

**American Water Ski Association
Board of Directors Meeting
2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road, Auburndale, Florida 33823
Saturday, January 27, 2018 8:00 a.m.**

1. Opening & Call to Order
 - a. 8 am Start
2. Introduction & Roll Call
 - a. Robert Rhyne
 - b. Jeff Clark
 - c. Julie Krueger
 - d. Freddy Krueger
 - e. Karen Truelove
 - f. Hank Longo
 - g. Ham Wallace
 - h. Ron Koenig
 - i. Michael Newth
 - j. Bob Crowley
 - k. Kristina Jervik
 - l. Jim Babcock
 - m. Dean Chappell
 - n. Brad Hartwell
 - o. Owen Letcher
 - p. Tom Nathan
 - q. Bill Wenner
 - r. Mark Crone
 - s. Don Bucher
 - t. Jeffrey Smith
 - u. Floyd McCreight
 - v. Jerry Jackson
 - w. Jim Jaquess
 - x. Lyman Hardy
 - y. Bob Archambeau
 - z. Kirby Whetsel
 - aa. Dennis Downes
 - bb. Michael O'Connor
 - cc. Barry Young
 - dd. Richelle Muhlitner
 - ee. Bob Mayhew
 - ff. Jerry Bautsch
 - gg. Nate Smith
 - hh. Jonathan Thacher
 - ii. Gary Noll
 - jj. James Powell
 - kk. Hutch Haines
 - ll. Jeff Clark
 - mm. Jeff Surdej
 - nn. Gordon Hall
 - oo. Delaina Downes
 - pp. Keith Lindemulder
3. Announcement of Quorum
4. Opening Administrative Motions
 - a. Motion to allow committee chairs and invited presenters to attend the meeting; Jonathan Thacher / Bob Archambeau - Carries
 - b. Motion to treat all action items in committee reports as motions with automatic seconds; Jim / Bob A – Carries
5. Appointment of Parliamentarian – Jeff Clark
6. Confirmation of Voting Roll * – 23 voting members present/ majority 12 - Motion Lyman / Bob | Carries
 - a. AAC – Nate Smith, Freddy Krueger, Karen Truelove
 - b. Eastern – Jim, Jonathan, Hutch, Gary
 - c. MW – Dean, Jim Babcock, Dennis, Mike
 - d. South – Bob A, Kirby, Lyman, Jim
 - e. South Central – Gordon, Julie, Bob, Jerry
 - f. West – Barry, Richelle, Owen, Brad
7. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Add 11a – Ron Koenig is going to give an update on team funding.
 - b. Hank Longo – update on facilities; the cable park is installed, building a pro shop, then new HQ and Hall of Fame. Will also have a tournament ski lake, already underway.
8. Review and Approval of Aug. 8, 2017 BOD Meeting Minutes * - Lyman / Bob A | Carries
9. Ratification of BOD Electronic Ballots since last Meeting * – Lyman / Kirby | Carries

10. Nominating Committee Report * - Barry Young. no action items

11. Ron / Team Funding – at \$23, 488 now!

- i. 2018 – Goal to put Team USA on the same playing fields as rest of the world; \$50,000. Funding letter goes out in April. Ski with the Elite weekend is not decided yet, potentially Labor Day Weekend.
- ii. Every world team member that has ever skied for the USA Water Ski team is invited to the funding rally on social media.
- iii. Working to get the elite skiers to Nationals.

12. USA-WS Board Elections: *

Jeff Clark – AWSA failed to maintain 50% of the inaugural membership. We still have our same number of total votes on the USAWS board, but those votes are now cast by 2 directors, instead of the 5. We no longer have 5 seats director seats on USAWS, we now only have 2 with voice and vote, plus 2 alternates with no voice or vote. Don Bucher is a USAWS honorary director, and already has a voice through that, so he will remove his name. Motion by Jeff Clark to vote on a 1 year director, a 2 year director, and 2 alternates. Call to question Jim / Lyman | Fails To have voice in a meeting you have to be a HND, Sports Discipline rep, or officer.

The unexpired terms of the current directors will convert to regional delegates.

