



OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(Revised May 2026)

2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road, Auburndale, FL 33823-9360

Phone: (863) 324-4341 | Fax: (863) 325-8259 | E-mail: officials@usawaterski.org

This three-step officials' program is designed not only to improve the quality of officiating but also to maintain it. When working toward assistant rating, applicants will use the application forms posted on the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA WSWS) website under **Resources/For Officials/American Water Ski Association/Officials Applications**.

Step One - Participation: There are certain quantitative requirements for each rating that must be fulfilled before the official proceeds to the next step. These requirements, as well as rating maintenance requirements, are outlined on the **AWSA Officials' Program Quantitative Requirements for Advancement and Renewal** sheet posted on the USA-WSWS website under **Resources/For Officials/American Water Ski Association**.

It is important to record your work as an official in your **Official's Personal Performance Record** and have it signed by the appropriate Chief Official. Performance Record forms are available online from the USA-WSWS website. It is also important to verify with the Chief Scorer that your work is accurately recorded on the tournament Officials' Record since this is how your work is credited at USA-WSWS. Most of these records are submitted electronically to USA-WSWS and imported into the officials' program. You can track your official ratings and tournament/clinic credits for rating maintenance and upgrade online by logging into your **Member Dashboard** section of the USA-WSWS website.

Step Two - Education: Educational opportunities through on- and off-water clinics are available, and officials of all levels are encouraged to take advantage of those listed on the **Officials' Clinic Schedule** posted on the USA-WSWS website. Be sure to check the schedule often as it is updated when new clinic sanctions are received. Clinic attendance is mandatory for upgrading ratings. Online Modules are also available on the website for clinic credit.

Step Three - Written and Practical Evaluations: The evaluation process has been set up to allow for one, two or three event Assistant, Regular or Senior officials as Judges, Scorers or Drivers.

1. General

- After having completed the quantitative requirements for your next rating, you will contact the USA-WSWS Officials' Coordinator to verify that you have indeed done so and that USA-WSWS has accurately recorded your work.
- Once verified, USA-WSWS will contact you with specific instructions for taking the open-book written and practical evaluations and notify your regional Drivers Committee or Judges & Scorers Committee representative that you are ready for testing. Qualified test administrators can be located using the **Officials' Directory** function located on the USA-WSWS website.
- Once you have successfully completed both the written and practical evaluations and the appropriate documentation is received by the USA-WSWS Officials Coordinator, you will be awarded the rating achieved, and an updated electronic official's record will be available online through your **Member Dashboard** section of the USA-WSWS website.

2. Aspiring Regular Judges and Scorers

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA-WSWS will send you an open-book written test, which must be completed within 30 days and returned to the USA-WSWS Officials' Coordinator for grading.
- Since a scorer reconciles, computes, and records, the take-home test will constitute both the written and practical portions of the evaluation. Upon passing, you will be awarded a Regular Scorer rating.
- For aspiring Regular Judges who pass the written test, USA-WSWS will notify you and your regional Judges & Scorers Committee representative that you are ready to take the practical evaluation. Practical testing uses video to assess the

official's ability to determine slalom buoy counts and call trick runs in the 3,000 to 5,000 point range.

3. Aspiring Senior Judges and Scorers

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA-WSWS will notify you and your regional Judges & Scorers Committee representative that you are ready to take the written and practical evaluations.
- For judges, the practical evaluation is accomplished using a video to assess the official's ability to determine slalom buoy counts and call trick runs in the 6,000 to 9,000 point range.

4. Aspiring Assistant Drivers

- Complete both the front and back of the AWSA Assistant Driver application and return it to the USA-WSWS Officials Coordinator. Be sure to retain a copy of the application for your records.
- USA-WSWS will review the application and, upon approval, forward you instructions on how to purchase and submit a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review online. Both you and USA-WSWS will be notified of Pass/Fail status.
- Once USA-WSWS is informed that you have successfully passed the MVR Review, they will notify you and your regional Drivers Committee representative that you are eligible to take the written and on-water practical evaluations, which are conducted by a panel of three drivers in conjunction with a USA-WSWS sanctioned AWSA Drivers Clinic. Your Regional Drivers Committee representative will assist you in locating a clinic.
- Upon successful completion of the clinic, the Clinic Instructor(s) will forward your clinic payment and written/on water practical evaluations to USA-WSWS to award your Assistant Driver rating.

5. Aspiring Regular and Senior Drivers

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA-WSWS will inform you and your regional Drivers Committee representative that you are ready to take the written and on-water practical evaluations.
- The regional Drivers Committee representative will be notified by the test administrator prior to an open-book written and on-water practical evaluation to be conducted by a panel of three drivers in conjunction with a USA WSWS sanctioned AWSA Class C or higher tournament. The practical evaluation will evaluate the driver's ability in categories such as boat path, speed control, in sync with skier and other driver responsibilities.

Testing Frequency: Please note that in each calendar year, an aspiring regular driver is permitted to take the test on two different test dates, and an aspiring senior driver only once. Aspiring regular and senior judges or scorers may test twice in a calendar year.

Fast Track Options: As an alternative to meeting the quantitative requirements, skiers may be eligible to take advantage of "Fast Track" options after meeting certain criteria. Please refer to the *Drivers Policy Manual* and *Judges & Scorers Policy Manual* for available "Fast Track" options and requirements.