



- **Competition Rules**
- **Individual & Show Acts Rules**

Revised November 2007

National Show Ski Association Tournament Officials Requirements

Per the November 9, 2001 NSSA Board of Directors' meeting, the following are the officials requirements for all classes of tournaments.

Officials	Tournament Classification					
	Nationals (Officials are chosen by the NSSA Officials' Committee with final approval by the NSSA Board of Directors.)		Class A (Officials are chosen by the tournament sponsor, usually with the approval of the Chief Judge.)		Class C (Officials are chosen by the tournament sponsor, usually with the approval of the Chief Judge.)	
	Qty.	Minimum NSSA Officials Rating	Qty.	Minimum NSSA Officials Rating	Qty.	Minimum NSSA Officials Rating
Chief Judge	1	Senior Judge	1	Regular Judge	1	Regular Judge
Judges	7	Senior Judge	3,5 or 7	Regular Judge (see "a" below)	3,5 or 7	Regular Judge (Asst. with CJ's approval)
Chief Scorer	1	Senior Scorer	1	Regular Scorer	1	Regular Scorer (Asst. with CJ's approval)
Scorers	2	Senior Scorer	1 or 2	Assistant Scorer	1 or 2	Assistant Scorer
Timer/Staging Marshal	1	Regular Judge	1	Assistant Judge	1	Assistant Judge
Secretaries	7	Assistant Judge	3,5 or 7	USAWS/AWSA (Insured Member)	3,5 or 7	USAWS/AWSA (Insured Member)
Chief Safety Director	1	National Safety	1	State Safety	1	State Safety
Asst. Safety Director	2	State Safety	1	N/A	1	N/A

Officials – In order to encourage regional tournaments, at this time, they may meet the tournament officials requirements of either a Class A or Class C tournament as listed above.

50% or less of the Judges can be Assistant Judges with the Chief Judge's approval.

Division II Nationals will use the "Class A" criteria with the following exceptions:

- 1) Must use 5 or 7 Judges and they must have a minimum of a Regular Judge's rating.
- 2) Must have 1 Assistant Safety Director.

Isolated regions: i.e., Wisconsin, Midwest, Central and South must have a minimum of five (5) judges and be a Class A tournament. In the event of an unforeseen emergency, open regions may be filled with assistant rated judges or may be reduced to three (3), with the approval of the NSSA President.

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In the web version only - [Changes in 2005 will be colored in blue.](#)
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2008 WATER SKI SHOW COMPETITION RULES

I. RULES

RULE 1 - GENERAL

- 1.01 Classification** - Classifications will be National, Regional, Class A or Class C.
- 1.02 Sponsors** - The sponsors of the ski show competition shall be affiliated with USA Water Ski.
- 1.03 Sanction** - The NSSA will provide current rules, rule interpretations, judge's instructions, and Judges' and Scorers' Forms, which must be used for official USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned ski show competition. The NSSA will Also Provide The Water Ski Show Tournament Scoring Program if one is to be used.
- 1.04 Deviations** - Where compliance with the rules is not feasible, the Chief Judge shall, with the approval of the majority of the Appointed Judges, make the necessary deviations for each competing club and send a report to the NSSA President and Competition Rules Committee Chairman.

1.05 Interpretation - Questions of interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Chairman of the Rules Committee when possible. In the interest of expediency, the Chairman may give his own interpretation, which shall be binding until the committee has been polled. This shall serve, however, as a temporary interpretation until the Chairman refers the question to the entire committee for a vote in the normal fashion. Such a poll shall take place as promptly, and in the most practical manner possible, otherwise, the interpretation shall be made by a majority vote of the Appointed Judges, and the Chief Judge shall make a report to the Rules Committee concerning the question.

*Interpretation: Mechanics are pretty clear. Officials should be reminded to interpret the rules in the **BROADEST** interpretation. Board has given Rules Chairman authority to make interpretation on the intent of the rules based on the Chairperson's familiarity with, background knowledge, and understanding of the intent of the rules. It is the responsibility of the Chief Judge to try to contact the Rules Committee Chair person should a question arise.*

1.06 Amendments - Rules may be amended by the NSSA on an annual basis. Rules for the following year's competition will be amended no later than the Fall meeting of the NSSA Board of Directors. Notification of any amendments will be made to the USA Water Ski no later than December 10 for publication in the "The Water Skier." At that time, all changes will be in effect. No rule changes will be made following the Fall board meeting of the NSSA Board of Directors except that the Board may make changes deemed as absolutely necessary for the overall good of the sport of show skiing. If the Board makes any changes other than at the fall meeting, the NSSA Rules Chairman will notify in writing all show affiliated clubs and all officials.

1.07 Attachments - The Rule Interpretations, Officials' Instructions, Chief Judge's Checklist, Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, Official Timer's Report and the Post Show Judge's Meeting Form shall be part of the Official Water Ski Show Competition Rules (see tournament kit).

1.08 Post Tournament - The sponsor shall be responsible for mailing out the Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms and Tournament Reports. All items are to be mailed within ten days of the start of the tournament. Copies to be mailed are as follows:

1. All competing teams are to receive copies of their own Judges' Forms and copies of all Scorers' Forms. All Judges' and Scorers' forms are considered public information and shall be made available upon request. All requests for additional copies shall be made in writing, prior to the start of the tournament, to the sponsor; and the requesting person shall pay for all copying and mailing expense, if any.
2. All Judges and the Chief Judge will receive copies of all Scorers' Forms.
3. The NSSA Officials' Committee Chairman is to receive originals of all Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, Waive Right to Protest Form, the Tournament Officials' Record, **Tournament Drivers Report**, the scores program disk and the results disc, if program is used.
4. The NSSA Competition Rules Committee Chairman is to receive copies of the Safety Report, Official Timers' Report, and Chief Judge's Post Tournament Report.
5. NSSA Safety Committee Chairman is to receive a copy of the Safety Report, Safety Director's Tracking Report, Injury Report and Tournament Additional Treatment Report.
6. A list of the teams of a National qualifying tournament must be forwarded to the NSSA National Tournament Chairperson by fax, express delivery, e-mail or hand delivery within 48 hours of the completion of a Regional Tournament.
7. USA Water Ski's Competition Department is to receive (per the sanction kit):
 - a. Tournament Officials' Record
 - b. Tournament Results
 - c. Individual Membership Registration Forms

- d. Family Membership Registration Forms
- e. Tournament Safety Director's Report
- f. Injury Reports
- g. Additional Treatment Reports
- h. *Tournament Drivers Report***

8. At Division I Nationals only, the NSSA Nominating Committee Chairman is to receive copies of the Team Rosters and Tournament Results.

1.09 National Tournament - The NSSA Board of Directors may amend the water ski show competition rules, for the National Show Tournament, provided the amendments are made prior to the Letter of Agreement, and so stated in the entry requirements.

Tournament Host Requirement: All plaques and/or trophies awarded at the National Tournament to all teams will indicate their respective placement.

1.10 Safety Manual – The Safety Manual shall be considered as part of the Rule Book.

RULE 2 – SKI SHOW ACTS

2.01 Counting and Scoring - The decision regarding the acts to be counted and scored shall be at the discretion of the competing team. To be counted and scored as an act, some portion must include at least one of the following:

- 1. A competitor must be towed across the water.
- 2. Involve performance by powered watercraft.

The only exception to this rule is the introduction of personnel.

The use of powered watercraft to move or present non-skiers or equipment does not have to be listed or scored as an act.

This rule allows for a performance by powered watercraft to be scored as an act separate from introductions. This shall be at the discretion of the competing team and designated as an act rather than an introduction.

Interpretation: *The use of Powered water craft to move or present non-skiers or equipment does not have to be listed or scored as an act.*

The intent of non-skier is a person who is not currently being towed. This allows powered watercraft to present personnel to give performances while not being towed. This allows the craft to be used as a floatable stage or to move performers from point to point without being scored.

2.02 Introduction of Personnel - The introduction of competing personnel will be counted and scored as part of the Overall Show box score, and may come at any time during the show. The mechanics of the introductions are left to the imagination of the competing teams. At the end of each team's competition, the judges will give one score for introductions, which will include all introductions during the show.

Interpretation: *To be counted as an introduction, individual names are **NOT** required. Introductions during the show must be considered as part of the introduction and may be the entire introduction. All introductions throughout the show shall be considered as part of the introduction act.*

2.03 Schedule of Acts - Not later than one hour before the scheduled start of the tournament, each club must furnish the sponsor with copies of their Judges' Forms (two for each judge and one for the Chief Judge), two copies of their Scorers' Forms, and two copies of their club roster, as per Rule 6.02. The sponsor may require these forms up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the tournament, provided it is so stated in the tournament announcement. The sponsor may require the club roster up to seven (7) days prior to the scheduled start of

the tournament, provided it so states in the tournament announcement. Each act shall be clearly defined, such as clown, barefoot, jump, swivel, etc. The lists are for the use of the judges only. Clubs are to list only the names of the acts and not the names of the skiers in the acts. Although clubs are not bound to the sequence stated on their lists, there shall be no additions after the start of the tournament. If, in the opinion of the judges, an act is performed, but not listed or clearly defined, it shall be counted as an act and scored zero.

Competing teams shall be allowed to insert skits or cameo appearances between acts, which may include activity listed in 2.01 and not have that performance considered a scored act, but should be considered in overall show. This shall be done by listing the activity and indicating, "do not score."

It is the intent of this rule to provide the judges with a readily understood list from which to work and score the tournament and to prevent a club from adding a totally different act into their show after the start of the tournament. It is not the intent to restrict creativity or ingenuity, and officials MUST use the broadest interpretation possible and still allow for fair competition and adequate use of the list for scoring the tournament.

2.04 Outline of Acts - Each show shall consist of a minimum of 13 acts. This is in addition to the barefoot jump and aerial acts. If the barefoot jump or aerial act is part of a multi-disciplined act which includes disciplines other than the barefoot jump or aerial act, then only 13 acts are required.

Kite flying is approved providing the pilot meets the following:

1. Is a member of the USHGA (United States Hang Gliding Association).
2. Must show the Chief Judge the current USHGA membership card that indicates the pilot is rated for tow launch and is rated "Hang 2" (novice) or better.
3. Must use one of the certified gliders approved by the HGMA (Hang Gliding Manufacturers Association). It is the pilot's responsibility to provide proof of certification.
4. Must show the Chief Judge the current USHGA certificate of insurance listing USA Water Ski as an additional insured.

2.05 Continuous Acts - A club may have the option of designating a continuous act as one act. It shall be scored as one act and separate from any other act. To qualify as a continuous act, in the opinion of the judges, there must be continuity either from theme, individuals, type of act or any other activity that ties the acts together. If an act is designated as continuous and, in the opinion of the judges, does not qualify, that portion shall be counted as an act and scored zero. If an act is continuous, only one portion of the act must meet the requirements of Rule 2.01.

Judges must use the broadest possible definition of continuity, as the intent is not to restrict creativity or ingenuity in designing the performance.

2.06 Canceling of Acts - Any act or part of an act may be scratched up until 30 minutes prior to the start of each club's own show with no penalty provided the **13**-act minimum as per Rule 2.03 is met. Aerial acts and barefoot jump acts may be scratched at the discretion of the performer at any time with no penalty. Acts scratched other than under the above conditions will be scored zero with the exception of the approval of the majority of the judges. Failure to perform part of an act does not constitute a scratch of an act.

2.07 Fallen Acts - An act that falls may be performed again in the show; however, the judges shall give one combined score for both attempts and shall consider the overall effect of the fall and the repeat performance on the show.

RULE 3 – COMPETITION

3.01 Time Limit - The period of competition time allowed for each competing club shall be in one hour.

3.02 Time Penalty - There shall be no penalty for using less than the time allowed.

3.03 Equipment Failure - If sponsor-supplied equipment fails, the show may be stopped at the option of the competing club until the equipment is repaired or replaced. The clock will not run during such time and will be started with enough lead-time for competition to continue. The competing club shall have the option of rerunning an act that was discontinued due to such failure or continuing on with a different act. If the act is rerun the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The judges will score the act, at the club's option, from either the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

***Interpretation:** If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.*

3.04 Starting Times - The first club to compete on any day shall begin its preparation time at the hour and minute specified by the sponsor (with the approval of the Chief Judge) under penalty as specified by the rules. **Starting times for all succeeding clubs will be continuous according to the rules. Up to one hour of fill time may be granted for each "scratch" or "no-show" at the request of succeeding clubs. See Rule 13.02, Preparation and Clean-Up.**

***Interpretation:** This means that all succeeding teams may be allowed to request fill time up to a total of one hour for each scratch. Once the hour has been used no additional fill time will be allowed.*

3.05 Preparation Time - The first club to compete on any day shall be given 20 minutes preparation time beginning at the hour and minute specified by the sponsor (with approval of the Chief Judge). The club may start its show any time during this 20-minute preparation time, **after the club gets permission from the tournament timer.**

Each club shall be allowed 20 minutes, prior to the start of their performance, beginning at the conclusion of the preceding club's clean-up, as preparation time to assemble its equipment and be ready to perform. The club may start its show any time during this 20-minute preparation time, **after the club gets permission from the tournament timer.**

The period of competition shall begin when any one of the following first occurs:

1) With a spoken word recorded or live.

(It is not intended for the time to start because of words in commercially available music which may be played by the competing club during its setup time unless prearranged. Microphone and sound checks are allowed provided that they are done to set the levels and the crowd is not addressed other than to check for their ability to hear the announcer.)

2) The crossing of the show site outer buoys with a tight line.

