



DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

FINA ARTISTIC SWIMMING JUDGES PATHWAY

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

FINA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | 2018





Introduction

- 1. FINA Officials Certification Pathway**
- 2. FINA Artistic Swimming Development Schools for Judges**
 - 2.1 Overview**
 - 2.2 Course description and format**
 - 2.3 Course requirements**
 - 2.4 Registration**
 - 2.5 Assessment**
 - 2.6 Qualification Framework**
 - 2.6.1 Content**
 - 2.6.2 Competences**
- 3. FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools for Judges**
 - 3.1 Overview**
 - 3.2 Course description and format**
 - 3.3 Course requirements**
 - 3.4 Registration**
 - 3.5 Assessment**
 - 3.5.1 Assessment retake policy**
 - 3.5.2 Ongoing certification for FINA Judges**
 - 3.6 Qualification Framework**

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to explain the process that all the Technical Officials, within a FINA National Member Federation, may follow in order to become eligible to participate at FINA Events.

A key element in this process are the FINA Schools, a development programme that offers all the officials around the world the opportunity to progress and to be acknowledged as certified officials.

The main goal of this programme is to promote sports growth by offering a continuous learning pathway for active artistic swimming judges, providing and setting the necessary competences to become a FINA Judge.

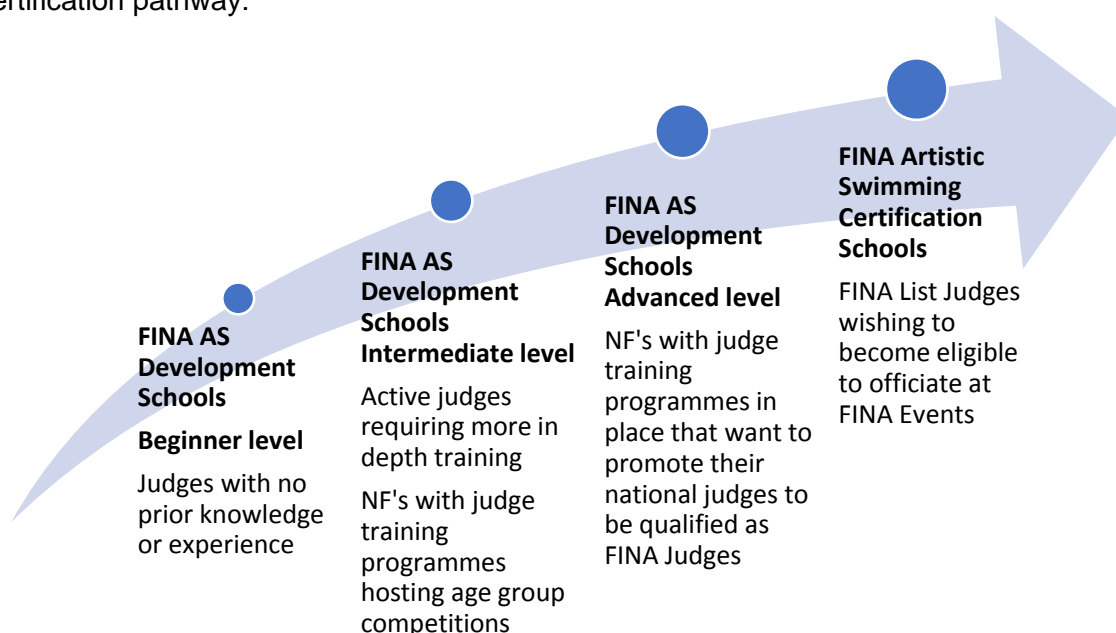
A range of FINA Development and Certification Schools are currently offered by the FINA Development Programme, with the objective of establishing a universal and standardized judges training and certification system.

Through this programme all the participants have access to the same information, guidelines and interpretation of the FINA Rules, increasing the number of certified officials and enhancing the quality of the existing ones.

1. FINA Officials Certification Pathway

The FINA Officials Certification Pathway allows a Technical Official to progress through different steps to become a recognised International Technical Official.

