U.S. Pan American Water Ski Team Seeks To Dominate Medal Count At XVIII Pan American Games

Water skiing and wakeboarding events will take place July 27-30

POLK CITY, Fla. – The U.S. Pan American Water Ski Team begins competition at the XVIII Pan American Games on Saturday, July 27 at Laguna Bujama in Lima, Peru. The water skiing and wakeboarding events will be held Saturday, July 27 through Tuesday, July 30.

Members of the 2019 U.S. Pan American Water Ski Team are: Andrew Adkison (Chipley, Fla.), Taylor Garcia (Winter Garden, Fla.), Mary Morgan Howell (Dothan, Ala.), Regina Jaquess (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.), Erika Lang (Gilbert, Ariz.) and Adam Pickos (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.). The American Water Ski Association’s International Activities Committee selected the water ski athletes (Garcia, Jaquess, Lang and Pickos) based on qualifying scores between May 2018 and May 2019. Adkison and Howell were selected by USA Wakeboard to represent the team as the wakeboard athletes following the 2018 Pan American Wakeboard Championships last November in Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico.

Jay Bennett (Zachary, La.) will be the water ski coach, Cathy Williams (Orlando, Fla.) will be the wakeboard coach, Scott Greenwood (Little Rock, Ark.) will serve as team leader, and Dr. Brad Harman (Alvarado, Texas) will be the team physician.

The United States has won the medal count at two Pan American Games (1999 and 2003). It tied with Canada for the high count in 1995, while Canada has won the high count in 2007, 2011 and 2015.

Qualified water ski athletes will compete in the preliminary rounds of slalom, tricks and jump, and will be seeded based on the International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation Rankings List. The scores from the preliminary rounds of the best eight male and best six female competitors from each event will be used to determine the start order for the finals. Eight wakeboard athletes per gender will participate in two heats and one Last Chance Qualifier (LCQ – if necessary). The top two scores for both heats and the
top two scores from the LCQ per each gender will advance to the finals. Six athletes per gender will compete in the finals.

Jaqess, 35, competed as a member of the U.S. Team at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the 2003 Pan American Games in Boca Chica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She has won 13 medals in Pan American Games competition, the most among U.S. athletes since the sport became part of the Pan American Games’ program in 1995. She also owns the Pan American Games records for women’s slalom (1-1/2 buoys at 41 feet off, 2011), jumping (173 feet, 2011) and overall (2,955.71 points, 2011), and she is the current women’s world slalom record holder (4 buoys at 41 feet off).

Garcia, 21, will be making his Pan American Games debut. He earned the bronze medal in men’s jumping at the 2018 Pan American Water Ski Championships and is the two-time defending men’s national collegiate jumping champion.

Lang, 23, who will be competing in her second Pan American Games, earned bronze medals at the 2015 Pan American Games in women’s slalom and tricks. She is the Pan American Games record holder in women’s tricks (8,590 points) and the current women’s world tricks record holder (10,850 points).

Pickos, 27, will be competing in his second Pan American Games. He won the gold medal at the 2015 Pan American Games, establishing a new Pan American Games men’s tricks record of 11,110 points.

Women’s wakeboarding is making its debut at the 2019 Pan American Games. Howell, 16, qualified for the team after winning the gold medal at the 2018 Pan American Wakeboard Championships in Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico.

Adkison, 37, who will compete in men’s wakeboarding, is competing in his first Pan American Games since he won the gold medal at the 2011 Pan American Games. Men’s wakeboarding was added to the Pan American Games in 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Pan American Games take place every four years, in the year preceding the Olympic Games and is the third-largest multi-sport event in the world behind the Summer Olympic and Winter Olympic Games.
Water Ski Schedule (Subject to Change)

Saturday, July 27
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Women’s and Men’s Slalom Preliminary Round
1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Women’s and Men’s Wakeboard Preliminary Round

Sunday, July 28
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Women’s and Men’s Tricks Preliminary Round
1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Women’s and Men’s Jump Preliminary Round

Monday, July 29
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Women’s Slalom Finals (Top 6 From Preliminary Round)
10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Men’s Slalom Finals (Top 8 From Preliminary Round)
12:00 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. Women’s Tricks Finals (Top 6 From Preliminary Round)
12:40 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Men’s Tricks Finals (Top 8 From Preliminary Round)
2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Women’s Jump Finals (Top 6 From Preliminary Round)
2:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Men’s Jump Finals (Top 8 From Preliminary Round)
4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Women’s Wakeboard Finals (Top 6 From Preliminary Round)

Tuesday, July 30
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Women’s Overall Slalom
10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Men’s Overall Slalom
12:00 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. Women’s Overall Tricks
12:40 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Men’s Overall Tricks
2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Women’s Overall Jump
2:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Men’s Overall Jump
4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Men’s Wakeboard Finals (Top 6 From Preliminary Round)

The American Water Ski Association and USA Wakeboard are two of nine sport discipline organizations of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, which is affiliated with the International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (world governing body) and is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Pan-American Sports Organization as the national governing body of organized water skiing and wakeboarding in the United States.

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