

### Issue No. 26 – August 2021

Dear All

The WTC would like to congratulate all the gymnasts, National & personal coaches, judges & BG staff for the unprecedented results achieved by the Women's Artistic team at the Olympic Games. It is a much-needed lift after a very difficult 18 months.

We hope this update finds you all safe & well and back in the gym, although we are aware that some difficulties still remain.

BG events team are working to run all the National competitions without restrictions, however in the event of any further national or regional lockdowns, to protect the gymnasts, coaches and officials, we will be unlikely to run events and may then need to revisit the structure of competitions and progression going forward for 2022.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and its effect on gymnasts training over the past 18 months, amendments to the competition programme for 2021 were made and published. However, as a result of the WAG Questionnaire, we have unprecedented numbers expressing an interest in entering Compulsory 2 & the FIG Challenge qualification competition. The National Coaches would like to reiterate that this level of competition is for the gymnasts who are wishing to compete at our highest level of performance, and coaches are encouraged to take the appropriate amount of time & patience to achieve this with their gymnasts.

In order to accommodate the anticipated number of competitors for Compulsory 2 & FIG Challenge in 2021, the WTC in consultation with the events panel have had to make the following amendments to the programme:-

1. The Adi Stan Teams competitions will unfortunately be cancelled for this year.
2. Compulsory 2 will now take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October. This is due to the high number of intended entries from the WAG questionnaire.
3. The FIG Challenge qualifier will now take place on 16<sup>th</sup> October instead of 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is due to the high number of intended entries from the WAG questionnaire.
4. Classic Challenge Competition will remain on the 5-7<sup>th</sup> November

The National Coaches & WTC have put in a programme to cover every level of competitive gymnastics in Great Britain, and are urging coaches to ensure that they enter their gymnasts in the correct level of competition for their current ability & safety:

- Classic Challenge – This new level of competition is for all women's artistic gymnasts wishing to take part in competitive gymnastics at any level. There is also an additional opportunity to represent your region at a National Competition at the 3 upper levels. This is the pathway that the vast majority of gymnast will take.

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- FIG Challenge Qualifier – This level of competition is mainly for gymnasts who have not followed the compulsory grades pathway, but are working towards full FIG requirements. This pathway offers them an opportunity to qualify to the British Championships and to be a National Champion at their current level.
- British Championships – This is high performance pathway for gymnasts and offers the opportunity to be selected for National Squad, with opportunities to represent your country at international events. This pathway is only suitable for a small number of gymnasts. As an additional guide, the minimum performance expectations for gymnasts entering the British Championships are:

To achieve a competitive E score at all levels.

All vaults should have a salto

Espoir	2 CR on Bars 4 CR on Beam 3 CR on Floor, to include 1 salto minimum 'D' or more
Junior	3 CR on Bars 4 CR on Beam 4 CR on Floor
Senior	4 CR on Bars 4 CR on Beam 4 CR on Floor

Following on from the Compulsory 2 & FIG Challenge Qualifier competitions, if the number of gymnasts eligible for British Championships is unmanageable, we may need to look at video evidence for all gymnasts who have not previously entered the British Championships and have not previously passed compulsory 1. If this is needed, the WTC will communicate the details of this to you in an additional update.

The Women's Artistic programme will undergo a full review in line with the next cycle, this will include progress into and retention within the British Championships. Whilst we are not yet in a position to publish this in detail, we can confirm that there will be limited changes only to all compulsory, national, regional & club grades for 2022. A full review of all grades will take place in 2022 but it is hoped that by not making any major changes too quickly after the pandemic, we can allow for time to be taken when planning the best pathway for your gymnasts both now and in the future and that time can be taken on all progressions to allow gymnasts to return to competition safely.

