



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

Revised March 21, 2026

## 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.

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

**Grassroots Tournament Minimum Officials Rating: Assistant Judge, Assistant Scorer, State Safety**

**Regional's** – 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.

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

Developed 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 slots may be filled with assistant rated judges or may be reduced to three (3), with the approval of the NSSA President.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### COMPETITION RULES

#### I. RULES

- Rule 1 – General
  - 1.01 Classification
  - 1.02 Sponsors
  - 1.03 Sanction
  - 1.04 Deviations
  - 1.05 Interpretation
  - 1.06 Amendments
  - 1.07 Attachments
  - 1.08 Post Tournament
  - 1.09 National Tournament
  - 1.10 Safety Manual
- Rule 2 – Ski Show Acts
  - 2.01 Counting and Scoring
  - 2.02 Introduction of Personnel
  - 2.03 Schedule of Acts
  - 2.04 Outline of Acts
  - 2.05 Continuous Acts
  - 2.06 Canceling Acts
  - 2.07 Fallen Acts
- Rule 3 – Competition
  - 3.01 Time Limit
  - 3.02 Time Penalty
  - 3.03 Equipment Failure
  - 3.04 Starting Times
  - 3.05 Preparation Time
  - 3.06 Ending Time
  - 3.07 Audible Signal
  - 3.08 Clearing Equipment
- Rule 4 – Order of Competition
  - 4.01 Seeding
  - 4.02 Schedule
  - 4.03 Weather Conditions
  - 4.04 Safety Time-Out
- Rule 5 – Divisions of Competition
  - 5.01 Amateur/Professional
  - 5.02 Separation of Divisions
- Rule 6 – Entry Requirements
  - 6.01 General Qualifications
  - 6.02 Roster
  - 6.03 One Show Rule
  - 6.04 Entry Requirements and Tournament Paperwork
  - 6.05 Safety Coordinator
- Rule 7 – Officials
  - 7.01 Personnel
  - 7.02 Disagreement
  - 7.03 Scoring
  - 7.04 Location
  - 7.05 Secretaries/Trainees
  - 7.06 Conflict of Interest
  - 7.07 Appointed Positions at National Tournaments
- Rule 8 – Rerides and Protests
  - 8.01 Weather/Unfair Water
  - 8.02 Club Representation
  - 8.03 Protest Procedures
- Rule 9 – Equipment
  - 9.01 Towboat
  - 9.02 Pick-Up Boat
  - 9.03 Jump Ramp
  - 9.04 Safety Boat
  - 9.05 Club-Supplied Equipment
  - 9.06 Storage and Staging Areas
  - 9.07 Changing Rooms
  - 9.08 Performance Platform
  - 9.09 Sound System
  - 9.10 Public Address System
- Rule 10 – Scoring
  - 10.01 Scoring Outline

- 10.02 Additional Scoring
- 10.03 Calculations
- 10.04 Mandatory Tournament Meeting
- 10.05 Safety Deductions
- 10.06 Judges' Forms
- Rule 11 – Safety
  - 11.01 Safety Director
  - 11.02 Injury
  - 11.03 Emergency Personnel and Transportation
  - 11.04 Safety Boat
  - 11.05 Safety Announcements
  - 11.06 Additional Safety Rules Related to Site
  - 11.07 Inclined Ramps
  - 11.08 State/Federal Boating Regulations
  - 11.09 Required Safety Meeting
  - 11.10 Sponsor-Required Site Plan
- Rule 12 – Conduct
  - 12.01 Unsportsmanlike Conduct
  - 12.02 Mind-Altering Substances
- Rule 13 – Variations
  - 13.01 General
  - 13.02 Preparation and Clean-Up

## II. NSSA OFFICIALS' INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

- Section 1 – Instructions to the Chief Judge
- Section 2 – Instructions to the Scoring Judges
- Section 3 – Instructions to the Chief Scorer
- Section 4 – Instructions to the Scorers
- Section 5 – Instructions to the Official Timer/Staging Marshal
- Section 6 – Instructions to the Safety Director
- Section 7 – Instructions to the Secretaries and Assistant Judges

## III. FORMS

### INDIVIDUAL & SHOW ACTS COMPETITION RULES

#### I. RULES

- Rule 1 – General
  - 1.01 Classification
  - 1.02 Sponsors
  - 1.03 Sanction
  - 1.04 Deviations
  - 1.05 Interpretation
  - 1.06 Amendments
  - 1.07 Attachments
  - 1.08 Post Tournament
  - 1.09 National Tournament
  - 1.10 Safety Manual
- Rule 2 – Competition
  - 2.01 Counting and Scoring
  - 2.02 Competitors
  - 2.03 Time Limit
  - 2.04 Time Penalty
  - 2.05 Equipment Failure
  - 2.06 Starting Times
  - 2.07 Preparation Time
  - 2.08 Set-Up/Clean-Up Time
  - 2.09 Ending Time
  - 2.10 Clearing Equipment
- Rule 3 – Order of Competition
  - 3.01 Seeding
  - 3.02 Schedule
  - 3.03 Weather Conditions
- Rule 4 – Divisions of Competition
  - 4.01 General
  - 4.02 Separation of Divisions
  - 4.03 Swivel
  - 4.04 Doubles
  - 4.05 Movement in Swivel and Doubles
  - 4.06 Freestyle
  - 4.07 Show Acts
- Rule 5 – Entry Requirements
  - 5.01 General Qualifications

- 5.02 Definition of Competitor
- 5.03 One Performance Rule
- 5.04 Entry Requirements
- 5.05 Disqualification
- Rule 6 – Officials
  - 6.01 Judges
  - 6.02 Chief Scorer
  - 6.03 Timekeeper
  - 6.04 Personnel
  - 6.05 Disagreement
  - 6.06 Scoring
  - 6.07 Location
  - 6.08 Secretaries/Trainees
  - 6.09 Conflict of Interest
  - 6.10 Appointed Positions at National Tournaments
- Rule 7 – Rerides and Protests
  - 7.01 Weather/Unfair Water
  - 7.02 Club Representation
  - 7.03 Protest Procedures
- Rule 8 – Equipment
  - 8.01 Towboat
  - 8.02 Pick-Up Boat
  - 8.03 Jump Ramp
  - 8.04 Safety Boat
  - 8.05 Club-Supplied Equipment
  - 8.06 Storage and Staging Areas
  - 8.07 Changing Rooms
  - 8.08 Performance Platform
  - 8.09 Sound System
- Rule 9 – Scoring
  - 9.01 Show Acts
  - 9.02 Swivel and Doubles
  - 9.03 Freestyle Jump
  - 9.04 Team Jump
  - 9.05 Safety Deductions
  - 9.06 Judges’ Forms
- Rule 10 – Safety
  - 10.01 Safety Director
  - 10.02 Injury
  - 10.03 Emergency Personnel and Transportation
  - 10.04 Safety Boat
  - 10.05 Safety Announcements
  - 10.06 Additional Safety Rules Related to Site
  - 10.07 Inclined Ramps
  - 10.08 State/Federal Boating Regulations
  - 10.09 Required Safety Meeting
  - 10.10 Sponsor-Required Site Plan
- Rule 11 – Conduct
  - 11.01 Unsportsmanlike Conduct
  - 11.02 Mind-Altering Substances
- Rule 12 – Variations
  - 12.01 General
  - 12.02 Preparation and Clean-Up

## II. NSSA OFFICIALS’ INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

- Section 1 – Instructions to the Chief Judge
- Section 2 – Instructions to the Scoring Judges
- Section 3 – Instructions to the Chief Scorer
- Section 4 – Instructions to the Scorers
- Section 5 – Instructions to the Official Timer/ Staging Marshal
- Section 6 – Instructions to the Safety Director
- Section 7 – Instructions to the Secretaries
- Section 8 – Instructions to the Sound Personnel
- Section 9 – Official Forms and Attachments

In the web version only

- Changes in 2022 are in green
- Changes in 2023 are in red
- Changes in 2024 are in orange
- Changes in 2025 are in blue
- Changes in 2026 are in purple

## 2026 WATER SKI SHOW COMPETITION RULES

Please note that in the rules there may be references to water depths, lengths, distances, protective gear, procedures, etc. for safe skiing. The NSSA makes no guarantee, implicit or explicit, that conforming to the references will eliminate all possible safety hazards.

### 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 Chairperson should a question arise.

- 1.06 Amendments** - Rules may be amended by the NSSA on an annual basis. The deadline for rules changes for the Nov. meeting will be Oct. 1. The Rules committee can also bring forward suggested rules changes at the winter meeting. They are due to the rules chair by Jan 15th and will go through the same process as the fall meeting.
- 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 **Chief Scorer and Chief Safety** shall be responsible for mailing out the Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms and Tournament Reports **per the chart below**. All items are to be mailed within ten days of the start of the tournament **with the exception of Regional Tournament results which are due per #4 below**. Copies to be mailed are as follows:

**Note:** For purpose of rule 1.08, "copies" are defined as physical (hardcopy) or electronic (pdf) and "mailing" is defined as physical or electronic delivery of said copies.