Motions to table 1st discussion until we discuss the 2nd – Jonathan / Julie | Carries 100% = 79 votes | 20 Athletes (have to be 20% of the voting power) | ... Nothing goes to the floor without a 2/3 vote. Jonathan / Bob M - Removes the table on the active motion

- a) Election of two available Director seats – East / Pat Byrne, SC / Gordon Hall, S / Bob Archambeau, W / Connie Bergmark, MW / NA because of Don B.
- b) Motion to accept the KISS method – Vote on paper – 1, 2, 3, 4 and 1st place gets the 2yr position and 2nd place gets the 1yr position.
 - i. 2 yr. – Gordon Hall
 - ii. 1 yr. – Bob Archambeau
 - iii. Alternates – Connie Bergmark and Pat Byrne
- c) Motion to change the bylaws, Article 8a2, to remove the period after delegates and add “at the summer board meeting”, Barry / Bob | Carries, none opposed.
- d) Would like to see discussion to get us back to a stronger position

13. AWSA President’s Report & AWSA Executive Committee Report *

- a. Exec Committee Report - Motion to approved Exec report, Barry / Brad Hartwell | Carries
 - i. Accept bids for 2021 Nationals by 11/30/18 to be voted on at winter 2019 meeting
 - ii. Release 100% of restricted funds to be used in 2018 towards each team, the unallocated funds to be distributed to teams at the discretion of the President.
 - iii. Divide up whatever money is left in elite donation fund on 12/31/18, as a stipend, to the 6-member elite Pan Am team provided they attend Pan Am’s, payment will be made after the event.
 - iv. Motion to not release \$7500 budgeted to HQ in 2017 for auto renewal and digital guest membership until product is finished.
 - v. Motion Approved to increase membership budget to \$25,000 for 2018.
- b. President’s Report
 - i. Membership – first active increase in 20 years!

- ii. Stats – see report
- iii. Grassroots – Need to get that number up, no reason for at least Class C tournaments to have it.
- iv. Membership – 1,543 didn't renew. Jeff has a list of names by state.
- v. Surveys
- vi. ZBS
- vii. Social Media
- viii. 321Kampaign
- ix. NCWSA/AWSA Liaison
- x. Programmers – Level 10 is looking like it might need to be postponed due to programming.
 - 1. Dave Clark was an asset we haven't been able to replace. May not be able to rely on volunteers anymore.
 - 2. Back to the drawing board.
 - 3. Language the program is written in was phased out in 2001.
 - 4. 112 to-dos, 58 are programming, APP, or website related.
 - 5. World Water-Skiers, looking to do a new program that all federations can use so everyone is able to use the same thing.
 - 6. Should we be looking to hire someone to make the necessary changes?
- xi. New regional guide – upgrading the 10 National pages.
- xii. 11 Point Strategic Plan Update
 - 1. Crossing off things on the list, things are moving forward. Five down, six to go. Make tournaments fun again, better marketing of AWSA, junior skiing, open ski nights / public access, pro skiing, and ability based skiing.
 - a. Kiosk at ski schools with the ability for people to sign-up on site.
 - b. Working with wakeboarders to tie in on their Pass the Handle night.
 - c. Ability-based skiing
 - d. Jr skiing
 - 2. Goals
 - a. 7500 members and 3800 tournament participants.
 - b. Goal of 10,000 before end of presidency.
 - 3. What do we need to do to get the US Open back on track? (Jim J)
 - a. If Dennis can get the money for all 6 events for the "mini US Open" do we still want to call it the US Open?
 - b. Should we entertain proposals and look at changing the package?

14. AWSA Treasurer's Report * (Approval of budget is at the end of the meeting.)

- a. Larger income than budgeted from USAWS – weren't calculating correctly on multi years and did a catch up and membership numbers were adjusted
- b. Larger Nationals fee than expected.
- c. Need to tidy up the elite team going forward.
- d. 2018 budget
 - i. President has asked to budget \$25,000 for membership.
 - ii. MW has asked to release funds that were being held in budget, half to membership and half to programming.

