



Judges' and Scorers' Policy Manual

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PURPOSE

The AWSA Judges' and Scorers' Development Program is designed to provide each official with the experience and knowledge necessary to create the best possible environment for competitive water skiers. It is the goal of this program to improve the skill levels of these officials while ensuring consistency of expertise nationwide. Advancement to all rating levels (Assistant, Regular and Senior) is achieved through the three steps of education, participation and evaluation, common to all AWSA officials' development programs.

STEP ONE - EDUCATION

Education is provided through USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Judges and Scorers Clinics. The classroom provides a more comfortable environment than that of the fast-paced tournament setting.

Clinics are conducted by Senior Judges and Scorers selected by the Regional Judges and Scorers Committee representative. A list of selected clinic instructors is available upon request from USA Water Ski's Competition Department. There is a USA Water Ski registration fee for each clinic participant. A clinic may also count as one of the required tournament maintenance credits.

If an official needs to attend a clinic, it is his responsibility to contact his Regional Committee representative. Officials may apply to be allowed to complete a "take home" clinic where a formal officials' clinic is not available in their area.

Clinic Maintenance Requirements: All Regular and Senior Judges and Scorers (but not Assistant Judges and Scorers) must attend an officials' clinic once every four years to maintain their ratings. Single or two-event officials must attend those portions of the clinic specifically dealing with their rating, as well as all general presentations. Failure to do so will result in an automatic downgrade to the next lower rating. USA Water Ski will notify all officials that they must attend a clinic early during the last year of this time frame.

Clinic Upgrade Requirements: A clinic is required to upgrade to Regular or Senior status.

Clinic Credit for Instructors and Participants: Clinic instructors are not required to pay a clinic registration fee. Instructors receive full credit toward clinic maintenance requirements. Both judges and scorers receive credit at an Officials or Judges Clinic. However, only scorers may receive credit at a Scorers Clinic.

Clinic Duration: It is recommended that a clinic on all three events include at least 8-10 hours of instruction.

STEP TWO – PARTICIPATION

There are quantitative requirements to be met to attain, maintain, or upgrade a Judge or Scorer rating. Typically, these requirements are attained by working in a variety of capacities at tournaments, sanctioned by USA Water Ski/AWSA, to gain experience. AWSA publishes Quantitative Requirements for Advancement and Renewal for all levels of Judge and Scorer. This document is available on AWSA's web site, or through USA Water Ski's Competition Department.

Three, Two or Single Event Ratings: An individual working to acquire, maintain, or upgrade a rating must complete the quantitative requirements for each event for which he is seeking/maintaining the rating.

Maintenance: Assistant, Regular and Senior judges and scorers need to complete the biennial tournament requirements published in AWSA's Quantitative Requirements for Advancement and Renewal to maintain their ratings.

Rating Upgrade: There are quantitative requirements to be met to advance to Regular or Senior Judge/Scorer. Work performed is recorded on the Tournament Officials' Record sheet or on the scoring computer's ODF file at each tournament. It is the responsibility of the official to ensure that his work is accurately recorded. Officials should also maintain their own work records on the USA Water Ski-provided Official's Personal Performance Record to track their progress toward maintenance and advancement.

An individual must be an AWSA-rated Assistant Scorer before beginning work toward Regular Scorer status.

Aspiring Assistants: Individuals seeking an assistant's rating use an application form, available from USA Water Ski's Competition Department and on USA Water Ski's web site, which lists the duties to be performed to acquire the rating. Once the completed form is sent to USA Water Ski and verified, the aspiring official will receive notification and an official's qualification card indicating an Assistant Judge or Scorer rating. The form must be completed within three years.

Fast-Track Options for Fulfilling Requirements:

The following policies are offered as alternatives to meeting quantitative requirements or as a means to expedite meeting requirements:

- **Aspiring Assistant Judge or Scorer** – Aspiring officials 13 years and older may complete (for credit) the requirements for becoming an assistant judge or scorer, so they will be immediately eligible to become an assistant judge or scorer upon reaching the age of 15.
- **Aspiring Regular Judge or Scorer** – Assistant Judges and Scorers may apply to test (in a supervised examination setting) to upgrade to Regular Judge or Scorer upon (1) serving as an Assistant Chief Judge (or Scorer) at 2 or more tournaments (Class C or above); (2) attending a sanctioned judges and scorers' clinic; and (3) submitting a resume to the Judges' and Scorers' Committee for approval (by a majority vote) demonstrating that the applicant has adequate experience and knowledge (substantially equivalent to applicants participating in the traditional judges' and scorers' training and evaluation programs) to properly judge or score the event(s) for which an upgrade is sought. "Substantially equivalent" experience and knowledge may be demonstrated on a case-by-case basis such as through coaching experience or a coaches rating (e.g., a Level 3 Coaches rating), open skier's rating, national/world record performances as a skier, etc.