There are a variety of entry points for officials, depending on their existing knowledge, experience, proven ability and qualifications. The below flowchart illustrates how the officials may progress along the certification pathway:



2. FINA Artistic Swimming Development School for Judges

2.1 Overview

In order to begin the training as an Artistic Swimming Judge, FINA offers to all National Federations the possibility to host a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School at three different levels:

- **AS Development Schools – Beginner level** are designed to meet the needs of those National Federations who have requested judges instruction and do not have any judges training programmes in place. This school caters for those with limited basic knowledge or no experience in the judges training programme.
- **AS Development Schools – Intermediate level** are designed for those National Federations that have judge training programmes in place and host national Age Group competitions. Judges participating will be knowledgeable, active and experienced requiring more in depth training of skills at an intermediate level.
- **AS Development Schools – Advanced level** are designed for National Federations that have their own judge school programs and want to promote their national judges to be qualified as FINA Judges. It is recommended for those federations running national Artistic Swimming Age Group and Senior competitions. This school caters for those who require more in depth training of skills at an advanced level and helps to prepare participants to attend, participate and certify at a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School for Judges.

Please note that the following individuals do not need to attend a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School and may attend a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School to write their exam:

- National Team Elite Swimmers (retired), National Team coaches and national Judges, as long as the following requirements have been met:
 - Significant judging activity at a national level involving different age groups for a minimum of 3 years
 - Judging at international events hosted by their own Federation
 - Proven judging ability with strong evaluations from an evaluator for a minimum of 3 years

Federations wishing to nominate a candidate for consideration must forward the name to the FINA Office and submit the required paperwork according to the timelines.

2.2 Course description and format

The FINA Artistic Swimming Development Schools are held over a duration of three (3) days and are delivered by the same instructors as the FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools.

The official working language for the FINA Artistic Swimming Development Schools for Judges is English. The curriculum is delivered in progressive modules adapted to the required level and the instruction is theoretical/practical with video support.

The FINA TASC Commission has the authority to appoint additional instructors as required. In this case, the FINA Development School Instructors will be selected from the pool of current and certified active FINA A Judges from the current FINA list.

2.3 Course requirements

Host Federations must have a minimum of 10 people attending a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School.

This courses are open to all the National Federations interested in developing judges that are not on the current FINA List.

Coaches may attend FINA Artistic Swimming Development Schools as an Observer without the right to take the exam.

The coaches participating at FINA Schools must submit a written report of key learnings and recommendations for the future to the FINA Coaches Commission within 30 days of the conclusion of the school.

All participants attending a FINA School shall ensure that they comply with the below requirements:

- Be registered through the FINA GMS as described in point 2.4
- Be at least 18 years of age and not over 65 years of age at the start of the FINA Development School programme
- Demonstrate a minimum level of spoken and written skills in English
- Fully participate in the course and complete all required assessment
- Agree to abide by the FINA Code of Ethics
- It is strongly recommended that candidates have appropriate insurance cover before undertaking any independent officials practice

2.4 Registration

All participants attending a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School must be nominated by their National Federations through the FINA GMS by the registration deadline

- Only fully submitted registrations will be considered for approval
- Please note that only approved participants may attend a FINA School

Priority for attendance at FINA Artistic Swimming Development Schools shall be:

- The maximum number of participants is 30
- Judges who have registered through the GMS by no later than the registration deadline established per each FINA School. The approvals will be done on a first come first serve basis
- One coach per Federation is allowed to attend as an Observer, provided that he/she is registered through the FINA GMS by the established deadline and that the maximum number of participants has not been reached
- The registration for the school will be closed once the maximum number of participants has been reached

2.5 Assessment

For the exam writing, interpreters, use of online resources and cell phones are not permitted. Paper dictionaries are allowed.

At the conclusion of the school all the judges will take a test. In order to pass a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School participants must:

- Obtain a minimum score of 80% at the Beginner level
- Obtain a minimum score of 80% at the Intermediate level
- Obtain a minimum score of 85% at the Advanced level

Participants obtaining a minimum score of 85% or more at the Advanced level of a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School are permitted to participate at a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School if his/her National Federation submits the application for the FINA List, following the current FINA procedures and meeting the requested timelines.

Judges who pass the school will receive a diploma, which entitles the holder to participate at the next FINA Artistic Swimming Development School level.

However, a development school diploma does not entitle the holder to integrate the FINA Artistic Swimming Judges List.

2.6 Qualification Framework

2.6.1 Content

The curriculum and subjects to be provided in each level are established by the FINA TASC.