- iii. For IAC it would be helpful for them to know the funding for each team. Rob will touch base this weekend.
- iv. Motion to put the Officials Maintenance / Programming; Julie / Barry | Carries, none opposed.
- v. Motion to receive the 2017 Treasurer's report Lyman / Jim | Carries, none opposed.
- vi. Motion to take \$7,000 from membership and put towards a Website, Maintenance, Programming line item. Julie / Owen | Carries, 2 opposed
- vii. Biggest piece of the membership \$25,000 is to support Jennifer Leachman's app

15. USA-WS Membership Task Force Committee Report – Doug Robbins

- a. Final approval tomorrow; New membership structure, name change – USA Water Ski and Wake Sports, and new partnership with industry for discounts.
- b. Requested in August to come up with a better nomenclature than license but couldn't find one.
- c. Marketing plan was requested and is in board package.
- d. Questions that have come up since; new memberships, ambassador memberships, lifetime memberships will be eliminated and morphed into the 2 ambassador memberships.
- e. Pending approval tomorrow, launch is looking to be April.
- f. USA-WSWS will be the new acronym.

16. USA-WS Executive Director's Report

- a. Thanks to those that work/have worked together on our programming!!
- b. Hoping \$19.95 membership is a good sell.
 - i. Transition should be relatively seamless. Your membership should transition to the corresponding new setup.
 - ii. Adding guest tournament pass.
 - iii. Operation Gold program will not change – will be the Masters this year.
 - iv. Elite Athlete insurance program continues.
 - v. USOC – keep pushing to hang in there and keep what we have.
 - vi. Hilton discount is gone but the International Hotel Group has stepped in and will give back monies to USAWSWS when members book through the USOC program.
- vii. SafeSport program – just starting with issues, Michigan State, gymnastics, etc. Center for Safe Sports was launched early last year and is trying to prevent athlete abuse.
 - 1. Individuals have been identified who much be SafeSport Certified and undergo a criminal background screening prior to participating in USAWS and sport discipline.
 - 2. Brochure designed to make us aware of what to look for.
 - 3. Document handed out to show how to get certified.
- viii. A few meetings ago we asked as a body that an email list could go out to the EVP's of their regions and USAWS states that they decided the way to handle it was to send emails we wish to go out to USAWS and they will send them out for us. If the decision was done off line, this board feels it should be corrected and be a part of the record.
 - 1. Mark Crone has volunteered to make the necessary changes in Salesforce to make it happen once the direction to HQ is followed through.

17. Pan Am Confederation IWWF Report * - See report.

- a. Tournament Council US rep is up for re-election. Currently held by Bob Corson and will be voted on this summer. Discussion on the future of this position.

18. International Activities Committee Report *

- a. Not getting athletes to show up at the meetings, not sure if it is because of being retired, recommending to use active athletes. AAC needs to nominate the athletes.
- b. Working to move approval to the National Junior Team to the National Junior committee.
- c. With input from this body updates have been done to Q & P's and are highlighted in the report.
 - i. Line item 4 of Q&P needs to be changed. Not responsible for finding a coach or a manager but are responsible for providing a parent with the child.
 - ii. No changes have been made to the calculations that go into picking the team.
- d. Recommendations for staff have been made. No coaches currently due to lack of interest.
- e. April ranking list is what is used when determining the team.
- f. Motion to accept all IAC action items. Bob M / Bob A | Carries, none opposed.