(The buoys shall be placed near both of the shorelines, 750 feet from the center of the center stage, in both directions of the show course. For sites that are more than 750 feet wide, the show site outer buoys opposite the stage will be located 750 feet out from the stage shoreline. If the site is not at least 750 feet in any of the three directions (no buoys

need to be placed in that respective direction), then any visible tight line within that respective direction will be considered as starting the show and the competition time will start.)

- 3) The first visible tight line within the show site outer buoys, (If the site is not at least 750 feet in any of the three directions [no buoys need to be placed in that respective direction], then any visible tight line within that respective direction will be considered as starting the show and the competition time will start.)
- 4) Expiration of the 20-minute set-up time,
(If a club has not begun its show and the 20-minute preparation time has elapsed, the competition time will be started and the show director or an appointed person will be so notified by the timekeeper, provided the person to be notified is at a previously designated place.)
- 5) Or at a time prearranged with the club representative.
(Whenever the competition time begins an audible signal will be sounded by the timer.)

Any activity prior to the actual start of the competition period is to be disregarded by the judges.

Clubs may set up equipment around the show site prior to the 20-minute preparation time provided there is absolutely no interference or disruption of any competing team.

3.06 Ending Time - The competition by a club shall end when the time period allowed has elapsed or the club has ended its show.

3.07 Audible Signal - An audible signal shall be given at the end of the competition period or the end of the show, whichever occurs first. Any act not completed shall be scored "zero". Complete is defined as "the act is carried out to its intended, apparent ending and has the appearance of having finished its intended activity." Complete will also be defined as no skiers on the water, with a tight line, within the area defined for starting the show in Rule 3.05, #2 & #3. If under the judges' discretion there is a question of whether an act was complete, the judges will be polled and the majority will rule, and the act will be scored accordingly. An audible signal will be given five minutes before the end of scheduled competition time. This shall be a different signal than that which designates the end of the competition period or show. **There will be a 1% penalty if the announcer keeps talking after the final horn goes off.**
Interpretation: If anytime following the end of the competition period, there are skiers on the water, with a tight line within the area defined for the starting of the show in Rule 3.05, #2 and #3, the act will score zero.

3.08 Clearing Equipment - Each club will be given ten minutes from the end of the competition period or the end of the show to clear its equipment from the show area. Equipment shall be considered cleared provided it is moved to an area where it will not cause any interference or disruption to another competing team. Site-specific requirements may be enforced. A 1% deduction of the total score of the club if the club exceeds the time allotted.

RULE 4 – ORDER OF COMPETITION

4.01 Seeding - The method of determining the order of competition shall be specified in the tournament announcements and may allow for seeding.

4.02 Schedule - Not later than seven days before the start of the competition, all competing clubs and all officials shall receive a schedule showing the starting time and order of competition for each day of the tournament. Exceptions may be made for Class C tournaments.

4.03 Weather Conditions - Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety or similar reasons, and not for the convenience of any skier. A majority of the appointed judges must approve the change and all show chairmen of the affected clubs shall be notified. Although schedule changes are to be discouraged, the judges should not hesitate to make adjustments required for safety. Provisions for weather-related delays and the effect on tournament running order and completion of the tournament shall be stated in the tournament announcement.

4.04 Safety Time-Out - *An authorized representative of a competing team, such as the Show Director or President may call a safety time-out if site or weather conditions make continuing the performance unsafe or dangerous. This request would be directed to the Chief Judge and confirmed by an audible signal or directive. Such time out would continue until the unsafe condition is removed or the weather situation resolved. If the delay is determined to not have merit the Judges may assess a scoring penalty against the performing team up to and including disqualification.*

RULE 5 – DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION

5.01 Amateur/Professional - There shall be no distinction between amateurs and professionals.

5.02 Separation of Divisions - Competition may be separated into divisions, with the approval of the Chief Judge, if so stated in the tournament announcement. Separate divisions at Regional and National Tournaments require NSSA Board approval.

RULE 6 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6.01 General Qualifications - All clubs and their competing members, competing in all classes of USA-WS sanctioned tournaments, shall be affiliated with USA-WS. Sponsoring National, Regional or State associations may also require membership in their organizations. This rule shall be considered satisfied if the competing club meets such membership requirements prior to their own performance in competition. Competing clubs or competitors in an USA-WS-sanctioned ski show tournament must show proof of USA-WS "Active" (insured) membership to tournament officials. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer to ensure that all entry requirements and affiliations have been met, prior to the start of the tournament.

The definition of a competitor is as follows: All personnel of a competing ski team who participate in any way in any of the scored areas of the tournament, or who are in the defined competition area during the competition are considered competitors. This includes but is not limited to: the dock crew, sound people, announcer, boat personnel; and costume, backdrop and prop people, etc.

A team's Regional designation will be determined by the Region the team skies more than 50% of their time in the ten-week period preceding the Regional Tournament.

6.02 Roster - All competing clubs must furnish the sponsor with a complete roster of their regular active members who were members participating in regular club activities, performances and practices a minimum of two weeks prior to the tournament. "Two weeks prior to the tournament" is interpreted to mean physically present for the 14 days prior to the date of the tournament. This roster must be turned in prior to the start of the tournament and may be required up to seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament, provided it is stated in the tournament announcement. No participation of any kind is permitted by any individual, not on the club roster, during the competition period.

A competitor may only enter one Regional Tournament in any calendar year. Once a competitor enters any Regional Tournament with a team, then they may only participate in the National Tournament with the same team for the year that the Regional Tournament in which the team is qualifying. A Regional Tournament shall include all competition under one sanction. Petitions for rules variance relative to the subject matter of this paragraph will not be allowed without a minimum of _ majority vote of the Board for approval. Lacking response from a director, alternate votes will be counted and lacking either, will be a "no" vote.

When extenuating circumstances occur the competitor may petition their respective Regional Director for an E-mail, fax or mail vote by the NSSA Board for a rule variance for any individual concerning eligibility under this rule.

The intent of this rule is to prevent a club or organization from bringing in an all-star cast for a particular tournament. An entered team should be a team as it was before and after the tournament. This would not apply to special tournaments that are intended to bring together composite teams. This would also not apply to the following text concerning under-represented regions.

In the interest of broadening the geographic distribution at the National Show Tournament, and for the purpose of encouraging under-represented regions, composite or aggregate teams, shall be allowed to participate at the Nationals, providing the following conditions are met:

1. The team is the sole, official representative of their region at the National Tournament.
2. The team is a legitimate team indicated as such by team membership in USA Water Ski, team membership in the Regional and/or State organizations and has officers/directors, rosters, dues, bylaws, team name, team logo, etc.
3. The team is located outside the region hosting the National Tournament.
4. The team is located more than one day's drive or 650 miles from the site of the National Tournament.
5. There has been no team representation from that region in the past three years nor has the region been represented more than three times out of the previous ten years at the National Tournament.

6.03 One Show Rule - A participant may enter no more than one show.

Interpretation: This means a participant may not ski with more than one show under the same sanction competition. ~~6.03 does not apply to Individual acts competition.~~

6.04 Entry Requirements and Tournament Paperwork - The competing team shall be responsible for meeting all entry requirements. Each team must send a representative to the Mandatory Meeting as per Rule 10.04. Each team entering any NSSA sanctioned tournament must furnish the tournament sponsor or designee with the properly completed forms not later than one hour before the scheduled start of the tournament. The sponsor may require these forms to be submitted any time up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the tournament and may request additional numbers of copies provided it is so stated in the tournament announcement. Failure to comply with this rule (1 – 10) may result in team disqualification. Failure to comply with 11 & 12 will result with a penalty of 50% of the entry fee for that Tournament.

1. Judges' forms - 2 copies per Judge and 1 copy for the Chief Judge (SCR 2.03).
2. Scorers' forms - 2 copies (SCR 2.03).
3. Team roster - 2 copies with USA Water Ski membership numbers (SCR 6.02). At Division I Nationals- 3 copies with USAWS membership numbers and whether the member is a "skier", "announcer", "boat Driver" or "other".
4. USA Water Ski club affiliation certificate - 1 copy (SCR 6.01).
5. NSSA Safety Coordinator - 1 copy of the safety coordinator's card (SCR 6.06).

6. USA Water Ski Towboat Liability Insurance form - 1 copy.
7. NSSA Safety Director's Tracking Report form - 1 copy.
8. Wireless microphone frequency - give to Chief Judge (SCR 9.09).
9. Club radio frequency - give to Chief Judge.
10. USA Water Ski music form - 1 copy ***Div. I National Tournament only***.
11. TV Production Form ***Div. I National Tournament only***
12. Ski Club Fact Sheet ***Div. I National Tournament only***

It is each competing team's responsibility to ensure that all entry requirements are met. It is recommended that each club verify with the sponsor that all required documents have been received prior to the start of the tournament.

6.05 Disqualification - Violations of Rule 6 (except 6.04 11 & 12) may result in disqualification.

6.06 Safety Coordinator - All teams competing in NSSA sanctioned tournaments must have a team safety coordinator that has read the NSSA Safety Manual, taken the 25 question NSSA Safety Coordinator test, is at least 18 years old and has successfully completed the USA-WS Safety Clinic within the last four years. All competing clubs must furnish the sponsor with a copy of the Safety Coordinators Card.

RULE 7 – OFFICIALS - also see "Tournament Officials Requirements" inside front cover.

7.01 Personnel - Secondary positions shall be filled by the host organization in cooperation with the Chief Judge.

7.02 Disagreement - In any disagreement among judges, the majority rules; all issues should be settled before the next show begins.

7.03 Scoring - The total computed scores, the individual judges' scores and score sheets shall be held confidential by the Chief Scorer until the results of the tournament are announced. At this time they shall be available for inspection by the designated show chairman or their representative. The judges will be permitted to keep copies of their own score sheets throughout the tournament provided they are kept confidential along with any particular comments about a club's performance.

7.04 Location - Judges shall be separated to ensure completely independent opinions. Areas designated for Judges' stations, Scorers' work areas, etc., shall be restricted to tournament officials only.

7.05 Secretaries/Trainees - A judge trainee or secretary may work and communicate with a judge during competition provided that the secretary or trainee works with the judge he is assigned to at all times during the competition. This secretary or trainee is responsible for keeping all information or discussion regarding the competition confidential for the duration of the tournament. At National, Regional and Class A tournaments, all judges are required to use secretaries.

7.06 Conflict of Interest - The Chief Judge, all Scoring Judges and the Chief Timer shall not have a conflict of interest with any competing teams. A conflict of interest shall be regarded as existing if the Chief Judge, Scoring Judge or Chief Timer/Staging Marshall is:

1. A member of the immediate family of a competitor to include lineal descendants and ancestors, brothers and sisters and wives or husbands of the competitor or any of the above family members.
2. A competitor in the division of the tournament in which they are one of the above listed officials.
3. In a position that may give the appearance of a lack of independence. These conflicts shall be determined by the Chief Judge with respect to Scoring Judges and the Scoring Judges with respect to the Chief Judge and the Timer.

4. Whenever any currently rated judges leave a show team as active members and they want to be allowed to judge that team in a USA-WS/NSSA-sanctioned tournament, they must do the following: Contact the Chairman of the Officials' Committee with the date that they are no longer affiliated as an active member of the team. Their name must no longer appear on the team membership roster. Once that information is on record the judge will not be allowed to Chief Judge, Judge or be a Timer for that team in any USA-WS/NSSA-sanctioned show tournament, including individual events for a period of one year. They also will not be allowed to Chief Judge, Judge or be a Timer for that team at the National Championships for a period of two years. Honorary or Life members whose names might appear on a team roster will not be considered as active members and will be exempt. However, if they have been active members and have just recently become Honorary or Life members, they must meet the requirements listed above.

Any person with a conflict of interest, as defined above, will not be allowed to be present at any meetings where officials are discussing rule violations and potential penalties during the tournament.

Interpretation: *The intent is not to prohibit any official from skiing in an occasional alumni, reunion, or other special occasion show with any given club.*

- 7 . 0 7** **Appointed Positions at National Tournaments** - For the National show tournament, all officials will be appointed by the NSSA Board.

Aspiring Safety Directors may be allowed to volunteer to staff the safety boat or assist the Safety Directors with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and the Chief Judge.

RULE 8 – RERIDES AND PROTESTS

- 8.01** **Weather/Unfair Water** - When unfair water or weather conditions or a malfunction of sponsored equipment occurs, the judges may grant a reride of the act affected. Keep in mind that the competition is sponsored for spectator appeal and as though "the show must go on".

Both the club and the judges must consider the conduct of the competing club as though the club were presenting a road show in which conditions affecting the quality of the show are judged in the minds of the spectators.

When severe weather or other unsafe conditions suddenly occur during the course of the show, which would preclude the safe continuation of the show, the Chief Judge or Chief Safety Director may call for a "time-out". The Chief Judge may overrule the request for a time-out when initiated by the Chief Safety Director, in which case the clock continues to run. Return to safe weather conditions shall be determined by unanimous agreement of the Chief Judge and Chief Safety Director. When the weather improves to a safe condition the show may restart. The clock will not run during such time-out and will be started with enough lead-time for competition to continue. The competing club shall have the option of rerunning an act that was discontinued due to such conditions or continuing on with a different act. If the act is rerun the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The judges will score the act, at the club's option, from the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

Interpretation: *If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.*

8.02 Club Representation - Protests may be made only by the person identified on the Chief Judge's Checklist.

8.03 Protest Procedures

1. Protests must be made in writing and shall be considered by the appointed judges. The protest must contain the reason for the protest and be signed by the designated representative as per 8.02. The protest must be filed prior to 30 minutes after the Judges' Forms are available for inspection. A protest will only be accepted for a team's own performance, never for another team's performance.
2. Protests shall be allowed only for the failure of the tournament committee or the officials to comply with the rules. No protest shall ever be allowed on judgment decisions by the officials. Any protest considered frivolous or directed at another team will be given an automatic 3% deduction from the final score of the team submitting the protest.
3. A correction of an error in the computation of scores shall not be considered a protest. Such correction shall be made upon the approval of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer, if requested, within 24 hours after the Judges' Forms are available for inspection.
4. All officials shall remain on the site, available to handle any previous protests or corrections of computations of scores, for a minimum of 40 minutes after the results are announced, or until all previous protests have been settled. If a club representative from each competition team waives their interest in a protest, by signing the "Waiving Right to Protest" form, then the tournament officials need not remain at the tournament site for the full 40 minutes. Teams not picking up their team scores within ten (10) minutes of availability forfeit their right to protest and the officials may be released.
5. The use of videotapes is not to be used for judgments of any kind in the scoring of tournaments.