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. **Written Judges forms shall be given to the team being scored and the Officials committee Chairperson. Other copies may be picked up on site at the written request**

of other teams. All requests for additional copies shall be made in writing, prior to the start of the tournament to the Chief Scorer and the requesting person shall pay for all copying and mailing expense, if any. Teams will have their scores preserved on a flash drive. The tournament host/LOC will provide the flash drives to the scorers. Teams will receive copies of their written Judge's forms and ACT Reasoning Forms.

2. All Judges and the Chief Judge will receive copies of the tournament results and all Scorers' Comparison Forms from the Chief Scorer after the awards ceremony. The rest of their paperwork will be put on a flash drive. The tournament host/LOC will provide the officials with flash drives.
3. The Chief Scorer and Chief Safety will provide the designated forms per the chart below
4. All regional tournament Chief Scorers should forward the tournament results via email to the respective NSSA National Tournament Chair by 11:59 pm CT of the last day of any regional tournament.
5. Regions that do not require a regional qualifier as a means for entering Division I or Division II National Tournaments, must notify the appropriate NSSA National Tournament Chair by 11:59 pm CT Sunday of the last Regional tournament of the year, of which teams and/or individuals they approved to compete at the National Tournament for that region. This rule will also apply to regions that have cancelled tournaments or otherwise are not held.
6. At Division I Nationals only, the NSSA Nominating Committee Chairman is to receive copies of the Team Rosters and Tournament results.

TEAMS	INDIVIDUALS	TOURNAMENT JUDGES & CHIEF JUDGE	NSSA OFFICIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR	NSSA COMPETITION RULES CHAIR	NSSA SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR	USA WSWWS COMPETITION DEPT	INDIVIDUALS ACTS CHAIR
Copy of their own written Judges form	Their own Pass list (Paper or email)	Copies of all Scorers' Comparison Forms	Original of all Judges' forms	Copy of Safety Report	Copy of Safety Report	Copy of Tournament Officials Record	Copies of Individuals Judges Forms on Flash drive
Copy of their own Act Reasoning Forms		Copy of Tournament results	Original of all Scorers' forms	Copy of Official Timers' Report	Copy of the Safety Director's Tracking Report	Tournament Results	
Copy of all Scorers Forms on Flash drive			Original Waive right to protest form.	Copy of Chief Judge's Post Tournament Report	Copy of the Injury Reports	Original of Tournament Safety Director's Report	
Copy of Tournament results			Original of Tournament Officials Record		Copy of the Tournament Additional Treatment Report	Original Injury Reports	
			Tournament Drivers Report			Original Additional Treatment Reports	
			Original of Chief Judges' Post Tournament Report			Tournament Drivers Report	
			The Scoring Program				

NSSA Officials Committee Chair

NSSA Competition Rules Committee Chair

NSSA Safety Committee Chair

NSSA Nominating Committee Chair

NSSA Individuals Acts Chair

USA-WSWS Competition Dept

2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road

Auburndale, FL 33823-9360

(863) 324-4341

(863) 325-8259 (fax)

Email: [competition@usawaterski.org](mailto:competition@usawaterski.org)

**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 watercraft 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 –  
Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**

Per Rule 6.04, all teams must deliver the required paperwork to the tournament sponsor or designee as outlined in Rules 6.04 and 6.04.1

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 on the Judge's Form with the words "do not score *or DNS.*" *Minimally, a Do Not Score needs to be at a boat level, so anything behind a boat is either scored or not scored.*

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 –  
Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**

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 permitted at USA Water Ski sanctioned events (tournaments, exhibitions, shows, etc.) providing the pilot meets the following:

1. The pilot is a member of the USHPA (United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association). **As indicated in Rule 6.04, the pilot(s) must provide a copy of the current USHPA membership card(s) with the tournament paperwork and to the Chief Judge.**
2. The pilot must show the Chief Judge the current USHPA membership card that indicates the pilot is rated "Hang 2" (novice) or better. **As indicated in Rule 6.04, the pilot(s) must provide a copy of the current USHPA membership card(s) that indicates the pilot(s) are rated "Hang 2" or better, with the tournament paperwork and to the Chief Judge.**
3. The pilot must use **a hang glider produced by a commercial hang glider manufacturer. As indicated in Rule 6.04, the pilot(s) must provide a copy of the hang glider manufacture's sticker(s) with the tournament paperwork and to the Chief Judge.**
4. As part of sanctioning for Show Ski events, USA Water Ski provides liability and participant accident coverage for approved Show Ski elements in compliance with USA Water Ski's sanctioning requirements. Hang gliding, paragliding or similar aerial acts are not approved elements. If such aerial acts are performed in conjunction with a sanctioned Show Ski event, only the approved elements of the show will be covered by USA Water Ski's insurance. The aerial act portions of the show will not be eligible for any insurance coverage through USA Water Ski.

USA Water Ski and the National Show Ski Association (NSSA) have developed the below list of standards for Flyboard acts in sanctioned practices, shows, exhibitions, and tournaments.

A. Registration and Notification

1. Any NSSA team that is including a Flyboard act within a sanctioned activity must provide advanced notification of the act to the NSSA Chief Judge.
2. Any NSSA team that is including a Flyboard act within a sanctioned activity must provide proof of PWC liability insurance consistent with the requirements outlined in Paragraph D below.
3. All individuals must be members of USA Water Ski.

B. Equipment and Safety

Any equipment being used by the rider in the sanctioned activity must meet the following standards:

1. The PWC:
  - a. Must be in compliance with all USA Water Ski regulations and/ or local state federal governance.
  - b. The hose and coupler areas need to be inspected prior to every use.
  - c. Should carry a paddle or other device for steering and control.
2. The PWC Driver/Operator:
  - a. Must wear a protective helmet.
  - b. Must wear USCG approved flotation: Type 1, 2, 3, or 5.
3. The Flyboard Rider:
  - a. Must wear a protective helmet.
  - b. Must wear USCG approved flotation: Type 1, 2, 3, or 5.
4. The Flyboard rider being propelled more than idle (approx. 1500 RPM):
  - a. Must stay a minimum of 65 feet from the shoreline.
  - b. Must stay a minimum of 65 feet from any watercraft (other than the attached PWC).
  - c. Must stay a minimum of 65 feet from any fixed docks, objects or obstacles.
  - d. The hose should never exceed 55 feet.
  - e. When the rider is being propelled at idle, these rules do not apply.
5. The Water:
  - a. The water depth for a Flyboard act must be a minimum of 8 feet deep.
6. Prohibited Maneuvers:
  - a. The rider is not allowed to travel under water (this is a judgment that is not intended to include falls).
  - b. The rider is not allowed to dolphin (dive under water then out again, etc.).

C. Training

1. All persons performing a Flyboard act (rider and PWC driver/operator) within a USA Water Ski sanctioned activity must have completed a comprehensive orientation course. The flyboard participants must provide proof of training in advance of the sanctioned activity.
2. The PWC driver/operator must be a NSSA tested driver or have a Class "A" learner's permit.
3. The PWC driver/operator must be in compliance with the boater's safety education requirements for their respective state.

D. Insurance and Liability

1. The PWC owner will provide proof of appropriate watercraft liability insurance (with coverage for use and operation of the Flyboard) in compliance with the USA Water Ski Boat Insurance Requirements. The PWC insurance will serve as primary insurance.
2. Without advance proof of insurance, the Flyboard act will not be permitted in a USA Water Ski sanctioned activity.
3. All PWC Operators and Flyboard Riders must sign the standard USA Water Ski Participant Waiver and Release forms prior to participating in any Flyboarding acts being performed in a USA Water Ski sanctioned activity.

- 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 – Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**  
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 – Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**  
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. Any act can be brought back to the beach after the 60 minute competition period during the 10 minute tear down.

**3.08 Clearing Equipment –**

***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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-WSWS sanctioned tournaments, shall be affiliated with USA-WSWS. 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-WSWS sanctioned ski show tournament must show proof of USA-WSWS "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 skis more than 50% of their time in the ten-week period preceding the Regional Tournament.

## **6.02 Roster –**

### ***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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 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 to be postmarked, certified mail, no signature required up to seven (7) days (fourteen for a Regional or National Tournament) 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. 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. Petitions for rules variance relative to the subject matter of this paragraph rule 6.02 will not be allowed without a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  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.

The intent of this rule is to prevent a club or organization from bringing in a competitor or competitors who are not true club members for the purpose of competing in a particular tournament. An entered team should be a team as it was before and after the tournament with the understanding of life obligations exist such as employment, school, etc. 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 from the South Central, Eastern, and Western Regions 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.