Contents are distributed in five groups and delivered in progressive modules according to the competences to be achieved for each school:

A Group Figures

Module 1	Basic Positions and Basic Movements
Module 2	FINA figures AG 12 and under
Module 3	FINA figures AG 13-15
Module 4	FINA figures AG Junior
Module 5	In deep Analysis of figures (DD, NVT)

B Group Routines

Module 1	Introduction to technical components
Module 2	Execution and synchronisation
Module 3	Difficulty
Module 4	Introduction to artistic elements
Module 5	Analysis of choreography, music interpretation and presentation manner
Module 6	Technical required elements
Module 7	Acrobatics
Module 8	Free Routine Combination and Highlight Routine

C Group Scoring

Module 1	Basics for figures scoring. Elementals of marking scale
Module 2	Use of expanded marking scale and height scales in figures
Module 3	Free routine scoring basic: the categories
Module 4	Technical scoring: execution, synchronisation, difficulty
Module 5	Artistic impression scoring: choreography, music interpretation, presentation manner
Module 6	Tech routines scoring: elements panel, impression panel, execution panel
Module 7	Approach to acrobatic scoring
Module 8	FRC and Highlight scoring

D Group Referee/Chief recorder

Module 1	Single module
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E Group Ethics

Module 1	Single module
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2.6.2 Competences to be achieved at the end of each school level are:

Beginner level

- Participants will become familiar with FINA Artistic Swimming (FINA Handbook 2017-2021)
- Participants will demonstrate understanding of Basic Body Positions and Basic Movements, using Appendices II and III of the FINA AS Manual 2017-2021
- Participants will analyse 12 and Under Figures, using Basic principles, the Expanded Marking scale and Guiding scales for Height and Splits
- Participants will be introduced to Judging Free Routines, more specifically to judging Execution, Artistic Impression and Difficulty
- Participants will discuss Ethics for judges, including the importance of disclosing all Conflicts of Interest

Intermediate level

- Participants will demonstrate understanding of judging 13-15 figures and Junior/Senior figures on the current list. They will be able to discuss the NVTs and PVs of each figure and use this information to successfully judge these figures (FINA Handbook and FINA AS Manual 2017-2021)
- Participants will continue to work on Free routine judging (Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet and Team) with more emphasis on Free Combination and Mixed Duet
- Participants will explore the responsibilities of the Referee and Assistant referees
- Participants will discuss Ethics for judges, including the importance of disclosing all Conflicts of Interest

Advanced level

- Participants will review Figures and apply the deductions as stated in the FINA Handbook 2017-2021
- Participants will demonstrate understanding of Technical Elements for Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet and Team (Junior and Senior)
- Participants will learn the judging protocols for Technical Routines and practice judge many technical routines with emphasis on the Elements panel
- Participants will discuss Highlight Routines and practice judge
- Participants will further investigate the judging of Difficulty in all routines
- Participants will do an analysis of routines from the most recent World Championships
- Participants will discuss Ethics for judges, including the importance of disclosing all Conflicts of Interest

3. FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School for Judges

3.1 Overview

The FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools and Testing system will prepare and certify highly qualified FINA List judges in A or G category.

It is important to note that to be considered for judging at a FINA competition, a judge must have successfully passed the Judges Exam administered at one of the FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools for Judges every four years unless otherwise directed by the FINA TASC.

The FINA Swimming Certification Schools are for those Judges on the current FINA List. FINA Evaluators must attend a FINA Certification School for Judges and pass the test once every four years unless otherwise directed by the FINA TASC.

Coaches may also take part in a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School provided that there are available spots as described in point 3.4.

Please note that the following individuals do not need to attend a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School and may attend a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School to write their exam:

- National Team Elite Swimmers (retired), National Team coaches and national Judges, as long as the following requirements have been met:
 - Significant judging activity at a national level involving different age groups for a minimum of 3 years
 - Judging at international events hosted by their own Federation
 - Proven judging ability with strong evaluations from an evaluator for a minimum of 3 years

Federations wishing to nominate a candidate for consideration must forward the name to the FINA Office and submit the required paperwork according to the timelines.

