

**American Water Ski Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road, Auburndale, Florida 33823**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:00 a.m.**

1. Opening & Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Gordon Hall, Chair. Roll Call was via introduction. Present in person were the following:

Voting Members  
and Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Others</u>	
Alex Lauretano	Ath Rep	AAC	Mark Crone HND
Freddy Krueger IV	Ath Rep	AAC	Bill Wenner HND
Scot Ellis	Ath Rep	AAC	Jeffrey HND, IWWF PanAm Confed. Pres.
Karen Truelove	Ath Rep	AAC	Bob HND, USA-WSWS Board Member
Jim Powell	EVP	E	Don Bucher HND
Hutch Haines	Dir	E	Floyd HND
Doug Robbins	Dir	E	Hank Longo Cmte Chair-Announcers
Ralph Hall	Dir	E	Greg Badal Cmte Chair-Drivers
Dennis Downes	EVP	MW	Jeff Clark HND, Cmte Chair-Bylaws
Peter Dahl	Dir	MW	Jeffrey Smith HND, Cmte Chair-Intl Activities
Mike O'Connor	Dir	MW	Jerry Jackson Cmte Chair-Technical
Roy Surdej	Dir	MW	George Lindy Cmte Chair-Towboat
Keith Lindemulder	EVP-S, VP	S	Nate Exec. Dir., USA-WSWS
Kirby Whetsel	Dir	S	Ron Koenig Special Cmte Chair-Team Fundraising
Lyman Hardy	Dir	S	Tim Cullen USA-WSWS President
Jim Jaquess	Dir	S	
Van Parker	EVP	SC	
Jerry Bautsch	Dir	SC	
Julie Krueger	Dir	SC	
Kelly Stumph	Dir	SC	
Connie Bergmark	Alt EVP	W	
Barry Young	Dir	W	
Richelle Muhlthner	Dir	W	
Brad Hartwell	Dir	W	
Gordon Hall	COB		
Jeff Surdej	Pres		
Delaina Downes	Sec		
Cynthia Logan	Treas		

2. Announcement of Quorum – A quorum was declared present by Chairman Hall.
3. Opening Administrative Motions
  - a. **Motion** for all Committee Chairs and invited guests to attend the meeting, with voice – Motion (by Barry/Second by Jim J). **Motion carries.**
  - b. **Motion** (Barry / Jim J) for action items in Committee Reports to be treated as automatic motions with second. **Motion carries.**
4. Appointment of Parliamentarian – Jeff Clark was appointed Parliamentarian for the meeting by Chairman Hall.
5. Confirmation of Voting Roll - Members constituting the voting roll for the meeting were confirmed. All voting directors were present, except AAC Director Corey Vaughan, and Brad Corbin, EVP-W, who is being replaced by Connie Bergmark, Alternate EVP for the Western region, for this meeting. Thirteen affirmative votes will be required to guarantee a simple majority.
6. Adoption of Agenda – The published agenda was presented. **Motion** (by Jim J / second by Keith) to move Rules and Technical committee reports as the first committee reports. **Motion carries . Motion** to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion carries.**
7. Review and Approval of Aug. 8, 2018 BOD Meeting Minutes - **Motion** to approve, as published in meeting package (Jim/Kirby). **Motion carries.**
8. Ratification of BOD Electronic Ballots since last Meeting - **Motion** to approve, as published in meeting package: (Doug/Ralph). **Motion carries.**
9. Nominating Committee Report - Barry Young, Chair. Nothing to report. All officers will be elected at the summer meeting.
10. AWSA President's Report \* – President Jeff Surdej presented the written report as attached in the board packet.
11. AWSA Executive Committee Report \* - See report in packet, combined with President's report.
  - a. Action Items:
    - i. Award bid for 2021 Jr. US Open to San Marcos River Ranch (Gordon / Lyman) – **Carries**
    - ii. Award bid for 2022 AWSA Nationals to Mystic Lakes (Barry / Jim) – Carries
    - iii. Allow LOC's to add more rounds to a sanction, without EVP approval, up to the allowed maximums – **Carries**
    - iv. New methods for skiers to achieve ranking list scores
      1. via Performance Sign-off, up to Class F maximums. **Motion** to approve (Jeff S/ Connie). **Motion carries.**
      2. via video performance submission. **Carries**; clarification that this was part of #1 motion above. Jeff to work out details of video submission and approval process.
      3. via VSS (Virtual Slalom Skiing) app. No action; encouraged regions to pursue at this point.