RULE 9 – EQUIPMENT

9.01 Towboat - The sponsor shall have the option of supplying the towboat that may or may not be used at the discretion of the club competing. If one is supplied, it shall be so stated in the ski show announcements.

Tested Driver Requirements:

All teams must have at least one tested driver.

All drivers must be a tested driver or have a learner's permit.

A learner's permit is subject to the following:

The applicant and president of the club must certify that the applicant has read the most current version of the National Show Ski Driver Clinic Student Manual.

The learner's permit shall be valid for a period of two years.

The learner's permit may be renewed only once subject to the following conditions:

The trainee must complete the USAWS Safety Course.

The trainee must pass the written renewal test.

The driver's test must be completed by the end of the two year renewal.

At all sanctioned events (including, but not limited to: practices, exhibitions, shows, and tournaments) when more than one boat or a boat with multiple engines is operated, at least one driver must be tested, and all other drivers must be tested or have a learner's permit. When only one class "A" boat is operated, a learner's permit will be sufficient.

After July 1, 2006, the operator of a boat with three or more engines must be a tested driver. After July 1, 2006, any drivers with a class A or B rating who are driving with a Class C boat must have a Class C learner's permit, which will be good for two years.

When inclement weather forces the cancellation of a sanctioned tested driver clinic or the examiner fails to attend the sanctioned tested driver clinic, a hardship will be granted for the drivers that were scheduled. These drivers will be allowed a one year extension of their respective ratings.

A current list of examiners and respective contact information will be posted on the NSSA and USA-WS web sites. Additionally, information on how to become a driver examiner will also be posted.

A reminder to turn in driver paperwork will be included in the annual USAWS dues notices.

Notes: An effort will be made by the examiner to differentiate falls that occur because of the driver or skier(s).

***Interpretation:** For Swivel and Doubles competition a driver's rating is recommended but not required.*

9.02 Pick-Up Boat - The sponsor shall have the option of supplying a pick-up boat that may or may not be used at the discretion of the competing club. If one is supplied it must be so stated in the tournament announcement. A club may not compete without using a pick-up boat. The pick-up boat must be manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter, and be approved by the Safety Director and Chief Judge. In the opinion of the Chief Judge and Safety Director the spotter must be able to physically handle an emergency situation on the water. The rider/spotter must be capable of water rescue. (See exception Rule 10.05 4g)

9.03 Jump Ramp - The sponsor shall supply one AWSA regulation-size jump ramp with side aprons. The jump ramp will be adjustable to AWSA standards. The jump ramp provision may be waived at Class C tournaments if stated in tournament announcements. The dimensions of a jump for NSSA purposes will be an inclined plane with mounted side aprons that meets the following specifications. This rule applies to tournament-sponsor supplied jumps only.

1. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet.
2. Surface width: 14 feet at all points ± 2 inches.
3. Surface length out of water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly.
4. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly.
5. Side aprons on both sides shall extend the full length of the jump and shall be at least 6 inches under the water when the ramp is raised to its full height. The recommended apron angle is no less than 30 degrees to no greater than 60 degrees from vertical.
6. Buoy: 49 feet ± 1 foot from the middle of the jump surface to the right of the jump as you approach to go off it. The buoy shall also be in a line even with the take-off edge of the jump.

- 9.04 Safety Boat** - The sponsor shall supply one low-sided safety boat with adequate power for the use of the Safety Director and/or first aid personnel. The boat shall be equipped with a satisfactory backboard and adequate personal flotation devices.
- 9.05 Club-Supplied Equipment** - All other equipment needed shall be supplied by the competing clubs.
- 9.06 Storage and Staging Areas** - The sponsor shall provide an adequate area for the current competing team's equipment and an adequate pre-staging area for the next team to compete adjacent thereto.
- 9.07 Changing Rooms** - The sponsor shall provide adequate male and female costume changing rooms in the equipment area. This provision may be waived at Class C tournaments if so stated in the tournament announcements.
- 9.08 Performance Platform** - The sponsor shall provide a performance platform for the use of all clubs. It is recommended that the performance platform be at the left edge of the show course and will generally be used as the starting platform for most acts. For National, Regional and Class A tournaments, the recommended minimum size shall be 20 feet x 36 feet or 720 square feet, with the short dimension parallel to the shore and the surface 12 to 20 inches above the surface of the water.
- It is recommended that the shore edge be in at least 3-1/2 feet of water and that the platform end farthest out in the water be skirted from the surface of the platform to below the water line.
- 9.09 Sound System** - At the National Show Tournament, a tournament host supplied sound systems will be provided and must be used by all teams. A team may also feed their signal to additional equipment separately. A team may not move, alter, modify or add to the tournament supplied house sound system in any way. The team supplied sound equipment may not be placed or connected in such a way as to damage the tournament supplied house sound system. The tournament host supplied house sound system will meet, but not be limited to, the minimum specifications. A written description of the system will be available from the tournament host to the competing teams no later than one week prior to the start of the tournament. All wireless microphone frequencies must be registered with the Chief Judge during the pre-show meeting with the show director.

Tournament Supplied House Sound System Minimum Specifications

A tournament supplied house sound system will be provided by the host team of any National Show Tournament for the use of all participating teams. Said sound system shall meet, but not be limited to, the following minimum specifications:

- A. Loudspeaker cabinets sufficient to provide clear, intelligible coverage of the entire spectator and judging area. Sound pressure level (SPL) at the judging area should be at least 70 db.
- B. Monitor loudspeakers with adjustable gain placed so as to provide sufficient coverage of:
 1. The primary starting dock.
 2. The main performance platform.
- C. Amplification to adequately power the venue.
- D. At least one backup amplifier on site.
- E. A mixing console with at least six input channels.
- F. A direct box or the adapters necessary to allow RCA, XLR and 1/4" input to the main console, stereo or sum and mono.
- G. A house microphone.

- H. At least one technician on site at all times during competition.
- I. Properly grounded 110v, 60hz, 20a circuit for team usage.

9.10 Public Address System - The tournament shall supply a public address system to use as required by the tournament announcer and to make required public address announcements.

RULE 10 - SCORING

10.01 Scoring Outline (Skiing Acts) - An act shall be evaluated on:

Flow	0 – 25 points
Execution	0 – 25 points
Difficulty	0 – 25 points
Spectator Appeal	0 – 25 points
Total Possible per act	100 points
Total Possible per show	1300 points
Multiplied by 1.3	
Actual Total Possible	1690

Any act listed as clown or comedy is not scored in the 25-point breakdown as other acts, but one score, 0-100 points.

10.02 Additional Scoring (Box Scores) - In addition, the judges shall award points as follows:

Sound Crew & Audio Presentation	0 – 250 points
Towboat Driving	0 – 200 points
Pick-Up Boat Crew	0 – 75 points
Showmanship	0 – 250 points
Overall Show	0 – 525 points
Total Possible	1,300 points
Multiplied by 0.7	
Actual Total Possible	910 points

10.03 Calculations - (3 judges) when there are only three judges, the scores from all three judges will be added for the total for each skiing act. Add the total from each act to come up with a sub-total for the skiing acts. Divide the sub-total by 3 (scoring judges) and then divide this number by the actual number of acts skied. Multiply this number by 13 to get the total skiing points. To properly weight the score multiply this number by 1.3 to get the total weighted skiing score. With three judges, add the scores for each box score together. Then add all of the box score totals together and divide this number by 3. To get the weighted box score multiply this total by 0.7. At this point add the weighted skiing scores to the weighted box scores to get the team's sub-total. Now subtract any penalty points from the sub-total to get the team's final score.

(5 or 7 judges) When there are five or seven judges, the scores of the high and low judge for each act will be eliminated. The scores from the rest of the judges will be totaled for each skiing act. Add the totals from each skiing act to come up with a sub-total for the skiing acts. Divide the sub-total by two less than the total scoring judges (3 or 5), then divide this number by the actual number of acts skied. Multiply this number by 13 to get the total skiing points. To properly weight the score multiply this number by 1.3 to get the total weighted skiing score. With 5 or 7 judges the high and low scores in each box score will be eliminated. Add the remaining scores in each box category. Add the totals for all of the box scores. Take this sub-total and divide it by

two less than the actual number of scoring judges (3 or 5). To get the weighted box score multiply this total by 0.7. At this point add the weighted skiing score to the weighted box score to get the teams sub-total. Now subtract any penalty points from the sub total to get the team's final score.

Penalties for safety violations are deducted based on the total score resulting in the final score for each club and placement based on this score.

Scorers shall indicate on the Scorer's Form, the reason for any penalties and the act in which they occurred.

The official scoring program for The National Show Ski Association will be " Water Ski Show Tournament Scoring Program" written by Mark Bortz. This will be the only program used to score Show Tournaments electronically.

10.04 Mandatory Tournament Meeting – There will be a mandatory meeting with the Chief Judge for a representative of each competing club to attend. Time and place will be in the tournament information kit. Failure to have a representative present will result with a penalty of 50% of the entry fee for that Tournament.

10.05 Safety Deductions - Any of the Judges or the Safety Director may poll the Scoring Judges for a 1% to 3% point deduction from the total score of a club for each instance that, in the opinion of the majority of the Judges, there was a serious failure to exercise proper safety precautions during their show. The following will constitute automatic penalties under the rule:

1. Failure to wear a helmet at any time a competitor skis under another competitor or a competitor's rope - 5% deduction. The exception to this rule would be for changing positions.
2. Failure to apply and properly use a quick release for all acts in which the skiers do not hold the "normal skiing handle" in their hands at all times - 5% deduction; also, to include "flip starts", when the towline is wrapped around the skier's body. A release person (observer) may hold no more than one release per hand. It is the intent of this rule to allow for pulling up on the ropes for the purpose of changing positions without penalty.
3. Failure of aerial acts to land in the water or aerial acts coming over land while the participant has his skis on - 5% deduction. This rule may allow for the flyer to choose a safe alternate area away from spectators for reasons of his own safety.
4. Failure to wear a personal flotation device, which will float the person under the following circumstances:
 - a. Any time a competitor goes over a jump ramp.
 - b. During rope braid acts.
 - c. During around the boat acts.
 - d. While barefoot skiing.
 - e. All clowns/comedy performing in more than waist deep water.
 - f. **If any part of a formation being towed is three or more tiers, then all members being towed by the towboat must wear flotation.**
 - g. At least one rider/spotter (if any) in all towboats and pick-up boats must wear a minimum of Coast Guard approved Type **I, II, III** or **V** flotation while skiers are on the water.
The exception to this is the incidental use of barges to pick up debris, skies and people. This exception can only be made if the club has pick-up boat(s) and the barge operator is wearing the Coast Guard Type **I, II, III** or **V** flotation. If the driver leaves the motor/control area the motor **MUST** be shut off or placed in neutral.
 - h. Hydrofoils

Life belts are not considered adequate personal flotation devices for parts a through e, g and h. Life belts are considered adequate flotation devices for part f.

(All of the above violations - 5% deduction.)

5. Failure to initiate all boat washouts, high-speed boat spins or similar stunts with an approach parallel to the shoreline and beginning the turn-away from the spectators and towboat drivers leaving the driver's seat when the boat is in gear and the neutral safety lock has not been detached, except for the purpose of increasing visibility during inclement weather - 5% deduction.

Other dangerous boat driving will be penalized at the judges' discretion and could include thread-the-needle maneuvers and failure to maintain safe control of the boat - up to 5% deduction.

6. Failure to complete or finish barefoot acts in more than knee-deep water - 3% deduction. It is the intent of this rule to keep barefooters from approaching shore to the point where a forward fall becomes dangerous. Judges should use reasonable judgment and not try to determine the exact level of the water to the skier's knee.

7. Safety deductions may be assessed anytime during the tournament. Safety deductions may occur whether or not competition time is running (i.e. during set up time, tear down time.) Safety deductions may be assessed during a time-out.

Interpretation: Some question as to what constitutes a "serious" condition as opposed to a frivolous condition. While safety is the first priority, these penalties should not be arbitrarily applied. It is the intent of this rule to only address situations that place participants and/or spectators in danger of injury because of an action or lack of action. There are no automatic penalties other than those listed.

Ref # 2. The purpose of the rule is to include but not limited to strap doubles, heel holds, and things like that. This pertains only to flip starts. This rule is intended for the proper use of a release to prevent injuries and not necessarily to require release a skier because of a fall if the skier is free of the rope.

Ref # 4. The interpretation of clown includes comedy type acts.

- e. For clowns, the original intent of the rule was for clowns performing on the water, being towed by a boat. Clowns or comedy acts on shore that may come into contact with the water should not have to wear flotation. If a clown is performing in front of the audience in waist deep water or less, they should not have to wear flotation. In these cases, the clown is not being towed across the water and not doing dangerous maneuvers like those in the other acts listed above that require flotation.

"Float" means will float the person in full costume after expelling the air out of their lungs.

10.06 Judges' Forms - The sponsor shall supply the scoring judges with two copies and the Chief Judge with one copy of each team's Judges' Forms.

