

# COMPETITIVE WAKE SURFING COMPETITION GUIDELINES



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## **PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1.1. CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **1.1.1. Applicable to All Competitors, Judges, Event Organizers, Event Staff, Volunteers, Spectators and Participants**

All individuals in any capacity attending any CWSA related Event shall be bound by this Code of Conduct. Such compliance requires at a minimum respect for CWSA organization, Event sponsors, Event Organizers, Judges, opponents, CWSA Representatives, spectators, members of the media or any other person within the designated Event site; respect for facilities, privileges and operation procedures at Events; the use of courtesy and good manners at Events; acting responsibly and maturely at Events; refraining from any visible gesture which is commonly understood to be derogatory, profane, and/or highly offensive, or would indicate a sexually explicit act; and refraining from intentional and purposeful display and or exposure of nudity; and refraining from the use of:

- a. profane or abusive language at Event venues (in any language);
- b. illegal (e.g. under age) or immoderate use of alcohol at Event venues; and
- c. the use of illegal drugs at any Event venue.

No individual subject to this Code of Conduct shall directly or indirectly verbally disparage any Event official, competitor, Judge, Event sponsor, CWSA Representative, or member of the media. During Events, this provision also includes spectators, or any other person within the designated Event area. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, verbal disparagement is defined as any oral statement about one or more of the aforementioned persons that: threatens harm; instills fear; implies dishonesty; is derogatory; consists of profanity; or is otherwise highly offensive.

No individual subject to this Policy shall physically assault any Event official, Event staff (including volunteer), competitor, member of the media, spectator or any other person within the designated Event area. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, physical assault is defined as any battery or assault including any attempt to commit a battery and/or assault. All forms of shoving, fighting, mutual combat or the like are considered violations of this Code of Conduct. All persons should be aware that physical violence has no place in wake surfing and will not be tolerated. An act deemed by the Event Organizer or Head Judge to be an act entirely in self-defense will not amount to a violation of this Code of Conduct. If it is immediately clear to the Head Judge, or Event Organizer which individual or individuals were the initial aggressor of the incident, then that individual shall be disqualified from the remainder of that Event and shall be removed from the Event venue for the remaining duration of the Event. Any individual involved in an incident of physical assault (which includes throwing a punch regardless of whether it connects) will be also subject to exclusion from

the Event venue for the remaining duration of the Event, and may be subject to loss or suspension of the rights and privileges of CWSA membership.

There is no tolerance for any form of discrimination, sexual harassment or abuse in the sport of wake surfing. Any individual subject to this Policy who engages in discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual abuse in any way associated with the sport of wake surfing may be subject to disciplinary action by the CWSA Board of Directors, including expulsion from membership, and loss or suspension of the rights and privileges of CWSA membership.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of expected and prohibited conduct but merely a general guideline. Any person attending any CWSA event and found to violate this Code of Conduct by the Event Head Judge or Event Organizer shall be subject to removal from an Event, and may be barred from participation at future CWSA related events.

Any CWSA member aggrieved by a disciplinary action taken by a Head Judge, Event Organizer or the CWSA Board of Directors may request a review as set forth in Articles VIII and IX of the By Laws of the Competitive Wake Surf Association, Inc.

#### 1.1.2. Specific to Competitors

##### Competitors **shall not**:

- a. on or off the Event venue, before, during, or after the competition engage in public tantrums related to the Event, fail to attend designated mandatory functions or events, consume alcoholic beverages during the competition, compete under false pretenses, or conceal any significant injury or health problem;
- b. engage in any conduct which could cause damage to the image of the sport of wake surfing. "Damage to the image of the sport of wake surfing" is defined as any intentional and malicious acts, regardless of time or place, which casts the sport of wake surfing or CWSA in a negative light. Without restricting the application of this Article, "damage to the sport of wake surfing" will include any comments or broadcast from social media accounts that the competitor is responsible for. This provision shall not be construed to limit any positive and constructive commentary or debate designed or intended to provoke legitimate discussion of the Rules, the advancement of the sport and the conduct of Events.

##### Competitors **shall**:

Compete in accordance with their "Best Effort(s)" in all Events. "Best Efforts" shall be defined as a competitor's utmost attempt to compete to the best of their ability during all Competitive Events. Any competitor who overtly and intentionally fails to exercise his or her best effort in competition may be subject to discipline by the CWSA Board of Directors.

Competitors **may**:

Discuss the evaluation and judging of a specific competitor or competitors in a Division, themselves included, with the members of the Judge Team that judged a Division (the Judge Team shall be deemed to also include the Scribe, and Boat Driver, Head Judge and Co-Head Judge) only:

- a. after the time for filing a protest of the results of that Division has expired without a protest having been filed, or
- b. if a protest has been filed, after any such protest has been decided.

Nothing contained herein shall limit discussion deemed necessary by the Judge Team with competitors in a Division to decide a protest. How much information provided is at the discretion of each individual Judge, however an “open book” approach is as to that Judge’s materials is encouraged, but not required.

