



Technical Controller Policy Manual

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PURPOSE

The AWSA Technical Controllers' (TC) Development Program is designed to provide each individual with the experience and knowledge necessary to create the best possible environment for competitive water skiers. It is the goal of this program to improve the skill levels of these officials while ensuring consistency of expertise

Level 3 Homologator (H3 National/Federation) (AWSA Regular TC)

Level 2 Homologator (H2 National/Federation) (AWSA Senior TC).

Level 1 Homologator (H1 International) (AWSA Senior TC).

Advancement to all rating levels (AWSA REGULAR, SENIOR and AMBASSADOR) is achieved through the three steps of education, participation, and evaluation, common to all AWSA officials' development programs.

All Record Tournament (Class E/L/R) must have a Technical Controller (Homologator) that certify the site/tournament under both AWSA and International Water Ski Federation (IWWF). IWWF Rule book reference Homologator and AWSA rule book reference Technical Controller (TC) (both names mean the same and have the same responsibilities. IWWF Rule Book identifies the Homologator Levels (H3, H2, H1) and what each level may work.

DEFINITIONS

Level 3 Homologator (IWWF H3 National/Federation) (AWSA Regular TC): A Level 3 Homologator (Regular TC /NATIONAL TC) may serve as Chief TC at a Class E or C tournament. For Class L/R where the Level 2 Homologator (Senior TC) had to leave in case of emergency, the Level 3 Homologator (Regular TC) may fill in his/her duties to allow the tournament to continue. In areas where a Level 2 Homologator (Senior TC) is not available, the Regional Executive Vice President may approve, along with the Regional TC Committee Member and AWSA TC Chairman the use of a Level 3 (Regular TC) as the Level 2 Homologator (Senior TC) for a Class L or E tournament (NOT Class R).

Level 2 Homologator (IWWF H2 National/Federation) (AWSA Senior TC): IWWF rule book identifies what a Level 2 Homologator may work. A Level 2 Homologator (Senior TC) may chief or work at any USA Class L or R sanction tournament. May work under Level 1 Homologator (H1) at IWWF Word or Federation Championship.

Level 1 Homologator (IWWF H1 International): IWWF rule book identifies what a Level 1 Homologator may work. A Level 1 Homologator (H1) may Chief or homologate any tournament. A Level 1 Homologator may chief a IWWF Word or Confederation Championship.

Ambassador Technical Controller (AWSA): The highest rating in AWSA as a Technical Controller. Someone who has served more than 20 years and has made significant and lasting contribution towards technology in water skiing, and continues to be a mentor to other TCs. An Ambassador TC may serve as a Chief TC at any USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned tournaments or IWWF Sanction tournament in the world.

Homologation (from the verb homologate, meaning to approve or confirm officially) is the certification of a product or specification to indicate that it meets regulatory standards.

STEP ONE - EDUCATION

Education is provided through USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) -sanctioned AWSA Technical Controller Clinics. The classroom provides a more comfortable environment than that of the fast-paced tournament setting, but for TC Clinic, portion must be performed on the lake.

Clinics are conducted by Level 1 or 2 Homologator (Senior TC) selected by the Regional TC Committee representatives. Clinic instructors may be located by going to the “Officials’ Resources” section of USA-WSWS Web site and selecting “Officials’ Directory.” Select the applicable checkboxes for the area to be searched and select the following options:

- Sport Discipline = “AWS”

There is a USA-WSWS clinic registration fee for each clinic participant. A clinic may also count as one of the required tournament maintenance credits.

Clinic Maintenance Requirements: In order to maintain their rating, all Level 3 (H3) (AWSA Regular) and Level 1(H1) and Level 2(H2) (AWSA Senior TC) must attend an Officials’ Clinic once every four (4) years. USA-WSWS will notify all officials that they must attend a clinic early in the last year of this time frame. If an official need to attend a clinic, it is his/her responsibility to contact his Regional Committee representative. Officials may apply with their Regional Committee representative to complete an online clinic for maintenance credit, where a formal Officials' Clinic is not available in their area.

Single or two-event officials must attend those portions of the clinic specifically dealing with their rating, as well as all general presentations or modules.

Failure to comply with clinic maintenance requirements will result in an automatic downgrade to the next lower rating.