RULE 11 – SAFETY

11.01 Safety Director - Prior to the competition the sponsoring affiliated club, with the approval of the Chief Judge, shall appoint a Chief Safety Director who shall be responsible for the safe condition of all equipment, facilities and operation of the competition and have the authority to stop competition whenever he feels an unsafe condition exists. The Chief Judge may overrule any contemplated action or decision of the Chief Safety Director.

11.02 Injury - The competition time will be stopped by the Chief Judge or the Safety Director whenever there is apparent injury to a skier during the show. After the Chief Judge and the Safety Director are confident that necessary aid has been given to the injured person and all equipment involved has been checked, the team may start with

the next act or rerun the act during which the injury occurred. If they choose to rerun the act, the competition time and scoring (judging), will start when they reach the point at which the injury occurred. The skier that was injured may, with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and Chief Judge, participate in the remainder of the show.

Any bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered, and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the costume, it must be changed or covered before the participant may continue with the show.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

***Interpretation:** If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.*

11.03 Emergency Personnel and Transportation

1. Nationals: Adequate emergency personnel and transportation from the site will be available at all times during the competition. Emergency personnel and transportation will be at a designated, easily accessible place at all times.
2. 2. All Other Tournaments: Adequate medical personnel on site or available within a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: less than 4 minutes.) Transportation to medical facilities present or available in a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: 5-10 minutes.)
3. At NSSA sanctioned tournaments, the minimum required emergency personnel is defined as "state certified basic Emergency Medical Technician."

11.04 Safety Boat - The safety boat will be at an easily accessible designated position and will be manned by a competent operator at all times during competition.

11.05 Safety Announcements - The sponsoring club shall make announcements that spectators should not try the stunts performed during the tournament without proper experience or expert instruction before each show during the tournament.

11.06 Additional Safety Rules Related to Site - For safety reasons due to the site, restrictions may be added to the listed safety restrictions by the majority of the judges. Any restrictions must be determined before the start of the tournament and show directors from all competing clubs be notified prior to the tournament or upon their arrival at the site.

11.07 Inclined Ramps - Inclined ramps fastened to performance platforms and/or any other equipment, and intended to be skied up, must be at an angle of not greater than 17 degrees to the surface of the water. In addition, the surface must be a minimum of 42 inches wide and the lower edge at least 6 inches below the surface of the water vertically.

***Interpretation:** Same angle as the 6' jump.*

11.08 State/Federal Boating Regulations - At the option of the sponsoring club, the Safety Director shall see that all competing clubs conform to all state and/or federal boating regulations prior to the start of their show, PROVIDING:

1. The requirement of meeting all applicable boating laws was made in the tournament announcement.

2. All competing clubs from a state other than the state in which the competition is to be held shall have been sent a copy of such laws.

11.09 Required Safety Meeting - All competing club boat personnel, Safety Director, and show director/chairman shall meet with the tournament Safety Director and Chief Judge prior *to each team's performance. Boat personnel who are also skiers have the option of having their meeting with the Safety Director immediately following their team's safety meeting.* The sponsor shall state the time and place in the tournament announcements. All other club participants shall meet with the Safety Director prior to their 20-minute set-up time. This meeting shall be at a location convenient for club members and no later than during the set-up period of the team preceding them. The exception to this would be the first team. There shall be an interval of at least ten minutes between the end of the meeting and the start of their set-up time. If not specified, the meeting will take place in the pre-staging area prior to the 20-minute set-up time.

11.10 Sponsor-Required Site Plan - The sponsor shall furnish a site plan for the Chief Judge, Safety Director and all competing clubs prior to the start of the tournament.

RULE 12 – CONDUCT

12.01 Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after the tournament and/or violations of the above rules, which do not provide specific penalties, may be penalized at the discretion of the majority of the judges up to and including disqualification. Misconduct penalties will not be assessed until the team is notified and given an opportunity to present a defense.

Any member of any team becoming disorderly (verbally or physically) to any official before, during or after a tournament/event will receive an automatic one-year suspension from all NSSA-sanctioned events. Also his/her team may be disqualified from that tournament/event. The suspended individual(s) must then come before the NSSA Board before reinstatement to explain his/her actions. A 2/3-majority vote from the NSSA Board is required for reinstatement.

The intent is to provide a method for enforcing the rules and ensure a well-run tournament. All penalties should be enforced considering the overall intent of the tournament rules and the effect of the violation on the tournament.

Interpretation: Can potentially include any and all unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior by competing personnel either on or off site.

12.02 Mind-Altering Substances - Any competitor under the influence of any mind-altering substance, including alcohol, will cause their team to be disqualified. Under the influence is defined as: "any detectable level of the substance". Competitor is defined as: "any person that participates in the performance during the competition time in any manner".

RULE 13 - VARIATIONS

13.01 General - Variations to the rules may be allowed by the NSSA Board upon the submission of such variations to the NSSA. The intent of this rule is to allow for the widest variation possible in the use of water ski show competition for the purpose of promoting spectator appeal and a spirit of cooperation and relaxation among water ski clubs and water skiers generally. Such requests for variations must be received by the NSSA at least 60 days prior to the tournament date.

13.02 Preparation and Clean-Up - Rule 3.04 may be amended to allow for specific starting time and expanding preparation and clean-up times provided there is equality for all teams.

II. NSSA OFFICIALS' INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

Section 1 - Instructions To The Chief Judge

As Chief Judge, your responsibility covers the entire tournament. You are obligated to see that the tournament is run fairly and safely according to the rules.

This includes the responsibilities of the following personnel: (1) sponsoring club, (2) competing teams, (3) scoring judges, (4) chief scorer, (5) scorers, (6) timer/staging marshal, (7) safety director, and (8) secretaries. It is important that you become familiar with all the responsibilities and positions.

Prior to the start of the tournament, you should review the following items:

1. Is the required equipment ready and adequate?
2. Are personnel available and familiar with their official responsibilities?
3. Check docks, jump, landing area, skiing area, etc., for safety hazards.
4. Make sure all entry requirements have been met.

Meet with each competing team's show director prior to their competition. Ask for questions and inform the show director that it is his responsibility to know the rules and that you cannot make exceptions simply because they are not aware of the rules. Review any changes in rules or interpretations that are not included in the current "Water Ski Show Competition Rules." Ask if they have anything unusual in their show that you should be aware of. Review the Chief Judge's checklist with the show director, covering all items.

It is recommended that the Chief Judge review all clubs' schedule of acts for rule violations and to notify the clubs of his findings; however, it remains the responsibility of any competing club to comply with all rules.

Remember, all decisions made by the Chief Judge or majority of judges must be made keeping in mind the intent of the rules and be based on keeping the competition fair for all competing clubs.

Section 2 - Instructions To The Scoring Judges

Before reading these instructions, read and become familiar with the NSSA Water Ski Show Competition Rules and Judges' Forms. A water ski show tournament judge has two main responsibilities during the tournament. The first is to ensure that every club abides by the rules and has a fair opportunity to compete under the rules. The second is to score each club's show under the intent of the rules.

Considerations - Before going into the definition of scoring, some items you should keep in mind during the tournament are:

1. It is the responsibility of each judge to keep his scoring and comments about scoring confidential during the tournament.
2. Any questions, comments or discussion between judges concerning a show shall be handled through the Chief Judge no later than before the start of the next show. Any decisions regarding a show shall be made prior to the start of the next show in the presence of the Chief Judge. Discussions should not include opinions of acts or scores given, but only to the application of the rules.
3. Audience and weather conditions will vary throughout the tournament. You will have to allow for these when scoring.
4. Check your show lists for questions you may have on any of the listed acts prior to each show.
5. You are encouraged to make comments about your scoring for your benefit and that of the competing clubs.
6. Water ski show audiences are usually made up of family groups. Keep this in mind when judging the tournament.

7. When possible, as a courtesy to competing teams, it is suggested that the Chief Judge inform them of any rule violations or penalties as soon as possible.
8. Lastly and most importantly, you are looking for a well-produced, well-staged, well-performed and entertaining water ski show.

Judging the Show - As a judge you will be supplied with a form for each competing team listing the acts that they will perform. (Remember, the acts do not have to be done in the order listed.) You will judge each act based on four categories. Each category may be scored up to 25 points based on your opinion of the act. (Your scores should be whole numbers). It is recommended that 12 be considered a median score for flow, execution, difficulty and spectator appeal. For the lower box scores, a median would be half of the total possible. It is recommended you try to avoid ties in the box scores as much as possible.

The Four Categories of Scoring an Act:

1. Flow - In scoring flow ask yourself this question "Did the act progress smoothly?" Things to consider:
 - a. Did the act get started without delays?
 - b. Was the boat pattern poorly chosen or too lengthy, which caused "dead time" during the act?
 - c. Was the act designed to keep your interest at all times or were there unnecessary lags during the performance?
 - d. If there are necessary delays (e.g., smooth water for barefoot), is something planned to keep your interest during the delay?
 - e. Did the act cause problems or delays in starting the next act?

The flow of a particular act should be considered from the time the preceding act ends to the start of the next act.

2. Execution - Look for a good, solid performance. How well did they do what they did? The more there is to be "executed" the greater the execution, because more execution is happening. A Judge should not separate what is being done from how it is being done. There should be a blend of degree of performance and the style that is performed.
3. Difficulty - You must estimate the degree of difficulty of the act as compared with similar acts. The key word here is similar. You should not rate the difficulty of one type of act to another; e.g., a slalom act should be compared to other slalom acts; jumping acts to other jumping acts. It is not necessarily important that your difficulty ratings compare with every similar act in the world; however, it is important that at the end of the particular tournament your difficulty scores line up according to the similar acts of the tournament.

When scoring difficulty, base your score on what was accomplished by the skier(s), not what they may have been attempting.

A problem that will come up from time to time in scoring difficulty is, "What to do with certain novelty acts." The best solution to this is to consider the other categories and the overall effect on the show and give a score that reflects the act in general.

One good thing to remember in scoring difficulty is to leave yourself a little room at the top. It seems there are always new "25 pointers" being invented. Another important item is "score what you see on the water, not what you see on the show list." For example, a barefoot pyramid is not a barefoot pyramid until completed. In general, compare what you see to what could be done in that type of act.

4. Spectator Appeal - The two primary things to consider when judging spectator appeal are:
 - a. The entertainment value of the act versus similar acts.
 - b. Did the performers direct their performance to and acknowledge the audience?

Be careful not to rely on the audience too much for your score because some clubs will load the audience and you do not always have the same audience or the same size audience.

Falls - Falls should not necessarily score a zero or even mean a point deduction. There has been much discussion on this subject. The general feeling is that a fall at the right time in a difficult act, and handled correctly, can actually increase the spectator appeal or entertainment value of that act. Score falls as they affect you. A fall in an act, handled correctly, can conceivably enhance the act score in all categories. If the skier was picked up, was it smooth? The rules provide that an act may be skied again if it falls, in which case you must score the act considering the fall and the second attempt as they affect the overall show.

Scoring Zeros - If an act falls off the dock, it is recommended you score zero for execution and low scores for flow, difficulty and spectator appeal. A fall before accomplishing a stated act — the score is based on the percentage that is completed.

Improper Safety Precautions - Be alert during the show for violations of the safety rules or the failure to exercise proper safety precautions as defined in Rule 10. You, as a judge, have the right and responsibility to enforce these rules. Any possible point deductions should be discussed and assessed prior to the start of the next show.

Clown or Comedy Acts - Any act listed as "clown or comedy" will not be scored in the 25-point categories but given one score between 0 and 100 for the entire act. Your score should be based on originality, humor and overall entertainment of the act and not on the difficulty of the skiing. Remember that to be counted as an act, some portion must include either a competitor towed across the water or involve a performance by powered watercraft.

This concludes the scoring of individual acts. At the bottom of the judge's sheet are six categories that are scored at the end of the show. These items are the "Box Scores."

Box Scores

Sound Crew & Audio Presentation (0-250 Points) - The announcer should be considered your host and you should rate him accordingly. If a team does not use an announcer then the music and recorded items on the sound system are your host. Be aware that there are various styles to audibly promote the show, so rate the shows on the following criteria:

1. Music selection (0-50 points) - Does the music follow the theme of the show?
2. Audio Effects (0-75 points) - Is all of the audio clearly understood and interesting?
3. Audience Direction (0-125 points) - Do you know where to look? Can you follow the story line, no matter if it is from the announcer or from the audio transmissions of the show (if no announcer is used)?

Pick-Up Boat Crew (0-75 Points) - Criteria to watch for:

1. Positioning (0 - 25 points) - Was the pick-up boat(s) in proper position(s) to retrieve skis or fallen skiers (especially in dangerous acts)? Was the pick-up boat(s) in the way of any of the acts that were being towed?
2. Rough Water (0 - 25 points) - Did the pick-up boat(s) cause any excessive rough water for the skiers on the water while picking up skis, fallen skiers or when getting into position for the next act.
3. Overall Safety (0 - 25 points) - Did the boat(s) position and the actions of both the pick-up boat driver(s) and the rider(s) enhance the overall safety of the show?

The general rule is, if the work of the pick-up boat(s) is done without it being noticed, you have seen a good performance by pick-up crew(s).

Towboat Driving (0-200 Points) - The performance of the towboat driver(s) can be very important to the performance and timing of the whole show. Things to look for:

1. Starts (0-50 points) - Were the starts appropriate for the respective acts?
2. Patterns & Speed (0-50 points) - Was the boat pattern selected to minimize "dead time", the best water for the skiers and presentation of the skiers to the spectators?
3. Landings (0-50 points) - Did the boat drivers bring the skiers into their landings at the best location and with the best water as possible?

