

Team Selection Policy

Preamble

The selection with the goal of representing Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming at international championships is an honor that only few swimmers achieve each season. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a transparent selection process by providing specific criteria that will be used by Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming to identify and select swimmers for the national teams.

Artistic Swimming is a team sport and a judged sport. The multi-faceted nature of this sport makes it necessary to consider various selection criteria and not just to measure the individual level of skills. Performance and success with the team requires an evaluation of the athlete considering both objective and subjective factors. The selections will therefore be based on synchro technical ability as well as team cohesion.

Solo and duet selections will be made from swimmers from within the selected teams. Details of solo and duet selections will be published separately at a later stage.

Objectives of the team selection policy

- To form a team that will achieve the best possible results in international competitions, especially in World Championships and in view of future Olympic Games.
- To select swimmers who have the will and the potential to represent Switzerland for several years in international competitions.
- To bring consistency in the teams in order to achieve international success in a medium- and long-term view.

Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming is committed to providing swimmers who have the will and potential to represent Switzerland in international competitions with the best possible development and support of their sports career.

Commitment

Swimmers are selected in the national team with the goal of representing Switzerland for several years. At least, selected swimmers are expected to remain part of the national team until the end of the season (August).

- Selected swimmers must give the commitment to participate in all training camps and competitions of the season.
- Swimmers must be able to undertake and provide evidence of training outside of the national team with their home club, the home club will be required to demonstrate full support and commitment to the national program.
- Selected swimmers agree that activities with the national team always have priority to club activities.
- Selected swimmers must sign an athlete's agreement for the national team and comply with the code of conduct of Swiss Aquatics as well as with the rules and policies of Swiss Aquatics. These documents will be handed out to the swimmers upon selection
- Selected swimmers must be able to pay a financial contribution per year for their participation in the national team training camps and international competitions. The amount will be communicated by the department of performance sport before the beginning of the season (1st of September). With the final selection, the selected swimmer owes the full amount. The invoice is issued in 3 tranches. No refunds of the financial contribution will be made if an athlete leaves the team during the season.
- Selected swimmers must demonstrate an uncompromised commitment to training preparation for peak performance at the main competition(s) as determined by Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming. If for any reason the swimmers are unable and/or unwilling to fulfil this commitment, they may be withdrawn from the team.
- If, after the final selection, a swimmer decides to retire from the national team prior to the final competition of the season, she must submit the retirement in writing to Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming. For the next two seasons, this swimmer may be withdrawn from selection for any national team and will not receive a Swiss Olympic card (Talent or Elite).
- If a swimmer becomes injured during the year after the selection, the swimmer will need to provide a certificate of a Swiss Olympic approved medical professional. Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming may request that the injured swimmer will be assessed by the medical professional of Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming. Provided that both medical professionals agree, the swimmer can continue in the team based on the medical advice. If the medical advice is disputed or there is disagreement between the medical professionals/athlete/parents the swimmer will be withdrawn from the national team.
- If a swimmer is unable to attend a selection due to illness or injury, a certificate from a Swiss Olympic approved medical professional shall be sent to Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming prior to the selection date. The swimmer can only continue the selection process if she was already member of the national team in the previous season.

ELITE TEAM SELECTION

Eligibility:

- Elite swimmers must have a swiss passport.
- The swimmers must be aged 15 or older at the beginning of the season (example: born in 2005 or before for the selection 2020/2021).

Objective:

- Selection of up to 12 swimmers to represent Switzerland in European Championships / World Championships / Olympic Games
- The definitive number of swimmers to be selected per team will be communicated by the department of performance sport before the beginning of the season (1st September)

Selection procedure:

There will be 4 selection phases for the elite national team. The final selection of the competitive team will be decided in phase 4:

- Phase 1: participation in PISTE or member of elite team in the previous season
- Phase 2: participation in elite selection camp in October
- Phase 3: selection by observation at the end of the selection camp
- Phase 4: training in elite national team and final selection of swimmers for final competition.

