

Classic Challenge Championships Q&A 2026

General:

Q: Can a gymnast compete in the Club Team Championships and the Classic Challenge Championships in the same year?

A: Yes.

Q: If a gymnast has previously qualified for the British Championships, could they do classic challenge this year and then do the British the following year?

A: If the gymnast is of aspire / 1st year junior age and has automatic entry to the British Championships but chooses to compete in Classic Championships she will forfeit her right to enter the British Championships and would need to requalify through the Home Nations Championships. If a gymnast needs to qualify through the Home Nations (14 years and above) and is unsuccessful in ranking, she may compete in Classic Gold that year.

Q: Can a gymnast compete in Home Nations Championships and the Classic Challenge Championships in the same year?

A: Yes.

Q: If a gymnast is unsuccessful in ranking for the British through the Home Nations, can they also do Classic Challenge as well as an FIG competition in the same year?

A: Yes, but if they wish to be considered for ranking at the next Home Nation Championships, they can only enter Classic Challenge at the highest level for their age.

Q: I have gymnasts that has competed in Excel grades and may not continue this route. Can they enter Classic Challenge?

A: They cannot enter Classic Challenge in the same year as competing an Excel grade.

Q: How does the maximum D score work?

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

Q: Are there any restrictions as to which level (tin, zinc, copper, bronze etc.) can be entered? For instance, if a gymnast has passed Performance Grade 1, does this mean they are not allowed to enter the zinc or copper levels?

A: The only restriction is if gymnasts have competed Excel Grades in the same year. A guide to appropriate classic challenge levels is included in the NDP Grades booklet.

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.

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

A: As per section 8 of FIG CoP, tolerance would be 135° 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.

Q: Are we using the 2025-2028 FIG Code of Points for all moves?

A: Yes, with additional uncoded elements as listed.

Q: Do all CR count as 0.5?

A: Yes.

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.

Q: In zinc, do we penalise the gymnast by taking a fall if they do the prep vaults to stand and they land and then fall to their back?

A: No. The judging of the vault ends when the gymnast lands in the standing position. Momentum will probably take them to a backwards lying position, but this is not judged.

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 allows for bars to be adjusted inwards, but for the safety of apparatus, FIG specifications for maximum distance will be maintained for asymmetric bars at the FIG & Classic Challenge Championships.

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.

Q: In CoP a forward hip circle shows a significant pike of the hips – is this pike deductible, or an accepted part of the skill?

A: To successfully perform the skill, you would expect to have to pike the hips so this would not be deductible.

Q: Does a forward hip circle carry the same empty swing deduction as a back hip circle?

A: If the gymnast continues towards handstand after the element then there is no extra swing. The swing penalty would apply if the legs come forwards and then back again to continue.

Q: Can a sole circle be performed on HB and be credited? And could this keep going round into a pike undershoot?

A: Whilst CoP does not specify that a sole circle can only be performed on LB, in the interest of safety for the gymnast, it would not be advisable to perform this element on the HB. If performed on the HB, bent leg penalties would apply.

Q: Would a mo shoot LB to HB count as a close bar element?

A: No, a mo shoot is a flighted element from LB to HB and not a close bar element.

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.

Q: In zinc, if the gymnast casts to above 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° they will receive the 2 CR's. If the cast is above 30° they will also receive the bonus. If the cast is below 45° but above horizontal they will receive DV for a cast, but not meet the requirement for CR 3.

Q: In zinc & copper bars, would a forward hip circle class as a close bar element for CR?

A: Yes, a forward hip circle is a close bar element.

Q: In copper 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, 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 goes through but does not reach handstand will be credited as a 'B' close bar element regardless of the angle they have achieved. Modified deductions are taken as per the bars chart on clarification page.

Q: Bronze level, does the back hip circle count as a close element? And fulfil one of the CRs?

A: A back hip circle would count as a close bar element (CR1), but the use of a back hip circle would attract the FIG deduction of 0.5 for an empty swing because the feet come forwards of the bar in order to swing backwards into the next element.

Q: Bronze level, can the $\frac{3}{4}$ forward sole circle be performed on the HB?

A: For safety reasons, the $\frac{3}{4}$ forward sole circle can only be credited with DV and CR if performed on the LB.

Bars continued:

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: In silver & gold bars, will a shoot half receive CR for a cast / circle element with 180° turn?

A: No

Q: Gold bars – on the LB, if you upstart pike onto the bar, change hand to reverse grip and forward sole circle to then transition to HB, would this meet the CR requirement of element in a different grip?

A: An element performed in reverse grip would meet CR requirement for different grips. However, a penalty of 0.1 will be applied for the adjusted grip (as per FIG CoP)

Beam:

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

A: Only if this is a specific requirement unless the rules give this as a CR option.

Q: Is there any tolerance for the 180° split bonus at zinc on beam and floor?

A: To achieve the 180° split bonus, the gymnast would need to have a split greater than the 135° required for the CR and as per FIG split requirements.

Q: In zinc & tin on beam, does a backward shoulder roll count as a backwards element for CR?

A: Yes in tin. For zinc, this can count as an acro element for DV, but will not fulfil CR4. The backward roll in the CoP (4.105) can fulfil this CR. The backward shoulder roll can be performed with optional exit.

Q: In zinc, Does the dismount count as one of their acro moves, or do the gymnasts need two full moves on beam and the dismount is separate?

A: Yes, the dismount will be one of your 2 counting acro elements.

Q: In tin, zinc & copper on beam, if the cartwheel straight jump dismount counted as 2 moves?

A: No. This counts as 1 acro move. It will count as your dismount and as an acro skill forwards/sideways.

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

A: Yes because the cartwheel has finished on the beam.

Q: In copper, if a gymnast does 3/4 spin 1/4 turn is this going to be given as a ½ spin releve ½ turn?

A: No because the gymnast will not have completed a releve ½ turn.

Q: In copper, will a straddle to handstand mount count as one of your acro elements?

A: If it is the highest counting acro element after your dismount, or if it one of your highest valued optional elements then yes – but it will not fulfil the requirement for any of the CR's.

Q: In copper, it states any mount can be used, does this include a jump to front support and a squat on that FIG don't allow?

A: Yes, you can use any mount for copper, zinc & tin.

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.

Floor:

Q: What is classed as an acro move on floor as I can't see this within the CoP?

A: In the CoP, acro elements on floor are elements in groups beginning with 3 (hand support elements), 4 (salto forwards & sideways) & 5 (salto backwards).

Q: The handstand forward roll been removed from the uncoded elements. Why?

A: This was removed because a jump, kick (lunge) or press to handstand with optional exit exists in the Code of Points (3.101), so this was not needed as an uncoded element.

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: Can a mixed series use acro elements that you have used in an acro line?

A: For classic challenge at all levels, the mixed series can include a repeated acrobatic element. This means that an acrobatics series is unaffected by the mixed series and will also allow the mixed series to be placed anywhere in the routine to allow for diversity. Please be aware that the DV for the acro element can only be given once.

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

A: Yes providing they are directly connected.

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 bronze, there is a bonus for having a 'B' dismount acro line. Does a 'handspring straight front punch tuck front' fulfil this bonus?

A: Providing this is their 3rd acro line and no more than one acro line is a single salto forwards then yes, because the final acro line includes a B salto.

Q: At gold, silver & bronze, if a gymnast finishes their floor routine with a mixed series which includes a free cartwheel, will it affect their dismount?

A: Their dismount will not be affected because a free cartwheel is an aerial and not a salto.