4. Skill/Difficulty (0-50 points)

If more than one boat is used during the show, the score given shall include the combined quality of the towboat driving.

Showmanship (0-250 Points) - In this category, do not consider the performance of the acts, but the overall production of the show. Items you should consider are:

1. Appearance of the participants.
2. Appearance of the equipment.
3. Did all persons involved act as actors or actresses, display charisma, and acknowledge the audience?
4. Was the show well choreographed (skiers, dock personnel, boat drivers)?

Overall Show (0-525 Points) - These scores should reflect your composite impression and opinion of the atmosphere created by the complete show in the categories as follows.

1. Introductions (0-100 points) - The judge shall consider the overall introduction or introductions according to precision, entertainment value and attitude of the skiers and rate accordingly. Boat introductions are included unless designated as an act by the competing team.
2. Dock & Equipment (0-25 points) - The judge should not notice the dock and equipment personnel if all goes well. Were there any knots or equipment malfunctions? Was the equipment for each act set up smoothly and was it ready for each act?
3. Act Variety (0-100 points) - Was there a good variety and/or innovation of the different types of skiing that a team could ski?
4. Production (0-250 points) - Did the show hold your attention throughout its performance? Consider the impact of props and backdrops on the production. Was this an entertaining, high quality performance?
5. Costuming/Make-up (0-50 points) - Consider the appearance of the participants. Were the costumes colorful and well visible from the water? Do the costumes fit the theme of the show?

A few final points about scoring—before you turn your sheets in, make sure you have listed the number of acts and given scores for all acts and categories. Do not add any of your scores; the scorers must add them anyway.

Judging a water ski show tournament is not easy. You are scoring entertainment and there are different likes and dislikes. We don't want to lose the creativity of a water ski club by making the judging too stereotyped. You are expected to recognize a good performance. You should judge accordingly, remembering that a good performance may be good even if you did not like it. So you see, your judging has to primarily be based on quality of performance with a controlled influence of your own likes and dislikes.

Section 3 - Instructions To The Chief Scorer

As Chief Scorer, your responsibility covers the tabulation of all the teams' scores. Your main responsibility is to ensure that all the results are accurate. You will also, along with the Chief Judge, be responsible to ensure that all the entry requirements have been met. You must fully understand the scoring system.

The scorers will tabulate all the scores. You will be responsible for checking all their figures and verifying that they are correct. You also must review all the clubs' forms to make sure that they have been properly filled out, that they have the correct amount of forms and that they are all the same.

You will be responsible for the completion of the scorers' forms, including the deduction of any penalty points from a team's final score. All penalties need to be verified by the Chief Judge. (See attached Scorers' Form.)

The Chief Scorer shall work with the Tournament Chairman to make sure that all necessary supplies are on hand to facilitate the scoring of the tournament (i.e. calculators with tapes, pencils, carbon paper, clipboards, paper rolls, etc.).

Section 4 - Instructions To The Scorers

The scorers' duties consist of tabulating the Judges' Forms and relaying the information to the Chief Scorer. The Chief Scorer will then record the results on the Scorers' Form. You shall be responsible to ensure that all the figures are correct by checking and rechecking the final results.

Remember, the correct addition of the scores is needed for fair competition to all teams.

Section 5 - Instructions To The Official Timer/ Staging Marshal

As the official timer, your responsibility is to ensure that all phases of the competition are documented with the correct time (see Rule 3).

You shall be responsible for the tracking of time for:

1. Set-up Time (The 20-minute period prior to the team's performance.)
2. Competition Time (The 60-minute period for the team's competition.)
3. Take-Down Time (The 10-minute period after the completion of the show.)

It is the responsibility of the timer to observe the entire show and be in a position available to the Chief Judge and Safety Director. If the show is stopped for sponsor-supplied equipment failure (Rule 3.03) and the competing team chooses to rerun the act, the procedure is to allow them to start at the beginning of the act in which the time was stopped and to start the competition time where they reach the point at which the show was stopped. The same procedure will apply if the show is stopped for an injury (Rule 11.02).

Your responsibility is to ensure the smooth transition of ski teams, in and out of the competition area, between the ski shows.

You must be familiar with the site's physical layout, as to where the pre-staging and competition areas are located. You must ensure that the next club up does not get into the competition area prior to their 20-minute set-up time, and that they do not in any way interfere with the competing team's performance. You will also have to make a visual check to see that all of the previous team's equipment is out of the competition area prior to the next team's set-up time.

At three minutes prior to the anticipated beginning of the next show, the Official Timer/Staging Marshal shall ensure the officials are in place. If not, he shall notify the tournament announcer and the Chief Judge, and all possible attempts to locate the officials shall take place.

All of the above information must be coordinated with the Chief Judge, the Safety Director, and the competing teams. The Chief Judge must also inform you of the competing club's start of the show (i.e., tight line, spoken word, prerecorded announcement, etc.).

All of the times must be recorded on the official timer's log and turned into the Chief Judge at the end of the tournament.

Please remember that all teams should be given the same information as to the transition between shows, to ensure equal competition between all the clubs.

In most cases, the Chief Judge would be a back-up timer.

Section 6 - Instructions To The Safety Director

As the Safety Director, you shall be responsible to make sure that the competition is safely conducted and that all teams perform safely, both on the water and off. See Rule 11 - Safety.

Some things that you need to consider prior to the beginning of the competition:

- time?
1. Are there adequate safety personnel on site or available within a reasonable amount of time?
 2. Is there adequate access for emergency vehicles and transportation to necessary facilities?
 3. Is the competition area free from potentially dangerous obstacles?
 4. Does the ski jump fall under AWSA specifications?
 5. Is the dock safe? (Can it hold mass numbers of skiers and equipment?)
 6. Is there an adequate safety boat available?

Prior to each competing team's performance, you should meet with the entire team and go over the emergency procedures established in the event of an injury. They must be aware of the necessary signals to call for help and/or stop the competition.

You should also be aware of the weather conditions. You, along with the Chief Judge, will be responsible to delay or call off the tournament if a potentially dangerous situation is on the way (i.e., electrical storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.).

Section 7 - Instructions To The Secretaries

As a secretary your main responsibility is to record the number and comments for the judge for whom you are working. As a general rule, you are there to learn and observe the judging system and that particular judge's techniques.

Your position should be to ask questions or take care of whatever items the judges may ask you to do. At no time should you be inputting your unsolicited comments or remarks to the judge. You must also keep all scores and comments confidential during the competition.

III. FORMS

All Judges' Forms and Scorers' Forms along with any reports are contained in the Tournament packet available from USA Water Ski Headquarters.

2008 INDIVIDUAL & SHOW ACTS COMPETITION RULES

I. RULES

RULE 1 – GENERAL

- 1.01 Classification** - These rules allow for individual event competitions in swivel, doubles and freestyle jump as well as any aspect of a ski show. A specific act may be defined as an event such as, but not limited to, barefoot acts, clown acts, team jumping, swivel line, pyramids, etc. Classifications will be National, Regional, State, Class A and Class C.
- 1.02 Sponsors** - The sponsors of the individual show acts competition shall be affiliated with USA-WS.
- 1.03 Sanction** - The NSSA will provide current rules, rule interpretations, Judge's instructions and Judge's and Scorer's Forms, which must be used for official USA-WS/NSSA-sanctioned individual and show acts competition.
- 1.04 Deviations** - Where compliance with the rules is not feasible, the Chief Judge shall, with the approval of the majority of the Appointed Judges, make the necessary deviations for each competitor and send a report to the NSSA President and Competition Rules Committee Chairman.
- 1.05 Interpretation** – Questions of interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Chairman of the Rules Committee when possible. In the interest of expediency, the Chairman may give his own interpretation that shall be binding until the committee has been polled. This shall serve, however, as a temporary interpretation until the Chairman refers the question to the entire committee for a vote in the normal fashion. Such a poll shall take place as promptly and in the most practical manner possible. Otherwise, the interpretation shall be made by a majority vote of the Appointed Judges, and the Chief Judge shall make a report to the Rules Committee concerning the question.
*Interpretation: Intended to be the same as team rules. Mechanics are pretty clear. Officials should be reminded to interpret the rules in the **BROADEST** interpretation. Board has given Rules Chairman authority to make interpretation on the intent of the rules based on the Chairperson's familiarity with, background knowledge, and understanding of the intent of the rules*
- 1.06 Amendments** - Rules may be amended by the NSSA on an annual basis. Until such time as a new edition of the rules is published, the current rules shall remain in effect. Any changes in rules will not be in effect until notice of the changes and availability of the new rules have been published in The Water Skier magazine.
- 1.07 Attachments** - The Rules Interpretations, Officials' Instructions, Chief Judge's Checklist, Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, Official Timers' Report and the Scoring Judge's Box Score Tally Sheet shall be part of the Official Individual and Show Acts Competition Rules (see tournament kit).
- 1.08 Post Tournament** - The sponsor shall be responsible for mailing out the Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, and Tournament Reports. All items are to be mailed within ten days of the conclusion of the tournament. Copies to be mailed are as follows:
1. Copies of all the Judges' Forms and copies of all the Scorers' Forms will be available upon request.
 2. All Judges and the Chief Judge are to receive copies of all Judges' Forms and all Scorers' Forms.
 3. The NSSA Officials' Committee Chairman is to receive copies of all Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, and the Tournament Officials' Record.

4. The NSSA Competition Rules Committee Chairman is to receive copies of the Safety Report, Official Timers' Report, and Chief Judge's Post Tournament Report.
5. NSSA Safety Committee Chairman is to receive a copy of the Safety Report, Safety Director's Tracking Report (when applicable), Injury Report, and Tournament Additional Treatment Report.
6. USA-WS's Competition Department is to receive: Tournament Officials' Record, Tournament Results, Individual and Family Membership Registration forms and monies collected, Tournament Safety Director's Report and Injury and Additional Treatment Reports (if applicable).
7. At Division I Nationals only, the NSSA Nominating Committee Chairman is to receive copies of the Team Rosters and Tournament Results.

1.09 National Tournament - The NSSA Board of Directors may amend the individual show acts competition rules for the National Individual and Show Acts Tournament provided the amendments are made prior to the Letter of Agreement, and so stated in the entry requirements.

1.10 Safety Manual - The Safety Manual shall be considered as part of the Rule Book.

RULE 2 – COMPETITION

2.01 Counting and Scoring - To be counted and scored as an act, some portion must include a competitor being towed across the water.

2.02 Competitors - In swivel competition there will be one competitor towed and in doubles there will be two competitors towed during the performance.

2.03 Time Limit - The period of competition time allowed for each competitor shall be five minutes except for Freestyle Jump. Freestyle Jump will have no time limit. The time limit is to include pay on, pay off and the skier's time on the water.

2.04 Time Penalty - There shall be no penalty for using less than the time allowed.

2.05 Equipment Failure - If sponsor-supplied equipment fails the act may be stopped at the option of the competitor until the equipment is repaired or replaced. The clock will not run during such time. The competitor shall have the option of rerunning an act, which was discontinued due to such failure, or of starting from the point of such failure. If the act is rerun the clock will be reset to five minutes or if the competitor should choose to start from the point of the failure a minute may be added to the remaining time as determined by the event judges.

2.06 Starting Times - The first competitor shall begin at the hour and minute specified by the tournament sponsor (with the approval of the Chief Judge) under penalty as specified by the rules. Starting times for all succeeding competitors will be continuous according to the rules. Up to five minutes may be granted for each "scratch" or "no show" at the request of the succeeding competitor. See Rule 12.02, Variations.

2.07 Preparation Time - The first competitor to compete in any event shall be given a five-minute preparation time prior to the scheduled starting time. Competitors shall be allowed to set up equipment around the show site prior to the five-minute preparation/cleanup time provided there is absolutely no interference or disruption of any competitors.

2.08 Set-Up/Clean-Up Time - Each competitor shall be allowed five minutes prior to the start of their performance, beginning at the conclusion of the preceding competitors performance, as preparation time to assemble their equipment and be ready to perform. The competitor may start their performance any time during the five minute preparation

time, and competition will begin under the following conditions: The period of competition shall begin with an audible signal, The crossing of the show site outer buoys with a tight line (750' buoy – see Rule 3.05 Show Competition Rules), caused by a tight line, start of music, spoken word, (recorded or live), expiration of a five minute set up/clean up time, or at a time prearranged with the competitor, whichever occurs first.

A competitor may request the competition period to begin prior to the above restrictions. Any activity prior to the actual start of the competition period is to be disregarded by the judges.

If a competitor has not begun their performance and the five-minute preparation time has elapsed, the competition time will be started and the competitor will be notified by the timekeeper. Competitors shall be allowed to set up equipment around the show site prior to the five-minute preparation/cleanup time provided there is absolutely no interference or disruption of any competitors.

2.09 Ending Time - The competition by the competitor shall end when the time period allowed has elapsed or the competitor has ended its performance, whichever comes first. An audible signal shall be given at such time.

Interpretation: If anytime following the end of the competition period, there are skiers on the water with a tight line within the area defined for beginning the competition period in Rule 2.08, there will be a 10% deduction from the final score.

2.10 Clearing Equipment - Each competitor will be given five minutes from the end of the competition period or the end of their performance, whichever is first, to clear its equipment from the show area, remembering that this is also the succeeding competitor's set up time.

RULE 3 – ORDER OF COMPETITION

3.01 Seeding - The method of determining the order of competition shall be specified in the tournament announcements and may allow for seeding.

3.02 Schedule - Not later than 30 minutes before the start of competition, a list showing the starting time and order of competition for each event of the tournament shall be posted for the competitors to see and given to all officials.

3.03 Weather Conditions - Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety or similar reasons, and not for the convenience of any skier. A majority of the appointed judges must approve the change and all affected competitors shall be notified. Although schedule changes are to be discouraged, the judges should not hesitate to make adjustments required for safety.

