

Show Time

Chris Coupland and Matt Heilman are back to discuss how show ski teams should be entering *tournament mode*



Chris Coupland



Matt Heilman

CC: Well, it's that time of year again – tournament time!

MH: That's my favorite time of year. I just can't wait to get into the heart of summer and tournament time.

CC: We've previously talked about off-season training, now let's talk about getting ready for tournaments.

MH: Everything you're doing all year round should be leading up to your regional and national tournaments. However, two weeks prior to one of these tournaments, we go into "tournament mode."

CC: That's the final push to perfect your show. It's the time when everybody really needs to come together and make a commitment to put the show first, and it is when the show director finalizes the show personnel.

MH: That's correct. The needs of the team now need to outweigh the needs of the individual. Whatever is best for the success of the team needs to take priority. This is also when we like to have 100 percent attendance. Nothing is more frustrating than to be gearing up for a tournament, but you can't practice everything because people are missing. I strongly encourage teams to get in the habit of requiring full attendance two weeks before Regionals and Nationals.

CC: One thing we never did was schedule too many land practices during the summer. Mother Nature always took care of that for us. If it's raining or too rough to run through a show, then we take that time to go through all of the stage work and choreography.

MH: One thing that didn't cancel practice was cold weather. It wasn't all that long ago that it dipped into the 40s during our last practice before Nationals, so we set up a campfire to keep warm between acts. That was a memorable night.

CC: It's also important to plan ahead and prepare for the elements. Show directors should always maximize practice time, especially during tournament time. Wasting people's time is never a good idea.

MH: During "tournament mode," we always had a contingency plan and location for practice. If it was just too rough, we would practice on the stage. If it was raining, we had an alternate practice facility prearranged.

CC: Last year I was at the grocery store a week before Nationals and I ran into somebody who was skiing for a competitive team. I asked them why they weren't at practice and they said that it was raining so they had the night off.

MH: That is inexcusable. There's always something you can do, no matter what the weather is – intros, dances, stage work, you name it. I'll bet you that team didn't finish in the top three.

CC: Nope, and the truth is, they could have used that evening to polish up their stage work.

MH: What are some other pre-tournament things teams can do to get

ready?

CC: Well, one thing you can do is to pre-measure all of the important distances of the Regionals' and Nationals' show sites. For example, we would measure the dimensions of the Nationals' stage and then mark out those same dimensions and use that area to practice our stage work and introductions. That way you can make sure that you are spacing out the stage appropriately and making your introductions look good.

MH: We always try to schedule a practice at the Nationals' site the weekend before the tournament. That's important to get a feel for the timing and flow of your show. And in doing so, teams should be timing things out – like how long it takes a pyramid or a barefoot line to get to the show course from their starting point – and calculating the length of their show. This will help with the flow of the show.

CC: We also work on this timing by trying to make our site the same dimensions as the Nationals' site. For example, since we ski on an open lake, we measured how far across the Nationals' site was and we set up buoys





Water Ski Hall of Fame



President's Report



Bob Reich

The American Water Ski Educational Foundation membership meeting was held on April 11, 2010. The minutes were approved as previously distributed. J.D. Morgan and Glenn Sperry were appointed to tally the proxies. New members of the board for a term of four years were elected. Both C.W. Lowe and George Blair retired from active status and remain as Honorary Trustees for Life.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to each of you for recognizing and supporting the mission of the AWSEF. This year has been a landmark

year for AWSEF. The director's budget scrutiny has prudently controlled the foundation's expenses in the wake of significant financial struggles. Membership renewals are off and donations show a decline over same period last year. I don't know how we could run much leaner, and if we are to survive, we must embark upon membership drives and new funding sources with a sense of urgency. Grants and sponsorship efforts are long-term propositions, but our immediate need is critical. I beseech each of you, throughout the country, to assist our director with membership drives and reaching out to potential sponsors in an effort to preserve the history of our sport and maintain the infrastructure to do so. Much can be done locally and it will take the effort of the entire membership to remain viably productive.

Running a foundation takes work. The trustees have made significant strides in securing our foundation for the near term, but evolving the way we do business – the look, feel and reach of our foundation – means we must embrace change. The mechanisms, funding sources, and management practices of nonprofits are not proving as successful today as they have in the past. How we proceed will define not only the success, but the survival of AWSEF over the long term. My message is a call to action. Members must get involved, either through committee, community out-reach action or their check book.

We have much to be proud of – a building, lake, museum and library, as well as the financial scholarships provided to many deserving college students involved in our sport. I ask each of you to go to your clubs, your sites, and your local tournaments to solicit membership and membership renewals; encourage supporting legacy donations; and get involved with a deliberate sense of urgency. It is up to us to ensure our legacies are preserved. A membership application and legacy information can be found at waterskihalloffame.com.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

New Members to the AWSEF Family (Oct. 2009 through April 2010)

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Roger Norberg
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- Tickets – \$100.00 Contribution Each**
- ALL Proceeds go to Scholarships and
Other AWSEF Programs**
- Drawing will be held at the Museum on
Nov. 12, 2010**

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