Clinic Upgrade Requirements: (Level 3/Regular to Level 1 or 2/Senior) Attendance at a hands-on (at the lake) clinic is required to upgrade to Senior status. This clinic must occur after having been a Regular for one year.

Clinic Credit for Instructors and Participants: Clinic instructors are not required to pay a clinic registration fee but receive full credit toward clinic maintenance requirements.

Clinic Duration: It is recommended that a on line clinic for maintenance on all three events include at least 6 hours. Clinic for Regular or Senior Rating for all three events include at least 1 and ½ days (12 hours).

STEP TWO – PARTICIPATION

There are quantitative requirements to be met to attain, maintain or upgrade a TC rating. Typically, these requirements are attained by working in a variety of capacities at tournaments, sanctioned by USA-WSWS /AWSA, to gain experience. AWSA publishes "[TC Quantitative Requirements](#)" for all levels.

Three, Two or Single Event Ratings: An individual working to acquire, maintain, or upgrade a rating must complete the quantitative requirements for each event for which he is seeking/maintaining the rating. For Trick Maintenance only, if slalom or jump quantitative requirements were met, the trick event credit can be carried over. You will need to contact AWSA to have the trick credit updated in the data base.

Rating Maintenance: Level 3 (H3) (AWSA Regular) and Level 1(H1) or 2 (H2) (AWSA Senior TC) need to complete the four year tournament requirements published in AWSA's "[TC Quantitative Requirements](#)" to maintain their ratings. For Trick, see statement above. It is not required to maintain your Judge's Rating once you have obtained the Regular/Senior TC Rating.

Rating Upgrade: There are quantitative requirements to be met to advance from a Level 3 (H3) (AWSA Regular) to a Level 1(H1) or 2(H2) (AWSA Senior TC). Work performed is recorded on the scoring computer's data file at each tournament, and should also be recorded by the official on the Tournament Officials' Record sheet, as a backup. It is the responsibility of the official to ensure that his work is accurately recorded, and for verifying that their work credits are posted to the online official's system. Need to have a Level 3(J3) (AWSA Regular) Judge's Rating in one of the events (slalom/jump/trick) to upgrade from Regular to Senior TC.

Aspiring Level 3(H3) Homologator (AWSA REGULAR TC): Individuals seeking a Level 3 (REGULAR TC) rating use an "[Application for Level 3 Homologation \(H3\) \(AWSA Regular TC\)](#)" TC form, available on the USA-WSWS Web site, which lists the duties to be performed to acquire the rating.

An Aspiring Level 3(H3) (AWSA Regular TC) shall meet the following:

- Minimum Age 21.
- Minimum An Assistant Judges Rating in one of the events (Slalom/Jump/Tricks) and should maintained it to hold the H3 rating.
- Work minimum of 3 tournaments under a Level 2 or 1 Homologator and obtain his/her approval.
- Coordinate with the Chief Scorer to ensure work credits are reported in the scorebook.
- Complete the Level 3 Homologation (AWSA Regular) Application Form within 3 years.

Once the completed form is sent to USA-WSWS and verified, the aspiring TC will receive an e-mail notification with instructions on how to print a TC qualification card indicating a Level 3 Homologator (REGULAR TC) rating. The purpose of a Level 3 Homologator (H3) (AWSA REGULAR TC) rating is to ensure that all duties required as a Technical Controller are performed under the supervision of a Level 1 or 2 (H1/H2) Homologator (AWSA Senior TC) prior to achieving a Level 2 (H2) (AWSA Senior TC rating).

Aspiring Level 2 (H2 Homologator (AWSA SENIOR TC): – Individuals seeking a Level 2 (H2) Homologator (AWSA REGULAR TC) rating use an [“Application for Level 2 Homologation \(H3\) \(AWSA Senior TC\)”](#) TC form, available on USA-WSWS Web site, which lists the duties to be performed to acquire the rating.