RULE 4 – DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION

4.01 General - There shall be no distinction between amateurs and professionals.

4.02 Separation of Divisions - Competitors may be separated into divisions other than what is listed, with the approval of the Chief Judge, if so stated in the tournament announcement. Divisions other than Open Division at Nationals require NSSA Board approval.

4.03 Swivel - The Swivel event will be divided as follows:

1. Junior I: 9 years and under.
2. Junior II: 10 - 12 years.
3. Junior III: 13 - 15 years.

All competitors over 15 years of age will be divided as follows:

4. Intermediate 180: Toe-turns and up to 180 degree turns. Recovery by turning back in the same direction that the turn started.
5. Expert 360: Toe-turns and up to 360 degree turns.

6. Open: Any turns exceeding 360 degrees.

4.04 Doubles - The Doubles event will be divided as follows:

1. Junior: 15 years and younger by the age of the oldest competitor.
2. Expert: 16 years and up by the age of the oldest competitor performing rotational moves under 360 degrees in any axis.
3. Open: 16 years and up by the age of the oldest competitor performing 360 degree rotational moves in any axis.

Interpretation: 4.05 Interprets rule 4.04.

4.05 Movement in Swivel and Doubles - Any maneuver completed that exceeds the standards for the division entered will move the skier up to the next highest division. A skier may move up as many divisions as they wish but they only move down one division per year. A year ends after the National Tournament.

4.06 Freestyle - This event shall be divided into two divisions, male and female open divisions.

4.07 Show Acts - This event shall be divided into specific categories such as, but not limited to: Clown, Swivel Line, Team Jumping, Pyramid, etc. These will be clearly defined acts that are common to ski shows.

RULE 5 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.01 General Qualifications - All participants competing in all classes of NSSA-sanctioned tournaments, must be affiliated with USA-WS. Sponsoring National, Regional or State associations may also require membership in their organizations. This rule shall be considered satisfied if the competing club or competitor meets such membership requirements prior to their own performance in competition. Competing clubs or competitors in an NSSA-sanctioned Individual and Show Acts Tournament must show proof of USA-WS "Active" (insured) membership to tournament officials. It will be the responsibility of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer to ensure that all entry requirements and affiliations have been met prior to the start of the tournament.

A skier shall be required to ski more than 50% of their on-water time, during the ten week period of time preceding the tournament in the region in which they are qualifying for the National Tournament (individual acts only).

5.02 Definition of Competitor - The definition of a competitor is as follows: All personnel of a competing ski team who participate in any way in any of the scored areas of the tournament or who are within the defined competition area during the competition are considered competitors. This includes but is not limited to: the dock crew, sound people, announcer, boat personnel and costume, backdrop and prop people, etc.

5.03 One Performance Rule

1. Show Acts - A competitor may enter more than one act per category. The exception would be for Team Jump; then a competitor may enter only once per event. See Rule 4.07 for categories.
2. Individual Competition - A competitor may enter only once per event. Events are defined as Swivel, Doubles and Freestyle Jump. See Rules 4.03, 4.04 and 4.05 for divisions.

5.04 Entry Requirements - The competing team or competitor shall be responsible for meeting all entry requirements.

5.05 Disqualification - Violations of Rule 5 may result in disqualification.

RULE 6 – OFFICIALS

6.01 Judges - The host organization shall appoint a maximum of seven judges in addition to the Chief Judge. An alternate Judge may also be appointed. At its option the host organization may appoint five or three judges.

- 6.02 Chief Scorer** - An official Chief Scorer, independent of all other judging duties, shall be appointed by the host organization.
- 6.03 Timer/Staging Marshall** - For National, Regional, and Class A tournaments an official timer, independent of all other official duties, shall be appointed by the host organization. A back-up timekeeper(s) may be appointed by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge may also serve as a back-up timekeeper.
- 6.04 Personnel** - Secondary positions shall be filled by the host organization in cooperation with the Chief Judge.
- 6.05 Disagreement** - In any disagreement among the judges, the majority rules; all issues should be settled before the next act begins.
- 6.06 Scoring** - The total computed scores; the individual judges' scores and score sheets shall be held confidential by the Chief Judge until the results of the tournament are announced. At this time they shall be available for inspection by the designated show chairman or their representative. The judges will be permitted to keep copies of their own score sheets throughout the tournament provided they are kept confidential along with any particular comments about a club's performance. The exception to this rule is for Swivel, Doubles and Freestyle Jump. These scores will be read aloud by the announcer.
- 6.07 Location** - Judges shall be separated to ensure completely independent opinions.
- 6.08 Secretaries/Trainees** - A judge trainee or secretary may work and communicate with a judge during competition provided that the secretary or trainee works with the judge he is assigned to at all times during the competition. This secretary or trainee is responsible for keeping all information or discussion regarding the competition confidential for the duration of the tournament.
- 6.09 Conflict of Interest** - All officials (to include practice judges and secretaries) shall not have a conflict of interest with any of the competing teams. A conflict of interest shall be regarded as existing if the Chief Judge, Scoring Judge or Chief Timer is:
1. A member of the immediate family of a competitor, to include lineal descendants and ancestors, brothers and sisters and wives or husbands of the competitor or any of the above family members.
 2. A competitor in the division of the tournament in which they are one of the above-listed officials.
 3. In a position that may give the appearance of a lack of independence. These conflicts shall be determined by the Chief Judge with respect to Scoring Judges and by the Scoring Judges with respect to the Chief Judge and the Timer.
 4. Whenever any currently rated judges leave a show team, as active members, and they want to be allowed to judge that team in a USA-WS/NSSA-sanctioned tournament, they must do the following: Contact the Chairman of the Officials' Committee with the date that they are no longer affiliated as an active member of the team. Their name must no longer appear on the team membership roster. Once that information is on record the judge will not be allowed to Chief Judge, Judge or be a Timer for that team in any USA-WS/NSSA-sanctioned show tournament, including individual events, for a period of one year. They also will not be allowed to Chief Judge, Judge or be a Timer for that team at the National Championships for a period of two years. Honorary or Life members whose names might appear on a team roster will not be considered as active members and will be exempt. However, if they have been active members and have just recently become Honorary or Life members, they must meet the requirements listed above.

Any person with a conflict of interest as defined above will not be allowed to be present at any meetings where officials are discussing rule violations and potential penalties during the tournament.

6.10 Appointed Positions at National Tournaments - For the National Individual and Show Acts Tournament, all officials will be appointed by the NSSA Board. In case of conflict of interest at National Tournament Individual Events, after Judges are selected, the Chief Judge in consultation with the Officials Committee can appoint an alternate Judge with the approval of the President.

Aspiring Safety Directors may be allowed to volunteer to staff the safety boat or assist the Safety Directors with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and the Chief Judge.

RULE 7 – RERIDES AND PROTESTS

7.01 Weather/Unfair Water - When unfair water or weather conditions or a malfunction of sponsored equipment occurs, the judges may grant a reride of the act affected. Keep in mind that the competition is sponsored for spectator appeal and as though “the show must go on”.

The conduct of the competitor or competing club must be considered by both parties and the judges as though they were presenting a road show in which case conditions affecting the quality of the performance are judged in the minds of the spectators.

In freestyle jump a reride may be granted for bad boat path or speed. Errors in boat speeds selected under the 36 mph tolerance are optional rerides and speeds exceeding the 36 mph tolerance are mandatory rerides.

7.02 Club Representation - Protests may be made only by the competitor of an individual event or an appointed representative of the competitor in a group event. This person must be identified to the Chief Judge by the competing club prior to each club’s performance.

7.03 Protest Procedures

1. Protests must be made in writing and shall be considered by the appointed judges. The protest must contain the reason for the protest and be signed by the designated representative as per 7.02. The protest must be filed prior to 30 minutes after the Judges’ Forms are available for inspection. A protest will only be accepted for a team’s own performance, never for another team’s performance.

2. Protests shall be allowed only for the failure of the tournament committee or the officials to comply with the rules. No protests shall ever be allowed on judgment decisions by the officials. Any protest considered frivolous or directed at another team, will be given an automatic 3% deduction from the final score of the team submitting the protest.

3. A correction of an error in the computation of scores shall not be considered a protest. Such correction shall be made upon the approval of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer, if requested, within 40 minutes after the Judges’ Forms are available for inspection.

4. All officials shall remain on the site, available to handle any previous protests or corrections of computations of scores for a minimum of 40 minutes after the results are announced or until all previous protests have been settled. If a club representative from each competition team waives their interest in a protest, then the tournament officials need not remain at the tournament site for the full 40 minutes. Teams not picking up their team scores within ten (10) minutes of availability forfeit their right to protest and the officials may be released.

RULE 8 – EQUIPMENT

8.01 Towboat - The sponsor shall supply one towboat with a quick release and have available a competent tested boat driver who may be used by any of the competitors. For swivel, double and act's competition, the competitors may use their own towboat and driver with the approval of the Chief Judge. This approval is solely to ensure safe equipment and competent drivers and not to be used to prevent a competitor from using their own boat and driver for other reasons. For freestyle jump competition, the tournament-provided towboat and tested driver will be used by all competitors. The freestyle jumper must provide a release operator. In Show Acts competition, the competitors may supply their own boats and drivers and provide a release operator. Information about the towboat and release shall be stated in the tournament announcements.

At all sanctioned events, with the exception of practices, at least one driver, and all but one driver, which ever is greater, must be tested and driving within their respective rating. At sanctioned practices when only one Class "A" Rated boat is used, a learner's permit will be sufficient.

All triple-rig drivers must be tested as such with the exception of sanctioned practices. For sanctioned practices triple-rig drivers must have either a learner's permit or have another rating.

Temporary / Learner's Permit for NSSA Drivers:

- 1) *The person must have taken the NSSA Safety Course first.*
- 2) *Must be a member of USA-WS.*
- 3) *Must fill out the application with the tested driver's signature and the club President's signature and then sent to headquarters.*

After the Temporary / Learner's Permit is issued:

- 1) *The permit is good for all sanctioned events.*
- 2) *The permit is good for two (2) years.*

Interpretation: *For Swivel and Doubles competition a driver's rating is recommended but not required.*

8.02 Pick-Up Boat - The sponsor shall supply a pick-up boat manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter that may or may not be used at the discretion of the competitor. A competitor may not compete without using a pick-up boat. The pick-up boat must be manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter, and be approved by the Safety Director and Chief Judge. Information about the pick-up boat shall be stated in the tournament announcements. In the opinion of the Chief Judge and Safety Director, the spotter must be able to physically handle an emergency on the water. The rider/spotter must be capable of water rescue. (See exception Rule 9.04 4g)

8.03 Jump Ramp - The sponsor shall supply one AWSA regulation-size jump ramp; adjustable to AWSA standards, with side aprons and a 49-foot ±1 foot buoy from the center of the jump for boat path.

8.04 Safety Boat - The sponsor shall supply one low-sided safety boat with adequate power for the use of the Safety Director and/or first aid personnel. The boat shall be equipped with a satisfactory backboard and adequate personal flotation devices.

8.05 Club Supplied Equipment - All other equipment needed shall be supplied by the competitors.

8.06 Storage and Staging Areas - The sponsor shall provide an adequate area for the current competitors' equipment and an adequate pre-staging area for the next two competitors to compete adjacent thereto.

8.07 Changing Rooms - The sponsor shall provide adequate male and female costume changing rooms in the equipment area.

8.08 Performance Platform - The sponsor shall provide a performance platform for all competitors to use. For National, Regional and Class A tournaments the recommended minimum size shall be 20 feet by 36 feet and surface of the dock 12 inches to 20 inches above the surface of the water.

8.09 Sound System - The sponsor shall provide the sound system and a competent operator for all competitors to use. The sound system should be more than adequate to cover the show area. The sound system, amplifier, mixing board and speakers will also include at least two cassette tape decks and at least one microphone. Information about the sound system and availability to add to it will be in the tournament announcements.

Competitors are encouraged to have a representative of their team in the sound booth to assist the sound personnel. If no representative is available, written instructions must accompany all tapes and the tapes must be labeled. Instructions to include when to start the tapes, where you are starting your performance from and if you want the music stopped if there is a fall.

RULE 9 – SCORING

9.01 Show Acts - An act shall be evaluated on:

Flow	0 – 25 points
Execution	0 – 25 points
Difficulty	0 – 25 points
Spectator Appeal	0 – 25 points
Total Possible	100 points

See Competition Rule 10.03

Individual swivel, doubles and freestyle jump will follow their own evaluations.