## 6.04 Tournament Entry Requirements-TEAMS

- 1. Deadline for D1 and D2 National Tournament entries is July 15 of the current year.**
- Each team entered must furnish the tournament sponsor or designee with the properly completed forms per instructions found on the current year checklist found below.
- All paperwork will be submitted via electronic submission. If the tournament is not set up to accept electronic forms, it must be stated in the tournament announcement how the paperwork should be handled and the submission dates.
- The sponsor may require forms 1-8 submitted any time up to 7 days prior (fourteen days for a Regional or National tournament) to the scheduled start of the tournament via electronic submission, or if not using electronic submission, it must be stated in the tournament announcement. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a 100% penalty of the entry fee for that tournament. If all paperwork has not been submitted 1 hour before the team competition starts the team will not ski.
- The sponsor may request additional numbers of copies, provided it is stated in the tournament announcement.
- If changes to the forms 1-8 need to be made, they may be made at tournament registration or mandatory meeting by delivering the designated number of paper copies noting that these are to replace what was originally submitted.
- Forms 9-15 will be required up to 24 hours before the tournament starts and be given to the tournament designee. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a 100% penalty of the entry fee for that tournament. If all paperwork has not been submitted 1 hour before the team competition starts the team will not ski.
- Each team entered must send a representative to the Mandatory Meeting as per Rule 10.04.

### 6.04.1 Tournament Paperwork Checklist

- Team generated tournament roster with Name, Address, Birthdate and Driver/Rider/Skier/Announcer as applicable (SCR 6.02, 1 copy)
- USA-WSWS team roster. (This should be downloaded directly from USA-WSWS and not manipulated in any way.) All tournament participants must be listed and current on this roster. (SCR 6.02, 1 copy)
- USA-WSWS Teams "Officials Roster" with the following clearly marked:
  - Team Safety coordinator
  - Show Director(s) and Assistant Show Director(s) or equivalent, if the team has one, showing proof of completion of Safe Sport Training and proof of current passed background check.
  - Tournament Drivers ratings.
- Club USA-WSWS affiliation card (SCR 6.01, 1 copy)
- NSSA Tournament Drivers Report (SCR 1.08, 2 copies)
- USA-WSWS Towboat Liability Form with all of the requirements being met. Please use the most current NSSA Show form and attach the applicable Certificate(s) of Insurance.
- If using kite flying as an act in the show, the pilot(s) must provide a copy of the current USHPA membership card(s) that indicate the pilot(s) are rated "Hang 2" or better, and a copy of the hang glider manufacture's sticker(s). This information must also be provided to the Chief Judge.
- Wireless Microphones Frequency and Club radio frequency. (SCR 9.09, 1 copy)
- Outstanding Male/Female performer form. (8 copies)
- Ski Team Fact Sheet (2 copies)
- USA-WSWS Music Form (1 copy) Any tournament being officially live broadcast.

12. Judges Form (SCR 2.03, 15 copies)
13. Act Reasoning form (14 copies)
14. NSSA Safety Directors Tracking Report form (1 copy)
15. TV/Webcast forms (2 copies) (DI National Tournament and any other tournament as specified in that tournament announcement)

**National Tournaments Only:** DI and DII forms 1-8 are due the Tuesday after the seeding meeting by 11:59 PM CT. The seeding meeting is on Monday evening after the last regional tournament as stated in NSSA P&P Chapter 5, Section I- 2.

Copies noted are for paper submissions only. Electronic submissions will be one copy only.

- 6.05 Safety Coordinator** - All teams competing in NSSA sanctioned tournaments must have a team safety coordinator that is at least 18 years old and has successfully completed the USA-WSWS Safety Clinic within the last four years. All competing clubs must furnish the sponsor with a copy of their Safety Coordinators Card.

**RULE 7 – OFFICIALS** - also see "Tournament Officials Requirements inside front cover.  
**Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**

- 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 –**  
**Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements**  
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 same team with a competing team or individual events competitor.
    - a. A competitor in the division of the tournament in which they are one of the above listed official.
    - b. Actively participating on any team in any function. The intent is not to prohibit any official from participating in an occasional alumni, reunion, or other special occasion show with any given club, but should not exceed 10 hours annually.
    - c. Team USA members (IWWF World team) is not a conflict with other Team USA members or teams in that year unless competing in an event as Team USA.
  2. 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 inclusive of significant others.

3. Accepting cash or other benefits except for nominal gifts that meet applicable NSSA standards. Receiving any compensation or remuneration from any team or competitor outside of any allowed travel, accommodations, food, or other direct tournament compensation.
4. Any special circumstances outside those listed above will be discussed and voted on by the NSSA Board.
5. Circumstances within 24 hours of the start of a tournament 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.

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-WSWS/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-WSWS/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.

**7.07 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 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, with a quick release, 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. Optional available equipment on the boat (release, boom, tower, bridles, etc.) shall also be stated in the ski show tournament announcements.

Teams that provide their own towboats must meet the ski show announcement requirements. All boats used in NSSA sanctioned events must have on board all safety equipment required for the event waterway location including but not limited to; proper flotation for all boat personnel, throw-able flotation, charged accessible fire extinguisher, and secured battery.

**Tested Driver Requirements:** 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, a minimum of 50% of the drivers on the water must be NSSA tested drivers and a maximum of 50% of other towboat drivers on the water may have an NSSA learner's rating. The highest class boat must be a NSSA tested driver and the driver must be driving within the respective rating. Drivers on a learner's permit must be driving a boat rated equal to or under the highest rated driver on the water.

- 5 towboats – Minimum of 3 tested drivers, maximum of 2 learners
- 4 towboats - Minimum of 2 tested drivers, maximum of 2 learners
- 3 towboats - Minimum of 2 tested drivers, maximum of 1 learner

- 2 towboats - Minimum of 1 tested driver, maximum of 1 learner

When multiple boats are driven, radio communication is required between all boats (towboats, pickup boats, and barges/pontoons) on the water as well as shore personnel. Boats such as a "Fliver" will be exempt from radio use if used for the sole purpose of a "clown" type act.

When only one class "A" boat is operated in an NSSA sanctioned event, a Class "A" learner's permit will be sufficient, as long as only a single rope is used with no more than a doubles couple ski behind the boat. A "Trained Driver" may drive an NSSA sanctioned event(s), as long as they only pull a single rope with no more than a doubles couple behind the boat. A "Trained Driver" may not drive in multiple boat patterns. A class "A" learner's permit will be good for two years and can only be renewed once. See the NSSA policies and procedures manual for how to acquire a learner's permit.

Any driver with a class "A" rating who is driving with a Class "B" boat must have a Class "B" learner's permit, which will be good for two years. Any driver with a class "B" rating who is driving with a Class "C" boat must have a Class "C" learner's permit, which will be good for two years. If a driver has an "A" or "B" rating the Class "B" and "C", respectively, learner's permits may be renewed every two years. Aspiring drivers for class "C" ratings must first pass requirements in a class "B" boat.

A driver who was previously rated in the last 5 years, and is returning to the NSSA sports division, may get a learner's permit for their last respective rating, but must retest on the water within two years. Any driver who has lapsed over 5 years must retake the written test and get a class "A" or "B" learner's permit.

**Interpretation 1:** The intent is that when driving multiple boats, the highest rated boats being driven should be the highest rated tested driver.

**Penalty:** During an NSSA sanctioned tournament, failure to follow the towboat rules will result in possible point reduction (minimum 5%), and/or driver suspension, and/or team disqualification.

**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 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 (+/- 1 inch).
2. Surface width: 14 feet at all points ±2 inches.
3. Surface length out of water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
4. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
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.

- 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. The 12-20 inch range will be maintained with the dock edge, loaded with **1 to 24** average size skiers.

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. Cordless microphone frequencies must be registered with the Chief Judge during the pre-show meeting with the show director. Nothing will interfere with team sound set up during the set-up time. Once the team sound crew is ready to do sound checks, the chief announcer will not interfere with such checks.

#### **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. The 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 a minimum acceptable level of 10db above the ambient crowd noise at the tournament.
- b. Loudspeakers should be placed to provide sufficient coverage for the dock, performance area, judging area, and designated spectator areas.
- c. Backup tournament sound system equipment should be on site at all times. A plan should be in place if the need arises for equipment failure.
- d. A direct box will be available at all sound locations to connect team sound systems during show competition. A tournament sound system engineer will assist with connection. Correct connecting wires and connectors will be worked out with the sound engineer prior to competition.