- v. Ski Leagues
    - 1. Jeff to form a committee to organize events. Want to offer free sanctions to clubs that host, and offer a free membership for first-time skiers.
    - 2. **Motion** to use funds in the AWSA membership budget (\$7000 budgeted for 2020) to pay for these incentives. **Motion** to call the question; fails. **Motion amended** (Keith/Jeff) to roll over any unused funds in this budget category, to the next year. **Call for vote. Motion as amended carries.**
  - b. Nominations are now open for AWSA's representative on the PanAm Tournament Council. Will be voted on in the summer meeting.
  - c. Need dedication to efforts to increase our social media presence.
1. AWSA Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Cynthia Logan presented the financial reports, in the board packet. We are in the black this year. The 2020 budget report was reviewed as well. **Motion** to receive the Treasurer's reports (Barry / Roy). **Motion carries.**
  2. USA-WSWS Executive Director's Report. Executive Director Nate Boudreaux presented the report and slideshow. Notes and highlights:
    - a. 2019 Year in Review – Several challenges
      - i. Challenges with database project and other IT issues
      - ii. Building/Office issues
      - iii. Several different accounting issues due to illness of key staff member
      - iv. Sudden passing of Dave Goode
      - v. Sponsors pulling support
      - vi. SafeSport investigation
    - b. Membership
      - i. USA-WSWS – down a bit overall
      - ii. Benefits, added:
        1. MemberDeals
        2. Lake On Company
        3. Sport disciplines specific monthly e-newsletter w/targeted content
    - c. Sponsorship
    - d. Marketing
      - i. People not flocking to the \$19.95 as hoped for
      - ii. Continuing to do what we can to promote
    - e. Create a positive experience in the sport
    - f. Information Technology
      - i. Completed first phase
      - ii. Next steps
        1. New front facing website
        2. New membership database system
        3. Other systems (event management, online learning system / LMS)
    - g. Key events
      - i. Goode US National Water Ski Championships
        1. 700 skiers (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in last 10 years)
      - ii. IndMar Show Ski Nationals
      - iii. PanAm Games (Lima, Peru)

- h. Sanctioned Events and Programs
    - 1. 537 tournaments
    - 2. 39 Grassroots
    - 3. 124 Basic Skills Clinic
  - i. Website – over 137,00 unique visitors in the last year. Most visited page: Rankings
  - j. Social Media – 20,000 followers on Facebook
    - i. Part time social media coordinator
    - ii. Need cool content
  - k. US Center for SafeSport
    - i. 1,646 have been certified
    - ii. 4,369 members have taken the course
    - iii. Since inception 11 total SafeSport cases w/ USA-WSWS
  - l. USOPC
    - i. Worked to strengthen the relationship with USOPC
    - ii. Received a grant from USOPC to assist with finance (3<sup>rd</sup> party) and compliance
    - iii. Entering into a digital media agreement to move our website to the USOPC platform
  - m. Team USA Support
    - i. Created a website
    - ii. Promote via donation email to membership ad social media
    - iii. Raised \$1,496 so far
  - n. 2020 plan
    - i. New front facing website
    - ii. New membership database system
    - iii. Membership growth
    - iv. Sponsorship growth
    - v. 3<sup>rd</sup> party merchandise partner (TEAMIP)
  - o. Get on the water week – June 27 – July 3, 2020
    - i. Increase awareness and participation
    - ii. USA-WSWS is covering the cost of sanctioning and guest memberships for all clubs who participate, details to follow.
  - p. Merchandise – website up within the next two weeks
    - i. Updated designs
    - ii. 25% revenue
    - iii. Sport Division to directly receive 20% on all sales of SD-specific merchandise
    - iv. \$500 credit
    - v. Branding consistency
3. PanAm Confederation IWWF Report \* See report in packet. No action items.
  4. PanAm Tournament Council Report \* See report in packet. No action items. Discussion item: Is movement of the trick release rope allowed now by IWWF? – It seems yes, but is made difficult by limiting the length of the release rope.