9.02 Swivel and Doubles - Both swivel and doubles will be evaluated on:

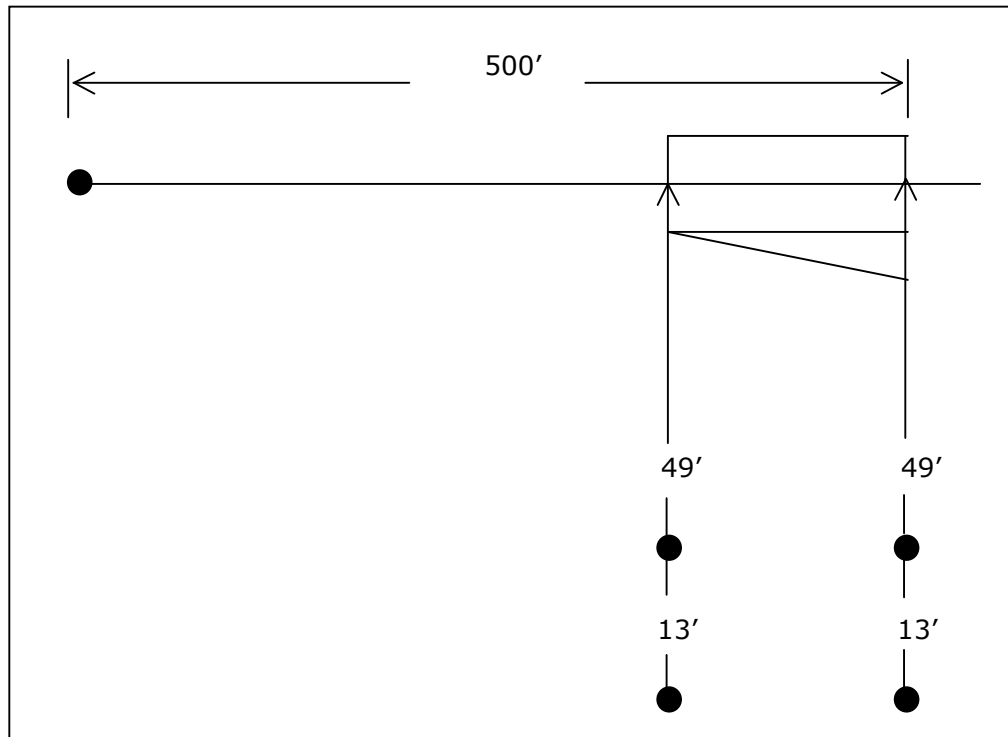
Technical Merit	0 – 10 points
Artistic Interpretation	0 – 10 points

At the conclusion of the competitor's performance, each judge will simultaneously display their scores for all to see. Judges will award scores in tenths-of-points intervals. The highest and lowest judges' scores will be eliminated if there are five or seven judges. The technical scores will then be added and divided by the number of judges' scores used and the same for the artistic scores. These two averages are then added together for the competitor's final score. The average for each competitor will be carried out to two decimal places and likewise the final score will then be reported to two decimal places. If there should be a tie in the scores, final placement will be determined by the highest technical score. If these are equal, a tie shall be declared.

9.03 Freestyle Jump - The sponsor shall supply one AWSA regulation-size jump ramp with side aprons. Jump ramp will be adjustable to AWSA standards. The jump ramp provision may be waived at Class C tournaments, if stated in tournament announcements. The dimensions of a jump for NSSA purposes will be an inclined plane with mounted side aprons that meets the following specifications. This rule applies to tournament-sponsor supplied jumps only.

1. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet.
2. Surface width: 14 feet at all points ± 2 inches.
3. Surface length out of water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly.
4. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly.

5. Side aprons on both sides shall extend the full length of the jump and shall be at least 6 inches under the water when the ramp is raised to its full height. The recommended apron angle is no less than 30 degrees to no greater than 60 degrees from vertical.
6. Buoy: 49 feet \pm 1 foot from the middle of the jump surface to the right of the jump as you approach to go off it. The buoy shall also be in a line even with the take-off edge of the jump.
7. Boat guide buoys and setup buoys.



2. A panel of three, five or seven judges will score each maneuver attempted. A skier must regain normal skiing position either forward or backward to receive credit for the jump. Form scores will be awarded from 0 to 10 points in 1/2-point intervals. The judges will simultaneously display their scores for all to see prior to the next jump attempt. A maneuver not conforming to the credit standards for a trick scores zero. An attempted trick which becomes another is scored zero (e.g., a badly skewed Mobius does not qualify as a Helicopter). Judges are to take into consideration the estimated distance of each jump when awarding the form scores.
3. Competitors shall receive three passes at the ramp set at 5-1/2 feet in which they may attempt maneuvers as listed in rule 9.03(5). A repeat of a previous successful maneuver shall score zero.
4. Skiers are not required to submit a list of tricks to the Chief Scorer, but are encouraged to do so for improved announcing and spectator appeal.
5. To determine the skier's final score, eliminate high and low form scores if five or seven judges are used, then sum the judges' scores and divide by the number of judges' scores used. Multiply the result by ten and then by the degree of difficulty. Repeat this process for all three jumps. The sum of the two highest scoring jumps will be the skier's final score. All calculations shall be rounded to two decimal places. If there is a tie in scores,

the final placement will be determined by the highest scoring single jump. If this is equal, a tie shall be declared.

At the National Show Tournament and all cash prize tournaments, the distance of the freestyle jump shall be factored into the final score. Sponsoring hosts shall provide AWSA approved distance measuring equipment. To determine the skier's final score, sum together the form scores as in the above paragraph and divide by the number of judges' scores used. Multiply the result by 10, add the distance and multiply the result by the degree of difficulty. Repeat the process for all three jumps. The sum of the two highest scores for each skier shall determine his final score for placement.

6. Freestyle Maneuvers and Degrees of Difficulty

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name of Maneuver</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>DOD (2)</u>	<u>DOD (1)</u>
1	Helicopter	360 Spin	1.0	1.5
2	Flip	Forward Flip	2.0	3.0
3	Gainer	Gainer Type Flip	2.5	4.0
4	Mobius	Gainer + Helicopter	3.5	5.0
5	Front Mobius	Flip + Helicopter	5.0	7.5
6	720	2 Continuous 360 Spins	4.0	6.0
7	1080	3 Continuous 360 Spins	7.0	10.0
8	In-Out 720	360 Spin + Reverse	6.0	9.0
9	Double Mobius	Gainer + 720 Spin	8.0	12.0
10	Double Flip	2 Continuous Flips	8.0	12.0
11	Double Gainer	2 Continuous Gainers	10.0	15.0
12	180	_ Turn w/Back Landing	3.0	4.5
13	540	1_ Turn w/Back Landing	5.0	7.5
14	Half Mobius	Gainer + 180 w/Back Landing	5.5	8.0
15	1_ Mobius	Gainer + 540 w/Back Landing	8.0	12.0
16	Front Half	Flip + 180 w/Back Landing	7.0	10.0
17	Front 1_	Flip + 540 w/Back Landing	10.0	15.0

Note - DOD (2) is on two skis and DOD (1) is on one ski.

7. A new maneuver, along with a suggested DOD and demonstration or video, must be submitted to the NSSA Board at least 30 days prior to being scored in a tournament. By a majority vote the NSSA Board:
 - a. May require a demonstration attempt by the skier submitting the maneuver.
 - b. Decide whether to include the maneuver in the Rules.
 - c. Establish a DOD at the minimum level accepted by a majority of the Board.
 - d. Establish any special rule descriptions for the new maneuver.
8. On any maneuver involving rotation about a horizontal axis (such as, but not limited to: Flip, Gainer, Mobius) both feet of the skier must be higher than the head at one time during the execution of the maneuver to receive credit. In the case of the In-Out 720, the skier must complete a full 360-degree turn before initiating the turn in the other direction. An underturn scores zero.
9. A maneuver may begin on the ramp but not during the approach. Setting up or wrapping is not considered "beginning". For one-ski tricks the skier must be in skiing position on one ski before the approach to the jump is started.
10. Boat speeds, once set, remain constant through rideout. No adjustments in boat speed are allowed to assist recoveries. Speeds may be chosen in the range of 26 to 36 MPH in 1 MPH increments and are considered accurate if held within plus or minus 1 MPH on the speedometer. One official or the boat driver shall act as the boat judge for speed, path, and other matters at the discretion of the Chief Judge. It is the responsibility of the skier to notify the boat driver of the desired speed and boat path spacing for each maneuver.
11. The boat path is on the right side of the ramp and parallel to the jump.

12. A method of quick-release is mandatory. Premature or accidental releases, not a failure of sponsor-supplied equipment, are the responsibility of the skier and no rerides will be granted. Skiers may use a 75-foot Sponsor supplied line or may supply their own towline of any reasonable length. Helmets and protective flotation wear are required. All skier-supplied equipment must be inspected by the Safety Director or his designate.

9.04 Safety Deductions - Any of the judges or the Safety Director may poll the scoring judges for a 1% to 3% point deduction from the total score of any act for each instance that, in the opinion of the majority of the judges, there was a serious failure to exercise proper safety precautions during their act. The following will constitute penalties under the rule:

1. Failure to wear a helmet at any time a competitor skis under another competitor or a competitor's rope - 5% deduction. The exception to this rule would be for changing positions.
2. Failure to apply and properly use a quick-release for all acts in which the skiers do not hold the "normal skiing handle" in their hands at all times - 5% deduction. Also to include "flip starts" when the towline is wrapped around the skier's body. A release person (observer) may hold no more than one release per hand. It is the intent of this rule to allow for pulling up on the ropes for the purpose of changing positions without penalty.
3. Failure of aerial acts to land in the water or aerial acts coming over land while the participant has his skis on - 5% deduction. This rule may allow for the flyer to choose a safe alternate area away from spectators for reasons of his own safety.
4. Failure to wear a personal flotation device, which will float the skier under the following circumstances:
 - a. Any time a competitor goes over a jump ramp.
 - b. During rope braid acts.
 - c. During around the boat acts.
 - d. While barefoot skiing.
 - e. All clowns/comedy performing in more than waist deep water.
 - f. *If any part of a formation being towed is three or more tiers, then all members being towed by the towboat must wear flotation.***
 - g. At least one rider/spotter (if any) in all towboats and pick-up boats must wear a minimum of Coast Guard approved Type **I, II, III** or **V** flotation while skiers are on the water.
The exception to this is the incidental use of barges to pick up debris, skies and people. This exception can only be made if the club has pick-up boat(s) and the barge operator is wearing the Coast Guard Type **I, II, III** or **V** flotation. If driver leaves motor/control area the motor MUST be shut off or placed in neutral.
 - h. Hydrofoils

Life belts are not considered adequate personal flotation devices for parts a through e, g and h. Life belts are considered adequate flotation devices for part f.

(All of the above violations - 5% deduction.)

5. Failure to initiate all boat washouts, high-speed boat spins or similar stunts with an approach parallel to the shoreline and beginning the turn-away from the spectators and towboat drivers leaving the driver's seat when the boat is in gear and the neutral safety lock has not been detached, except for the purpose of increasing visibility during inclement weather - 5% deduction.

Other dangerous boat driving will be penalized at the judges' discretion and could include thread-the-needle maneuvers and failure to maintain safe control of the boat - up to 5% deduction.

6. Failure to complete or finish barefoot acts in more than knee-deep water - 3% deduction. It is the intent of this rule to keep barefooters from approaching shore to the point where a forward fall becomes dangerous. Judges should use reasonable judgment and not try to determine the exact level of the water to the skier's knee.

Interpretation: Some question as to what constitutes a "serious" condition as opposed to a frivolous while safety is the first priority, these penalties should not be arbitrarily applied. It is the intent of this rule to only address situations that place participants and spectators in danger of injury because of an action or lack of action. There are no automatic penalties other than those listed.

Ref # 2. The purpose of the rule is to include but not limited to strap doubles, heel holds, and things like that. This pertains only to flip starts. This rule is intended for the proper use of a release to prevent injuries and not necessarily to require release a skier because of a fall if the skier is free of the rope.

Ref # 4. The interpretation of clown includes comedy type acts.

e. For clowns, the original intent of the rule was for clowns performing on the water, being towed by a boat. Clowns or comedy acts on shore that may come into contact with the water should not have to wear flotation. If a clown is performing in front of the audience in waist deep water or less, they should not have to wear flotation. In these cases, the clown is not being towed across the water and not doing dangerous maneuvers like those in the other acts listed above that require flotation.

"Float" means will float the person in full costume after expelling the air out of their lungs.

9.05 Judges' Forms - The sponsor shall supply the scoring judges with two copies and the Chief Judge one copy of the Judges' form.

9.06 Team Jump

1. Team jump is to be scored as a show act. When the 5 minutes has ended all scoring will stop. If at the time the horn sounds ANY jumper is on the jump, that jump is to be considered in the score.
2. A pick up boat must be used.
3. The tournament Sponsor will make available a pick-up boat for the competition. The competing team must supply or approve the pick up boat personnel.
4. The announcer will read off the scores; flow, execution, difficulty and spectator appeal.

RULE 10 – SAFETY

10.01 Safety Director - Prior to the competition the sponsoring affiliated club with the approval of the Chief Judge shall appoint a Safety Director who shall be responsible for the safe condition of all equipment, facilities and operation of the competition and have the authority to stop competition whenever he feels an unsafe condition exists. The Chief Judge may overrule any contemplated action or decision of the Safety Director.

10.02 Injury - The competition time will be stopped by the Chief Judge or the Safety Director whenever there is apparent injury to a skier during the show. The time and scoring (judging) will start from the point at which it is stopped after the Chief Judge and the Safety Director are confident that necessary aid has been given the injured person, all equipment involved has been checked, and the competitors given reasonable time to return to the act.

10.03 Emergency Personnel and Transportation –

1. Nationals: Adequate emergency personnel and transportation from the site will be available at all times during the competition. Emergency personnel and transportation will be at a designated, easily accessible place at all times.
2. All Other Tournaments: Adequate medical personnel on site or can be available within a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: less than 4 minutes.) Transportation to medical facilities present or can be available in a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: 5-10 minutes.)
3. At NSSA sanctioned tournaments, the minimum required emergency personnel is defined as "state certified basic Emergency Medical Technician".

10.04 Safety Boat - The safety boat will be at an easily accessible, designated position and will be manned by a competent operator at all times during the competition.

10.05 Safety Announcements - The sponsoring club shall make announcements that spectators should not try the stunts performed during the tournament without proper experience or expert instruction periodically throughout the tournament.

10.06 Additional Safety Rules Related to Site - For safety reasons due to the site, restrictions may be added to the listed safety restrictions by the majority of the judges. Any restriction must be determined before the start of the tournament and representatives from all competing clubs be notified prior to the tournament or upon their arrival at the site.