Phase 1: participation in PISTE or member of elite team in the previous season

Phase 2: participation in elite selection camp

- Number of invited swimmers: ideally 18 swimmers
- Invited swimmers
 - Swimmers of elite team of the previous season
 - The best 4 swimmers of elite PISTE not included in the above
 - The department of performance sport may give additional wildcards to further swimmers. All wildcards need to be justified in writing and communicated to the head of performance sport.
 - If the total number of swimmers is not yet reached, the next best swimmers of elite PISTE can be invited.
- Date: October
- Duration: 5-8 days
- Costs: CHF 100.— per day. Swimmers who are selected in a national team do not have to pay the daily costs of the selection camp, as they pay a yearly contribution.

Phase 3: selection of elite team

- Participants: all participants of the selection camp
- Date: last 1 or 2 days of the selection camp
- Type of selection:
 - observation of training of team tech and/or team free routine
 - observation of sport skills as defined below as well as team behaviour during and after training and commitment of swimmers
- Selection «panel»:
 - 3-5 international judges (Swiss and/or foreign)
 - Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming national coaches

- 1-2 members of the Direction Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming
- Head of performance sport
- The department of performance sport may invite further experts for the observation of the swimmers, e.g. mental coach.
- After the training, the selection panel discusses the observed criteria and decides on the swimmers to be selected for the elite team.

Phase 4: training in elite national team and final selection of swimmers for final competition

- The swimmers of the final elite competition team will be selected after either the last camp before the preparation camp and/or prior to the final entry date of the competition. The coaches of the elite team decide for the final swimmers in accordance with the head of sport performance. The same criteria as in the selection camps apply. At the preparation camp, only the swimmers selected for the final team participate.

Replacement:

If a selected swimmer leaves or is withdrawn from the national team during the season, the responsible elite national coaches may nominate another swimmer from junior A team to join the elite team. Nomination criteria for the replacing swimmer are her commitment, her potential, her ability to be integrated in the team or special skills needed for the team.

JUNIOR A2 TEAM SELECTION

Eligibility:

- Junior swimmers must have a Swiss passport.
- The swimmers must be aged 15 -17 at the beginning of the season (example: born between 2003 and 2005 for the selection 2020/2021).

Objective :

- Selection of up to 12 swimmers to represent Switzerland in the European Junior Championships
- The definitive number of swimmers to be selected per team will be communicated by the department of performance sport before the beginning of the season (1st September).

Selection procedure:

There will be 5 selection phases for the junior A2 team. The final selection of the junior A2 team will be decided in phase 5.

- Phase 1: participation in PISTE
- Phase 2: participation in the junior A2 training camps until February
- Phase 3: participation in the junior A2 selection camp in February
- Phase 4: selection by observation at the end of the selection camp
- Phase 5: training in junior A2 national team and final selection of swimmers for final competition.

Phase 1: Participation in PISTE

Phase 2: Participation in the junior A2 training camps until February

- Number of swimmers: ideally 16 swimmers
- Invited swimmers:
 - Best 8 swimmers of junior PISTE (not member in A1)
 - The department of performance sport may give additional wildcards to further swimmers. All wildcards need to be justified in writing and communicated to the head of youth development.
 - If no or not all wildcards are used, the next best swimmers of youth PISTE can be invited.

Phase 3: Participation at the junior A2 selection camp in February

- Number of invited swimmers: swimmers of phase 2
- Invited swimmers: swimmers of phase 2
- Date: February
- Duration: 4-6 days

Phase 4: Selection of junior A2 team

- participants: all participants of the selection camp
- Date: last 1 or 2 days of the selection camp

- Type of selection:
 - Observation of training of team tech and/or team free routine
 - Observation of sport skills as defined below as well as team behaviour during and after training and commitment of the swimmers
- Selection «panel»:
 - 3-5 international judges (Swiss and/or foreign)
 - Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming national coaches
 - 1-2 members of the Direction Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming
 - Head of youth development
 - The department of performance sport may invite further experts for the observation of the swimmers, e.g. mental coach.
- After the training, the selection panel discusses the observed criteria and decides on the swimmers to be selected. Up to 10 swimmers will be selected to continue training in the A2 team.