1.1.3. Specific to Judges, Scribes, Boat Drivers and Event Organizers

Judges, Head and Co-Head Judges, Scribes, Boat Drivers, and Event Organizers **shall not**:

- a. participate in any form of wagering, offering of odds or any other form of gambling in connection with wake surfing;
- b. associate or have any dealings with persons whose activities, including gambling, might reflect adversely on the integrity of the sport of wake surfing;
- c. solicit or accept any bribe, gift, payment or reward or anything of value for the purpose of influencing a competitor’s participation in an Event. Any such offense must be reported to the CWSA Board of Directors immediately;

Due to the incredibly serious nature of those offenses, and the tremendous negative repercussions to the sport of wake surfing, any person subject to this provision found in violation of this section shall be subject to disciplinary action by the CWSA Board of Directors, which may include expulsion from membership, and loss or suspension of the rights and privileges of CWSA membership. Any CWSA member aggrieved by a disciplinary action taken under this section by a Head Judge, Event Organizer or the CWSA Board of Directors may request a review as set forth in Articles VIII and IX of the By Laws of the Competitive Wake Surf Association, Inc.

- d. engage in any conduct which could cause damage to the image of the sport of wake surfing. “Damage to the image of the sport of wake surfing” is defined as any intentional and malicious acts, regardless of time or place, which casts the sport of wake surfing or CWSA in a negative light. Without restricting the application of this Article, “damage to the sport of wake surfing” will include any comments or broadcast from social media accounts that the judge is responsible for. This provision shall not be construed to limit any positive and constructive commentary or debate designed or

intended to provoke legitimate discussion of the Rules, the advancement of the sport and the conduct of Events.

Judges, Judges, Head and Co-Head Judges, Scribes, Boat drivers, and Event Organizers **shall**:

- a. comply with all provisions of these Rules;
- b. report any violation of the Rules, or Code of Conduct to the Event Head Judge, the Event Organizer, or if appropriate, the CWSA Board of Directors immediately.

Judges, Judges, Head and Co-Head Judges, Scribes, Boat drivers, and Event Organizers **may**:

Discuss the evaluation and judging of a specific competitor or competitors in a Division where they were a member of the Judge Team with the competitors of that Division (the Judge Team for this Rule shall be deemed to also include the Scribe, and Boat Driver, Head Judge and Co-Head Judge) only:

- a. after the time for filing a protest of the results of that Division has expired without a protest having been filed, or
- b. if a protest has been filed, after any such protest has been decided.

Nothing contained herein shall limit discussion deemed necessary by the Judge Team with competitors in a Division to decide a protest.

## 1.2. EXCEPTIONS TO THE COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Where compliance with these guidelines for a specific Event is not feasible, the Event Organizer and the Head Judge may make such necessary changes that do not compromise the safety of the participants and spectators. The Event Organizer and the Head Judge may also make such necessary changes that do not compromise the integrity of the Event or the judging and ranking of the competitors in the Event.

Any such changes that conflict with previously published information regarding the Event shall be announced at the Judge's and Competitor's meetings prior to the beginning of the Event.

## 1.3. DEFINITIONS (RESERVED)

# PART 2. SAFETY

## 2.1. SAFETY

The safety of all participants and spectators at each competition event shall be the top priority. It is recommended that each competition event be staffed by trained officials, judges, and event

staff. Competitors, staff and spectators are reminded that there is an inherent danger in all watersports activities and strict adherence to instructions given by event officials, event staff, and event judges is required as a condition of attendance or participation in every event.

## 2.2. COMPETITORS

- a. Every competitor shall be required to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or buoyant competition vest that will completely float the competitor in the event the competitor becomes incapacitated for any reason. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure their PFD is adequate for this purpose.
- b. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their equipment is in a condition that will allow them to ride in safe manner.
- c. The Event Organizer or a majority of the Judge Team for the competitor's division may allow tricks which leave loose equipment on the course. It is the competitor's responsibility to receive permission from a majority of the Judge Team for that competitor's division for a trick which will result in loose equipment on the course. Failure of a competitor to receive advance permission for such a trick shall result in disqualification.
- d. Competitors shall be disqualified for intentional contact with the competition boat once underway, unless the contact is caused by the competition boat abruptly slowing on the competition course, or the wake abruptly changing on the competition course causing the competitor to be thrust into the boat.
- e. Swim platform starts and exits shall not be permitted, and will result in competitor disqualification.
- f. Only one rider shall be allowed on the course at one time (e.g. no tandem riding) unless specifically provided for as a separate Division.
- g. During the competition run, including transport from or to the shore, competitors must follow instructions of the jet ski operator, and the judges and vessel pilot on the competition boat.
- h. A competitor violating any of the above rules is subject to disqualification by the Judge Team in the competition boat, or by the event's Head Judge.

## 2.3. VESSELS, PILOTS AND VESSEL EQUIPMENT

- a. Vessel Pilots, Jet Ski Operators: every pilot, driver or operator of any vessel used by the competition event, including jet skis or PWC, shall be validly licensed to operate said vessel in the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.



- b. Tow Ropes: wake surf specific tow ropes that are in good condition will be used during the competition. The rope will not be left in the water during a competitor's run. Competitors are encouraged to gently toss the rope into the boat. Competitors may also toss the rope to the other side of the wake so to allow a crew member to pull the rope into the boat.
- c. PFDs: all vessels used in any competition, including the competition boat, shall have a USCG approved PFD of suitable size and type in good and serviceable condition available for every member of the judging team and crew which shall be readily available for use in the event of an emergency. If the competition occurs in a jurisdiction other than the US, it shall be sufficient that the PFDs comply with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs. The competition boat shall also be equipped with any other flotation devices as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- d. Fire Extinguisher: the competition boat shall be equipped with fire extinguisher of the type and in the number as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- e. First Aid: the competition boat shall be equipped with such first aid supplies of the type as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- f. Visual Distress Signals: the competition boat shall be equipped with visual distress signals of the type and in the number as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- g. Vessel Registration: all vessels used in any competition event shall be properly registered, marked and licensed to operate on the body of water where the competition event occurs.
- h. Sound Producing Devices: all vessels used in any competition event shall be equipped with sound producing devices of the type and in the number as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- i. Navigation Lights: all vessels used in any competition event shall be equipped with navigation and marking lights of the type and in the number as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.
- j. Ventilation: all vessels used in any competition event shall be equipped with engine compartment and other compartment ventilation devices of the type and in the number as may be required by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the competition event occurs.