The WTC are thankful to all the Regions who are also working hard to offer regional competitions this year and are mindful that they also have limited capacity in terms of time & venues. We would also like to remind coaches that gymnasts must pass their compulsory grades within their region. Consideration can only be given to go out of region in exceptional circumstances, and all application must be made in writing to the WTC chair, Maria McLoughlin [maria.mcloughlin@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:maria.mcloughlin@british-gymnastics.org)

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Following the publication of Newsletter 25, we have received several questions relating to Compulsory Grades and progression to the British Championships & the Classic Challenge that we have answered below. Any progression that may be possible must be looked at in the light of the guidance given above.

### Compulsory & British Q&A from Update 25

Q: Gymnast that has already passed Comp 2 but either failed or didn't take Comp 1 can automatically qualify for the British Championships? Is this just for the British this year or moving forwards they won't need to do Compulsory 1?

A: Those gymnasts that have passed Compulsory 2 in or before 2021 can progress straight to the British.

Q: A gymnast was due to take Compulsory 2 that would have happened during lockdown age 2009 will now just do Compulsory 2 this year and won't need to ever do Compulsory 1?

A: Correct providing they pass Compulsory 2 in 2021.

Q: Gymnasts born in 2010 will they do just Compulsory 2 or will they need to do Compulsory 1 as well?

A: There will be new Compulsory Grades for 2022 – we won't be able to answer this question until they are decided.

Q: I have a question can you enter Comp 2 (older than 2010) so not passed Comp 3 as it wasn't on?

A: Yes providing the gymnast has the work to enter Compulsory 2.

Q: And also Challenge Cup in 2021 so if you get qualifying score at Challenge don't have to wait until 2022 to enter British?

A: They can enter the British in 2021 providing they qualify and have the appropriate level of work required. See expectations for British in the main body of the update.

Q: If you didn't achieve the qualifying score at Challenge can you stick with your Comp 2 and still go to British 2022?

A: Age dependant if they pass Compulsory 2, or qualify through Challenge they can go to British in 2021, providing they meet the minimum requirements for routine construction. See expectations for British in the main body of the update

Q: We have a gymnast who passed Compulsory 2 in 2019, who then did Compulsory 1 qualifier in 2020 but missed the pass mark, she was going to retake this later on in 2020 but this didn't take place, so it was planned for her to do the next qualifier for Compulsory 1 but this also hasn't happened. My question is - is she eligible for the British 2021 in November if the coach thinks she at the appropriate level?

A: Yes, providing the coach believes the gymnast is at the appropriate level and can meet the minimum requirements. See expectations for British in the main body of the update

Q: A gymnast scored 46.8 (Espoir at the time) at the last Challenge Cup. Will there be any consideration for those girls who were exceptionally close to qualifying?

A: She would need to either qualify through the FIG Challenge in 2021 or pass Compulsory 2.

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Q: Will there be another Compulsory 2 before the British in 2022?

A: There will be Compulsory 2 in October 2021 and June 2022, providing Covid regulations allow these competitions to run.

Q: One of our coaches has a question about 2022 age groups. They are wondering whether the teams will consist just of one age group, or whether the teams will be the same as the compulsories (minimum age only)?

A: All regional teams for compulsory & levels will be open age. Each team will consist of 4 gymnasts (plus a travelling reserve). The age of the gymnasts is irrelevant providing they meet the minimum age requirement.

Q: At what point will it be mandatory to have passed Comp 3 in order to do Comp 2 as there are special exemptions on some of the information that was published earlier in the year?

A: For 2022 all gymnasts taking Compulsory 2 for the first time will need to have passed Compulsory 3.

Q: Have BG thought of doing a National Compulsory 5 grade?

A: Due to no National finals being offered for gymnasts aged 8, there are currently no plans to offer this through the National pathway.

Q: I have a gymnast who was to complete Compulsory 3 last year but didn't given the current situation. Am I correct in thinking she can now go directly to Compulsory 2 Qualifier in October? If she passes, this will then qualify her for British Championships?