5. International Activities Committee Report \* See report in packet. Committee Chair Jeffrey Smith presented the report and discussion.
  - a. Key topics
    - i. Uncertainty of our athlete pipeline
      1. Moving towards single event skiers
      2. Funding to support the development of two- and three-event skiers coming from the Junior ranks. Discussion on board support.
    - ii. Increased athlete participation on the IAC-3:37
  - b. Action Items:
    - i. **Motion** to vote on all 4 action items at the same time (Jim / Lyman). **Motion carries.**
      1. Approval of the Qualifications and Procedures for the 2020 Junior World Championships, Pan American Championships, and 35+ World Championships.
      2. Approval of the nominations for officials, scorers and drivers for these events.
      3. Approval of the revised "Team and Independent Athlete Agreement. Subject to USA-WSWS IAC final approval
      4. Approval of the revised "Team and Independent Athlete Code of Conduct. Subject to USA-WSWS IAC final approval
    - ii. **Motion** to approve all 4 action items above (Jim / Lyman). **Motion carries.**
6. Athlete Advisory Council Report – Chair Alex Lauretano says nothing to report.
7. USOPC Report – No report
8. Other Committee Reports
  - a. Rules Committee \* See report in packet. Discussion waived and vote to consent to approval of all committee-approved proposals, save and except:
    - i. S – Proposals #2,3,18
    - ii. E – 2,11, 14, 20
    - iii. SC – nothing additionally
    - iv. MW – nothing additionally
    - v. W – nothing additionally
    - vi. **Motion** to approve all Rules committee approved proposals, except those listed above (#2, 3, 11, 14, 18, 20). **Motion carries.**
    - vii. Proposal 2 - 2.06E – Nonplacement to ski prior to placement skiers, in the running order
      1. **Motion** to call the question (Jim / Lyman). **Motion fails.** Discussion continues.
      2. **Motion** to call the question (Julie / Barry ). **Motion carries.**
      3. Vote to approve Proposal 2. 13 Yes / 10 No – **Motion carries.**
    - viii. Proposal 3 – Split B4 / G4 into 2 divisions
      1. **Motion** to call the question (Jim P / Freddy). **Motion carries.**
      2. **Vote** to approve Proposal 3: 16 Yes / 6 No – **Motion carries.**
      3. **Motion** to make this effective now (Barry / Jim P). Discussion. **Motion carries.**

- ix. Proposal 11 – 10.03A&B – Match IWWF wording for gate v. turn buoys. **Motion carries.**
- x. Proposal 14 – 11.1C – Trick release, limit length of rope to 1 m.
  - 1. **Call of the question – Jim P / Kirby – Carries.**
  - 2. **Call for vote to approve Prop. 14. Motion carries.**
- xi. Proposal 18 – Class E/L at Nationals, per below. **Motion carries.**

Divisions	Slalom	Trick	Jump
B1/G1	E/L*	E/L*	--
B2/G2	E/L*	E/L*	L
B3/G3	E/L*	E/L*	L
<b>B4/G4</b>	L	L	L
<b>B5/G5</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>
M1/W1	L	L	L
M2/W2	L	L	L
M3/W3	L	L	L
M4/W4	L	L	L
M5/W5	L	L	L
M6	L	L	L
W6	L	E/L*	E/L*
M7-8	L	E/L*	E/L*
W7-8	E/L*	E/L*	E/L*
M9-10/W9-10	E	E/L*	E/L*
MM/MW	L	L	L
OM/OW	R	R	R

*Trick divisions that may expect scores of 10,000 points or higher should be run as an "R" classification. Skiers must request Class R for an IWWF World Record in U17 or U21 divisions.*  
 \*Class L At the option of the skier

- xii. Proposal 20 – Boats, class C and higher must use AWSA approved tmt towboats; F does not. **Motion carries.**
- b. Technical Committee \* See report in packet. Jerry Jackson, Committee Chair presented the report.
  - i. All rules accepted and posted
  - ii. Action items:
    - 1. B2 National Record Benchmark – Use the highest score set after the 2019 Nationals, through the 2020 Nationals, and establish a new B2 Slalom National Record Benchmark. If the B2 2020 Nationals winning score is the highest score up to that point, then that will become the new B2 Slalom National Record. **Motion carries**
    - 2. National Record Benchmarks for new divisions (B5/G5)– **Motion –** (Gordon / Keith) The board authorizes and directs the Technical Committee to establish the new record benchmarks. Jerry will review the last 10 years of performance data, and create the new

benchmarks. Once this is done, the Technical committee will begin accepting applications for new records. **Motion carries.**