## 2.4. WEATHER CONDITIONS

- a. Wind and Lightning, etc.: The Head Judge shall be responsible to suspend the competition when weather conditions, such as lightning or wind, pose an unreasonable risk to health or life at or near the competition venue.
- b. For lightning: when thunder and/or lightning are first noticed, use the Flash-To-Bang (F-B) method to determine its' rough distance and speed. This technique measures the time from seeing lightning to hearing associated thunder. For each five seconds from F-B, lightning is one mile away. Thus, a F-B of 10 = 2 miles; 15 = 3 miles; 20 = 4 miles; etc. At a F-B count of thirty, the event should be suspended. People should be directed to safe shelter nearby. Activities should remain suspended until thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard. The distance from Strike A to Strike B to Strike C can be some 5-8 miles away. The competition shall not be resumed until such conditions have abated.
- c. Heat: The Event Organizer shall be responsible to assure that sufficient drinking water and shade shall be available to the crew of the competition boat, and for all other vessels used in the competition event. It is recommended that in the case of extreme heat conditions that judging, vessel pilot, and other volunteer shifts during the competition event be limited in duration to avoid prolonged exposure to extreme heat and direct sunlight.
- d. Cold and Rain: it is recommended that in the case of extreme cold conditions that judging, vessel pilot, and other volunteer shifts during the competition event be limited in duration to avoid prolonged exposure to extreme cold and wet conditions.

## 2.5. EVENT ORGANIZER

It is recommended that the Event Organizer designate a venue safety monitor(s). The venue safety monitor is responsible for identifying and managing hazards that may pose a risk to competitors, spectators, or event staff. The safety monitor may recommend a course of action to be taken due to hazards deemed to be unsafe. The venue safety monitor shall coordinate the following recommendations:

- a. It is recommended that the event organizer coordinate with local public emergency services agencies and arrange for such services and emergency plans as may be reasonable in light of the size and location of the event.
- b. It is recommended that appropriate first aid supplies be on site in the event of an injury incident.

- c. In the event of an injury to a competitor, spectator, or event staff, immediately notify onsite medical and security personnel, or locate trained, able bodied volunteers. The Venue Safety Monitor or other designate should:
  - i. dial 911;
  - ii. If a concussion injury is suspected, the follow the Protocol for Management of Concussion Injury;
  - iii. retrieve emergency contact info or notify parents;
  - iv. catalogue names and events as they transpire, get witness names and contact info;
  - v. the venue safety monitor shall be responsible for collecting all information related to any injury that may occur, including obtaining the names and contact info of any witnesses, photographing any relevant conditions or injuries, and otherwise gathering facts necessary and relevant to the accident or injury incident. Such information shall be provided to the Event Organizer and to the Event's Head Judge.
- d. Insure availability of an appropriate place of shelter in case of inclement weather or extreme heat.
- e. Ensure all vessels, contestants, and spectators are clear of course during inclement weather.
- f. Ensure all structures well anchored to withstand strong winds.

Should there be no Venue Safety Monitors assigned all members of staff are responsible for coordination of the aforementioned recommendations.

### **PART 3. COMPETITORS**

All competitors entering any event sanctioned by the CWSA must be registered members of the CWSA with dues currently paid.

Anyone willing to compete in a sporting manner may enter a competition subject to qualifying standards established by the Event Organizer.

Competitors shall enter a competitive division at appropriate skill levels. An Event Organizer or CWSA representative may act as a resource for guidance to the proper division level, if assistance is required.

It is the responsibility of the Competitor to be at the starting dock or area, in advance of his/her competition run. If a Dock Starter is available, Competitors shall see the delegated Dock Starter for heat and estimated start times. If a Competitor misses his/her respective turn the Head Judge shall

determine whether or not that Competitor will be allowed to compete out of turn later in that heat or Division. Once a heat/division is completed, any Competitor who has missed their competition run and has not been permitted to compete out of turn will be disqualified from that Division for the Event.

Riders should be aware that timetables are subject to changes. Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety, or similar reasons as determined by the Event Organizer and/or Head Judge. The Dock Starter or their delegate shall announce these changes as appropriate.

Riders must ride in a safe manner and shall follow the Event Organizers' and Judges' directions and safety guidance.

## **PART 4. COMPETITION EQUIPMENT**

### **4.1. BOAT**

Competitive events should strive to provide quality port and starboard wakes. When necessary, two separate tow boats should be used. One weighted to the starboard side, the other weighted to the port side. In order to assure fairness, the resultant wakes should be as comparable as possible with each other in terms of height and length.

It is recommended that the Event Organizer provide one or more backup tow boats with identical hulls as the competition tow boats in the event of unforeseen circumstances that prevent a boat from being operational. In the case that the competition towboat cannot complete pulling an entire Division, it is recommended that the Division is re-run, using the replacement towboat.

