



## Victorian Open and Age Group Championships

Victorian Open and Age Group Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant FINA and Australian Rules and these rules.

### Prerequisites

- Unless swimming by invitation all competitors shall be registered with a club affiliated with VSSI, and shall be registered as competitors with SSAI.
- The competitor shall have participated in at least one aggregate competition in the current season where the competitor has performed both figures and routines in the age groups in which they wish to compete at the Victorian Open and Age Group Championships.
- Any swimmer who has represented Australia during the current season is automatically eligible for entry into Victorian Open and Age Group Championships.

### General Rules

The following is a list of rules which cover the areas most frequently asked. These rules shall be read in conjunction with the relevant FINA and Australian Rules.

1. Swimwear of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for synchronized swimming competitions.
  - All costumes shall be non-transparent.
  - The use of accessory equipment, goggles or additional clothing is not permitted, unless required for medical reasons. Nose clips may be worn.
  - In the event that the referee thinks that a competitor(s) swimwear does not conform to the above, the competitor will not be permitted to compete until changing into appropriate swimwear.
  - The referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any competitor whose costume does not comply with this rule.
  - Swimwear for figure competitions shall be black and the competitor shall wear a white cap. Goggles and nose clips may be worn. No jewellery is allowed. SS 8.5.

Last updated August 2008

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2. In a figure competition a two (2) point penalty will be deducted:-
  - if a swimmer stops voluntarily and requests to do the figure again.
  - if a swimmer does not perform the announced figure, or if the figure does not have all of the required elements, the assistant referee shall advise the judges and the competitor. The competitor shall have another opportunity to perform the announced figure.
3. In a routine competition a one (1) point penalty shall be deducted:-
  - if the time limit of ten (10) seconds for deck movements is exceeded,
  - if there is a deviation from the specified routine time limits allowance (less or more than), for a routine and in accordance with SS12.1.
  - 1 point penalty shall be deducted if walk-on exceeds 30 seconds.
4. In a routine competition a two (2) point penalty shall be deducted:-
  - if a swimmer has made deliberate use of the bottom of the pool,
  - if a swimmer has made deliberate use of the pool to assist another swimmer
  - a routine is interrupted by a competitor during deck movements and a new start is allowed.
5. In a TECHNICAL routine:-
  - a two (2) point penalty will be deducted from the technical merit score for each required element omitted from a technical routine.
  - a one-half (0.5) point penalty shall be deducted from the technical merit score for each part of a required element omitted from a technical routine.
6. If one (or more) competitors stops swimming before the routine is completed, the routine will be disqualified. If the cessation is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the competitor(s) the Referee shall allow the routine to be re-swum during that competition.
7. All age group competitors remain qualified from 1 January to the following 31 December at the age they are at the close of day (12 midnight) on 31 December of the year of competition.
8. Competitors 12 and Under may not swim out of their age group, except for competitors 12 years old in accordance with FINA Rule SSAG 2.1, who may compete in a 13/14/15 years age group team and 13/14/15 Free Combination.
9. Competitors aged 13 or 14 may swim in a Junior Team or to make up one half of a Junior Duet
10. Competitors aged 13 and over may compete in any Open event. Competitors who are 13 or 14 years old in accordance with SSAG 2.1 may compete in a Junior Team and Junior Free Combination and make up one half of a Junior Duet.