19. Athlete Advisory Council Report * - See report

20. USOC Report – No report

21. Other Standing Committee Reports

- a. Announcers Committee
 - i. Success at Nationals despite worries about the 3 lake site. Communication went well between announcers.
 - ii. Brought in some new young announcers. Jim was awarded the Tommy Bartlett award.
 - iii. Would like to see clubs be able to have more announcers at Nationals.
 - iv. James Powell challenges clubs to have announcing at their tournaments.
- b. Awards Committee *
- c. Boat Driver's Committee *
 - i. Drivers not getting enough seat time.
 - ii. Many drivers from other countries – going to produce a chart to show how each country compares.
 - iii. Action items
 - 1. Keep drivers maintaining S & J ratings from losing T rating | Fails
 - 2. Practice w/end course video = driving credit | Carries
 - 3. End Course videos available to skiers & drivers | Carries
 - iv. For testing for Sr driver recommendation to go outside your local area.
 - v. Comment from S, to take away a regional driver because they are Chief Driver isn't fair to the region.
- d. Bylaws Committee * - Jeff Clark
 - i. Southern Region Changes - Bob M / Bob A | Carries
 - ii. Eastern Region Changes – Bob M / Jim J | Carries
 - iii. Motion, allow Bylaws committee to do housekeeping changes and post appropriately Bob M / Jim J | Carries
 - iv. Western Region Changes – Brad Conger has been replaced by Ryan Nason. Request that AWSA Bylaws committee request of USA-WSWS that AWSA to have 3 alternates, which would allow our 2 voting members and our 3 alternates would have voice but only 2 would be able to vote.

- v. Section VIII is superseding Roberts Rules of Order so in order to change how votes are counted we would need to change our P&P.
 - vi. Bob A – When we have substitute attendees at this meeting, we should not assume they have been voted an alternate. (Article V b&c) We should follow the bylaws in regards to alternates, they should be voted on properly. Jeff requests that everyone go to their region and write up the recommendation to change the bylaws regarding this and send to him in writing so he can take it to the bylaws meeting to get a vote.
- e. Judges & Scorers Committee * - Tom Nathan
- i. Emeritus requests approved for :
Ann Harrington, Southern Region, Senior Scorer Emeritus;
Laura Nowak (West region), Senior Judge Emeritus.
 - ii. Allow scorer to give credit to every official tournament credit. Over 600 officials being downgraded and over 400 are assistants.
 - 1. Call the question Jim J | Carries
 - 2. Motion Fails
 - iii. Eliminate the official's requirements and have a clinic and testing or CE's
 - 1. Call the question Jim J | Carries
 - 2. Motion | Fails
 - iv. Change the "chiefing" requirement to upgrade to senior judge to allow being an Assistant Chief Judge at a record event.
 - 1. Motion | Carries
 - v. Senior official's clinics – No action.
 - vi. Email access for the J&S committee | Carries
- f. Junior Development Committee * - See report
- i. Correction to Jr's banquet at National's 2018 – will be held Thursday night not Friday.
- g. Rules Committee * - Pull proposals #3, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12 from the consent ballot.
- i. Motion to approve proposals #1-16, except for the above | Carries
 - ii. Prop 3 – Elite divisions do not have to go to Regionals to attend Nationals | Fails
 - iii. Prop 4 – Buoy count | Carries
 - iv. Prop 8 – Align M8 speeds...should only say jump | Carries
 - v. Prop 11 – Align M8 speeds...should only say slalom | Carries
 - vi. Prop 12 – Change from LOC to skier | Carries
 - vii. Prop 19 – Cleanup | Carries
 - viii. Motion to approve Props 17-23 (except 19 which was already voted on) Barry / Kirby | Carries
 - ix. Motion to approve Props 24-30 Bob A / Kirby | Carries
- h. Safety Committee * - See report
- i. Request for a more accelerated fast track for medical personnel.
- i. Seeding Committee – No report
- j. Skier's Qualification Committee – No report
- k. Technical Committee * - See report
- i. Submitting End Course Video to Pan Am is responsibility of LOC for L & R.
 - 1. Driver- Upload only ONE 30-minute segment (ONE per YR).
 - 2. ELITE (OPEN and MASTER) - ONE round per tournament.

- 3. SKIER: Women who complete a 39' off pass (her highest tournament score);
Men who complete 41' off pass (his highest tournament score)
- 4. EC Video available for one year
- ii. Splash eye – free trick program.
- iii. Action items
 - 1. Automatically trick renewal if doing slalom and jump | Carries
 - 2. Renewal to 4 years not 2 | Carries
 - 3. Change date of birth to a checkbox on the record application. | Carries
- I. Towboat Committee – No report

