



Artistic Swimming Events (2)

Duet

Team

How Olympic Artistic Swimming Works

Artistic Swimming (formerly known as synchronized swimming) has been an Olympic event since 1984.

The **team** event involves eight competitors per team and is comprised of three routines:

- 1) Technical routine
- 2) Free routine
- 3) Acrobatic routine

In the *technical routine*, swimmers perform a routine with nine predetermined elements performed in a specific order and synchronized to music much like you would see in figure skating. In 2016, the Australian team did a routine to the Survivor theme song! This routine is roughly 2 minutes and 50 seconds long.

In the *free routine*, as the name suggests, swimmers are free to come up with whatever program they like. Well, sort of. New in the 2024 Olympics, a new rule states that free routines must include a required number of various movements split between three categories: technical required elements, free hybrid elements, and acrobatic elements. This routine is roughly 3 minutes and 30 seconds long.

Again, as the name suggests, the *acrobatic routine* is a routine that consists of seven elements (all acrobatic). This particular routine is fairly new and will be included in the Olympic Artistic Swimming events for the first time in Paris. This routine is roughly three minutes long.

In the team event, the scores from the technical, free, and acrobatic routines are combined and the team with the highest score is awarded the gold medal. So, how does scoring work? There are three judges panels that provide input on the scoring. All elements throughout the three routines have a predetermined "degree of difficulty" (DD). When an element is performed, judges on the "elements" panel rank each element based on execution on a scale of 0-10. At the end of the routine, the scores for all of the elements will be added together into the *execution score*.

The artistic impression panel scores the routine based on three categories: choreography/musicality, performance, and transitions. The total *artistic impression score* is added to the execution score for the total score of the overall routine. The third and final judges panel confirms that the correct elements were performed and assigns any penalties, if applicable.

The **duet** event is essentially the same as the team event with a couple of key distinctions: the duet event does not include the acrobatic routine and the routines themselves are slightly shorter compared to the team event. Otherwise, the scoring is the same as described above.

Artistic Swimming Schedule

Events in ET, medal events in **bold**

| Date | Time | Event |
|-------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Mon, Aug 5 | 1:30 PM | Team Technical Routine |
| Tue, Aug 6 | 1:30 PM | Team Free Routine |
| Wed, Aug 7 | 1:30 PM | Team Acrobatic Routine |
| Fri, Aug 9 | 1:30 PM | Duet Technical Routine |
| Sat, Aug 10 | 1:30 PM | Duet Free Routine |

Photo via swimming.org



Term to Know: "Eggbeater"

The eggbeater kick is a form of treading water that helps a swimmer gain height above the water without the use of hands.

Don't Touch The Bottom!

Amazingly, swimmers pull off breathtaking routines featuring flips and intense choreography all without touching the bottom of the pool. In the rare instance that a swimmer touches the bottom of the 9.8 foot pool, a penalty is assessed.

Participating Nations