The boat driver shall ensure safe operation of the competition tow boats. The boat driver will pilot the tow boat course in a consistent manner for each rider.

Boat speed is at the discretion of the rider but must be within the maximum and minimum tolerances allowed for the site and equipment.

A judge or a wake surfer not competing should take a test wake surfing run. Test runs verify adequate ballast set up and establish an adequate baseline speed.

The best assessment of the baseline speed and wake should be provided to the competitors prior to the start of competition. Once this information has been provided, any speed change remains the responsibility of the rider. The boat driver will adjust boat speed as directed by any judge after the judge receives a speed change request from the rider.

Boat drivers shall not adjust the boat speed or direction of travel to "save" a rider.

Preventing sharing speed information is too difficult to manage in any practical sense. Teams and individuals may share speed information. No shared information should be relied upon as accurate. The boat driver will report the speed at the end of a run if requested.

Any protest related to speed must be made by the competitor at the time it occurs, and shall be determined as provided in [Part 11: Section 11.4.](#)

## 4.2. COMPETITOR EQUIPMENT

The equipment of all competitors shall be subject to the review at the discretion of the Head Judge and the Judge Team for the Division in which the competitor is competing.

Review of equipment shall not be construed as approval or endorsement of that equipment as to its safety and fitness for use. Competitors shall be responsible for their own equipment and safety.

Competitor equipment shall be subject to compliance with the most current published CWSA World Ranking System.

## PART 5. COURSE AND COMPETITION RUNS

The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer will determine exact tournament setup after considering the number of participants, the event format, the venue particulars such as size or configuration of lake or river, and spectator areas.

### 5.1. COURSE LAYOUT

The following guidelines are provided:

- a. A two-leg, out-and-back, course is recommended but is not required. The first and second legs are symmetrical.
- b. The course should include a boat start area at each end, a course start and a course end, in each direction. The distance from boat start to course start should be a minimum of 150 feet, or such distance as is necessary for the wave to form before the start buoy.
- c. The course length in time may be set at any length in time at the established baseline speed at the discretion of the Head Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer. The recommended minimum course length in time is 45 seconds at the established base line speed for all Divisions. For example, if the established base line speed is 11 mph (17.7 kph) and the course length in time is 45 seconds, then the course length will be approximately 726 feet (221 meters).

- d. Use of a single start buoy and single end buoy to outline the course is preferred. Buoy must be large enough to be seen by the rider from a distance greater than the end of the course. If a last fall buoy is utilized, the distance from the last fall buoy to the course end is recommended to be  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the course length. Whether a last fall buoy is used or not, if a Competitor falls late in the course, it will be within the discretion of the Judge Team as to whether or not there is adequate distance to safely pull the Competitor up and allow for performance of maneuvers without the rope.
- e. The course length in time and the established baseline speed shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that the course length in time be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

## 5.2. COMPETITION RUN

The following guidelines are provided:

- a. To start the competition run, the competitor shall be pulled from the water at a distance from the start buoy sufficient to allow the wave to fully form before the start buoy. The start point will be uniform for all Competitors.
- b. At the end of the first leg of the course, the tow boat shall come to a stop, bring the tow rope to the rider then restart the rider for the second leg.
- c. At the end of the first pass the boat crew should not pull the rider through the turn at the end of the course.
- d. The tow boat may tow the rider to the start point for the start of the second leg of the course.
- e. At the end of the second leg of the course or after the last fall, the pickup vessel shall recover the competitor.
- f. It is recommended that a sufficient number of jet skis be utilized for transporting competitors to the staging boat or start area, and for picking up the competitor during the first pass after a fall where the competitor will not be picked up, and for transporting riders from the course to the shore at the end of their run.

## 5.3. FALLS

The following guidelines are provided:

- a. The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer, shall determine the number of falls or 'pickups', if any, that a competitor shall be allowed per competition pass, or per competition run.

- b. There shall be no deduction or penalty to a competitor's score for any fall.
- c. The number of falls, or 'pickups' per pass or competition run shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the beginning of the competition event. It is recommended that the number of falls allowed be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

#### 5.4. SWITCHING SIDES, TRANSFERS

The following guidelines are provided:

- a. The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer, may determine if switching sides during the competition event is allowed, and by which Divisions, if any.
- b. The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer, may determine if transferring sides during the competition pass or run is allowed, and by which Divisions if any.
- c. Whether switching sides or transfers are allowed or not and by which Divisions if any, at the event and if in-run transfers will be allowed, the process of communicating the timing of transfers with the Boat Driver shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that whether switching sides or transfers are allowed or not and by which Divisions if any, be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

### PART 6. COMPETITION SCORING FORMATS

#### 6.1. SCORING FORMATS

The Event scoring format for the Event, and for each Division if different, shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that the seeding order be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

##### 6.1.1. Cumulative Scoring

When an event has more than one run for a Division over the course of the event, this event scoring format sum each competitor's scores for each run during the competition event. While the CWSA scoring tool accommodates this scoring format, it is not recommended as this format has the potential to create difficult issues related to the benchmark and scoring competitors within a Division

during competition runs subsequent to the first heat or round runs. This format should not be used in connection with a heats elimination format.

#### 6.1.2. Place Points Scoring

This scoring format allocates a specific points value for the finish order of a competitor in a Division for each competition run. The CWSA scoring tool accommodates this scoring format. This format is very useful for events with multiple competition runs where competitors are not cut.