- e. House microphones consisting of a corded microphone and a cordless microphone will be provided for all teams during competition. Cordless microphones shall not be in the 700mhz band to be legal.
- f. At least one sound engineer must be on site during competition.
- g. Properly grounded 20 amp circuit for team use will be provided. Properly grounded 20 amp circuits will be available at each end of the stage. These circuits need to be separate from the tournament supplied sound system.
- h. Two staging areas will be provided for competing sound personnel. Pre-stage and tear down.
- i. A removable sun/rain cover will be provided for the sound location.

**9.10 Public Address System** - The tournament shall supply a public address system to use for tournament announcements, music, and advertisements. The public address system can be host team equipment, provided it is not a National Tournament.

**9.11 Barges/floaters.** For Regional and National Tournaments only.

- a. Tournament supplied stationary barges should be placed at the end of each end zone, as much out of the way, and anchored securely in place for the duration of the tournament (or for each tournament day and then must be placed again in the same location on successive days prior to the start of the tournament that day).
- b. It is helpful if there is at least one barge that is motorized for placement by each competing team.
- c. The tournament supplied barge(s) cannot be preset with equipment prior to a team's set up time
- d. The Chief Judge should work with all competing teams and the LOC to determine barge placement. Barges need to be set in a manner which is fair to all teams competing. Any conflicts will be resolved by the Chief Judge.

**RULE 10 - SCORING**

***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

**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 subtotal 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 - 5% deduction.

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.

**Interpretation:** *If a skier in a harness falls, the release must be pulled by the time the point at which the rope that is connected to the harness makes contact with the water. If the release is not pulled by that time, it is an automatic 5% deduction.*

A barefoot handle that is non-bear-trap in nature is not required to be on a release when the skier's foot is in the handle and his/her hands are released from the handle. A team representative is required to show the handle to the Chief Judge prior to the team's competition and identify the act/acts that the handle will be used so that Chief Judge can inform the judges prior to the show that it's in compliance.

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 **properly secured** which will float the person under the following circumstances ("Float" means "will float the person in full costume after expelling the air out of their lungs"):
  - 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, skis, 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. Hydrofoil:

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. Towboat and pickup boat 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. Failure to keep a barefooter from skiing into stationary objects such as docks, boats, trees, etc. will result in a 5% deduction.
8. Helmets must be worn by all jumpers making an approach to the main jump or mini-ramp with the exception of dive outs, run outs, or barefoot starts. Failure to wear a helmet in these cases will result in a 5% deduction.
9. Failure of a skier or driver to obey designated "out of bounds" areas will result in a 3% deduction. It is the intent of this rule to avoid known marked hazards that can't be addressed/remedied at a tournament site.
10. 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 # 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.

**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 or a competitor within the team who either signals to stop the show or otherwise communicates to the Safety Director and/or Chief Judge that there is an injury 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 or a competitor within the team who either signals to stop the show or otherwise communicates to the Safety Director and/or Chief Judge that there is an injury 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.

If a team calls for a stop in competition and it is determined there is not an apparent injury, the Scoring Judges may assess an unsportsmanship penalty against the team.

**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. 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, to include mini jumps/ramps, fastened to performance platforms and/or any other equipment, and intended to be skied up, the surface must be a minimum of 42 inches wide and the lower edge at least 6 inches vertical and 24 inches of surface below the surface of the water. Attachment points shall not extend above the surface of the jump/ramp at any time.

A Mini Jump/Mini Ramp is required for the Division 1 National Tournament.

Mini Jump/Mini Ramp specifications for the Division 1 National Tournament (Effective January 1, 2027):

- a. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet (+/- inch).
- b. Surface width: 8 feet at all points ±2 inches.
- c. Surface length out of water: 20 feet to 22 feet evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
- d. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
- e. Attachment points shall not extend above the surface.

Attachment points shall not extend above the surface of the jump/ramp at any time.

Inclined ramps should be placed in such a manner that the landing area, defined as a 16' by 60' box, is angled away from shore.

11.07.01 A Skier going over an Inclined Ramp must land in a reasonable and appropriate depth of water that does not place the skier at risk for incident and/or injury.

11.07.02 Anyone going over an inclined ramp must line up with the inside edge of the ramp, closest to the boat. For multiple riders over the ramp, the only cuts permitted are those check cuts required for spacing.

11.07.03 No dive or run outs are permitted off an inclined ramp

5% penalty for failure to comply with 11.07, 11.07.01, 11.07.02, 11.07.03

**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 may receive up to a 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".

**12.03 Officials Complaints** - Any complaint of any official working a given tournament must be submitted IN WRITING and signed by the person making an allegation against the official. The complaints must be submitted to the chairperson of the Official's Committee or the President of NSSA within 48 hours following a tournament. The complaint shall include the Name of the Official and the capacity in which they served at the tournament and shall be specific in terms of any alleged rule infraction or other concern.

## **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.

**Judges Meetings:** All judges meeting addressing potential penalties shall be documented in the post show judges meeting report regardless of outcome. Noted shall be the name of the official calling the meeting, the issue or potential rule violation, the proposed action recommended, and any significant information germane to the discussion.

For Division I Nationals and any other tournaments that are webcasted or shown on TV, after all the scores have been tallied, but before they are announced; give a copy of tournament results to the webcast chairperson. This is so they can start typing the scores for viewing. They will NOT be posted either on the web or TV until the first place team is announced.

### 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.
9. All scoring judges shall write any and all penalties at the bottom of the judge's form.

**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. You should work from a median score when scoring the box scores. Give a score that reflects your opinion on the performance in these areas as to whether you felt it was better or worse than your average expectation. Also, it is important that your scores to be relevant to the performances in the tournament.

A median score for an average performance for the box scores should be:

Sound	
Music Selection	25
Audio Effects	38
Announcing/Audience Direction	63
Towboat	
Starts	25
Patterns/Speed	25
Landings	25
Skill/Difficulty	25
Pickup Boat	
Positioning	13
Rough Water	13
Overall Safety	13
Showmanship	125
Overall Show	
Introductions	50
Dock and Equipment	13
Variety	50
Production	125
Costuming/Makeup	25

In these categories, if there is no clear difference either negative or positive, it is acceptable and suggested to score teams at the median.

**Rationale:** In a study of judges scores it appears that judges are not consistent in using the median number for average performance and scoring up or down from there. Generally, judges are scoring above the medians, some are at or below. This is causing ambiguity in the level of scores vs. performance in each box category and teams should expect median baseline scores to be around the same numbers. In an attempt to get judges to be more consistent we need to work toward getting all judges to work around the same baseline for an average expected performance. The judges current baselines seem to vary greatly given the scores over the last three years studied. These median scores should be put on the judges form and be taught and emphasized at clinics.

Also, there is often no clear difference in categories such as Dock and Equipment and Pickup Boats. If that is the case, then scores should reflect that.

### 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.
  - a. When scoring difficulty, base your score on what was accomplished by the skier(s), not what they may have been attempting.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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? **Is the music chosen the proper tempo for the act? Does the music fit the style of the act?**
2. Audio Effects (0-75 points) - Is all the audio clearly understood and interesting? **Are sound effects or other audio effects used? Is music and announcing volume raised and lowered appropriately? Does the sound technician effectively blend, fade, and transition music and audio effects?**
3. **Announcing/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)? **Is there a seamless transition from stage to water? Is excitement built effectively? Are acts and introductions cued appropriately and on time? Does the announcing hold your attention and is easy to listen to?**

**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. **Were introductions cued appropriately? Were the participants organized, spaced appropriately, and in-sync for their particular introduction?**
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 variety and/or innovation of the different types of skiing that a team could **perform?**
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? **Was the show put together in a way that theme, skiing, patterns, choreography, and timing all worked in concert and with one another?**
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:

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 and Assistant Judges**

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. **An Assistant Judge must read and understand the NSSA Competition Rules and Individual & Show Acts rule and Judges Instructions.**

### **III. FORMS**

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

## INDIVIDUAL & SHOW ACTS COMPETITION RULES

Please note that in the rules there may be references to water depths, lengths, distances, protective gear, procedures, etc. for safe skiing. The NSSA makes no guarantee, implicit or explicit, that conforming to the references will eliminate all possible safety hazards.

### 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, Class C and Grassroots. If a Grassroots Tournament is covered under the same sanction as another class of Tournament, the Grassroots portion will take place following the completion of the other class of Tournament.
- 1.02 Sponsors** - The sponsors of the individual show acts competition shall be affiliated with USA-WSWS.
- 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-WSWS/NSSA-sanctioned ski show competition. Notwithstanding any rule variation by the NSSA Board of Directors (BOD), in the event that any policy, procedure, regulation, etc., conflicts with the current rules, then the current rules will have precedence. 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 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 Chief Scorer and the Chief Safety shall be responsible for mailing of all Tournament Reports per the chart below. All items are to be mailed within ten days of the conclusion of the tournament with the exception of Regional Tournament Results which are due per #4 below. Copies to be mailed are as follows:

Note: For purpose of rule 1.08, "copies" are defined as physical (hardcopy) or electronic (pdf) and "mailing" is defined as physical or electronic delivery of said copies.

