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PRESS RELEASE

2022 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament To Be Held In Winter Haven, Fla.

*Cypress Gardens Ski Team will host sixth biennial event on Lake Silver*

POLK CITY, Fla. – USA Water Ski & Wake Sports is pleased to announce that the International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation’s Executive Board has approved the bid from the Cypress Gardens Ski Team to host the 2022 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament on Lake Silver in Winter Haven, Fla. The tournament is considered the capstone event of the sport’s 100th year in 2022.

“I would like to congratulate the Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team for being awarded the bid to host the 2022 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament and believe the world’s best show skiers will look forward to traveling to Winter Haven, Florida to compete for the IWWF world title,” said IWWF President Jose Antonio Perez Priego.

The announcement is the culmination of a joint effort between the Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team and Polk County Tourism and Sports Marketing (PCTSM) to bring the centennial celebration of the sport to Winter Haven, the Water Ski Capitol of the World. Assistance from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, the national governing body of organized water skiing and wakeboarding in the United States, also was instrumental.

“This took years of planning and preparation,” said Mark Jackson, the director of PCTSM. “None of this would have been possible without Mark Voisard, the president of the Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team, and Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team board member Dave Dershimer. As in all recruiting efforts for major international events, relationships are critical. PCTSM’s reputation and experience hosting international events played a major factor as well.”

Teams from the United States, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China and Germany have participated in the first four world championships with the United States winning the world overall team...
The 2020 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament, the fifth biennial event, will be held March 21-22 in Yarrawonga, NSW, Australia. The previous events have been held in Huntsville, Ontario, Canada (2018), Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. (2016) and Janesville, Wis. (2014, 2012).

In competitive show skiing, each team has one hour to present a theatrical performance on water skis. Judges score acts by awarding points based on originality, presentation and execution. Elaborate costumes and staging intermix with music and fast action on the water as an announcer leads the audience through the show. The team rosters for the IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament are limited to 35 total members, including skiers, boat drivers, announcers and show directors.

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports 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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