

**2018 Rule Proposals
for posting
December 1, 2017**

Here are the proposed rule changes for AWSA voted on at the annual rules committee meeting on November 5th.

These are recommendations from Council members and AWSA members, along with alignment items with IWWF rules and clean up items to the current rules that were missed or need to be revised.

The final BOD report will consist of the proposed rule changes along with rule proposals where no action was taken or not approved.

The proposals are not numbered since they will change on the final report. Use the rule number for any questions. As always the new portions of the rules are ***bold/italics*** along with a rationale for each one.

AWSA Rules Committee

PROPOSAL: 3.02A/10.06: W4/W5 – Align W4/W5 age divisions with IWWF. W4 will become 45–54 and W5 will become 55–59. No changes in jump speeds are included in this proposal. (Note – these changes would go into effect after 2018 Nationals).

Rationale: There is a two year difference in these divisions between AWSA and IWWF. This change would allow the women to continue to slalom at the faster speed (34mph). Jump speeds were not considered at this time, but will continue to be reviewed. **Approved**

PROPOSAL: 3.02A/9.06C–D/10.06: M4/M5 – Align M4/M5 age divisions with IWWF. M4 will become 45–54 and M5 will become 55–59. (Note – these changes would go into effect after 2018 Nationals).

Rationale: This will also align with IWWF, and would allow the M4 to continue to jump at the speeds aligned with IWWF for two more years. This will also keep the M/W–4/5 age groups aligned. **Approved**

PROPOSAL: 9.06C–D M7 – Align M7 speeds (jump) with IWWF. (Note – these changes would go into effect after 2018 Nationals).

Rationale: Aligns the jumps speeds for M7 to 51k (31.7mph) so that these jumpers are not disadvantaged. **Approved**

PROPOSAL: 3.02A/9.06C-D/10.06: M8 – Align M8 speeds (slalom/jump) with IWWF. (Note – these changes would go into effect after 2018 Nationals).

Rationale: Allows the M8 to ski at the faster speeds to also align.
Approved

PROPOSAL: 9.16C M3 – Align M3 jump height with IWWF by allowing M3 to jump 5.5 or 5. (Note – these changes would go into effect after 2018 Nationals).

Rationale: Allows the M3 jumpers to have the option of jumping with a 5.5 or 5 foot ramp. There has not been an option before unless those skiers were in the Masters division. This also aligns with IWWF.
Approved

PROPOSAL: Change 3.03C2 and D2

3.03C2 Additionally, a skier age 18 or greater shall be REQUIRED to compete in the Open Division in an event (or in Overall) if his performance score(s) in any reported division for that event equals or exceeds the Level 10 Cutoff rating score for that event ***by 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the first Thursday of July, ~~on any date, up to the National tournament Cutoff dates~~***, within the current ski year.

3.03D2 Additionally, a skier age 35 or greater shall be REQUIRED to compete in the Masters Division in an event (or in Overall) if his performance score(s) in any reported division for that event equals or exceeds the Level 10 Cutoff rating ***for that event by 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the first Thursday of July, ~~on any date, up to the National tournament Cutoff dates~~***, within the current ski year.

Rationale: Needed to change the wording in Level 10. The Cutoff dates were the same but the BOD changed the COD for Nationals and Level 10 needed to stay closer to Nationals. This gives skiers time to make arrangements depending on their status as an Elite skier.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 4.02B Change to reflect COD of Nationals.

4.02B Ranking List Qualifications: a skier may qualify for the National Tournament in any event or overall by being ranked Level 8 at the Cutoff Date, which is 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the **first Thursday after the preceding National Tournament.** ~~three weeks prior to the Thursday immediately before the start of the National Tournament.~~

Rationale: We need to change this wording to reflect the decision of the BOD for qualification into the National Tournament. Clean Up item.

RC Meeting -Approved

PROPOSAL: 4.02 ADD/Change

4.02A skier who enters the **Elite Open** division at the Nationals in any event is not required to ski in his Regional Tournament.