1. All competing teams/individuals are to receive copies of their own Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, and Pass Lists. All Judges Forms, Scorers' forms and Pass Lists are considered public information and shall be made available upon request. Written Judge's and Scorers' forms, and Pass Lists shall be given to the team/individual being scored and the Officials committee Chairperson. Other copies may be picked up on site at the written request of other teams/individuals. All requests for additional copies are to be made in writing, prior to the start of the tournament, to the Chief Scorer and the requesting person shall pay for all copying and mailing expenses, if any. Teams/individuals will have their scores preserved on a flash drive. The tournament host/LOC will provide the flash drives to the scorers. Teams/individuals will receive copies of their written Judge's forms.
2. All Judges and the Chief Judge will receive copies of the tournament results and all Scorers' Comparison Forms from the Chief Scorer after the awards ceremony. The rest of their paperwork will be put on a flash drive. The tournament host/LOC will provide the officials with flash drives.
3. The Chief Scorer and the Chief Safety will provide the designated forms per the chart below.
4. All Regional Tournament Chief Scorers should forward the tournament results via e-mail to the respective NSSA National Tournament Chair via e-mail by 11:59 PM CT of the last day of any regional tournament.
5. Regions that do not require a Regional qualifier as a means for entering the Division I or Division II National Tournaments, must notify the appropriate NSSA National Tournament Chair by 11:59 PM CT Sunday of the last Regional Tournament of the year, of which teams and/or individuals they approved to compete at the National Tournament for that region. This rule will also apply to Regions that have cancelled tournaments or otherwise not held them.
6. At Division I Nationals only, the NSSA Nominating Committee Chair is to receive copies of the Team Generated Rosters, Individuals Running Orders, and the Tournament Results.

INDIVIDUALS	TOURNAMENT JUDGES & CHIEF JUDGE	NSSA OFFICIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR	NSSA COMPETITION RULES CHAIR	NSSA SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR	USA WSWS COMPETITION DEPT	NSSA INDIVIDUALS ACTS CHAIR	NSSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR	DI AND DII NSSA TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Copy of their own pass list	Copies of all Judges forms	Original of all Judges forms	Copy of the safety report	Copy of the Safety Report	Copy of the Tournament Officials record	Copy of Individuals Judges forms on flash drive	Copy of running orders	Email Regional tournament results by 11:59 PM of the last day of any Regional tournament
	Copies of all Scorers forms.	Original of all scorers' forms	Copy of the Official Timers report	Copy of the Safety Directors Tracking Report	Copy of the Tournament results		Copy of tournament results	
	Copy of Tournament Results	Original of Chief Judge Post Tournament Report	Copy of the Chief Judge's Post Tournament Report	Copy of the Injury Reports	Original of the Safety Directors report			
		Original of Tournament Officials record.			Original injury reports			
		The Scoring program						

NSSA Officials Committee Chair

NSSA Competition Rules Committee Chair

NSSA Safety Committee Chair

NSSA Nominating Committee Chair

NSSA Individuals Acts Chair

USA-WSWS Competition Dept

2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road

Auburndale, FL 33823-9360

(863) 324-4341

(863) 325-8259 (fax)

Email: [competition@usawaterski.org](mailto:competition@usawaterski.org)

- 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, **in swivel pairs there will be two competitors towed**, and in doubles there will be two competitors towed during the performance.
- 2.03 Time Limit** –  
Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements  
The period of competition time allowed for each competitor shall be five minutes except for Freestyle Jump. Freestyle Jump **competition timing is listed in Rule 9.03 (17)**. 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 –

Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements

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 –

Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements

Each competitor shall be allowed five minutes prior to the start of their performance, beginning at the conclusion of the preceding competitor's 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 *performance*, 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.

**Interpretation:** Jump teams are allowed to ski from a back dock to outside the 750' buoy during their set-up time. Once they are outside of the 750' buoy, they can start per normal protocol.

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 –

Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements

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. An audible signal will be given thirty seconds before the end of scheduled competition time. This shall be a different signal than that which designates the end of the competition period. At Regional and National tournaments, there will be a 1% penalty if the announcer keeps talking after the final horn goes off for show acts.

**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 **5%** deduction from the final score. At the completion of the competition period, there shall be no further performance by the competitor(s). The skier shall stop all maneuvers and immediately ski to shore in a safe manner. ALL judging is to stop at the 5-minute audible signal. If the skier is currently performing a maneuver at the 5-minute signal, they must complete that maneuver in a safe manner and ski to shore. That maneuver shall NOT be scored. If following the end of the competition period, competitors continue performing additional passes through the competition area, **the skier will be disqualified from the event in which the violation occurred.** If in the opinion of the Judges, the driver attempts to bring the skiers to shore and they continue to perform, the driver will not be disqualified. Performing additional passes will be defined as, the competition period ends prior to the skiers making a turn to come back through the show course and they make the turn and then continue to perform. If they have made the turn prior to the end of the competition period and continue to perform on that pass, the 5% penalty will be applied. **If the scoring judges view an ending time violation to be egregious in nature, they can assess an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to the skier(s) and/or driver(s) per Rule 12.01 of the Competition Rules and/or Rule 11.01 of the Individual & Show Acts Rules.**

- 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** – If the Swivel event is divided, it will be divided using the NSSA Swivel Difficulty Chart as follows:
1. Novice (180): Skills as specified on the difficulty chart generally Level 4 skills and under.
  2. Intermediate (360): Skills as specified on the difficulty chart generally Level 4-7 skills.
  3. Open: Any of the skills specified on the difficulty chart.
- 4.04 Doubles** – If the Doubles event is divided, it will be divided using the NSSA Doubles Difficulty Chart as follows:
1. Intermediate: Level 6 skills and under as indicated on the difficulty chart.
  2. Open: Any of the skills specified on the difficulty chart.
- 4.05 Movement in Swivel and Doubles** - Any maneuver completed in the Swivel and Doubles events that exceeds the standards for the division entered will **not** be scored for Artist Impression or Technical Merit.
- 4.06 Freestyle** - This event may be divided into multiple divisions as follows:
1. Intermediate Freestyle
    - a. Only one invert jump allowed
    - b. No one ski jumps allowed
  2. Open Freestyle
  3. Separate categories for male and female
- 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. Show Acts in individual competition, except for Team Jump, can be comprised of any eligible members of one region. Team membership is not required, except for Team Jump, as long as the competitor is a USA Water Ski member.
- 4.08 Team Jump**  
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 team jump at the Regional and National Tournaments with that team. All jump team members of a jump team must be members of the ski team that they are representing. Once a competitor enters any Regional Tournament with a jump team, then they may only participate in the National Tournament with the same team for the year that the Regional Tournament in which the jump team is qualifying. A Regional Tournament shall include all competition under one sanction.

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. Petitions for rules variance relative to the subject matter of this paragraph rule 6.02 will not be allowed without a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  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.

In the interest of broadening the geographic distribution at the National Show Tournament, and for the purpose of encouraging participation of under-represented regions, composite or aggregate jump teams from the South Central, Eastern, and Western Regions shall be allowed to participate at the National Tournaments, providing all of the following conditions are met:

1. 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.
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.

## **RULE 5 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.01 General Qualifications**

- 1. *Deadline for D1 and D2 National Tournament entries is July 15 of the current year.***
2. All participants competing in all classes of NSSA sanctioned tournaments must be affiliated with USA-WSWS.
3. Sponsoring National, Regional or State associations may also require membership in their organizations if stated in the tournament announcements. This rule shall be considered satisfied if the competitors meet such membership requirement prior to their own performance in the competition.
4. A skier shall be required to ski more than 50% of their on-water time, during the ten-week period preceding the tournament in the region in which they are qualifying for the National Tournament (individual acts only).
5. At Regional and National Tournament(s), a competitor in Swivel, Doubles, or Freestyle must be a USA citizen. In case of doubt as to the nationality of a competitor, the Judges normally will refer to his/her passport. Non-USA citizens may compete if there are open slots, but their scores will not be allowed in the final standings. Selection at a National Tournament will be based on the standard rotation. Team jump must have at least 75 percent USA or USA eligible skiers to have their scores counted for the final standings.
6. All paperwork will be submitted via electronic submission. If the tournament is not set up to accept electronic forms, it must be stated in the tournament announcement how the paperwork should be handled and the submission dates.
7. The sponsor may require forms #1-6 up to 24 hours before the start of the Individuals portion of the tournament. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a penalty of 100% of the entry fee for that tournament and must be paid before a competitor may compete.
8. All competitors' paperwork must be on file before the start of the Individuals portion of the competition or the competitor will not be allowed to ski.

