exclusive right to use the music as a whole or any identifiable part thereof in any form, whether tangible or intangible, and to authorize every such use. Therefore, the author shall be entitled to receive payment when the music is played e.g. on the radio, during an event etc.

Music is an important element in the routine of artistic swimming; however, a piece of music may have multiple owners, and therefore it may not be used (including but not limited to medleying, altering or modifying songs) without the approval of all those owners/right holders. In other words, a song may have several right holders, such as the (i) lyricist, (ii) composer, (iii) producer etc. and all such right holders of the chosen song shall approve its use and are entitled to receive payment for such use.
Music rights (including copyright and performer right) must be respected. The use of unlicensed music carries significant risk of rights infringement and resulting financial and other liability for athletes and their sports federations.

Athletes may not use unlicensed music at World Aquatics events. Any attempt by an athlete to use unlicensed music at World Aquatics competitions may subject that athlete to disqualification from the respective event of the competition.

2. MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

2.1 MUSIC USE LICENSING

As a first step to obtaining music use rights, the national member federations and athletes shall get a recording from a reliable and lawful source (e.g. official CD, legitimate online streaming platform etc.) and shall identify all right holders of the chosen music.
Once you have a music from a lawful source, the use of such music shall be licensed before the athlete may use it as part of any competition routine.

To properly license the use of your music, you must know all right holders of such music, and you must receive the consent and approval of all such right holders to use it during the competition. This process can be extremely expensive and time consuming if you do this on your own.
All licensing fees and related costs shall exclusively be borne by the national member federation and/or the athlete, regardless of the way and method of licensing.

2.2 METHODS OF LICENSING MUSIC USE

a) ClicknClear:

To help athletes and national member federations to navigate complicated music copyright laws, World Aquatics has partnered with ClicknClear, whose online platform facilitates music use licensing and obtaining proof thereof.

ClicknClear has more than 3.6 million pre-licensed or pre-cleared tracks to choose from, giving athletes the opportunity to quickly and easily acquire the desired and necessary music use rights at a reasonably low cost. If an athlete or national member federation wishes to use music which is not already in the ClicknClear licensed music catalogue, ClicknClear may provide help with such licensing. However, music right holders are not obligated to consent to athletes' use of that music and such licensing requests, even if granted, may take several months and may come at significant cost.

Although ClicknClear is the recommended music licensing platform by World Aquatics, member federations and athletes are completely free to license their music via any other music rights clearance platform or with the involvement of professional advisors.

b) Alternative Ways to License Music Use:

The national member federation and the athlete (or their appointed music rights specialist) must research who owns the rights regarding the chosen music and then must (i) contact all the right holders to request their approvals, (ii) negotiate any fees and/or royalties, (iii) acquire a license to use the music and (iv) pay the agreed fee and royalties to the various right-holders.
Please note that athletes and their national member federations must show to World Aquatics the approval of all relevant music rights holders; otherwise, such music cannot not be used during World Aquatics competitions.

2.3 OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBER FEDERATIONS AND THE ATHLETES

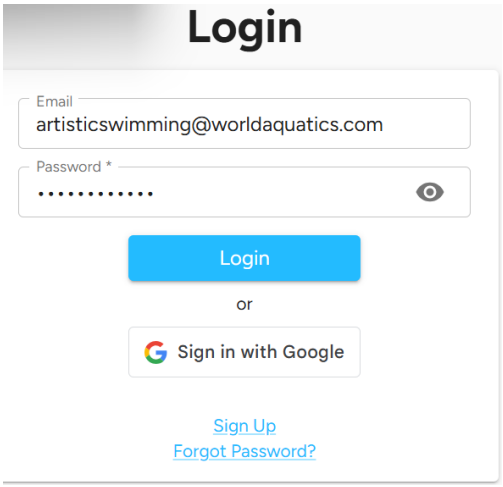
Each athlete and his or her national member federation must ensure, and must show to World Aquatics, that all music to be used during a World Aquatics competition is fully licensed for such use prior to the start of such competition.

In accordance with the Competition Regulations, at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the competition sessions, each athlete and/or his or her national member federation must electronically submit to World Aquatics a list of all of the music that the athlete intends to use at the competition.