Rationale: In the past only Open skiers could skip Regionals. The committee felt that with the new Level 10 and the fact that some skiers do not have the option of which division they ski in. It affects their choices for travel. This could attract more skiers to Nationals and possibly more to Regionals if they were going to skip one due to work or cost of two tournaments close together.

RC Meeting -Approved

PROPOSAL: 4.02C2

Where the new Slalom division has a maximum speed slower than that of the original performance -- the buoy count score carried into the new division will be reduced by 6 buoys **if the score was achieved in a class E, L, or R tournament** (10.06.C).

Rationale: This is a clarification to the current rule which reduces the slalom scores by 6 buoys when a skier moves into a division with a lower max speed. While skiers are allowed to ski faster than Max speeds in a Class C tournament, the committee felt that letting graduating skiers scores from the Class E, L or R tournaments should not be transferred at the total buoy count. The skier will still have the option to ski above max speed if they choose to in their new division.

RC Meeting -Approved

PROPOSAL: 6.10 Add Driver information:

Equivalencies in Drivers from other Federations. Need direction from Drivers committee. Ham will be sending.

RC Meeting – Waiting on response from Ham. Will include chart in rulebook similar to Judges equivalencies.

PROPOSAL: Add 8.04E, F, G & H

E. For tournament-supplied handle sections, the length shall be 150 cm – 2.5 cm (4'11" – 1") from inside of handle to inside of loop at a load of 20 kg (44 lb). The triangular portion of the bridle is 28 cm ± 4 cm (11 ½" ± 1 ½"), and the length of the handle is 30cm ± 6 cm (11-13/16" ± 2-3/8") (see appendix for diagram). ***The bridle (rope) maximum strain in elasticity is +2.5cm (1") (Maximum length after skiing is 152.5 cm (5'-0").***

F. For skier-supplied handles in the Slalom and Jumping events, the length may be 150 cm + 2.5 cm / ~~-10cm~~ (4'11" +1" / ~~-4"~~) from inside of handle to inside of loop at a load of 20 kg (44lb). No tolerance on the triangular portion of the bridle. ***It is the skiers responsibility to ensure that the bridle (rope) does not exceed 152.5cm (5'-0") from inside of handle to inside of loop after skiing at a load of 20 kg (44 lbs).***

G. A Slalom Switch or other appliance may be used to attach the slalom towline to the pylon. When so used, that appliance shall be considered a part of the boat/pylon, may be from 0.47 to 0.51m in length, and with a recommended length of 0.50m. The measurements of ropes used with such appliances shall be 0.50m shorter than the values shown in this table.

H. Class E, L and R events pulled with alternating ropes shall use lines of the same model and manufacturer, except for B1, B2, G1, G2, W6, and above when light towlines are available. (Light towlines (5MM (3/16") 8 Strands) for L & R are not allowed per the IWWF Rulebook.)

PROPOSAL: 9.16F delete:

F. Skier Furnished Jump Handle: The contestant may furnish his own handle, for which he is entirely responsible, with an attaching loop to attach to the tournament line, and which must comply with the handle section dimensions in the Appendix. The contestant's handle

may be of any material. For ~~Class E~~ tournaments personal handles shall be measured by the dock starter immediately before the skier skis. ***It's the skier's responsibility that the handle is in tolerance after skiing.***

Rationale: This is the wording that IWWF will be using.

RC Meeting -Approved

PROPOSAL: Corrected after omission when ZBS maximum speeds changed.

10.06 Boat Speeds and Line Lengths (***)May be used for all Classes but certain scoring options do not follow with IWWF scoring, i.e., a skier will need to make a complete pass at maximum speed before the pass will count on the IWWF ranking list).

Move to 10.06B: Since 10.06A is about minimum speeds and 10.06B is about maximum speeds.