#### 6.1.3. Heats

The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer may determine if multiple heats or a single heat format will be used, and for which divisions, and how many riders should advance from each heat to the next.

This format is very flexible, and is very well suited to larger, multi day events. It also allows for judging smaller groups of competitors relative to each other.

This format may include a last chance qualification heat, wherein the competitors cut from advancement are afforded a last chance to qualify for a semi or final heat in the Division.

#### 6.1.4. Other Scoring Formats

The scoring formats set forth above are not exhaustive, and the CWSA permits innovation in scoring formats by Head Judges and Event Organizers.

The Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Organizer, may mix one or more of the scoring formats for the event.

### 6.2. SEEDING ORDER AND SEEDING METHOD

The Head Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer may determine the seeding order and the seeding method used to seed heats, or to seed competitors when heats are not used.

#### 6.2.1. Seeding Order

First heats may use the following seeding orders:

- a. by the PYBP or current score, whichever is higher, in the World Ranking List for the Division (recommended);
- b. by current rank standing in the World Ranking List for the Division;
- c. random seeding.
- d. any other method the Head Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer may determine.



The seeding order shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that the seeding order be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

The Head Judge and the Event Organizer shall give due consideration to the effect on Judging teams in setting the benchmark for each heat.

#### 6.2.2. Seeding Method

The distribution of competitors among heats in a division may be made using the following methods:

- a. 'circle';
- b. 'snake';
- c. a combination of 'circle' and 'snake';
- d. any other method developed by the Head Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer.

The seeding method shall be announced at the Judge's and the Competitor's meetings prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that the seeding method be announced by the Event Organizer at or prior to opening registration for the event online.

Regardless of the seeding order and method, after a Division has completed the first round of competition runs and prior to publishing the results, a Judge Team may use their discretion to recommend advancement of a competitor from the first round of heats to the next heat, subject to the approval of the Head Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer. An example of when this might happen is if two randomly assigned heats are very unbalanced. The goal is for the best riders to advance to the next heat. This discretion to recommend should only be used for the first round of heats.

## **PART 7. DIVISIONS**

Divisions consist of Skill Level, Gender, Style, and in some circumstances, age. Definitions of Divisions, and requirements and permitted transfers between Skill Levels shall comply with the most current published CWSA World Ranking System, including the Rules related to mandatory Skill Level changes.

## **PART 8. RESERVED**

## PART 9. JUDGES, SCRIBES AND DRIVERS

### 9.1. JUDGES

#### 9.1.1. Head Judge

Duties and Responsibilities:

- a. in consultation with the Event Organizer and Co-Head Judge, if any, determine the format of the event;
- b. in consultation with the Event Organizer and Co-Head Judge, if any, determine the composition of the Judge Teams for each division;
- c. in consultation with the Event Organizer and Co-Head Judge, if any, ensure compliance with the results posting requirements set forth in [Part 11: Section 11.3.](#) of these rules;
- d. in consultation with the Event Organizer and Co-Head Judge, if any, perform the duties set forth in [Part 11: Section 11.2.](#), as to pre-event objections, and protests;
- e. conduct the pre-event Judge's meeting, conduct the pre-event Rider's meeting, conduct the pre-event boat and jet ski driver's meeting;
- f. enforce any provision of these Rules not otherwise expressly delegated to the Judging Teams;
- g. may promote or demote riders into other competitive divisions (to prevent sandbagging);
- h. assure compliance with [Part 2.](#) of these rules;
- i. may alter rules to fit the venue as appropriate subject to maintaining the integrity of the competition and the safety of all participants and spectators;
- j. together with the Event Organizer may delay or cancel the competition to ensure a safe event. All rule changes should be made prior to start of competition after consultation with all event officials.

#### 9.1.2. Co-Head Judge

Duties and Responsibilities: Perform the duties of the Head Judge, if the Head Judge is unable, due to conflict of interest, unavailability or otherwise unable to perform the duties.

#### 9.1.3. Judging Teams

Duties and responsibilities:

- a. shall each individually sum the scores of each category given to each competitor on the judge's scoring sheet, and may delegate to the scribe to compile the scores of all judges on board the competition boat;
- b. shall position all passengers for the best surfing wake;

- c. may permit or deny request to repair equipment on the competition boat. Every reasonable opportunity should be made to provide a reasonable opportunity for a rider to repair equipment;
- d. shall evaluate rider performance based on the scoring criteria and methodology set forth in [Part 10.](#);
- e. may disqualify competitors for unsportsmanlike conduct or other conduct disrupting or delaying the competition;
- f. may deem equipment as unsafe or unsuitable for the competition;
- g. shall assure compliance with the provisions of [Part 2.](#) and [Part 11.](#) of these rules delegated to Judging Teams;
- h. rulings on matters delegated for in-boat decision shall be final and not subject to protest.

#### Number and Roles:

Judge Teams should consist of a minimum of 3 judges.

- a. Caller/Judge 1 – Primary Judge, who shall call tricks audibly for the Scribe to record. Perform the duties set forth in above.
- b. Judge 2 – perform the duties set forth above. May assist calling tricks or comment on called tricks.
- c. Judge 3 – perform the duties set forth above. May assist calling tricks or comment on called tricks.

## 9.2. SCRIBE

It is recommended that a Scribe be provided in the competition boat, so that the Primary Boat Judge will not be required to look down to write but rather can call tricks audibly as they are performed.