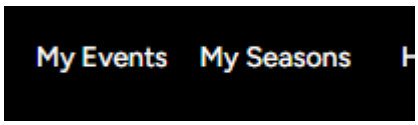
Regardless of how music use rights have been secured (i.e. through ClicknClear or through alternative ways) the chosen music shall be submitted via ClicknClear license verification system, which is available here: LINK

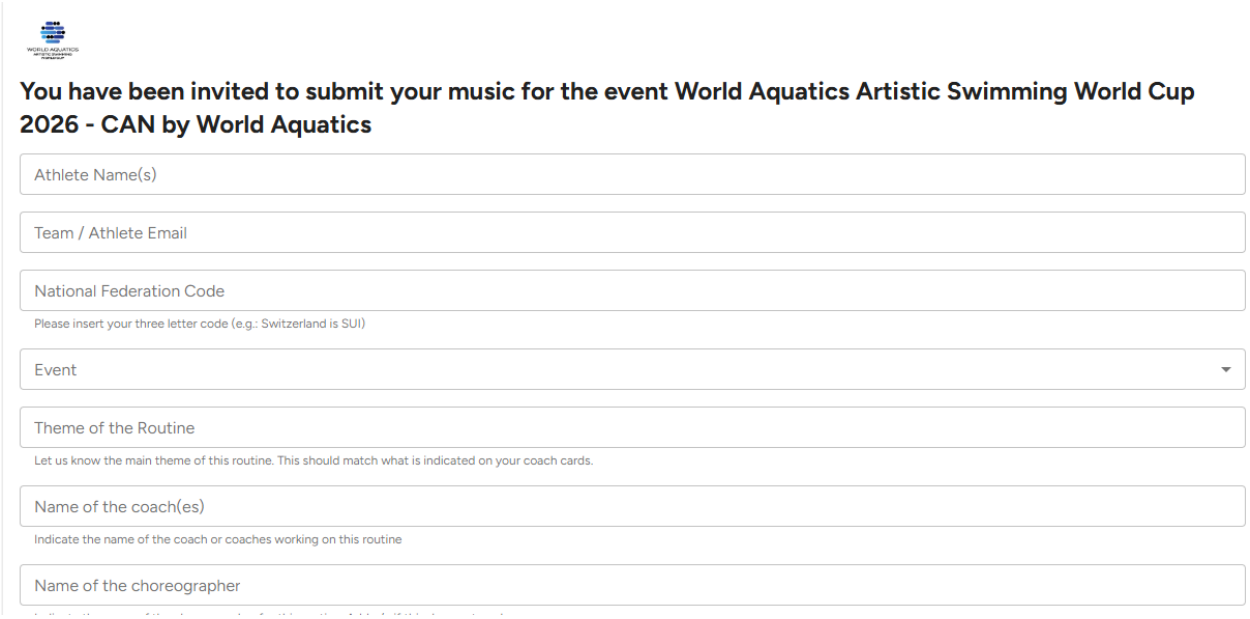
The submission process:

STEP 1: The user must register for the competition or the season:



STEP 2: The user must select a competition or the season





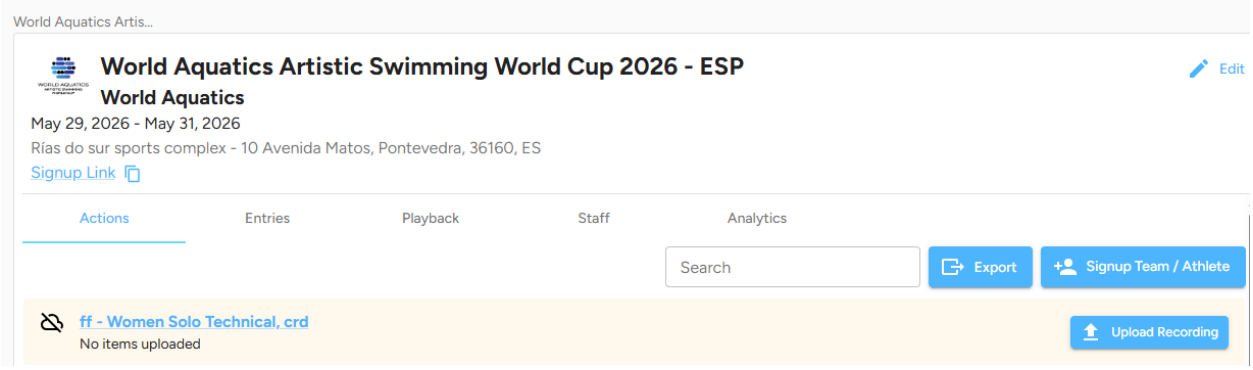
The information that has to be provided includes:

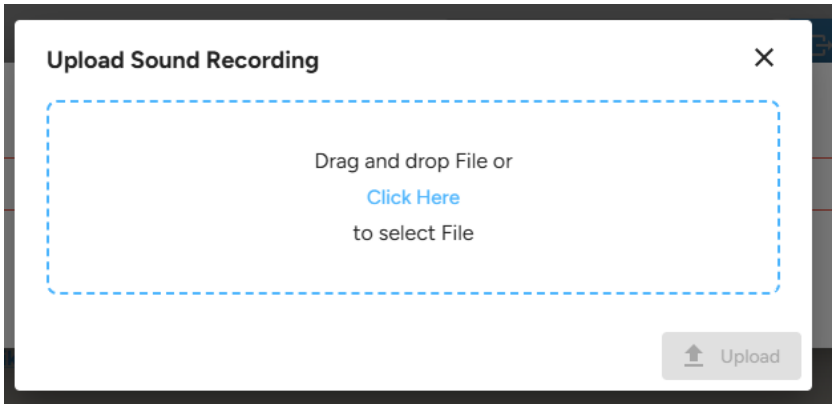
- National Member Federation Code
- Names of athletes
- Event
- Theme of Routine
- Name of the Coaches
- Name of the choreographer(s)

Additional questions include:

- Why did they choose the music
- Goals of the solo/duet/team
- Best achievement of the solo/duet/team
- Since when has this solo/duet/team been active
- Fun facts

STEP 3: Once registered, the user may upload the recording to the system.

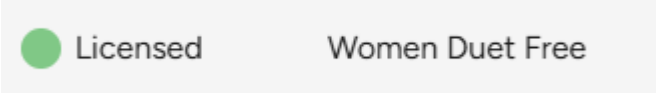




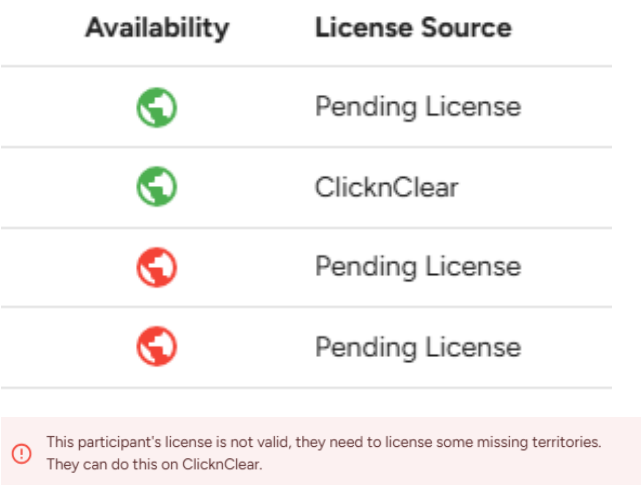
The technical information gathered through the platform includes:

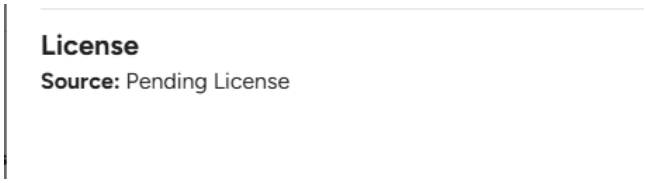
- Title of each song
- Composers
- Publishers
- Performers
- Record Label
- License Source
- License Source name
- Licensed Territories

If everything is in order the entry will appear as follows:



If there is any issue (including but not limited to a missing licence) in relation to the chosen music, it will appear as follows e.g:





e.g. in case of lack of licence
If the athlete/ national member federation has obtained a license from a source other than ClicknClear (i.e. another source or from the artist directly), they will need to upload the license documents at the same time as their music.
Please note that any fee arising from or in connection with the music use rights shall be borne by the athlete and/or the national member federation. World Aquatics may not be responsible for or provide contributions to any fees or costs relating to or in connection with licensing of music use.

Use of artificial intelligence generated music in World Aquatics competitions is not allowed.

3. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO OBTAIN VALID MUSIC USE RIGHTS

Failure to acquire valid music use rights may result in legal claims that may reach thousands (in the worst-case scenario, even million(s)) of United States Dollars.

The proper licensing of music use rights is the sole and individual responsibility and obligations of athletes, and their national member federations. World Aquatics shall not be held responsible or liable in respect of any claims or lawsuits related to such infringement (or other claims).
World Aquatics strongly encourages the athletes and/or the national member federations to conclude a proper liability insurance, which would protect the athlete and/or the national member federation in case of any potential legal claims arising from or in connection with their failure to obtain valid music use rights.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

For any questions regarding these Music Guidelines, please contact the World Aquatics Sports Department and/or the Artistic Swimming Sport Manager via this email: artisticswimming@worldaquatics.com.

Music Guidelines are applicable as of 1 January 2027.

STARTING FROM 1 JANUARY 2027, PARTICIPATION AT ANY WORLD AQUATICS ARTISTIC SWIMMING COMPETITION WILL REQUIRE PROOF, ACCEPTABLE TO WORLD AQUATICS IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, OF VALID MUSIC USE RIGHTS NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THAT COMPETITION.



WORLD
AQUATICS

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