~~1. ***The LOC may opt to allow higher maximum speeds, up to 58 kph (36 mph) for male divisions and 55 kph (34.2 mph) for female divisions, excluding juniors, in a Class C only tournament, at their discretion.***~~

B. The maximum allowed boat speeds shall be as follows:

Male Divisions	Maximum Speed	Female Divisions	Maximum Speed
Boys 1	49/(30.4)	Girls 1	49/(30.4)
Boys 2	55/(34.2)	Girls 2	52/(32.3)
Boys 3	58/(36.0)	Girls 3	55/(34.2)
Men 1	58/(36.0)	Women 1	55/(34.2)
Men 2	58/(36.0)	Women 2	55/(34.2)
Men 3	55/(34.2)	Women 3	55/(34.2)
Men 4	55/(34.2)	Women 4	55/(34.2)
Men 5	55/(34.2)	Women 5	52/(32.3)
Men 6	55/(34.2)	Women 6	52/(32.3)
Men 7	52/(32.3)	Women 7	49/(30.4)
Men 8	49/(30.4)	Women 8	49/(30.4)
Men 9	49/(30.4)	Women 9	46/(28.6)
Men 10	49/(30.4)	Women 10	46/(28.6)
Men 11	46/(28.6)	Women 11	46/(28.6)
Open Men	58/(36.0)	Open Women	55/(34.2)
Masters Men	55/(34.2)	Masters Women	55/(34.2)

1. A skier may elect to start at a speed higher than his division maximum speed, up to his respective Open Division maximum speed, and may not return to his division maximum speed on subsequent passes. Any passes skied at that higher speed shall receive credit for buoys as though they were being run at his division maximum speed.

2. In Class C tournaments, the LOC may opt to allow higher maximum speeds, up to 58kph (36mph) for male divisions and 55kph

(34.2) for female divisions, excluding juniors, at its discretion. In this case, the skier shall receive credit for the buoys run at the higher speed.

Rationale: After we revised the intent of the ZBS we inadvertently left out a rule. Need to put the rule back for the skiers that want to ski above maximum speeds in E, L, or R tournaments. Also was moved to another part of rule that aligns with maximum speeds. There has been confusion on when these two rules should be applied. This is not a change in the intent of the rules.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: Change 10.06B2

2. In Class C tournaments, the ~~LOC~~ *skier* may opt to *ski* at allow higher maximum speeds, up to 58kph (36mph) for male divisions and 55kph (34.2) for female divisions, excluding juniors, at its discretion. In this case, the skier shall receive credit for the buoys run at the higher speed.

Rationale: ZBS should not be decided by the LOC, but the skier.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: Delete 10.08A3b

IWWF has already taken this wording out of their rulebook. Boat is wider than boat guides.

10.08 Officials and Judging Area

A. Event Judges:

1. Each event judge shall independently determine the credit to be received by the skier in accordance with Rule 10.12, and shall communicate his results to the scorers immediately after each pass.
2. In all Classes of tournaments the event judge must continue scoring a run even though he feels the skier missed a gate.

3. Only one event judge shall ride in the towboat, hereafter referred to as the boat judge.
 - a. The boat judge and scorer shall check the boat time for each pass and identify reride situations in accordance with Rules 10.09 & 10.10.
 - ~~b. The boat judge shall observe the boat path (see Rule 10.07). If any part of the boat deviates outside the bounds of the boat gates, the boat judge shall award an optional reride if the path of deviation was a disadvantage to the skier. If it was to the skier's advantage, a reride is mandatory.~~
 - c. There shall be two or three people in the boat.

Rationale: This is consistent with IWWF and rule 10.07 covers this.