## 9.3. DRIVER

An experienced, well qualified Towboat Driver is required. The Boat Driver-must be familiar with the operating features of the towboat, the competition course, Competitor pick-up area, docking area and will be aware of any unique site features that may have effect on safely operating the towboat. Driver/Competitor communication is encouraged in advance of and during the Competitors run with regard to speed, wake characteristics, course length and any safety related issues, and shall be responsible to assure compliance with [Part 2: Section 2.3.](#) of these rules related to vessels.

## PART 10. SCORING CRITERIA

The published scoring criteria is the measure by which a competitor's performance is judged. An understanding of the criteria is important to both judge and competitor.

Wake surf judging is a subjective assessment. For a competitive event this evaluation must be converted into a score. The elements of the scoring criteria are the methodology that is utilized to convert the subjective evaluation into a numeric value. The elements of the scoring criteria include the subjective categories of Degree of Difficulty, Intensity, Variety, and Execution (D.I.V.E.). These Subjective scoring criteria are explained below.

### 10.1. DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

How difficult each trick is based on a number of variables, which together constitute the degree of technical difficulty. Spins, stalls, the way a rider lands, etc., all subjectively define how difficult certain tricks are in comparison to others. Variables reflecting Degree of Difficulty include, but are not limited to:

- a. number of rotations and type of rotations performed (board only/rider only/in same and opposite directions);
- b. combos (combining tricks);
- c. direction a rider and/or board spins;
- d. frontside or backside approach and/or finish;
- e. switch vs. regular stance;
- f. grabbed, boned, stalled or other embellishments.

### 10.2. INTENSITY

Judges should look for how aggressively and powerfully a rider is performing their tricks. Deliberate, controlled and frequent maneuvers, linked tricks, flow and strength and confidence in the maneuvers being performed all play a part in judging the intensity of a competitor's competition routine. Intensity factors include but are not limited to:

- a. volume and distance of spray from slashes and carves;
- b. speed generated by pumping;
- c. power in the turns and bottom turns;
- d. how forcefully tricks are initiated;
- e. the pace of tricks being executed;
- f. how fast rotations are spun.

### 10.3. VARIETY

The variety of tricks performed in a run help determine the most versatile rider. Wake surfing tricks are built on a foundation of maneuvers such as: turns (air and surface), spins, ollies, airs, shuv-its, kick-flips, rotations (body and/or board), etc. The more variety among the category of tricks performed relative to the other riders should be reflected in the subjective scoring category of “Variety”. Factors for evaluating Variety include, but are not limited to:

- a. Were multiple trick types (airs, spins, turns, etc.) performed?
- b. Were the tricks all based on the same trick? 360, 540, 720 are all similar.
- c. Did the rider perform maneuvers both facing toward the wave and facing away from the wave?
- d. Were the grabs different?
- e. Did the rider perform on both sides of the boat (starboard and port side wakes)?
- f. Were wake transfers executed?
- g. Did the rider and/or board spin both directions?

Although not an absolute determining factor in scoring any subjective category, the total number of tricks performed will be given appropriate consideration.

### 10.4. EXECUTION

This component assesses how well the tricks are performed and the level of control/fluidity maintained by the rider throughout each trick and the entire competition run.

Judges are to evaluate how “clean” or how well executed each individual trick is as well as execution throughout the entire competition run. Appropriate considerations for Execution include, but are not limited to:

- a. approach;
- b. embellishments;
- c. body position;
- d. degree of rotation;
- e. the axis of the body and/or board;
- f. degree of solid grabs and how long a grab is held;
- g. degree of boned leg;
- h. length and control of stalls;
- i. fluidity/continued momentum in spins;
- j. flow, and composition of the overall run.

## 10.5. APPLICATION OF THE SUBJECTIVE COMPONENTS, CALCULATING SCORES AND RANK

Judges will provide subjective scoring of each rider based on their overall opinion of how well the rider performed his routine in relation to each of the established subjective scoring criteria, in comparison to other riders within the same Division. Scores shall be given by each Judge in a scale of 1-10, in increments of .1 (one tenth) for each of the 4 subjective categories.

Within a round of heats, and for the entirety of the competition event, the performance of all competitors in each Division should be evaluated by the same judging team.

The first rider in each division will be used as a benchmark by which the remaining Competitors will be judged.

Each judge will score said rider and at the end of the run the Judging Team will confer and attempt to agree upon the subjective score benchmark for each subjective component. As such, the first rider in each division will have almost identical subjective scores from each Judge. It is not required that the subjective benchmark score of the first rider be the same for each subjective category.

To allow subsequent riders in the division to be scored higher or lower than the subjective benchmarks, every effort should be made to place the subjective benchmark scores at a point that will allow higher and lower scores than the benchmarks.

Each division, and each heat of a Division, must establish a separate subjective score benchmark using the first rider in the Division or heat. Subsequent riders in the Division, or heat of the Division, will be scored using the subjective score benchmarks described above.

## 10.6. COMPETITION RUN

- a. Judging a competitor's run begins when the competitor enters the course or drops the rope, whichever occurs later and ends when the rider exits the course on the second pass, or uses the final fall allowed under the event's competition format.
- b. A fall occurring after the competitor drops the rope but before the start buoy is charged as a fall to the competitor.
- c. The tow boat will not return to the competitor after the final fall of either pass during the competition run.
- d. Any trick started outside of the course or while holding the rope will not be scored.
- e. A trick started on the course but finished in control off the course will be scored, within a reasonable length after the End Course buoy. This is for a single trick. Combos after the End Buoy will not be scored.