### 5.01.1 Individual Tournament Paperwork Checklist

1. ( ) Copy of Competitors USA-WSWS card(s)
2. ( ) Copy of Pin Persons USA-WSWS card(s)
3. ( ) Copy of Boat Drivers USA-WSWS card(s) with certification (If using the tournament driver this is on file.) **If using a driver that will compete with a team at the same tournament, please note on the paperwork**
4. ( ) Roster for Team Jump only w/driver-rider-skier designated
5. ( ) Competitor Fact **Webcast Information** Sheet – 2 copies (DI and II National tournament and any other tournaments that are webcasted or shown on TV)
6. ( ) Current Judge's forms listed on the NSSA website specific to Swivel and Doubles specifying the name of the maneuver and the recommended point value assigned to that specific maneuver (15 copies)

It will be the responsibility of the **Sponsor and/or Tournament Chair to coordinate with** the Chief Scorer to ensure that all entry requirements and affiliations have been met prior to the start of the tournament.

**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**  
***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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 Failure to comply with rule 5 will result in a penalty of 50% of the fee for that tournament.**

### **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 –**  
***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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 competitor's performance.

**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 –**

***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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 same team with a competing team or individual events competitor.
  - a. A competitor in the division of the tournament in which they are one of the above listed official.
  - b. Actively participating on any team in any function. The intent is not to prohibit any official from participating in an occasional alumni, reunion, or other special occasion show with any given club, but should not exceed 10 hours annually.
  - c. Team USA members (IWWF World team) is not a conflict with other Team USA members or teams in that year unless competing in an event as Team USA.
2. 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 inclusive of significant others.
3. Accepting cash or other benefits except for nominal gifts that meet applicable NSSA standards. Receiving any compensation or remuneration from any team or competitor outside of any allowed travel, accommodations, food, or other direct tournament compensation.
4. Any special circumstances outside those listed above will be discussed and voted on by the NSSA Board.
5. Circumstances within 24 hours of the start of a tournament 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.

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-WSWS/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-WSWS/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 **if the towboat is driven by the Tournament Driver**. Errors in boat speeds selected under the 36 mph tolerance are optional rerides and speeds exceeding the 36 mph tolerance are mandatory rerides **if the towboat is driven by the Tournament Driver**. **If a personal driver is used, there will be no reride for bad boat path or speed**. A reride, or time pause, may be granted at the discretion of the Judges for special unforeseen circumstances when using either the Tournament Driver or personal driver.

**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, **freestyle jump**, and team acts competition, the competitors may use their own towboat(s) and driver(s) 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. In Show Acts competition, the competitors may supply their own boat(s) and driver(s) and provide a release operator. Information about the towboat and release shall be stated in the tournament announcements.

Teams that provide their own towboats must meet the ski show announcement requirements. All boats used in NSSA sanctioned events must have on board all safety equipment required for the event waterway location including but not limited to; proper flotation for all boat personnel, throw-able flotation, charged accessible fire extinguisher, and secured battery.

For freestyle jump competition, a competitor may use their own driver and towboat. The tournament-provided towboat and tested driver may also be used by all competitors. The freestyle jumper must provide a release operator wearing proper flotation.

### **Tested Driver Requirements**

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, a minimum of 50% of the drivers on the water must be NSSA tested drivers and a maximum of 50% of other towboat drivers on the water may have an NSSA learner's rating. The highest class boat must be a NSSA tested driver and the driver must be driving within the respective rating. Drivers on a learners permit must be driving a boat rated equal to or under the highest rated driver on the water.

- 5 towboats – Minimum of 3 tested drivers, maximum of 2 learners
- 4 towboats - Minimum of 2 tested drivers, maximum of 2 learners
- 3 towboats - Minimum of 2 tested drivers, maximum of 1 learner
- 2 towboats - Minimum of 1 tested driver, maximum of 1 learner

When multiple boats are driven, radio communication is required between all boats (towboats, pickup boats, and barges/pontoons) on the water as well as shore personnel. Boats such as a "Fliver" will be exempt from radio use if used for the sole purpose of a "clown" type act.

When only one class "A" boat is operated in an NSSA sanctioned event, a Class "A" learner's permit will be sufficient, as long as only a single rope is used with no more than a doubles couple ski behind the boat. A "Trained Driver" may drive an NSSA sanctioned event(s), as long as they only pull a single rope with no more than a doubles couple behind the boat. A "Trained Driver" may not drive in multiple boat patterns. A class "A" learner's permit will be good for two years and can only be renewed once. See the NSSA policies and procedures manual for how to acquire a learner's permit.

Any driver with a class "A" rating who is driving with a Class "B" boat must have a Class "B" learner's permit, which will be good for two years. Any driver with a class "B" rating who is driving with a Class "C" boat must have a Class "C" learner's permit, which will be good for two years. If a driver has an "A" or "B" rating the Class "B" and "C", respectively, learner's permits may be renewed every two years. Aspiring drivers for class "C" ratings must first pass requirements in a class "B" boat.

A driver who was previously rated in the last 5 years, and is returning to the NSSA sports division, may get a learner's permit for their last respective rating, but must retest on the water within two years. Any driver who has lapsed over 5 years must retake the written test and get a class "A" or "B" learners permit.

#### **Interpretation 1:**

The intent is that when driving multiple boats the highest rated boats being driven should be the highest rated tested driver.

#### **Interpretation 2:**

For swivel, doubles, and freestyle jump competition a minimum of a driver's "A" learner's rating or "trained driver" rating is required for a single engine boat. For swivel, doubles, and freestyle jump competition when a multi-engine boat is used, the driver is required to be driving in their respective rating. If a driver is not rated, then a tested driver equal to the boat rating (preferably the tournament

driver) must ride in the boat; the riding tested driver may not operate the release pin.

**Penalty**

During an NSSA sanctioned tournament, failure to follow the towboat rules will result in a point reduction (minimum 5%), and/or driver suspension, and/or team disqualification.

- 8.02 Pick-Up Boat** - The sponsor shall supply a pick-up boat to be manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter that may or may not be used at the discretion of the competitor. For show acts, the competitor(s) must use either the sponsor pickup boat or supply their own pickup boat. Show act competitors must supply a competent operator and spotter/rider for the pick-up boat. 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. The 12-20 inch range will be maintained with the dock edge, loaded with 1 to 24 average size skiers.
- 8.09 Sound System** - The sponsor shall provide the sound system and a competent operator for all competitors to use.

Instructions to the Sound Engineer:

As operator of the sound system for individual events, the sound engineer is responsible for playing music for the competitors. Competitors will bring music for their event to you prior to the competition. All music will be clearly labeled with name of competitor, track to be played, and directions. The sound engineer will take notes on how to present the competitors music during their competition time. The Sound Engineer will check music prior to the event to make sure it is in working condition. The Sound Engineer will report problems with the music to the Chief Judge prior to the event. An assistant or team representative can be used to assist with the playing of the music.

Music **may** be requested as stated in the tournament announcement in electronic version with requested format clearly detailed. Directions regarding music submittal can be found within tournament announcement/paperwork.

**RULE 9 – SCORING**

***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

- 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

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.

Spins or Maneuvers performed on the water during Individual Acts Competition, must stay within the specific sport discipline in order to be scored for Technical Merit or Artistic Impression (i.e., Barefooting, jumping, ATB would not receive a score).

**Falls:** If the competitor(s) fall a 1.0 point deduction per fall will be automatically deducted from this point total. If at any time prior to the 5 minute end of competition horn a competitor in swivel or doubles gets pinned or lets go of the rope, other than while skiing to shore, it will be considered a fall and scored accordingly.

Falls interpretation. In order to instill more consistency with regard to how falls affect the individual competitor the one point deduction per fall will be applied after the final score is given by the judge. Judges will not consider the fall in assessment of points on technical merit. However, the fall should affect the artistic impression portion of the judge's score in that it disrupts smooth transition of maneuvers.

The point per fall deduction will occur prior to any penalty being applied.

In Doubles, a 1.0-point deduction will be automatically deducted from the competitor's final score, before any penalty, for disproportionate partners. A doubles couple is considered disproportionate if the top of the head of the partner being lifted does not meet or exceed the height the of the skiing partner's shoulder.

The definition of Technical Merit, Artistic Impression, Overheads and Spins

1. **Technical Merit:** Technical merit, difficulty, and execution = what elements were attempted, how difficult they were, and how cleanly they were performed.
  - How difficult and clean the skills were.
  - Credit for completing more complex elements.
  - Execution matters — falls, wobbles, or foot dragging or dipping in the water, continuous cadence of spins.
  - Proper body position/posture achieved (also think ballet/dance, turn-out, toe point).

Think: What did the skier do, and how well did they execute it?

Technical Merit (objective: "what did you do and how cleanly?")

