



OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(Revised 3/2012)

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This three step officials' program is designed not only to improve the quality of officiating but also to maintain it. Only those working toward assistant ratings will use the application forms available online under the "**Officials Resources**" section of USA Water Ski's Web site.

Step One - Education: Educational opportunities through on- and off-water clinics are increasingly available, and officials of all levels are encouraged to take advantage of those listed on the **Officials' Clinic Schedule** posted on USA Water Ski's Web site. Be sure to check the schedule often as it is updated as new clinic sanctions are received. Clinic attendance is mandatory for upgrading ratings. With the exception of aspiring Assistant Drivers, clinics and testing for upgrading may not take place on the same weekend.

Step Two - Participation: There are certain quantitative requirements for each rating that must be fulfilled before the official proceeds to the next step. These requirements as well as rating maintenance requirements are outlined on the **AWSA Officials' Program Quantitative Requirements for Advancement and Renewal** sheet posted on USA Water Ski's Web site under the "**Officials Resources**" section. Please note that duties signed off on your application forms of prior years count toward meeting those requirements.

It is important to record your work as an official in your **Official's Personal Performance Record** and have it signed by the appropriate Chief Official. Extra Performance Records are available online from USA Water Ski's Web site. It is also important to verify with the Chief Scorer that your work is accurately recorded on the Scorebook's **Tournament Officials' Record** since this is how your work is credited at USA Water Ski. Most of these records are submitted electronically to USA Water Ski and imported directly into the officials program. You can track your officials' ratings and tournament/clinic credits for rating maintenance and upgrade online through the "**Members Only**" section of USA Water Ski's Web site under the "**My Officials Ratings**" link.

Step Three, Written and Practical Evaluations: The evaluation process has been set up to allow for one, two or three event Assistant, Regular or Senior Judges, Scorers or Drivers.

1. General

- After having completed the quantitative requirements for your next rating, you may contact USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator to verify that you have indeed done so and that Headquarters has accurately recorded your work.
- Once verified, Headquarters will contact you with specific instructions for taking the open book written and practical evaluations and notify your regional Drivers' Committee or Judges' and Scorers' Committee representative that you are ready for testing. Qualified test administrators can be located using the "**Officials' Directory**" function located under the "**Officials' Resources**" link on USA Water Ski's Web site.
- Once you have successfully completed both the written and practical evaluations and the appropriate documentation is received by USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator, you will be awarded the rating achieved and an updated electronic official's card will be available online through the "**Members-Only**" section of USA Water Ski's Web site.

2. Aspiring Regular Judges and Scorers

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA Water Ski will send you an open book written test, which must be completed within 30 days and returned to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator for grading.
- Since a scorer in essence reconciles, computes and records, the take-home test will constitute both the written and practical portions of the evaluation and, upon passing, you will be awarded a Regular Scorer rating.
- For aspiring Regular Judges who pass the written test, USA Water Ski will notify you and your regional Judges' and Scorers' Committee representative that you are ready to take the practical evaluation which uses video to assess the official's ability to call trick runs in the 3,000 to 5,000 point range and determine final slalom buoy counts.

3. **Aspiring Senior Judges and Scorers**

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA Water Ski will notify you and your regional Judges' and Scorers' Committee representative that you are ready to take the written and practical evaluations.
- For judges, the practical evaluation is accomplished using a video to assess the official's ability to call trick runs in the 6,000 to 9,000 point range and determine final slalom buoy counts.

4. **Aspiring Assistant Drivers**

- Complete both the front and back of the AWSA Assistant Driver application and return it to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator. Be sure to retain a copy of the application for your records.
- USA Water Ski will review the application and, upon approval, forward you instructions on how to pay the \$12.50 fee and submit a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review authorization online. Both you and USA Water Ski will be notified of Pass/Fail status.
- Once USA Water Ski is informed that you have successfully passed the MVR Review, they will notify you and your regional Drivers' Committee representative that you are eligible to take the written and on-water practical evaluations which are conducted by a panel of three (3) drivers in conjunction with a USA Water Ski-sanctioned AWSA Drivers' Clinic. Your Regional Drivers' Committee representative will assist you in locating a clinic.
- Upon successful completion of the clinic, the Clinic Instructor(s) will forward your \$10 clinic payment and written/on-water practical evaluations to USA Water Ski to award your Assistant Driver rating.

5. **Aspiring Regular and Senior Drivers**

- Upon verification of quantitative requirements, USA Water Ski will inform you and your regional Drivers' Committee representative that you are ready to take the written and on-water practical evaluations.
- The regional Drivers' Committee representative will make arrangements for the open book written and on-water practical evaluations to be conducted by a panel of three (3) drivers in conjunction with a USA Water Ski-sanctioned AWSA Class C or higher tournament. The practical evaluation will evaluate the driver's ability in certain categories such as boat path, driving patterns, skier acceptance and speed maintenance.

Testing Frequency: Please note that in a given calendar year, an aspiring regular is permitted to take the test on two different test dates, an aspiring senior only once.

Fast Track Options: As an alternative to meeting all quantitative requirements, skiers who hold a specified rating on AWSA's National Rankings List are eligible to take advantage of the "Fast Track" option to attain an officials rating as noted below.

1. **Assistant Judge:** A Level 8 or Level 9 rated Rankings List skier may be issued an Assistant Judge rating in each event for which he reaches Level 8 or attains an "Open" rating. To apply, the aspiring judge must complete an Assistant Judge Application and return it to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator along with proof of rating. The proof of rating replaces the need to complete the sign-off requirements. The applicant should retain a copy of the application for his records.
2. **Senior Judge:** An "Open" or "Masters Men" rated Rankings List skier may test for a Senior Judge rating upon meeting the following requirements:
 - the skier must hold the "Open" or "Masters Men" rating in the event(s) for which the Senior Judge's rating is sought; and
 - the skier must have attended a judges' clinic before being allowed to take the written and practical evaluations for upgrade
3. **Regular Driver:** An "Open" rated Rankings List skier or Level III Coach may earn a Regular Driver's rating in a reduced amount of time. The procedure reduces the quantitative requirements necessary to be eligible to test for Regular Driver.
 - The aspiring driver must complete an Assistant Driver application and return it to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator along with proof of rating and/or certification. The proof of rating and/or certification replaces the need to complete the sign-off requirements. Be sure to retain a copy of the application for your records. All other requirements to become an Assistant Driver are the same as noted above.
 - As a Fast Tracked Assistant Driver, the quantitative requirements to advance to Regular Driver are reduced from 10 tournaments worked to 5 and from 2 tournaments as Assistant Chief Driver to 1. The requirements to attend a clinic and pass the written and on-water practical evaluations are the same as noted above. After successfully completing the requirements and passing the evaluations you will have earned a Regular Driver rating.