RC Meeting – Approved

PROPOSAL: 10.08D3: Omits the requirement for a video review judge in Class L

10.08D3 Configuration 3: ONE JUDGES TOWER between 3 and 4

b. This configuration requires two tower judges, Live Boat Video feed to a Judge for Class R/L. Boat Camera is NOT required for Class C/E. ***If the live boat camera feed/video is available to the two tower judges in Class L, an additional boat video judge is NOT required.*** – see 10.08E below. Also, see Class L/R IWWF Rulebook requirements for use of boat video and video review judge (J4).

c. This is ~~recommended~~ ***required*** for sites where it is not feasible to have a tower on the opposite side of the course for Class L/R.

E. Boat Video: An additional option ***based on Configuration and Class, but required for Configuration 3 Class L/R.***

1. A camera may be used in the boat to record the pass. This video may be used to resolve any issues.

2. Video Review Options:

a. ***Class L: When the boat video is available for immediately playback for the two tower judges, a boat video review judge is not required. IF the boat judge score is different than that of either tower judge, the two tower judges must review the boat video to determine the final score. When the live boat video is not available for immediate playback for the two tower judges, follow the same protocol for Class R as described in “b” below.***

b. ***Class R:*** The live boat video will be monitored by a video review judge who will advise the Chief Judge if he disagrees with the event judges' decision. IF the video is available for the two tower, they can review with the boat video review judge to determine the final score. In such a case were a final decision cannot be determined or is not available for the two tower judges, the Chief Judge and the video review judge will review the video to determine the correct score. If they both agree on a score, it will become the official score. If they disagree, or agree that the video does not clearly overrule the score given by the event judges, then that score will stand.

c. Alternatively, the Chief Judge may act as boat video review judge. If he disagrees with the event judges' decision, he will ask the tower judges to review the video again. The final score will be decided by a simple majority.

Rationale: The requirement to have a fourth judge has been omitted in Class L tournaments.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: Delete last sentence 10.16B2

For Class E, L & R tournaments personal handles shall be measured by the dock starter under the supervision of the Technical Controller (or his designee) immediately after the skier skis. Should the handle be out of tolerance, the skier's score in that round will be recorded as zero. (See ~~Rule 13.02.F for head to head competition~~)

Rationale: No longer needed since the handles are now being measured all the time immediately after the skier skis.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.12 Add

The boat shall pass on either side of the **RED** entry buoy.

Rationale: The chart in the appendix explains the color of the entry, optional turn and pre start buoys, but no colors are stated in 11.02. More clarity for skiers and officials.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.07 Boat Path, Match IWWF time between first and second pass when the skier falls.

The boat shall follow, as closely as possible, the path specified by the judges for the event. Such path includes the preparation time before each pass. The second pass shall be in the opposite direction. The boat must make a reasonably straight path through the course. If the skier falls during or at the end of the first pass he will receive a maximum of ~~30~~ **45** seconds in which to be ready to be taken by the boat for his second pass. At the skier's option, if he did not fall in his first pass, the boat may stop between passes for a maximum of 45 seconds. In each case the time shall start when the boat gets to the skier.....

Rationale: Matches IWWF wording.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.12A IWWF is removing, delete first sentence.

- A. ~~Except in the case of an attempted side slide (see Rule 11.12-J)~~ **Aa** trick is any activity that occurs between two hesitations. Hesitations are defined as the complete stopping of the ski(s) and not the body motion of the skier.

Rationale: Matches IWWF.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.12E, H, I and O, Add Credit for wake line tricks when ski/leg not over line and changing wording of trick vs turn for clarity.

11.12E. A wake turn is a trick performed in mid-air while crossing the crest of the wake. A wake turn not executed in mid-air and across the crest of the wake scores zero. The ski will edge towards the wake, then the push/pop comes first then the rotation, or the push/pop and rotation come at the same time. The rotation cannot come before the push/pop. An inadvertent touch of the water with the ski tip during the rotation is acceptable on tricks with 540 degrees or more of rotation. Definition of a Pre-turn: A pre-turn is a turn off of a flat ski where the push/pop comes after the rotation has started.

All wake line tricks (WL, SL and TWL) where the ski/leg does not go over the line can be credited as wake tricks if the other wake trick criteria are met.