2. **Artistic Impression:** Artistic impression, spectator appeal, and flow = skier performs seamless, musical, expressive, and naturally connected, not like a checklist of skills.
  - Flow across the water (form, lines, posture, smoothness of transitions between skills).
  - Style, carriage, and musical interpretation.
  - Choreography, originality, and how complete the performance felt.
  - The “feeling” the skier gave the audience and judges.
  - Dock routine, start, corners, landing, and stage work.
  - Captivate the audience and showmanship.

Think: How beautifully did the skier present it, and did it move you?

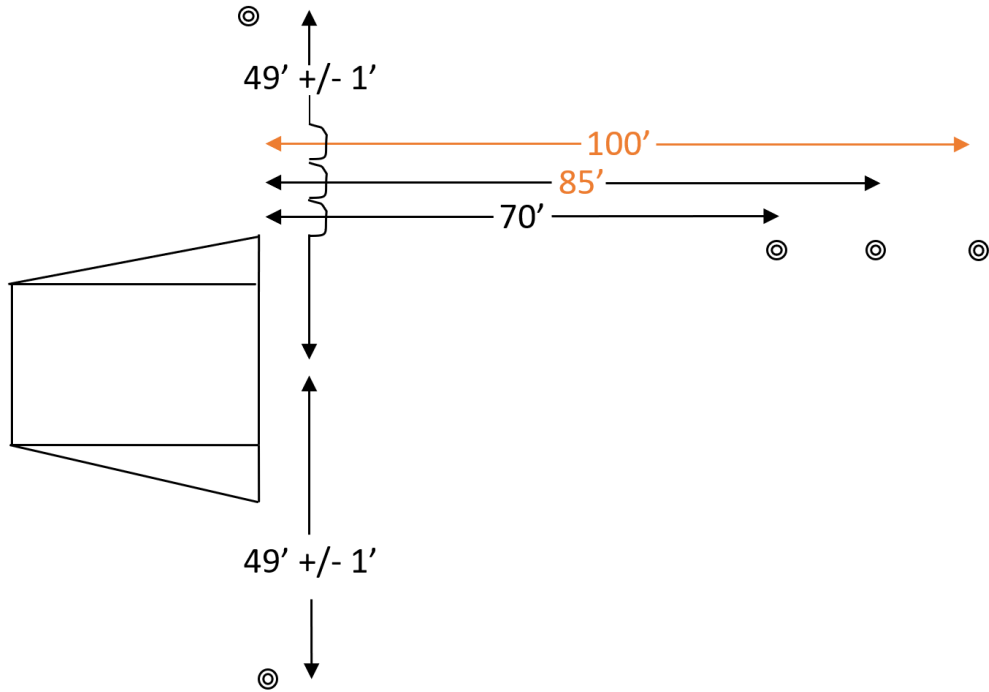
Artistic Impression (subjective/artistic: “how did you present it?”)

3. **Definition of a 360 Overhead spin on a Swivel Ski:** Hand(s) and handle must remain higher than the head, and over the head during the span of the maneuver, i.e. not a push out, or triceps curl.
4. **Definition of a multiple overhead spin on a Swivel Ski:** Continuous movement of the whole body and handle, with the handle located above the head for the entire rotation at a somewhat consistent height, with the handle not dropping below the head. The rotation should have a consistent, continuous cadence, and should never stop.
5. **Definition of a multiple spin in strap doubles:** Top should spin (i.e., table top, drape, skater) in a continuous cadence, no pauses or rocking movement, with tight correct form maintained throughout the spin.

### 9.03 Freestyle Jump –

#### ***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it’s in the Tournament Announcements***

1. 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.
  - a. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet (+/- 1 inch).
  - b. Surface width: 14 feet at all points ±2 inches.
  - c. Surface length out of water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
  - d. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
  - e. 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.
  - f. Buoy: 49 feet ±1 foot from the middle of the jump surface to both the right and left of the jump as you approach to go off it. The buoys shall also be in a line even with the take-off edge of the jump. Also, for Regional and National tournaments, there will be unobtrusive 70ft., 85ft., and 100ft. distance marker buoys. The 70, 85, and 100ft. buoys are optional at other tournaments.
  - g. Boat guide buoys and setup buoys.



- h. Along with the 70 ft., 85ft., and 100ft. distance buoys, there shall be corresponding 70 foot, 85 foot, and 100 foot markers on shore. These markers will be used to form a line with their corresponding water buoy in order to ensure a consistent measurement.
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. Scores will be awarded from 0 to 10 points in 1/2 point intervals. An attempted trick which becomes another is scored zero (e.g., a badly skewed Mobius does not qualify as a Helicopter). Scores are based on the following 3 categories:

### Freestyle Scoring

1 Point: On the ramp

- No Crush
- Trick initiated off top of ramp
- Fully extend off top
- Skier is setting trick within a 45 degree cone perpendicular to the water.

5 Points: In the air

- Skis overhead on inverts  
Skis must travel through a 45 degree cone that is perpendicular to the water with its starting point being at the skiers waist. The skier must also rotate on an axis that is through the hips and not through the belly button.
- Vertical on Heli's/720's
- Amplitude.  
Amplitude is a combination of the skiers' height and distance. This criteria is used to compare skiers against each other in a given tournament.
- Form/style.  
Skis together, laid out when applicable, neutral handle position.
- Fluidity.  
Trick done in one smooth motion, under control, smooth clean look.

#### 4 Points: Landing

- Skis together
- No dust off (i.e., butt dunk, arm/hand drag)
- No additional body parts touch other than the feet. (to recover)
- Minimal crush
- Controlled landing

#### Deductions

On the ramp	Range
• Crush	0.5 - 1.0
• Not extended	0.5 - 1.0
• Initiating early	0.5 - 1.0
• Slipping out	0.5 - 1.0
• Body part contact with ramp	1.0

In the air	Range
• Skis not overhead (If the skis fall outside of the 45-degree cone, the air portion will score a 0.)	1.0 - 5.0
• Not laid out when applicable	0.5 - 4.0
• Off axis when applicable	0.5 - 5.0
• Skis not together	0.5 - 2.0
• Skis touching rope	0.5 - 1.0
• Fluidity	1.0 - 3.0
• Amplitude	0.5 - 5.0
• Form	0.5 - 4.0

#### Forward Landing

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • 90-degree knee bend or less. Body in control   | 0 - 1 |
| • Knee bend slightly more than 90 degrees. No butt dunk.                                     | 1 - 2 |
| • Skier butt dunks, but not aggressively. Skier easily resumes proper skiing position.       | 2 - 3 |
| • Heavy butt dunk. Lots of help from water and skier works to resume proper skiing position. | 3 - 4 |
| • Skiers body drags on water and skier tumbles up  | 4     |

#### Backward Landing

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • 90-degree knee bend or less. Body in control   | 0 - 1 |
| • Bend at waist where skiers head breaks plane of their waist and/or hand briefly touches the water. | 1 - 2 |
| • Heavy bend at waist and/or long hand drag. Skier works hard to resume proper skiing position.      | 2 - 3 |
| • Skier slides sideways but is able to recover backwards. This could include a hand drag.            | 3 - 4 |
| • Skier slides sideways and recovers forwards, or body drags on water and tumbles up any direction.  | 4     |

3. Competitors shall receive three passes at the ramp set at 5-1/2 feet in which they may attempt maneuvers as listed in [the NSSA Freestyle Difficulty Chart](#). A repeat of a previous successful maneuver shall NOT score zero and the competitor may use the higher score of a repeated trick.
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 Regional and National Show Tournaments, the distance of the freestyle jump shall be factored into the final score with a **potential** bonus of 10%, 25%, or 40%. Sponsoring hosts shall provide additional 70ft., 85ft., and 100ft. distance buoys placed in a manner which will not affect the jumpers landing. In the event that a tournament site has a verified and reputable distance jump measuring system in place and can effectively measure skier's distances. This system can be used in place of the distance buoys. To determine the skier's score, calculate individual jump scores from the above paragraph and multiply the total by 1.1 if they reached or passed the 70-foot distance buoy, 1.25 if they reached or passed the 85 foot buoy, or 1.40 if they reached or passed the 100 foot buoy. The sum of the two highest scores for each skier shall determine their final score for placement.

The distance of the jump is measured at the point where the plume of water is created by the jumpers landing.

6. Valid Freestyle Maneuvers and Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be listed on the current NSSA approved Freestyle Difficulty Chart.
7. A new maneuver, along with a suggested DOD and video, must be submitted to the NSSA Freestyle Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament to be scored in a tournament.

The Freestyle Committee will:

- a. Require a video of the suggested trick.
  - b. Decide whether to include the maneuver temporarily in the rules.
  - c. Establish a DOD at the minimum level accepted by the majority of the Committee.
  - d. Establish any special rule descriptions for the new maneuver
  - e. Present this for a permanent rule change at either the Fall or Winter NSSA meeting.
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 directly over the head at one time during the execution of the maneuver to receive full 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 under turn will affect their score. In the case of an Air Raley, the skier's feet must go higher than their head to receive full credit.

