



**USA Water Ski
Five-Star Enhanced Experience
Tournament Sanctioning Program**

Welcome to the Five-Star Experience!

Create more excitement by adding Five-Star sanction status to your event!

The Five-Star Enhanced Experience Program's goal is to provide a quality tournament experience for water ski competitors and their families. Simply read and complete the following form to obtain this additional status for your event. **The objective of the program is to provide tournament organizers with sanctioning criteria that ensures a fun and rewarding experience for all – newcomers, beginners and experienced competitors alike.** The Five-Star Experience not only benefits the club by bringing in new members (*and enticing the old ones to hang around!*), it will also help to grow the sport of water skiing in your area and create loyalty among competitors. In addition to these benefits, tournament organizers will be given an allowance to help defray the cost of awards and giveaways. Five-Star designation will be prominently displayed in the Regional Guide setting it apart from non-enhanced events. USA Water Ski will make support documents available that will assist with sanctioning events, templates for making signs, information on how to publicize an event and other documents that are vital to running a successful tournament. These documents will be available on CD as well as posted on the USA Water Ski web site*. All tournament classifications and sport divisions are eligible for Five-Star sanctioning and *all* applications are subject to approval by USA Water Ski headquarters.

Requirements

1. **Hospitality Chairperson** – There *must* be an appointed Hospitality Chairperson. The main responsibilities of the Chairperson are to set up a hospitality area, greet and assist newcomers and help them with participant registration (as a skier or an official) and explain the benefits of becoming a member of USA Water Ski. Handouts should be made available to visitors. The chairperson may appoint other volunteers as co-chairs to assist with the responsibilities of welcoming newcomers. One of the first tasks for the Hospitality Chairperson is to introduce him/herself to the announcer. Inform the announcer of the Hospitality Chairperson's responsibilities and the location of the hospitality area and request that he/she make numerous announcements throughout the event. The hospitality area may also be used as a central information/welcome area and the registration area for the tournament. At the end of the tournament, the Hospitality Chairperson shall thank all volunteers and encourage competitors to continue their participation in upcoming events.
2. **Giveaways** – Each tournament competitor must walk away feeling like a “winner.” Every competitor is required to receive a prize, which can be a t-shirt, hat or other promotional item as long as it has the USA Water Ski logo on it. The logo will be made available upon request. USA Water Ski will be more than happy to provide the host club with contact information for the USA Water Ski product supplier. This information will also be made available on the USA Water Ski web site*.
3. **Awards Presentation** – An awards presentation must be conducted, either after each division has skied or after the completion of the tournament. If the awards ceremony is held at the end of the tournament, make sure that it is made as fun and rewarding as possible to make it worthwhile for the participants to stay until the end of the tournament. One idea for making the presentation special and memorable is to provide a podium for the competitors. Awards *must* be provided for the top three placements for the Junior division and any special divisions created for beginner and entry level competitors. Awards may be presented to all other divisions at the club's discretion. Ideas for the awards will be included on the CD, as well as, posted on the USA Water Ski web site.*
4. **Announcer** – All Five-Star events must have an announcer and an adequate P.A. system. It is recommended to have skier bios for the announcer. It is also recommended that music (of acceptable lyrics) be played throughout the day. An announcer must present the awards as described in No.3 above.
5. **Create Awareness of the Event** – The tournament director *must* make the public aware of the event. Posting flyers/signs throughout the community can help to accomplish this. Directional signs must be posted to guide spectators and potential participants to the event. Templates for promotion and event publicity will be available on the CD as well as on the web site*.

* www.usawaterski.org/pages/5star.htm.