A: If the gymnast passes Compulsory 2 in October and is of the right age, then she will be able to enter the British Championships in November 2021. If not she will be able to enter the British Championships in 2022. Guidance already given above is very important. See expectations for British in the main body of the update

Q: I understand you can't do a compulsory grade and enter the Classic, however considering nobody within our region has grades this year due to Covid surely anyone can enter this year?

A: A Compulsory 2 competition will be held nationally in October, Compulsory 4 & 3 are required to be held in the Regions before the end of 2021 in order for gymnasts to progress to next grade in 2022. If you are intending to take your gymnast down the compulsory pathway, it would be more beneficial for them to take Compulsory 4 within the region this year in order to ensure that the progressions have been followed.

The regions interpretation is:

- if you have previously passed a compulsory grade you cannot enter the Classic Challenge

A: You cannot enter if you have competed a compulsory grade in the same year. If you have moved over from the Compulsory pathway to National grades, you can enter the Classic Challenge.

- even if you haven't taken or passed a compulsory grade yet but you might in the future if you progress well you can't enter either!

A: This is not correct, if you will be taking a compulsory grade before the end of 2021 you are not eligible to enter the Classic Challenge. You will be able to transfer pathways each year.

Q: I have gymnasts that have done compulsory grades which may not continue this route! Can they enter?

A: Providing the gymnast has not taken, or does not intend to take a compulsory grade in the same year, they can enter the Classic Challenge.

Q: I have gymnasts that I'm hoping may be ready for compulsories next year, but am only 55% sure, should they be excluded from the Classic competition?

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**A:** The gymnast can enter the Classic Challenge for 2021. If the decision is taken to take a compulsory grade in 2022, the gymnast will not then be able to enter Classic Challenge in 2022.

**Q:** Will there be a voluntary levels in September 2022? If so will it be open aged?

**A:** Covid dependant, it is hoped that all competitions will return for 2022. There will be no split in gymnasts ages at any Compulsory or Voluntary level.

**Q:** Looking at the structure everyone has the opportunity to do a grade and a voluntary competition whilst the FIG gymnasts have various competitions throughout the year to compete. I have found a gap that any gymnast that is 11 in the year doing Compulsory 2 has no means of doing any other competition in the new structure as they cannot do the Classic challenge when waiting to do Compulsory 2 or even if they have passed it as they are too young to fall in the Espoir category at FIG. Do regions need to create an additional competition or do BG have an intention on running Level 2 again?

**A:** Due to covid a number of competitions had to be cut for 2021 but all gymnasts have the opportunity to do a competition this year. Gymnasts following the compulsory pathway will need to take their relevant compulsory grade in the region before the end of the year if doing 4 or 3, or nationally in October if doing 2. All other gymnasts have the opportunity to compete in the FIG Challenge qualifier or in the classic challenge. There is no requirement for other gymnasts to do grades, but club and regional grades can be sat within the club for this year only if wanted. National grades will not be necessary this year. It is intended that voluntary level 2 will be reinstated in 2022.

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### Classic Challenge Q&A from Update 25

#### General:

Q: I have gymnasts that have done compulsory grades which may not continue this route! Can they enter?

A: Providing the gymnast has not taken, or does not intend to take a compulsory grade in the same year, they can enter the Classic Challenge.

Q: How does the maximum D score work?

A: The D score includes the DV, CR & any Classic and FIG bonus' and may not exceed the maximum score stated.

Q: Are there any restrictions as to which level (zinc, copper, bronze etc.) can be entered? For instance, if a gymnast has passed National Grade 4, does this mean they are not allowed to enter the zinc or copper levels?

A: The only bar is if gymnasts have competed compulsory levels or FIG Challenge in the same year. Gymnasts can enter classic challenge at the level that is appropriate for them providing they have not or are not intending to compete in FIG Challenge Qualifier or enter any compulsory grade.

Q: Can 1 skill satisfy multiple CR's?

A: An element or combination of elements can fulfil more than one CR.

Q: Is the mixed series any element? Would jumps be in that?