22. Regional Recommendations

- a. E –
 - i. Giving wristbands to new skiers and new tournament skiers.
 - ii. Slalom series
 - iii. Use GoToMeeting to reach people who can't make it – USAWS has an account that can be used. Get in touch with James or Bob Harris.
 - iv. Recommendation – USAWS website – buttons at the top...ours says 3-Event, change to Slalom, Trick and Jump.
 - v. Recommendation – Assistant official applications: modernize so the applications don't have to be carried around, etc.
 - vi. Recommendation – Rules Committee; make the heading geared towards the laymen. (Will send examples to Richelle.)
 - vii. Recommendation – J & S; are there things that can be added to the modules for trick testing and jump in order to train on the technical information.
 - viii. Recommendation – Tech & Drivers Committee; keep the score from being posted when it is a potential record until verified.
- b. MW – Rules; add U12 division to AWSA.
- c. S – (Straw votes from Southern Region in parens.)
 - i. Bylaws Committee –
 - 1. At our most recent meeting, the Southern Region has asked me to question the past practice of appointing what we felt was a qualified replacement to sit in as an alternate or replacement unless in fact, they are Region appointed and Council voted alternate. Per the AWSA bylaws this "substitution" does not follow our Bylaws
 - ii. IAC Committee –
 - 1. Concern that the Athletes Representation is sorely lacking at the IAC Meetings. What can be done to improve their interest?
 - 2. (Keith Lindemulder will re write these) Why are alternate selections allowed for some teams and not for others? Consistency of procedures and voting is different for some teams.
 - iii. Drivers Committee –
 - 1. Taking a driver representative away from a region because it was their turn (in rotation) to have a Chief Driver selected is not equal representation nor is it a past practice. Selecting ACD from the list provided should not be a problem.

This can lead to LOC's placing extra (their) drivers into positions without equal representation across all regions.

2. Allow any Senior or Regular 3 Event Driver that maintains their quantitative and qualitative requirements for Slalom and Jumping but may have a shortage for tricks, to automatically retain their trick rating at the level attained. (Passed)
 3. For ELR - drivers driving practice can receive Tournament Credit. (Passed)
 4. Link to Driving Videos should be more confidential. (Passed)
- iv. J & S Committee –
1. For Emeritus Scorer Leon Larson and Ann Harrington, (Passed)
 2. “Blind Credit” for all officials to receive credit for all ratings held. (No)
 3. Eliminating maintenance requirements for J/S. (No)
 4. Modify Upgrade to Sr. (Passed)
 5. Access to officials email and Phone from USA-WSWS. (Passed)
- v. Rules Committee –
1. P- 1 (Passed) – When we are changing speeds or ramp heights we need to include skier survey information to make good decisions. Surveying divisions is critical.
 2. P- 2 (Passed) - When we are changing speeds or ramp heights we need to include skier survey information to make good decisions. Surveying divisions is critical.
 3. P- 3 (No) – Why not level 9? Why not make them pay an entry to allow this?
- vi. P- 4(No) – Not fair for allowing skiers to ski over maximum. Creating a rule that allows selecting an advantage over another skier is ridiculous. There needs to be a level playing field for everyone. If we more closely align our divisions with IWWF and adjust max speeds to match, do we even need ZBS above max at all? I believe part of the discussion for it was to allow scores to go on both AWSA and IWWF rankings without having to change divisions. If people still want to ski faster for some reason, I do believe we still have the rule that allows people to ski above max speed and it is just scored as a hot time for the stated max speed. Where would ZBS above max be needed should the proposed alignments be passed?
1. P- 5 No Vote Necessary
 2. P- 6 (Passed)
 3. P- 7 (Passed)
 4. P- 8 (No)
 5. P- 9 (Passed) – This should start right away not wait.
 6. P-10 (Passed)
 7. P-11 (No) – Original proposal was a no vote. This one is also No.
 8. P-12 (No) – Take this out totally
 9. P-13 (Passed)
 10. P-14 (Passed)
 11. P-15 (Passed)
 12. P-16 (Passed) – Need to clearly define course dimensions (disabled).
Recommend, give skiers two passes with score
 13. P-17 (Passed)