3. U17/U21 World Records. No action taken.
4. Tow ropes – **Motion** to:
  - a. Allow two different types of tow ropes to be offered
  - b. Breaking load of 1800# min.
  - c. Masterline Optimum 2 to be used at the 2020 Nationals.**Motion carries.**
5. Jump ramp settings – last year used the old settings, for Nationals options for each division will be posted. No action.
- c. Announcers Committee. Verbal report given by Hank Longo, Committee Chair. No action items.
- d. Awards Committee
  - i. **Motion** to expand Junior awards to include Jr Slalom, Jr Trick, Jr Jump and Jr Overall (Keith / Lyman). **Motion carries.**
- e. Boat Driver's Committee \* See report in packet. Greg Badal, Committee Chair.
  - i. The committee is looking for direction on how to implement, monitor and discipline the End Course video rule. After discussion, board recommends Driver's committee gets with TC committee and come up with a recommendation, if they feel that working in the guidelines already established is not enough.
  - ii. **Motion for** Sr. Driver's Emeritus for Dave Nichols – (Van / Gordon) – **Motion carries.**
- f. Bylaws Committee \* - See report in packet. Jeff Clark, Committee Chair.
  - i. Action items:
    1. Reconstructed section 3.2 of the P&P Manual to clarify the election procedures and chart reflecting USA-WSWS Director seating – **Motion carries.**
    2. Article XII word change, change "grievance" to "complaint" – **Motion carries.**
    3. Article XIII change name to "Complaint Procedures" and insert the mandatory language. New article XIII – **Motion carries.**
- g. Judges & Scorers Committee \* - See report in packet. No action items.
- h. Junior Development Committee \* - See report in packet
  - i. Action items:
    1. Approve revised Q&P for National Junior Team, and add B5/G5 – **Motion carries.**
    2. Approve revised Regional All-Star Teams Criteria – **Motion carries.**
- i. Safety Committee \* - See report from Committee Chair James Babcock in packet. No action items. Discussion items:
  - i. Alex working on Jim's request for new ACC representation.
  - ii. Bob A working on a consolidated Power Point presentation for a maintenance clinic, to be followed by a practical segment done at a tournament. That should be done by the end of February.
- j. Seeding Committee – Committee Chair Kirby Whetsel, says nothing to report.
- k. Skier's Qualification Committee – See report from Committee Chair in packet. One action item:

Due to the Class F tournaments and the level 5 criteria, need to make sure every division has a Level 5.

**Motion:** For any division/event that does not currently have a Level 5, the percentiles from the lowest active level will be proportioned equally down to assure at least 5% of skiers are in L5. For example, if Level 6 is 0-19 %, the change would be to make level 6 11-19 percent and level 5 0-10 percent. **Motion carries.**

- I. Towboat Committee \* - See report in packet. George Lindy, Committee Chair
    - i. Less than 90 promo boats in the field this year, may need the board to consider mandating some type of surcharge or incentive to keep having boats. No action.
9. Special Committee Reports
- a. Team Funding – Ron Koenig
    - i. Raised over \$23K in 2019
    - ii. Need to form a committee to continue the project
    - iii. Need to be saying thank you to those that give to the cause
    - iv. Need to be more connected with WSIA
10. Regional Recommendations
- b. East – EVP Jim Powell
    - i. Find a better solution at a lower cost than the \$300 per region for Constant Contact that is being provided by USA WSWS for communication with our members.
    - ii. Convert the Assistant Judge / Scorer / Driver applications to an online process. No more paper or PDFs.
    - iii. Convert the clinic registration form into an Excel version that can be easily uploaded to the database – reduce effort at HQ.
    - iv. Explore an online method to collect state federation dues – similar to what is being proposed with IWWF licenses.
    - v. Explore the cost – as we eliminate Regional Guides and membership cards, for new members, we should still send them something physical in the mail.
  - c. Midwest – EVP Dennis Downes
    - i. Safety – need the ability to have more training, sounds like this is getting addressed.
    - ii. Provide or require some level of safety training for judges, since we are putting judges in the boat expecting them to serve as primary safety.
  - d. South – EVP Keith Lindemulder
    - i. Eliminate Level 10 for all divisions/all events – Or at least eliminate from M6/W6 and up
    - ii. Change PanAm and IWWF rules to better represent where the majority of the activity takes place. Most record tournaments are held in US, yet the PanAm region uses a “one country/one vote” governance process.
    - iii. USA-WSWS needs to develop and communicate the value proposition and benefits of membership.
  - e. South Central – EVP Van Parker



- i Develop value proposition for the basic membership
  - f. West – Connie Bergmark
    - i No recommendations
- 11. Old Business - None
- 12. New Business - None
- 13. Date & Time of Next Meeting – The next board meeting will be the Annual meeting held August 3, 2020 in West Palm Beach, FL.
- 14. Adjournment
  - a. **Motion** to adjourn meeting (Lyman / Jim). **Motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

\* Supplemental information provided in Board Package

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Status: Unapproved

- Circulated for comment 2/1/2020
- To be considered for approval at next regularly scheduled board meeting (8/3/2020)