10.07 Inclined Ramps - Inclined ramps fastened to starting docks and/or any other equipment, and intended to be skied up, must be at an angle of not greater than 15 degrees to the surface of the water. In addition, the surface must be a minimum of 42 inches wide and the lower edge at least 6 inches below the surface of the water vertically.

10.08 State/Federal Boating Regulations - At the option of the sponsoring club the Safety Director shall see that all competing clubs conform to all state and/or federal boating regulations prior to the start of the act, PROVIDING:

1. The requirement of meeting all applicable boating laws was made in the tournament announcement.
2. All competing clubs from a state other than the state in which the competition is to be held shall have been sent a copy of such laws.

10.09 Required Safety Meeting - All competing personnel shall meet with the tournament Safety Director and Chief Judge prior to the start of that day's competition. The sponsor shall state the time and place in the tournament announcements.

10.10 Sponsor-Required Site Plan - The sponsor shall furnish a site plan for the Chief Judge, Safety Director and all competing clubs prior to the start of the tournament.

RULE 11 – CONDUCT

11.01 Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after the tournament and/or violations of the above rules, which do not provide specific penalties, may be penalized at the discretion of the majority of the judges up to and including disqualification. Any member of any team becoming disorderly (verbally or physically) to any official before, during or after a tournament/event will receive an automatic one-year suspension from all NSSA-sanctioned events. Also his/her team may be disqualified from that tournament/event. The suspended individual(s) must then come before the NSSA Board before reinstatement to explain his/her actions. A 2/3-majority vote from the NSSA Board is required for reinstatement.

The intent is to provide a method for enforcing the rules and ensure a well-run tournament. All penalties should be enforced considering the overall intent of the tournament rules and the effect of the violation on the tournament.

Interpretation: Can potentially include any and all unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior by competing personnel either on or off site.

11.02 Mind-Altering Substances - Any competitor under the influence of any mind-altering substance, including alcohol, will be disqualified. Under the influence is defined as: "any detectable level of the substance".

RULE 12 – VARIATIONS

12.01 General - Variations to the rules may be allowed by the NSSA Board upon the submission of such variation to the NSSA. The intent of this rule is to allow for the widest variation possible in the use of water ski show acts competition for the purpose of promoting spectator appeal and a spirit of cooperation and relaxation among water ski clubs and water skiers generally. Such requests for variations must be received by the NSSA at least 60 days prior to the tournament date.

12.02 Preparation and Clean-Up - Rule 2.05 may be amended to allow for specific starting time and expanding preparation/clean-up times, provided there is equality for all teams.

II. NSSA OFFICIALS' INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

Section 1 - Instructions to the Chief Judge

As Chief Judge your responsibility covers the entire tournament. You are obligated to see that the tournament is run fairly and safely according to the rules. This includes the responsibilities of the following personnel: (1) sponsoring club, (2) competing teams, (3) scoring judges, (4) chief scorer, (5) scorers, (6) timer, (7) safety director, (8) staging marshal, and (9) secretaries. It is important that you become familiar with all the responsibilities and positions.

Prior to the start of the tournament, you should review the following items:

1. Is the required equipment ready and adequate?
2. Are personnel available and familiar with their official responsibilities?
3. Check docks, jump, landing area, skiing area, etc., for safety hazards.
4. Make sure all entry requirements have been met.

In an individual event tournament, meet with all the competitors prior to the competition. If the tournament is to include show acts competitions, meet with each competing team's show director prior to the competition. Ask for questions and inform the competitors that it is their responsibility to know the rules. Ask if they have anything unusual in their performance that you should be aware of. Review the Chief Judge's checklist with them, covering all items.

Remember, all decisions made by the Chief Judge or majority of the judges must be made keeping in mind the intent of the rules and be based on keeping the competition fair for all competitors.

Section 2 - Instructions to the Scoring Judges

Before reading these instructions, read and become familiar with the NSSA Individual and Show Acts Competition Rules and Judge's Forms. A water ski show tournament judge has two main responsibilities during the tournament. The first is to ensure that every competitor abides by the rules and has a fair opportunity to compete under the rules. The second is to score each competitor's performance under the intent of the rules.

Considerations - Before going into definitions of scoring, some items you should keep in mind during the tournament are:

1. It is the responsibility of each judge to keep his scoring and comments about scoring confidential during the tournament, except scores for swivel, doubles and freestyle jump. These individual scores will be held up on cards and announced at the completion of each competitor's performance.

2. Any questions, comments or discussion between judges concerning a performance shall be handled through the Chief Judge no later than before the start of the next performance. Any decisions regarding a performance shall be made prior to the start of the next performance in the presence of the Chief Judge. Discussions should not include opinions of performances or scores given, but only to the application of the rules.
 3. Audience and weather conditions will vary throughout the tournament. You will have to allow for these when scoring.
 4. You are encouraged to make comments about your scoring for your benefit and that of the competitors.
 5. Water ski show audiences are usually made up of family groups. Keep this in mind when judging the tournament.
5. When possible, as a courtesy to the competitors, it is suggested that the Chief Judge inform them of any rule violations or penalties as soon as possible.

Judging Show Acts - As a judge you will be supplied with a form for the competition listing the teams competing in each specific act. You will judge each act based on four categories. Each category may be scored up to 25 points based on your opinion of the act. (Your scores should be whole numbers.)

The Four Categories of Scoring an Act

1. Flow - In scoring flow ask yourself this question "did the act progress smoothly?" Things to consider:
 - a. Did the act get started without delays?
 - b. Was the boat pattern poorly chosen or too lengthy, which caused "dead time" during the act?
 - c. Was the act designed to keep your interest at all times or were there unnecessary lags during the performance?
 - d. If there are necessary delays (e.g., smooth water for barefoot), is something planned to keep your interest during the delay?
2. Execution - In scoring execution, you are to rate the manner, style or quality of the performance by the skiers. The level of skill or style with which the performer completes what he attempts should determine the score.
3. Difficulty - You must estimate the degree of difficulty of the act as compared with similar acts. The key word here is similar. You should not rate the difficulty of one type of act to another; e.g., a slalom act should be compared to slalom acts; jumping acts to other jumping acts. It is not necessarily important that your difficulty ratings compare with every similar act in the world; however, it is important that at the end of the particular tournament your difficulty scores line up according to the similar acts of the tournament.

One good thing to remember in scoring difficulty is to leave yourself a little room at the top. It seems there are always new "25 pointers" being invented. Another important item is "score what you see on the water," not what you see on the act list. For example, a barefoot pyramid is not a barefoot pyramid until completed. In general, compare what you see to what could be done in that type of act.
4. Spectator Appeal - The two primary things to consider when judging spectator appeal are:
 - a. The entertainment value of the act versus similar acts.
 - b. Did the performers direct their performance to acknowledge the audience?

Be careful not to rely on the audience too much for your score because some clubs will load the audience and you do not always have the same audience or the same size audience.

Falls - Falls should not necessarily score a zero or even mean a point deduction. There has been much discussion on this subject. The general feeling is that a fall at the right time in a difficult act and handled correctly can actually increase the spectator appeal or entertainment value of that act. Score falls as they affect you. Did the fall interfere with the act?

Judging Swivel and Doubles Competitions - Both swivel and doubles competition will be judged on technical merit and artistic impression. As judges you will give a score from 0 - 10 points using tenths for each category. Generally, you should be looking at the execution, the difficulty, and appearance of each performance. Emphasis should be placed on both execution and difficulty. Technique should not be compromised for more "tricks". Judges should think in terms of quality performance, difficulty, and not necessarily quantity.

1. Technical Merit - Each move or maneuver should be executed precisely from start to finish. Proper technique is the key factor. This includes basic body positioning normally associated with ballet and dance basics (turn out, pointed toes, balance and control, arm movements, posture). Flow and continuity of movements also affect proper execution. Difficulty of the maneuvers shall also be considered in this category.
2. Artistic Impression - Simply said: all the movement in between the technical maneuvers or tricks. Considered is your interpretation of basics, choreography, style, and creativity. This is also the category where the opening and closing of each performance is considered. Above all, showmanship.

All scores for each category will be displayed at the same time at the conclusion of the performance. Have your scorecards ready and all the scoring judges are to hold up their cards at the same time. The announcer will be in charge of making sure that all the judges are ready and will not start reading them until they are all held up.

Improper Safety Precautions - Be alert during all performances for violations of the safety rules or the failure to exercise proper safety precautions as defined in Rule 9. You, as a judge, have the right and responsibility to enforce these rules. Any possible point deductions should be discussed and assessed prior to the start of the next performance.

Judging Freestyle Jump - In judging freestyle jump you will be looking at the skier's form for the maneuver completed. The distance, although not metered, can be considered. Your score will also be displayed when the announcer calls for it and will be from 0 - 10 points in .5-point increments.

Section 3 - Instructions To The Chief Scorer

As Chief Scorer, your responsibility covers the tabulation of all the scores. Your main responsibility is to ensure that the results are accurate. You will also, along with the Chief Judge, be responsible to ensure that the entry requirements have been met. You must fully understand the scoring system.

The Chief Scorer shall work with the tournament chairman to make sure that all necessary supplies are on hand to facilitate the scoring of the tournament (i.e., calculators with tapes, pencils, carbon paper, clipboards, paper rolls, etc.).

Show Acts Competition - The scorers will tabulate all the scores. You will be responsible for checking all their figures and verifying that they are correct. You will be responsible for the completion of the Scorers' Forms, including the deduction of any penalty points from the final score. All penalties need to be verified by the Chief Judge.

Individual Competition - The Chief Scorer will be responsible for writing down the scores as they are read by the announcer and then tabulating the results on the Scorers' Forms. Upon verification of any penalty points by the Chief Judge you will have to deduct them from the final score.

Section 4 - Instructions to the Scorers

Show Acts Competition - The scorers' duties consist of tabulating the Judges' Forms and relaying the information to the Chief Scorer. The Chief Scorer will then record the results on the

Scorers' Form. You shall be responsible to ensure that the figures are correct, by checking and rechecking the final results.

Individual Competition - The scorers' duties consist of scoring the particular categories, making note of their scores for their records and then displaying them through the use of scorecards. It is important that your cards are ready to be displayed when the announcer calls for them to keep the competition running smoothly. Remember that this is taking place during the skier's five minute set-up/clean-up time.

Note - No matter which type of competition you are scoring, you are encouraged to make comments on a separate sheet of paper and give them to the competitors.

Section 5 - Instructions to the Official Timer/Staging Marshall

As the official timer your responsibility is to ensure that all phases of the competition are documented with the correct time (see Rule 2).

You shall be responsible for the tracking of time for:

1. Set-up/Clean-up Time (The 5-minute period in between the performance.)
2. Competition Time (The 5-minute period for the competitor's performance.)

Note - The first competitor in each event shall have a separate 5-minute set-up time and the last competitor shall have a 5-minute clean-up. All others shall share the five-minute period as set-up/clean-up time.

All of the above information must be coordinated with the Chief Judge, the Safety Director, the Staging Marshal and the competitors. The Chief Judge must also inform you of the performance's start (i.e., tight line, spoken word, prerecorded announcement, etc.).

All of the times must be recorded on the official timer's log and turned into the Chief Judge at the end of the tournament.

In most cases the Chief Judge would be a back up-timer.

Freestyle Jumping - This event does not require a timer.

Your responsibility is to ensure the smooth transition of skiers in and out of the competition area between performances.

Unlike show competitions the set-up and clean-up times are one. In order to make the competition flow quicker the competitors that are cleaning up and the next group that is setting up will share the staging area. The skiers that are cleaning up will have to clear the staging area before the next performance can start.

You must be familiar with the site's physical layout, as to where the pre-staging and competition areas are located. You will have to coordinate all of the previous with the Chief Judge, Timer and the Safety Director. You must inform each competitor of the procedures and locations of the pre-staging and staging areas. Please remember that all competitors should be given the same information as to the transition between performances to ensure equal competition between all the competitors.

Section 6 - Instructions to the Safety Director

As the Safety Director, you shall be responsible to make sure that the competition is safely conducted, and that all skiers perform safely, both on the water and off. See Rule 10 - Safety.

Some things that you need to consider prior to the beginning of the competition:

1. Are there adequate safety personnel on site or available within a reasonable amount of time?
2. Is there adequate access for emergency vehicles and transportation to necessary facilities?
3. Is the competition area free from potentially dangerous obstacles?

4. Does the ski jump fall under AWSA specifications?
5. Is the dock safe? (Can it hold mass numbers of skiers and equipment?)
6. Is there an adequate safety boat available?

Prior to each event, you should meet with all the competitors and go over emergency procedures established in the event of an injury. They must be aware of the necessary signals to call for help and/or stop the competition.

You should also be aware of the weather conditions. You, along with the Chief Judge, will be responsible to delay or call off the tournament if a potentially dangerous situation is on the way (i.e., electrical storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.).

Section 7 - Instructions to the Secretaries

As a secretary your main responsibility is to record the numbers and comments for the judge for whom you are working. As a general rule you are to learn and observe the judging system and that particular judge's techniques.

Your position should be to ask questions or take care of whatever items the judge may ask you to do. At no time should you be inputting your unsolicited comments or remarks to the judge. You must also keep all scores and comments confidential during the competition.

Section 8 - Instructions to the Sound Personnel

As operator of the sound system you are responsible for playing the music as instructed by the competitors. You need to be available before each event to take notes from the competitors as to when to start the tape(s) and if the skier wants the music stopped if there is a fall. It is advisable to have an assistant to help coordinate the tapes and instructions.

Section 9 - Official Forms and Attachments

All Judges' Forms and Scorers' Forms along with any reports are contained in the Individual and Show Acts Tournament packet available from USA-WS's Competition Department.