- f. After falling, a competitor may only swim to their board. Swimming back up the course to increase ride time may result in disqualification.
- g. A competitor must choose which side they will ride (starboard or port) at registration. If in-course transfers are allowed, Competitor must communicate with the Boat Driver which side of the towboat he/she will start on with each pull-up.
- h. While on course, a competitor may perform any routine of tricks.

## 10.7. SCORING

Guidelines for scoring entry are provided below.

### 10.7.1. Data Entry Ashore

- a. After each competition run each judge shall independently and legibly record the score of each rider in each subjective category relative to that judge's scores in each category given to the benchmark competitor.
- b. The Judge should sum the total of each subjective category on the scoring sheet.
- c. At the end of each Division, or each heat of a Division, each judge will give his score sheets to the Scribe, or delegate.
- d. Each Judge should independently review their score sheets to insure they have scored each competitor appropriately and legibly before relinquishing control of the score sheet. Notes, if any on scoring sheet should support the Judge's score.
- e. Subsequently, the Head Judge or delegate shall record the data from each Judge's scoring sheet into the CWSA event scoring tool. It is recommended that 2 people participate in this data entry procedure to assure reliability.
- f. Upon completion of the data entry, the results shall be reviewed by the Judge Team and Head Judge, and shall be posted as required by [Part 11: Section 11.3.](#), below.

### 10.7.2. Live or iPad Scoring

- a. After each competition run each judge shall independently score each rider in each subjective category relative to that Judge's scores in each category given to the benchmark competitor.
- b. After each competitor's run, each Judge shall report to the Scribe the score recorded on the Judge's scoring sheet in each subjective category. The Scribe shall record the score into the electronic scoring workbook.
- c. At the end of each Division, or each heat of a Division, each judge's will give his score sheets to the Scribe, or delegate. Each judge should review their score sheets to insure they have scored each rider appropriately and written appropriately on the score sheet before relinquishing control of the score sheet.

- d. Judges' notes should support their scoring.
- e. Subsequently, the Head Judge or delegate shall review and compare the data from each judge's scoring sheet against the data entered by the Scribe into the CWSA event scoring tool. It is recommended that 2 people participate in this data entry review procedure to assure reliability.
- f. Upon completion of the data entry review, any errors discovered shall be corrected, and the results shall be reviewed by the Judge Team and Head Judge, and shall be posted as required by [Part 11: Section 11.3.](#), below. If there are no errors detected, the results may be posted after review by the Head Judge, without review by the Judging Team.

## **PART 11. RESULTS, OBJECTIONS AND PROTESTS**

### **11.1. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

#### **11.1.1. Per se relationships**

The following are considered per se relationships:

- a. family member, or extended family member of a competitor in a division;
- b. cohabitation with a competitor in a division;
- c. engaged in a present or past romantic relationship with a competitor in a division;
- d. employer or employee of a competitor in a division;
- e. commercial sponsorship (including any managerial level personnel of such sponsor) and of a competitor in a division;
- f. non-commercial 'team' or organization affiliation with competitor in a division;
- g. providing financial support to a competitor in the division, or a person who receives financial support from competitor in the division;
- h. individuals, or family and extended family members of such individuals, who own title or interest in real, personal or intangible property together with a competitor in the division, or a family member or an extended family member of such competitor.

There shall be no presumption that the existence of a per se relationship is a basis to disqualify a judge.

#### **11.1.2. Conflicts of interest, appearance of a conflict of interest, other conflicts**

A specific conflict of interest, or a specific appearance of a conflict of interest, or any other basis including the existence of a per se relationship, may be identified by a competitor as an alleged conflict of interest.



There shall be no presumption that existence of a per se relationship or any alleged conflict of interest is a basis to disqualify a judge.

In the absence of an objection as set forth below, any actual or alleged conflict of interest shall be deemed to be waived by all affected competitors.

## 11.2. PROCEDURE PRIOR TO EVENT

No later than 12 noon five (5) days before an event begins (in the time zone where the event is to be conducted), the event organizer must post on its event website, Facebook page, or other location calculated to give notice to all the competitors in the Event:

- a. the names of the competitors for each division as of that date;
- b. the names of the Judges for each division as of that date;
- c. the name of the Head Judge for the event, and Co-Head Judge, if any;
- d. an email address, text number or other manner in which to communicate with the Event Organizer concerning objections to judges, and protests that may be initiated at any stage of the event.

Any competitor may object to any Judge in a division in which that competitor is competing by notifying the Event Organizer. Such objection shall be specific as to the nature of the objection and any alleged conflict of interest, and shall be timely if submitted to the Event Organizer within 48 hours of the posting of the list Judges for each division. A CWSA form will be available on the CWSA website for this purpose.

The Event Organizer shall notify all competitors in the division subject to the objection, and may consult with the judging team, the Head Judge, and the Co-Head Judge, if any.

The Event Organizer may elect to either replace such Judge, or deny the objection of the alleged conflict of interest, not later than 12 noon one (1) day before the event begins. All competitors in the division shall be notified of the decision. Any decision to deny the objection of the alleged conflict of interest shall be final for the purpose of the judging team for that division.

If any Judge is replaced, or for any reason is substituted less than 24 hours before the start of the event, any objection by any competitor in that division to a replacement or substitute judge shall be specific as to the nature of the objection and any alleged conflict of interest and must be raised at least one hour prior to the first competition run of the division in the event. In the case of an objection to a replacement or substitute judge, the Event Organizer may elect to either replace such Judge, or deny the objection. The decision, and any election, by the Event Organizer shall be final for the purpose of the judging team for that division.