8.1 There will be an official "Cone Judge" (Chief Judge, when feasible, or another knowledgeable person without a conflict of interest) placed at a point determined as to the best vantage point to determine whether the skier's skis go over the head and/or are past the acceptable 45-degree cone. In the event of a close call, the "Cone Judge" can ask for verification from the Chief Judge.

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 ride out. No adjustments in boat speed are allowed to assist recoveries. Speeds may be chosen in the range up to 36 MPH in 1 MPH increments and are considered accurate if held within plus or minus 1 MPH on the speedometer. One official (if using a personal driver) or the Tournament boat driver (if used) 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 or left side of the ramp and parallel to the jump depending upon the skiers' preference.
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.

13. Points of clarification:

- a. Backwards approach to the ramp is acceptable
- b. Ski Changes are okay, as well as the use of Wake Skis (Skates).
- c. A plume of water is a column of water that is formed at the point of the biggest impact when the skier hits the water.

14. In the situation of equipment damage, the competitor must alert the boat crew before the boat starts its approach to the ramp (whether that is a pull out of the water, or the boat turns back toward the jump from its back path). After the notification, the skier will receive 5 minutes to replace or fix the ski prior to returning to the competition. During the 5 minute "time-out" the other skiers in that set continue their rotation. When the affected skier returns, they jump into the rotation wherever that may be.

15. Once the boat starts toward the jump, it will count as a jump, even if the skier skis by or balks, unless there is a re-ride granted by the Chief Judge for extenuating circumstances such as rough water.

16. A camera must be used to assist in an immediate decision by ONLY the cone judge and the distance judges. No after the fact usage of the video allowed. The intent is to only use the video when necessary to qualify the yes/no decision of a Cone Violation or that the distance buoy was achieved. This is NOT using the video to score the jump. The Chief Judge can weigh in on evaluating the video and make the final decision.

17. During Regional and National Tournaments, Freestyle Jumpers will be able to use their own personal drivers provided they meet the appropriate criteria as outlined under Rule 8.01 Individuals and Show Acts Competition.

Skiers will go one at a time and complete all 3 of their jumps. Each skier will be given a maximum time of 7 minutes to complete their 3 jumps. A maximum of 2 minutes in between each jumper may be allotted to ensure that the water has calmed down. Competition time alerts are:

- a. A single horn sounds to start the time when the skier has a tight line within the 750' buoys.
- b. A different sound (and flag wave in the boat) indicates 30 seconds of time remaining.
- c. A double horn sounds to indicate the end of the 7 minutes.

An official boat judge is positioned in each boat to ensure that:

- a. There is a constant speed and there are no speed adjustments on the landing.
- b. Wave a Flag when there are 30 seconds of time remaining.

Any jump not completed by the end of the 7 minutes will be scored a zero. This means the skier must be standing up in a normal skiing position before the final

horn sounds. If there is a tight line at the sound of the final horn, the skier will be penalized 5% of their entire score.

Once the final horn sounds, a maximum of 2 minutes may be allotted before the next skier takes off. If the next skier is unable to start at the 2-minute mark due to actions of the competitor or personal driver of the skier before them, the skier before them will be penalized 5% of their entire score. If the problem is caused by the Tournament Driver, there is no penalty.

**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. This includes Fly Board/ Hydro Board and Hang Glider/Kite.
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 **properly secured**.
  - 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 **properly secured** while skiers are on the water.
  - h. 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.
  - i. Hydrofoil
  - j. Fly Board/Hydro Board
  - k. Hang Glide/ Kite

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. Failure to keep a barefooter from skiing into stationary objects such as docks, boats, trees, etc. will result in a 5% deduction.
8. Helmets must be worn by all jumpers making an approach to the main jump or mini-ramp with the exception of dive outs, run outs, or barefoot starts. Failure to wear a helmet in these cases will result in a 5% deduction.

**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**

##### ***Grassroots Exempt – Providing it's in the Tournament Announcements***

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 pickup boat must be used.
3. The tournament Sponsor will make available a pickup boat for the competition. The competing team must supply or approve the pickup boat personnel.
4. Competing jump teams shall be allowed to insert jumps and not have those jumps considered in overall act score. This shall be done by listing the activity and indicating on a NSSA Judge's Form with the words "do not score or DNS." Minimally, a Do Not Score needs to be at a boat level, so anything behind a boat is either scored or not scored. Any jump team choosing to use DNS must turn in a NSSA Judges Form with all other paperwork so as to follow the General Qualifications - Rule 5.01

#### **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. Attachment points shall not extend above the surface of the jump/ramp at any time.

A Mini Jump/Mini Ramp is required for the Division 1 National Tournament.

Mini Jump/Mini Ramp specifications for the Division 1 National Tournament (Effective January 1, 2027):

- a. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet (+/- 1 inch).
- b. Surface width: 8 feet at all points ±2 inches.
- c. Surface length out of water: 20 feet to 22 feet evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
- d. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly (+/- 2 inches within the range).
- e. Attachment points shall not extend above the surface.

Inclined ramps should be placed in such a manner that the landing area, defined as a 16' by 60' box, is angled away from shore.

10.07.01 A Skier going over an Inclined Ramp must land in a reasonable and appropriate depth of water that does not place the skier at risk for incident and/or injury.

10.07.02 Anyone going over an inclined ramp must line up with the inside edge of the ramp, closest to the boat. For multiple riders over the ramp, the only cuts permitted are those check cuts required for spacing.

10.07.03 No dive or run outs are permitted off an inclined ramp

5% penalty for failure to comply with 10.07.01, 10.07.02, 10.07.03

**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. **Failure of competitor to be present at the meeting will result with a penalty of 50% of the entry fee for that Tournament.**

**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 may receive up to a 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".

**11.03 Officials complaints** - Any complaint of any official working a given tournament must be submitted IN WRITING and signed by the person making an allegation against the official. The complaints must be submitted to the chairperson of the Official's Committee or the President of NSSA within 48 hours following a tournament. The complaint shall include the Name of the Official and the capacity in which they served at the tournament and shall be specific in terms of any alleged rule infraction or other concern.

## **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.

**Judges Meetings** - All judges meeting addressing potential penalties shall be documented in the post show judges meeting report regardless of outcome. Noted shall be the name of the official calling the meeting, the issue or potential rule violation, the proposed action recommended, and any significant information germane to the discussion.

## **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.
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.

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.
  - a. 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 – Technical merit, difficulty, and execution = what elements were attempted, how difficult they were, and how cleanly they were performed.
  - How difficult and clean the skills were.
  - Credit for completing more complex elements.
  - Execution matters — falls, wobbles, or foot dragging or dipping in the water, continuous cadence of spins.
  - Proper body position/posture achieved (also think ballet/dance, turn-out, toe point).

Think: What did the skier do, and how well did they execute it?

Technical Merit (objective: "what did you do and how cleanly?")

2. **Artistic Impression** - Artistic impression, spectator appeal, and flow = skier performs seamless, musical, expressive, and naturally connected, not like a checklist of skills.
  - Flow across the water (form, lines, posture, smoothness of transitions between skills).
  - Style, carriage, and musical interpretation.
  - Choreography, originality, and how complete the performance felt.
  - The "feeling" the skier gave the audience and judges.
  - Dock routine, start, corners, landing, and stage work.
  - Captivate the audience and showmanship.

Think: How beautifully did the skier present it, and did it move you?

Artistic Impression (subjective/artistic: "how did you present it?")

An automatic 1.0 point deduction per fall will occur after the scorer's arrive at the competitors' final score.

**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.

### **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.).

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.

Upon verification of any penalty points, including 1.0 point deduction per fall for swivel and doubles competition, by the Chief Judge, you will have to deduct them from the final score.

### **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 for ensuring that the figures are correct, by checking and rechecking the final results.

### **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 backup-timer.

Freestyle Jumping [competition timing is different and is listed in Rule 9.03\(17\)](#).

- 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 Tournament Announcer(s)**

As the tournament announcer you are responsible for many things that will help the fans understand the tournament by:

1. Welcoming them to the tournament and letting them know a bit about the site and the LOC
2. Publicizing the sponsors of the tournament (LOC sponsors, Trophy sponsors, Regional, National sponsors, etc.)
3. Letting the crowd know about a lull, i.e., break in the action such as a stop for a safety.
4. Announcing that "What you see in these shows and acts are thoroughly practiced and should not be done without the proper training"
5. Be prepared to announce the final scores describing what the trophy is for, how it is decided, the sponsor of the trophy and finally the winner.

### **Section 9 - 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 10 - 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-WSWS's Competition Department.