A: A mixed series must contain a combination of directly connected acro and dance elements.  
Classic

Q: Are all dance elements that require splits no tolerance?

A: Tolerance on dance elements that require splits are as per FIG unless otherwise specified (eg zinc beam where 160° is required, so tolerance would be 115° minimum to recognise the element)

Q: Is there an individual qualifying score that gymnasts need to achieve to attend national finals?

A: Gymnasts qualify as a regional team. The top 6 gymnasts in the regional qualifier make up the team regardless of score.

#### Vault:

Q: Is there a maximum SV on vault for bronze & copper?

A: There is no maximum difficulty on vault for bronze, for copper the gymnast can perform any vault providing it does not have a salto.

#### Bars:

Q: What would be the possibility of the bars allowed at any distance – bearing in mind you've allowed any height on vault?

A: FIG specifications will be maintained for Asymmetric bars at the FIG & Classic Challenge.

Q: On bars, the cast CR can this come from a close bar element or only from a cast towards handstand?

A: This must come from a cast towards handstand and not from an element passing through handstand.

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Q: On bars, there is a bonus for silver & gold of a double tuck dismount. If the gymnast performs a double pike, or full in, will they also receive the bonus?

A: Whilst this is not clear on the rules, yes we would give the bonus as the dismount is still a double salto.

Q: On bars, if a gymnast does giant giant backaway will the giant be credited twice for DV?

A: No, because it states that only an 'A' value move can be repeated for DV.

Q: In silver & gold bars, will a hecht mount satisfy the CR for flighted low to high?

A: Yes providing they push off the LB

Q: Bronze level, CR - element that passes through handstand (bars) Would a giant satisfy this CR or does it need to be cast to handstand/short clear etc?

A: Close bar, handstand or giant would all fulfil this.

Q: In copper bonus and bronze CR on bars one of the moves is a close bar circle min B but there are no B close bar elements only downgraded C elements that count as a B but incur huge deductions, will the new domestic code put in these elements as a B in their own right if they exit at 45° to encourage gymnasts towards learning the C elements?

A: Any close bar element that does not achieve the technical requirement will be credited a 'B', therefore any close bar that should go to handstand but that does not reach handstand will be credited as a 'B' close bar element regardless of the angle they have achieved. Deductions are taken as per FIG, or per the bars chart on clarification page.

Q: In zinc is a fall on Bars a 1.00 deduction?

A: Yes

Q: Zinc bars – If the gymnast does a float swing to the board and follows this with an upstart, would they be allowed to let go of the bar without deduction:

A: The gymnast will not be deducted for this, but remember only 4 skills are needed.

Q: In zinc, can a back hip circle be used for the close bar element?

A: Yes. The wording has been changed to state that this includes a back hip circle.

Q: In zinc, if the gymnast casts to 45° then goes straight into a back hip circle, will they receive the bonus for the cast and the CR for the cast and the close bar element?

A: Providing the cast is above 45° (with no tolerance) they will receive the bonus & the 2 CR's. If the cast is less than 45°, they will still receive the 2 CR's.

### Beam:

Q: Do you still need to have a forward or sideways and a backwards element on beam in Classic Challenge?

A: This is not a specific requirement unless the rules give this as a CR option. The reasoning behind this being the philosophy to enable all gymnasts to work to the best of their ability and their own strengths.

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Q: Is the mixed series separate to the acro series on beam?

A: They are different CR's. An acro series would be minimum 2 directly connected acro elements as stated in each level, where a mixed series would be a direct connection of a minimum 1 acro & 1 dance element.

Q: On bronze beam, if a gymnast performs cat leap cartwheel tuck back dismount will they get the mixed series bonus as the tuck back is a dismount or does it all have to be performed on the beam?

A: Yes the mixed series can be included in the dismount

Q: Would a handstand to flic count at bronze & copper as an acro connection?

A: No because the handstand needs to be held for 2 seconds to be credited as a move and this hold would break a connection.