If an objection on the basis of an alleged conflict of interest is denied, the competitor, at his option, shall be entitled to a refund of the entry fee, and shall not compete. If the competitor chooses to compete, no other alleged conflict of interest shall be permitted to form the basis of a protest by that competitor.

No alleged conflict of interest, if not raised prior to the event by a competitor as set forth above, shall be the basis of any protest.

### 11.3. EVENT RESULTS

- a. The Head Judge or Co-Head Judge shall post, either physically or electronically, the result for each division not later than 2 hours after the Judge Team and judging documents for a division returns to shore.
- b. The official posting time should be noted on the posted results, together with the name, email or text address to whom a protest, if any, should be delivered.
- c. The posted results shall be presumed correct.

### 11.4. PROTEST GROUNDS

- a. Objections by a competitor to adverse riding conditions during a competition run must be raised by the competitor at the time such alleged adverse conditions occur, and any such objection shall be decided by a majority vote of the Judging Team in the boat at the time such conditions occur. The decision, including any remedy granted to the competitor, shall be final and will not be the subject of a protest by the objecting competitor, or any other competitor.
- b. Protests of the subjective scores of the judges and ranking within a division based upon such subjective scores shall not be permitted.
- c. Protests shall be permitted on the following basis:
  - i. a mathematical or transcription error;
  - ii. a conflict of interest, provided that the procedures for objection to a conflict of interest prior to the event has been followed.

### 11.5. PROTEST PROCEDURE

- a. Any result of any division heat, preliminary or final may be protested by a competitor in that heat, preliminary or final. Grounds for protest are:
  - i. mathematical or transcription errors;
  - ii. an alleged conflict of interest, provided that the procedures for objection to a conflict of interest prior to the event has been followed.

- b. Protest of another competitor's score or ranking in the division shall be permitted upon the same basis as set forth in (a.) (i.) and (ii.) above.
- c. All protests must be initiated within one (1) hour of the posting of a division's results, either electronically per [Part 11: Section 11.3.\(a.\)](#), above, or physically, by the Event's Head Judge.
- d. Protests shall be initiated by delivering the protest form, together with a \$25 cash protest fee to the Head Judge, the Co-Head Judge, if any, or the event organizer in person or pursuant to [Part 11: Section 11.3.\(a.\)](#), above.
- e. The protest form must state the specific grounds of the protest (what the protester contends is wrong with the Judge's scores). The protest form must also contain a concise statement by the protester of the relief sought. If a conflict of interest is alleged, the precise conflict and Judge(s) must be identified, and such conflict of interest protest must have been raised by an objection filed prior to the event as required in [Part 11: Section 11.2.](#), above.
- f. Each competitor in the division's heat, prelim or final protested shall be given notice of the protest.
- g. The Judges, including the Head Judge, shall be provided the competitor's protest form, the judge scoring sheet for each Judge (his own, the head judge shall receive all judges scoring sheets), the scribing sheet for each rider in the protested heat, prelim or final.
- h. The protest shall be decided by the Judge Team involved, and as detailed below, the event's Head Judge. A Co-Head Judge should also be appointed by the event organizer to participate in protests should the Head Judge be one of the three Judges involved in a protest.
  - i. The standard of review for the judging team (excluding the Head Judge) in the protest is de novo, meaning a fresh look at the results of each rider in the division protested to check the mathematical calculations and transcription errors in the scoring documents, and to review if it is more likely than not that a conflict of interest exists, and that such conflict of interest was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form.
  - ii. The Judging Team may make adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result if a majority of the judging team determines that a mathematical or transcription error has occurred that has materially affected the results.
  - iii. If the Judging Team determines that a conflict of interest exists, the Judging Team may make such adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result only if a majority of the Judging Team finds that there is clear and convincing evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the

conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the results.

- i. The decision of the Judging Team on the protest shall be communicated to the head judge (or Co-Head Judge if the Head Judge is part of the protested judging team).
- j. The decision of the Judging Team upon the protest shall be reviewed by the head judge or Co-Head Judge if the Head Judge is part of the protested Judging Team.
- k. The Head Judge (or Co-Head Judge) may overrule the decision of the Judge Team and grant relief only upon a finding by the Head Judge that:
  - i. there is clear error in the mathematical calculations or transcription of the judges scores, or
  - ii. it is more likely than not that some other conflict of interest exists, and that such conflict of interest, was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form, and there is clear and convincing evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the results;
  - iii. there is clear and convincing evidence that a majority of the judging team erred in finding that:
    - a. it is more likely than not that a conflict of interest exists, or
    - b. such conflict of interest was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form, or
    - c. evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the result.
- l. Upon a finding of either (i.) (ii.) or (iii.) (a), (b) or (c), the Head Judge may make such adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result.
- m. In the event of multiple protests, all protests filed with regard to a heat, prelim or final in a division should be decided simultaneously.
- n. The final decision on the protest of a heat or prelim should be communicated to the protester by the Head Judge not later than two (2) hours after:
  - i. the protest is filed, or
  - ii. the last competitor of the event finishes his competition run on the day of such protest, whichever is later.
- o. In the event of a final, the protest decision should be communicated to the protestor by the Head Judge not later than one (1) hour:
  - i. after the protest is filed, or
  - ii. the last competitor of the event finishes his competition run on the day of such protest, whichever is later.