3.2 Course description and format

- The FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools are held over a duration of three (3) days concluding with an Exam
- **The official working language for the FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools for Judges is English**
- The curriculum will be based on the 2017-2021 FINA Artistic Swimming Manual for Judges, Coaches and Referees
- Instructions will be given by lecturer(s) of the FINA TASC or by instructors appointed by the FINA TASC
- Certification instructors are appointed by the FINA TASC based on the following:
 - Continental representation
 - Proven experience with teaching and facilitating courses/seminars
 - Proven professionalism and neutrality
 - Evaluation excellence
 - Superior communication skills
- Instructors will recommend to the FINA TASC a list of judges who have participated and successfully passed the FINA judge exam at a FINA Certification School
- Maximum registered delegates for all FINA Artistic Swimming Schools is 30 people per school including coaches.
- The registration for the schools will be closed once the maximum number of participants has been reached

A FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School can be hosted separately or combined with a FINA Artistic Swimming Development School as long as each course meets the requirements described above.

Two FINA Certified Instructors will deliver two different streams - the development program and the certification program

- There will be parts of the curriculum that are shared and parts that the instructors break out into their own groups
- This format allows for mentoring opportunities between officials

3.3 Course requirements

At least ten (10) FINA judges must attend in order to have a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School.

All participants attending a FINA School shall ensure that they comply with the following requirements:

- Be registered through the FINA GMS as described in point 3.4
- Agree to abide by the FINA Code of Ethics.
- It is strongly recommended that candidates have appropriate insurance cover before undertaking any independent officials practice.

3.4 Registration

The FINA Swimming Certification Schools are for those Judges on the current FINA List:

- All the participants must be nominated by their National Federations through the FINA GMS by the registrations deadline
- Only fully submitted registrations will be considered for approval. The nationality of the nominated participants will be verified by the FINA Office
- Please note that only approved participants may attend a FINA School
- Coaches may attend FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools as an Observer without the right to take the exam. They must also be registered through the FINA GMS by the deadline

The coaches participating at FINA Schools must submit a written report of key learnings and recommendations for the future to the FINA Coaches Commission within 30 days of the conclusion of the school.

The FINA Coaches Committee will then provide a consolidated report to the FINA TASC at the end of the certification year.

Priority for attendance at FINA Artistic Swimming Certification Schools shall be:

- The maximum number of participants is 30
- Judges who have registered through the GMS for certification by no later than the registration deadline established per each FINA School
- One coach per Federation is allowed to attend as an Observer, provided that he/she is registered through the FINA GMS by the established deadline and that the maximum number of participants has not been reached
- If there are additional spaces available, FINA age eligible judges (65 and under) and active national level coaches may fill the remaining spots. They must be registered through the FINA GMS as an Observer and will be approved by FINA on a first come first serve basis
- The registration for the school will be closed once the maximum number of participants has been reached
- Observers are not entitled to take the test

3.5 Assessment

For the exam writing, interpreters, use of online resources and cell phones are not permitted. Paper dictionaries are allowed.

If a participant is absent one day from the school, he/she can't take the test.

If a participant is absent a half day for unusual circumstances, he/she must provide the reason for his/her absence to the instructor. This will be taken into consideration by the instructor in determining whether the participant will be allowed to take the test.

To receive certification, a Judge must attend a FINA Artistic Swimming Certification School and pass the test with a minimum score of 85% for A Judges and 80% for G Judges.

3.5.1 Assessment retake policy

Judges who do not pass the exam may write it a second time by no later than **1st November 2018**, either at a FINA Artistic Swimming Development or Certification School:

- Judges rewriting the exam may choose to attend the entire course or to sit for the exam
- They must be registered through the FINA GMS by the established deadline
- Please note that a judge is allowed to write two exams per year only
- In order to maintain an A Judge status the judge must score a minimum of 85%, if not he/she will be demoted to G category
- Judges who do not reach the 80% mark in a two attempt basis will be removed from the FINA List

3.5.2 Ongoing certification for FINA Judges

Each FINA certified judge (unless otherwise directed by the FINA TASC) must take an annual online officials' exam. FINA will be developing this and 2018 will be the first year it is implemented.

A minimum score of 85% for A Judges and 80% for G Judges will be required to earn a passing grade.

3.6 Qualification Framework

Content

- FINA Rule Changes 2017-2021
- Figures
 - New figures and figures on 12 and U, 13/15 and Jr./Sr. lists
 - Application of deductions
- Technical Elements (Seniors, Juniors)
- Technical Routines (Solo, Duet, Mixed duet, Team)
- Free Routines (Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet)
- Analysis of Difficulty and Artistic Impression
- Free Routines (Team and Free Combination)
- Analysis of Difficulty and Artistic Impression
- Highlight Routine
- Referee responsibilities
- Ethics
- Using Section I of the Judges Manual

