

# VFCAL Figure Referee Packet

Revised 2025

# **BASIC ROLE OF OFFICIALS FOR FIGURE COMPETITION**

**Head Referee:** The referee has full control of the event. He/She will instruct all other officials. The referee enforces all the rules and has the authority to make a decision on all questions relating to the actual conduct of the event and be responsible for the final settlement of any matter not otherwise covered by the rules. The referee has to make sure that all the necessary officials are in their respective positions. He/She also ensures that the competitors are ready and signals for the start of the performance. The referee approves all the results before announcements.

**Assistant Referee:** The assistant referee (s) carries out duties assigned by the referee.

**Head Judge:** The Head Judge is in charge of coordinating and organizing all the on-site logistics around the judges attending the meet. He/She also organizes the Judges Meeting prior to the event and works closely with the Head Referee and the Meet Manager to make sure the Judges receive all the necessary information around the meet.

**Assistant Head Judge:** The assistant Head Judge (s) carries out duties assigned by the Head Judge.

**Judges:** Assess Routines and Figures, by giving marks, following pre-determined standards. For Routines - there are 10 judges assessing both Technical Merit and Artistic Impression.

**Scorer:** The scorer records the marks and makes the necessary computations and produces the results. The scorer also provides the judges with their evaluation data at the conclusion of the event.

# Application of Penalties

## Figure Competition:

1. **One Point Penalties** shall be given a competitor who:
  - a. Adds a twist, open rotation or spin to a listed figure.
  - b. Omits a twist, open rotation or spin from a listed figure and the degree of difficulty shall be reduced to that of the figure performed.
  - c. In the opinion of the Panel Referee, takes a standard swimming stroke to initiate the execution of a figure.
  - d. In the opinion of the Panel Referee, performs an incorrect sequence, or sequence other than described in the Handbook of a listed figure.
  - e. Makes a balk, false start or otherwise fails to complete a figure which has been started.
    - i. The competitor shall be allowed a second attempt.
    - ii. The Panel Referee shall re-announce the figure and instruct the scorers to deduct one point from that figure.
  - f. Executes a figure other than the listed figure announced.
    - i. The competitor shall be allowed a second attempt.
    - ii. The Panel Referee shall re-announce the figure and instruct the scorers to deduct one point from that figure.
2. **Two Point Penalty:** A competitor who competes out of the order of draw shall be given a penalty of two points off the Total Figure Score, except for unusual circumstances as determined by the Meet Referee.
3. **Failed Figure:**
  - a. If the competitor again performs a figure other than the listed figure, then the Panel Referee shall rule it a failed figure and shall not call for judges' scores. This removes the one point penalty and a "0" is recorded for that figure.
  - b. The Panel Referee is authorized to have a failed figure repeated, without penalty, when the execution of the figure was influenced by exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the competitor.
  - c. Exceptional circumstances include only the most unusual happenings, and do not include the loss of swimwear or swimming aid.

**SYNCHRO REFS MTG 05.16.2016**

**Attendees:** Kris; Tim; Natalie; Kristy

**SURVEY:** decision to send out link and also have a hard copy available pool side for any new/returning judges who were unable to complete prior to clinic

**REF ISSUES:**

**Whistle:** Ref's will blow whistle at beginning of figure and at end if the figure ends on top of the water

If swimmer begins prior to whistle blowing: Blow whistle fast-no penalty

**Penalties:**

If a swimmer has a false start penalty shall be 1 point

- i. False starts include beginning and/or fixing goggles or nose clip after already starting portion of figure
2. If a swimmer touches the bottom or the wall accidentally it is considered a control issue and should be reflected in judges score; Ref will not award a penalty.
  - a. However if a swimmer blatantly or intentionally touches the bottom or wall to push off a 2.0 penalty shall be awarded
3. If a swimmer falls out of a routine due to a medical condition-Ref will blow whistle routine stops; issue assessed and officials will decide if a second run will be allowed with a 1 point penalty or if the routine will be scratched
4. BOOST: must start below water and end below water; heads down to the cap line on swimmer is allowed; if more than cap is shown by a swimmer during a BOOST it shall result in a 1 point penalty

**PRE SWIMMERS:** each figure during dual meets and championships will have 3 pre swimmers mandatory regardless of ref and/or judges comfort for standardization purposes.

**JUDGES:** new judges need to shadow at least 2x prior to judging at meets; unless requested to do so by the ref

judges should be utilizing the FINA height chart; the expanded figure chart; descriptions; flip cards; score sheets/worksheets and include design and control when judging figures.

Judges will not discuss scores during recording of said scores