Aspiring Level 2 (H2) (AWSA Senior TC) shall meet the following:

- Minimum Age 22 (Age 21 required for Level 3).
- Hold Level 3 (H2) (AWSA Regular TC) for a minimum of 1 year.
- Hold a Level 3 (J3) (AWSA Regular) Judges Rating in one of the events (Slalom/Jump/Tricks). He/She must demonstrate that they understand the rules for the event applying for.
- Perform ALL duties as a Level 2 (H2) under a Level 1 or 2 (H1/H2) at three (3) different sites, under 3 different Level 1 (H1) or Level 2 (H2) Homologator. This provides more relevant experience.
- Obtain Approval from Chief Judges and Chief Homologator (H1/H2) that all duties were completed without any issues.
- Complete an UPGRADE Homologation Test.

Aspiring Level 1 (H1) Homologator: Level 1 (H1) is required to Chief an IWWF Worlds or Confederation Championship. Aspiring Level 1 (H1) shall meet the following:

- Minimum age 25.
- Must hold a 3 Event H2 for minimum of 5 years.
- Worked 3 Major Events as Homologator or Chief Homologator (example- National Championship, Confederation, Elite-Pro Event, etc)
- Pass an H1 examination test (80%) written in English and approved by the IWWF Homologation Committee. This test will be administrated and graded by AWSA TC Chairman or TC Committee Member.
- Approved by AWSA TC Committee
- AWSA TC Chairman update the EMS Program.

Tournament Credit

Officials should hold the necessary rating (senior, regular) to work each class of tournament (R, L, E, C or F) as set forth in the AWSA Rule Book. To receive credit for slalom or jump at a Class C Tournament, a Barefoot Tournament or Disable Tournament, the TC must have performed the same duties as if it was a Class R/L/E tournament (setup/verify) and ensure that it is recorded in the SCORE BOOK as performing those duties. Need to contact AWSA HQ for Disable/Barefoot to get credit, since the computer does not auto cross reference the different disciplines to get Tournament Credits.

Regional/National Tournament Credit for Aspiring TC: Credit may be obtained by work performed at either a Regional or National (NCWSA All-Stars and Nationals, Barefoot Regional/National, Disable Regional/National), USA Team Trail, Major ELITE tournament, including work at both tournaments during the same year. This shall count toward fulfilling the quantitative requirement of Regional/National Tournament attendance for upgrading to Senior. The Regional and National Tournament for Regular TC may be waived if all the tournaments credit were obtained at a Record Tournament.

Work Abroad: Work performed according to our guidelines in non- USA-WSWS /AWSA-sanctioned Record Capability tournaments taking place outside of the country will be credited upon submission of proof of performance to USA-WSWS.

STEP THREE - EVALUATION (TESTING FOR UPGRADE)

The program offers single event, two-event or three-event as well as cross-over ratings (i.e., Senior rating in one event, Regular in the other two).

Testing Procedures: Once **ALL** quantitative requirements (including a clinic) are complete for a given rating level, officials should contact USA-WSWS Headquarters' Officials' Coordinator to request that their work be verified. USA-WSWS will do so, and explain what is necessary to complete the written exams. Currently there is not a written test for aspiring Regular TC.

The Level 1 or 2 Homologator (H1/H2) (AWSA Senior TC) written tests are emailed from USA-WSWS Headquarters or the TC Chairman, completed at home as open-book and sent back to USA-WSWS /TC Chairman for grading. Upon passing the written test, aspiring TC will be Senior TC.

Written Test Format: The open book tests for Level 2 Homologator (H2) (AWSA Senior TCs) consist of questions relating to the slalom, tricks and jump events, along with questions of general application. Passing percentages are:

- Level 2 (H2) (AWSA Senior TC): 85% for each event, plus 85% for general considerations section

Practical Test Format: There is not a formal practical exam for Level 3 or 2 Homologator (TC), the clinic instructor is to ensure before signing off for Clinic, that you have demonstrated that you can complete the necessary duties of TC.

HARDSHIP

The TC Committee has the responsibility of ensuring that all officials have the skills necessary to guarantee skiers the best possible environment and that these skills have not eroded because of a lack of practice. There are, however, exceptional situations that prevent an official from meeting the renewal requirements. An excusable hardship involves an event or condition over which an official has no control. In other words, the event or condition is not self-imposed and personal choice has not been exercised.

Each request for hardship will be considered on its own merits. Hardships will not be granted for ability, prior qualifications, personality or length of service. Hardships are not renewable.