Phase 5: training in junior A2 team and final selection of swimmers for final competition.

- The swimmers of the final junior A2 competition team will be selected after either the last camp before the preparation camp and/or prior to the final entry date of the competition. The coaches of the junior A2 team decide for the final swimmers in accordance with the head of youth development. The same criteria as in the selection camps apply. At the preparation camp, only the swimmers selected for the final team participate.

YOUTH TEAM SELECTION

Eligibility:

- The swimmers of team A must have a swiss passport. The swimmers of team B do not necessarily need a swiss passport, but they must live in Switzerland and agree to start the immigration process right after their selection.
- The swimmers must be aged 14 and younger at the beginning of the season (born in 2006, 2007 or 2008 for the selection 2020/2021).

Objective:

- Selection of up to 12 swimmers to represent Switzerland in the Mediterranean Cup / World Youth Championship
- Selection of up to 12 swimmers to represent Switzerland in an international competition
- The definitive number of swimmers to be selected per team will be communicated by the department of performance sport before the beginning of the season (1st September)

Selection procedure:

There will be 5 selection phases for the youth national teams. The final selection of the youth A and B team will be decided in phase 5.

- Phase 1: participation in PISTE in the previous season
- Phase 2: pre-selection camps with 24 swimmers (exception 2020/21 → 26 swimmers)
- Phase 3: participation in figure competition at Swiss Youth Championships in January
- Phase 4: youth A selection camp with up to 18 swimmers
- Phase 5: selection of youth A team in the training camp; selection of youth B team

Phase 1: participation in PISTE according to PISTE guidelines

Phase 2: pre-selection camps

- Number of swimmers: ideally 24 swimmers (exception 2020/21 → 26 swimmers)
- Invited swimmers:
 - Swimmers of youth A team of the previous season
 - The best 12 swimmers of youth PISTE not included in the above
 - The department of performance sport may give additional wildcards for further athletes. All wildcards need to be justified in writing and communicated to the head of youth development.
 - If no or not all wildcards are used, the next best swimmers of youth PISTE can be invited.
- Dates: September and December (see season planning)

Phase 3: participation in figure competition at Swiss Youth Championships (January)

Phase 4: Youth A selection camp

- Number of swimmers: ideally 18 swimmers
- Invited swimmers:
 - Swimmers of youth A team of the previous season
 - Out of the participants of the pre-selection camp: the best swimmers of the figure competition up to the total of 18 swimmers
- Date: February

- Duration: 4-6 days

Phase 5a: selection of youth A team (up to 12 swimmers)

- participants: all participants of youth A selection camp
- Date: last day of the selection camp
- Type of selection: Observation of training of team routine; observation of team behaviour during and after training and commitment of the swimmers
- Selection «panel»:
 - 3-5 international judges (Swiss and/or foreign)
 - Swiss Aquatics – Artistic Swimming national coaches
 - 1-2 members of the sport direction
 - Head of youth development
 - The department of performance sport may invite further experts for the observation of the swimmers e.g. mental coach.
- After the training, the selection panel discusses the observed criteria and decides on the swimmers to be selected. Up to 12 swimmers will be selected for youth A national team

Phase 5b: selection of youth B team (up to 12 swimmers)

- All swimmers who participated in the youth A training camp but are not selected in youth A team are automatically in youth B team (ideally 6 swimmers)
- Youth B team is completed by 6 swimmers who participated in the pre-selection camps but not in the youth A selection camp and are ranked 19-24 (among youth team swimmers) in figures in January.

Replacement:

If a selected swimmer leaves or is withdrawn from the **youth A team** during the season, the responsible national coach may nominate any swimmer from youth B team to join the youth A team. The replacing swimmer must have a swiss passport.

If a selected swimmer leaves or is withdrawn from the **youth B team** during the season, the responsible national coaches may nominate in accordance with the head of youth development a swimmer who participated in youth PISTE but was not selected in the youth team.

Nomination criteria for the replacing swimmers are their commitment, potential, ability to be integrated in the team or special skills needed for the team.