- H. Stepover line tricks (*surface and wake*) are credited only when the free foot touches the ski or water, or lifted ski touches the water. The skier may not put his leg or lifted ski across or on top of the line, the handle or either arm until he begins to execute the turn. The stepover and turn actions must be simultaneous. Immediately on completion of a FB stepover turn, the skier must have at least one arm between his legs holding the handle. It is not required that the free foot or ski touch the water prior to the execution of a stepover turn. A stepover turn not performed according to the rules *for a 180 or 360 surface turn* scores zero. (*See 11.12E for wake tricks*)
- I. Toehold stepover tricks must be a simultaneous action. The towing foot may not touch the water during execution of the stepover portion of the trick *turn*. The touching of the towing foot in the water immediately prior to or during the rotation of the ski while attempting a stepover trick will result in no credit for the trick. However, if the towing foot touches the water after all rotation has been completed, credit will be given.
- O. Once the skier has put the toe strap on his foot, any trick performed in which the foot in the strap intentionally touches the ski during the setup or execution of the trick *turn* shall not be scored.

Rationale: AWSA had asked for clarification regarding these tricks. This was addressed at their meeting and now we are incorporating these changes in our rules.

RC Committee –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.12J Add:

All Side Slides (hand held and toe) includes a 90-degree turn from skiing position and a return to skiing position in the original direction. In order for a Side Slide to be a creditable trick, the skier must hesitate before commencing the trick, turn 90 degrees to either side, stop, return to the starting position, and stop. To perform the reverse, the skier must turn 90 degrees in the opposite direction, stop, return to the starting position, and hesitate again.

Rationale: Additional clarification and IWWF is using this wording now too.

RC Meeting –Approved

PROPOSAL: 11.16C Change

Rope release length? Make it the same as IWWF.

AWSA 11.16C A rope trick release mechanism up to **1.25 meter (49")** ~~60cm (24")~~ may be used (see Rule 11.18B).

Rationale: Make the length the same for both. Originally 1 meter was submitted but IWWF has 1.25m. Should match.

RC Meeting –Approved. This change needs to be reviewed by safety. (OK per Safety Committee)

PROPOSAL: ADD IWWF wording to 11.20

The Tricks event shall be recorded at all Class E, L and R tournaments (and other tournaments whenever possible) by a video camera from the boat. It is recommended that the camera be held/mounted higher than top of windshield to provide a clear view of the ski. If more than one video camera is used, the Chief Judge **and Technical Controller** shall

declare one as *the primary camera and one as the secondary* prior to the start of the event. (See Rules 11.08.A, 11.08.B and 11.08.F)

Video from the boat shall be used for primary judging. *For Judging purposes and record review process, only video from the official camera(s) can be used. The official camera may be any video from the same view (example from boat) as determined by the Technical Controller and Chief Judge.*

Rationale: This is TC Committee recommendation, rules committee changed a few of the words. Matches IWWF

RC Meeting – Approved.

PROPOSAL: Delete 13.02F

~~13.02F Handle Measurement: Should the handle be out of tolerance when the boat returns to the dock in a head to head round, the skier's performance in that round will be scored zero and the skier may not continue.~~

RC Meeting – Approved. Since all handles will now be measured immediately, there is no need for this sentence.

PROPOSAL: Delete from Appendix.

~~JUMP 9.18: Disqualification~~

~~A jumper shall receive no further jumps in a round if, after leaving the boat's wake on a definite cut to the ramp, the jumper elects to pass between the boat course and the ramp, whether or not he retains the tow line. A judgment decision is required by a majority of the Event Judges as to whether the cut is "definite." Also see Rule 7.07.~~

~~Clarification by Rules Committee is that the skier may still record jumps prior to the infraction, score for overall and also qualify for Nationals if this is done at the Regional tournament. (2/26/13)~~

Rationale: This is still in rule 9.03 just not a disqualification. Was put into this section when the Disqualification section was revised.

