USA Men's Artistic

2026–27 MANUAL UPDATE

Technical Sequence — Summary of Manual Changes

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The following changes have been made to the MAG Technical Sequence Manual (2025–2028), effective for the 2026–27 competitive year. Changes are organized by apparatus.

FLOOR EXERCISE

- **All Levels —** Moved Floor pattern notes to page 11, above the floor pattern diagrams.
- **All Levels —** Time limit of 65 seconds established, with appropriate overtime deductions noted.
- **Levels 8, 9 & 10 —** Added statement to the Notes section regarding no deduction for simple steps.
- **Levels 8, 9 & 10 —** Split requirement changed from a "2-second hold" to "stop required."
- **Level 9 —** In Box #4, "Jump ½ turn" added to the start of the sequence.

POMMEL HORSE

- **Level 9 —** In Boxes #6, #7 & #8, all requirements of "two or more" circles changed to "one or more."

STILL RINGS

- **Level 10 —** In Box #4, removed the hold requirement from support scale (legs together planche). Added to Performance Criteria: "If legs come together at > 45° from horizontal, non-recognition of skill."

VAULT

- **All Levels —** Moved "Maximum run distance of 82′ (25m)" to the Notes section.
- **All Levels —** Column 1 Skill(s) Description reworked to: (a) remove teaching comments and use only skill descriptions, (b) combine Hurdle to Board Strike / Hurdle, Round-off to Board Strike into one skill Box #2, and (c) rename phases to match World Gymnastics language.
- **All Levels —** SEE #2 will now be an evaluation of contact angle to table.
- **All Handspring-Style Vaults —** Added to Performance Criteria: "Must show minimal heel drive upon contact."
- **Level 9 — Yurchenko —** In the Notes section, Landing matting requirement changed from "two" to "one 8″ skill cushion."

PARALLEL BARS

- **Level 6 —** In Notes, added for giant swing backward: "any other spot is allowed for skill credit with (-0.3) deduction."
- **Levels 8 & 9 —** In Notes, added for giant swing backward: "any other spot is allowed for skill credit with (-0.5) deduction."
- **Levels 9 & 10 —** In Notes, regarding substitution for the giant to HS (if shown to the judge that the gymnast's knees touch the required matting): Level 9 may substitute a basket (peach) to support in place of Giant to HS; Level 10 may substitute a basket (peach) to support at 45° above horizontal.
- **Levels 9 & 10 —** In Notes, if substituting a basket (peach) to support for the Giant to HS results in two basket (peach) to support skills, one empty swing is permitted in between.
- **Level 9 —** In Box #5, removed the requirement of "straight arms throughout the peach."
- **Levels 8, 9 & 10 —** SEE #2 & SEE #3 still apply to the same boxes and skills, but with a different technical emphasis.

- **Level 10 —** Boxes #4 & #5 now include simple swings, which were in separate boxes in the previous manual.

HORIZONTAL BAR

- **Level 6 —** Box #1 is now colored as a Major Element.
- **Levels 9 & 10 —** Added “Early toe-on, toe-off” (straddle or legs-together toe-on style permitted).
- **Level 9 —** In Boxes #5 & #6, added “Swing through the bottom to handstand (giant) to …” to clarify that the athlete swings through the bottom only once.
- **Levels 8, 9 & 10 —** Changed “one or two giants” to “one or more giants” in the noted boxes: Level 8 — Boxes #5, #7 & #9; Level 9 — Boxes #7 & #9; Level 10 — Boxes #9 & #10.