14. P-18 (Passed)
 15. P-19 (No) - Original proposal was a no vote. This one is also No. WARNING! Language in this proposal is not the same as in original.
 16. P-20+ No Votes Necessary
 17. Level 10 status of implementation (reschedule for after 2018 Nationals? Later?)
- vii. Safety –
1. We need “Fast Track” for medical professionals and a definition on what professions are included and approved. Practical evaluations still need to be given for ALL individuals
 2. Proposal: Any practicing medical professional i.e. Doctor, Physician Assistant, Board Licensed Nurse, Physical Therapist, EMT/Paramedic (we could expand or better define this) are allowed a fast track to Safety Director level. Class would not be necessary – not even a classroom maintenance clinic if they are current. BUT they would be required to take a “Modified Practical” during a live sanctioned event. This would involve review of the site and safety check list – hands on what to look for during all events – a quick review of things to observe and an actual water practical (talking to an injured skier – evaluation – flipping – water rescue – teamwork – and backboard/immobilization. I estimate that this would take a max of 2 hours. It may require a special curriculum, but I would be happy to work on that. They would still be required to work the standard events for maintenance for promotion (experience in the field is what we are striving for). This could also lead to more team Doctors!
 3. Medical professionals – ones who practice every day would be qualified for this. I am not sure about anyone related to the medical field as they don’t have the practical medical experience. I was asked about lifeguards and my answer was no. They could easily work through and relearn our water extraction process but the whole course would benefit them better
- viii. Towboat - Towboat credit for tournaments... if a person uses their personal boat to pull a tournament because a promo is not available, will the respective boat mfr. receive credit for pulling that event? (already sent to Towboat Committee)
- d. SC –
- i. Make age division changes retroactive so they are in effect now.
 - ii. Take the steps to get our USA WS representatives back to 5.
 - iii. Spend more money on growth.
 - iv. Maintenance requirements be eliminated and that money be spent on growth.
 - v. Do not want the mini-course to be way to qualify for regionals or nationals.
 - vi. Incentive to clubs that host ski leagues or open ski nights.
 - vii. Pass the information down on the new licensing as soon as possible.
- e. W –
- i. Drivers Committee
 1. Senior Drivers testing shall be required to be performed outside of the testing drivers local driving area.
 2. J&S Committee –

- a. While we are not in favor of officials showing up as skiers getting maintenance credit even though they did not work the event, we do feel that certain duties could be used for credit if working other events. Some events have too few skiers/officials to get all the credit needed for an official holding multiple ratings which apply to a single event:
 - b. Officials that work a Regional, National, International or Elite event as an appointed official shall receive credit for the tournament events worked plus additional credit clinic credit for the same events. (judges, scorer, drivers, safety, technical, announcers)
 - c. Officials with multiple ratings shall receive credit for working as an official for all ratings held when by working as an official during the tournament even if the official was unable to work each event due to low volume of skiers, at the discretion of the Chief Officials.
 - d. Laura Nowak has requested to be awarded Emeritus Judge status.
3. Nationals By-laws
 - a. Ryan Nason appointed to serve (report on director seating to USAWS)
 - b. By-laws be revised to allow 3 alternates from AWSA to have voice, no vote at the USAWS Board Meeting.

23. Nationals –

- i. See schedule – will be five days instead of four, Tuesday - Saturday.
- ii. Great officials coming – in need of an Assignments Coordinator.
- iii. Jr Banquet will be Thursday.
- iv. Semi-pro events on Friday. We will be doing some fundraising for this event.
- v. “Fun on the Lake” nights.
- vi. Emails will be coming, please forward on to your skiers.
- vii. Practice – trying to figure out a better way to handle it, love to hear ideas.
- viii. Nationals Warm-up tournament, June 23-24, 2018.

24. Old Business

25. New Business

- a. Motion to approve budget Jim / Lyman | Carries
- b. Motion to Change 3 Event Skiing to Slalom, Trick and Jump Skiing James / Dennis | Carries
- c. Motion to change maintenance of all officials to 4 year intervals (Committee should also look into whether the tournament number should change?) Jerry / Barry |
- d. Jerry asks that regions evaluate whether class E tournaments are still needed.

26. Date & Time of Next Meeting

- a. August 6, 2018, 8:30 am, Mystic Lakes, Maize, Kansas

27. Adjourn: Lyman / Jim | Carries