RC Meeting – Approved.

PROPOSAL: 13.04 Mini Course ADD:

At the option of the LOC in Class C and below, skiers may choose to ski mini course buoys:

- 1. Non-surveyed mini course buoys are to be placed by the LOC at a recommended distance of 8.5m +/- 1.1 meters from the centerline of the slalom course with green as the suggested color.***
- 2. Each mini course buoy is scored as 1/2 point. To get credit, the skier must go through the entry gates, around the mini course buoy and then cross the boat guide line closest to the buoy. No partial credit is awarded for mini course buoys.***
- 3. A mixture of mini course buoys and full course buoys can be used to attain a score. The mixture must be of consecutive buoys, once a buoy is missed (both mini and regular) no more buoys are counted in the scoring of that pass.***
- 4. Mini course scoring will only be used on the first pass in Class C.***
- 5. A skier must make 6 full buoys to get a second pass in Class C.***

13.05 Other Optional Tournament formats

***For other possible formats see
www.usawaterski.org/AWSA/optionalformats....***

Rationale: This proposal can be used for Class C. This was felt to have enough liberty but also retain enough guidelines to promote beginners into the ranking list. Skiers maximum score using the mini course is limited to 5 ½ buoys. The committee did not want to limit the LOC's from using other options for fun tournaments, which could still be run as Class F if desired.

RC Meeting –Approved mini course. Other options for Class F scores with alternate formats will be placed on the USA Waterski web site under Rules.

PROPOSAL: Change Handle specifications in Appendix

Reworded the “note” and placed more information into Rule 8.04.

***Note:**

1) For tournament-supplied handle sections, the bridle length shall be 150cm -2.5cm (4'11" - 1") inside handle to inside loop with 20 kg (44lb) load.

2) For skier supplied handles in the Slalom and Jumping event, the bridle length may be 150cm +2.5cm (+1") inside handle to inside loop with 20kg (44lbs).

3) The Maximum bridle length of all SLALOM handles after skiing is 152.5cm (5'-0") with 20kg (44lb) load.

4) All measurements are from inside the handle to inside of loop.

~~**Note:** For tournament-supplied handle sections, the bridle length shall be 150 cm ± 2.5 cm (4'11" ± 1") the triangular portion of the bridle 28 cm ± 4 cm (11 ½" ± 1 ½"), and the length of the handle 30cm ± 6 cm (11-13/16" ± 2-3/8") (see diagram). For skier-supplied handles in the Slalom and Jumping events, the tolerance on the bridle length shall be +2.5 cm/-10 cm (+1"/-4) with no tolerance on the triangular portion of the bridle. All measurements shall be from inside of handle to inside of loop.~~

~~A Slalom Switch or other appliance may be used to attach the slalom towline to the pylon. When so used, that appliance shall be considered a part of the boat/pylon, may be from 0.47 to 0.51m in length, and with a recommended length of 0.50m. The measurements of ropes used with such appliances shall be 0.50m shorter than the values shown in this table.~~

Rationale: IWWF has changed when the handle is measured. Because of rope specifications we want to make sure that when handles are measured before skiing as actual then they will not be too long when measured after skiing.

IWWF wording, Personal handles shall be measured by the dock starter under the responsibility of the Homologator, immediately **after** the skier skis. Should the handle be out of tolerance following a skier return to the dock, **the skier's performance in that round is deleted.**

RC Meeting - Approved. This matches AWSA's rules and intent and TC Committee has approved.

Informational item:

PROPOSAL: Junior Divisions – On hold until IWWF makes any changes.

Rationale: The committee recognized that there is strong support for these division changes. IWWF is in the process of adding divisions within their rules. We want to make sure that we align to get the speeds and age divisions correct. This would require extra programming once everything is finalized. We will continue to discuss with members of AWSA.

No Action at this time.