The following are hardship examples and are not all inclusive:

- Excusable Conditions:
 1. Medical problems - major injury or illness, surgery, etc.
 2. Military Duty
 3. Temporary job assignments lasting two months or more over which the official has no control
 4. Pregnancy

- Inexcusable Conditions:
 1. Non-awareness of renewal requirements
 2. Personal error in record keeping
 3. Lack of tournament attendance due to other personal activities

An individual applying for hardship may obtain the hardship petition form from USA-WSWS (officials@usawaterski.org) "[HARDSHIP RENEWAL PETITION](#)" and should complete and return it to their Regional TCs' Committee Representative. The representative will in turn forward the form with a recommendation (yes or no) to the TC Chairman. The TC Chairman will obtain approval/disapproval from all the TC Committee Members, then the final recommendation will be forward to USA-WSWS. The petitioner will be informed via email from USA-WSWS on the approval or denial of his request. In most cases, a make-up clinic (online or in person) will be required in lieu of missing tournament credits. The deadline for submission is May 31 of the year following downgrade or 60 days after official USA-WSWS notification of the downgrade, whichever is later.

REINSTATEMENT

Any official who is not granted renewal due to his lack of work in a given calendar year (for example, 2018) loses his rating as of January 1 of the next year (2019 in this example), although a "grace period" to complete any clinic requirements is given through May 31st of the following year. Any official seeking reinstatement after being downgraded must apply for reinstatement within five (5) years.

TC applying for reinstatement must have held the rating applied for within the last three (3) years as verified by USA-WSWS Headquarters. Those applicants not meeting this requirement must start over again. Once an TC is reinstated at a given rating, unless he is reinstated as a Senior, he regains all credit he had originally obtained toward advancement to the next rating.

RETIRED STATUS

Senior TCs may retire at their present rating levels provided they have held a Senior rating for a minimum of five (5) years. Retirement means that no further officiating is allowed. If during the next five (5) years, they wish to work tournaments again, they will be awarded their former ratings upon attending a clinic and successfully completing written exams. This procedure permits all TCs to retire with dignity if they are no longer able to work at tournaments and have not met the requirements for Ambassador.

To apply, the official must send a letter requesting "Retired" status to USA-WSWS, Attention Officials' Programs (officials@usawaterski.org), their regional Judges' and Scorers' Committee representative and their Regional Executive Vice President. USA-WSWS Headquarters will send the candidate a letter of confirmation and a certificate honoring their years of service.

AMBASSADOR (EMERITUS)

A Senior Tech Controller may be recognized as a Senior Tech Controller Ambassador if he/she has made a significant and lasting contribution to the sport of water skiing during many years of service. Although there is no application form, certain requirements, listed below, must be met. The intent is to honor these individuals, prevent forced retirement and allow them to stay in the ranks to use and share their expertise and experience.

TC Ambassador Requirements

1. The applicant must have been an active Technical Controller/Homologator for twenty (20) years or more (need not be active at time of submission).
2. Technical Controller/Homologator must have acted in some capacity on the National or World level, for example, Technical Controller at the Nationals/Worlds (appointed or assigned); member of a National/IWWF Committee; Regional TC Chairman; Chief Technical Controller at a Regional tournament;
3. The applicant may send a written request to his Regional TC Committee/AWSA TC Chairman representative that he/she be allowed to move to this position if he meets the above requirements OR the TC Committee may elect a person that meets these are requirements.
4. The 5 regional TC Committee members, plus TC Chairmen(s) representative must vote on the request (majority vote - 3/5).
5. Upon receiving the TC Committee approval, at the request of the committee chairperson, the candidate will be presented to the AWSA Board of Directors for final approval (majority vote).
6. After final approval, USA-WSWS will notify the applicant and provide instructions on how to print an updated official's qualification card which allows the official to serve as Chief Technical Controller or as an Assistant in any tournament up to and including Class R event.
7. The Ambassador Technical Controller should remain active in the technical changes and keep up with the latest technical changes; and becomes a mentor to the new/up-coming technical controllers.
8. There are no maintenance requirements (tournaments/clinics) for this rating other than maintaining a current USA-WSWS membership (minimum of supporting membership; Active membership required to officiate).