Q: In copper, if a gymnast does 3/4 spin 1/4 turn is this going to be given as a 1/2 spin releve 1/2 turn?

A: No, because the gymnast will not have completed a releve 1/2 turn.

Q: In copper, CR – mixed series minimum 2 connected elements. (both floor & beam). Does this need to be 1 acro & 1 dance element or can it be 2 dance elements?

A: By definition mixed means a mixture of dance and acro elements. A mixed series is a direct connection of a minimum one dance and one acro move in any order.

Q: In zinc on beam, the cartwheel stretch jump dismount gets the dismount but does it also get the CR for acro fwd/sideways?

A: Yes

Q: What is the tolerance for the 160° split requirement?

A: In line with (and considering the 20° difference) FIG, the gymnast will need to achieve a split of greater than 115° for the skill to be recognised.

Q: Is there any tolerance for the 180° split bonus?

A: To achieve the 180° split bonus, the gymnast would need to have a split greater than the 160° required for the CR.

### Floor:

Q: Is the mixed series on Floor with acro, acro with flight or acro with salto?

A: For a mixed series, the requirement is to do an acro element that is FIG coded, or a listed uncoded element for the appropriate level. The acro element(s) used could be salto, flighted acro or non-flighted acro.

Q: In silver & gold floor, there is a bonus for a double twist or more. If the gymnast performs a double twist backwards, and a double twist forwards or a double and a 2 1/2 twist backwards, will they receive the bonus twice?

A: Yes, the bonus will be credited twice, but remember that the D score is also capped.

Q: At gold, silver & bronze, if a gymnast on floor performs a round off flick tuck then does sissone round off straddle jump for her mixed series would that mixed series count as the round off would be a repeated element?

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A: If the **sissonne roundoff straddle jump** is performed first then the gymnast can receive both CR's.

Q: In Copper level if you do round off flick tuck for the acro line then you do round off straddle jump would you get the mixed series as the round off is repeated? Or does the mixed series come first to get both 2 CRs?

A: **The acro element can be repeated for the mixed series, but the repeated element would not receive DV.**

Q: In copper, CR 360° Spin on floor. Will only a single spin satisfy this or could a double spin for example be performed?

A: **The spin needs to be a minimum of 360° to fulfil the requirement.**

Q: In copper, CR – mixed series minimum 2 connected elements. (both floor & beam). Does this need to be 1 acro & 1 dance element or can it be 2 dance elements?

A: **By definition mixed means a mixture of dance and acro elements. A mixed series is a direct connection of a minimum one dance and one acro move in any order.**

Q: Floor on copper is the bonus just for half twist or could this be applied to full twist as well?

A: **Minimum ½ twist**

Q: Floor copper if a gymnast does both a straight front and straight back some do the get bonus applied to both?

A: **The Bonus states Straight front or straight back so will only be applied once.**

Q: On copper floor if a gymnast performs a round off flick straight ½ twist does she get the bonus for acro line with ½ twist plus the bonus for straight salto backwards?

A: **No. She would also need to perform a straight back somersault without a twist to receive the bonus for a straight back somersault.**

Q: In zinc Floor does the cartwheel backward roll to straddle count as the acro line with 2 elements non-flighted

A: **Yes providing they are directly connected.**

Q: Also zinc Floor is there any tolerance for the 180° split?

A: **To achieve the 180° split bonus, the gymnast would need to have a split within FIG tolerance. FIG deductions allow a tolerance of 45° (minimum 135° split) for recognition of the move and credit for the bonus. The D panel would decide on the recognition of the element and bonus awarded, whilst the E panel would take any execution deductions.**

Q: Zinc floor, does their dismount need to be a tumble line consisting of more than 1 skill?

A: **The dismount will be considered to be their last acrobatic element as the value of this will be in their counting skills. This can be a single coded or listed uncoded acro element with or without flight.**

If anyone has questions please reach out to the WTC [maria.mcloughlin@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:maria.mcloughlin@british-gymnastics.org)



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