- Aspiring Assistant Judge – Open and Ranking List level 8 skiers may obtain an Assistant Judge's rating in each event that an Open rating or Ranking List level 8 is held by sending an Assistant Judge's application, with the top portion completed, or a written request and a copy of the signed rating card to USA Water Ski's Competition Department.
- Aspiring Senior Judge –
 - Skiers who hold a current “Open” rating may test for a Senior Judges rating upon meeting the following requirements: (a) the skier must hold the open rating in the event(s) for which the Senior Judge’s rating is sought; and (b) the applicant must have attended a judges’ clinic before being allowed to upgrade.
 - Skiers who hold a current “Masters Men” (Masters 55K) rating may test for a Senior Judges rating, for the Slalom event only, upon attending a judges’ clinic.
- Aspiring Regular Scorer – Senior Judges may obtain a Regular Scorer rating by attending a clinic and sending an Assistant Scorer's application, with the top portion completed, or a written request to USA Water Ski's Competition Department.
- Aspiring Regular Scorer – Aspiring Regular Scorers may reduce the number of tournaments required by working as follows: The aspiring Regular Scorer must, alone, set up a tournament on computer, take charge of the scoring of all events and posting scores, and submit required results and reports under supervision of the Chief Scorer. This experience will substitute for working two tournaments, and may be performed twice to substitute for four tournaments. Verification of this work can be provided to headquarters either as a signed statement from the Chief Scorer submitted with other paper reports with the tournament results, or via email from the Chief Scorer to the Officials’ Development specialist at headquarters. The aspiring Regular scorer is responsible for coordinating with the Chief Scorer to ensure work credit is reported to headquarters.
- Aspiring Senior Scorer – Aspiring Senior Scorers may reduce the number of non-Regional/National tournaments required by serving as Chief Scorer more than the three minimum times. This experience will substitute for working two tournaments each time it is done, for a maximum of three times. Therefore, the aspiring Senior Scorer will have served as Chief Scorer for a minimum three or maximum six countable times. This reduces the current requirement by up to three tournaments and provides more relevant experience.

Tournament Credit

Officials should hold the necessary rating (senior, regular or assistant) to work each class of tournament (R, L, E, C or F) as set forth in the AWSA Rule Book. To receive credit for judging a slalom or tricks event, an official must serve as a shore or boat judge. For the jumping event, credit is given for reading meters, shore or boat judging, or operating the masterboard or video jump measurement system. With a computer, the keyboard operator may receive credit for working the event as both a judge and a scorer. To receive credit for scoring a slalom or jump event, an official may score on the computer or on paper when no computer is available, or assist the computer operator as “paper backup”. To receive credit for scoring a tricks event an official may assist in reconciling the tricks “pink sheets”, or score on the computer, or manually point and total the trick runs.

Multiple Official's Rating Credit: An individual is eligible to serve as a judge or scorer at one tournament and receive more than one official's rating credit. However, only one credit is awarded per official's rating category (judge or scorer) per tournament. For example, although an individual can be an Assistant Chief Judge and also judge one or more events at a tournament, he only receives one rating credit as Assistant Chief Judge or event judge, not both, for that tournament.

NSL, Novice and Fun Tournament Credits:

- For rated judges and scorers, full maintenance (not upgrade) credit is awarded for working Class N and F tournaments. Work at Novice and Fun tournaments may not count toward rating upgrade.
- Aspiring assistant slalom judges or scorers may obtain quantitative credit towards becoming an Assistant Judge or Scorer at NSL/Novice/Class F slalom tournaments. The quantitative requirements are the same as for aspiring assistants working at Class C tournaments, except no judging supervision is required by a Regular or Senior Judge. Chief Scorer approval of work performed is required for scoring. Upon completion of the quantitative requirements, the aspiring assistant slalom judge must review an instructional manual and pass a take home test. There is no such requirement for scoring.

Regional Tournament Credit for Aspiring Senior Officials: Credit may be obtained by work performed at either a Regional or National tournament, including work at both tournaments during the same year. The NCWSA All-Stars and Nationals shall not count toward fulfilling the quantitative requirement of Regional Tournament attendance for upgrading to Senior. Under exceptional circumstances, an aspiring Senior Judge or Scorer may apply to the Judges and Scorers Committee for a one-time hardship (see below) to allow work at a Record Tournament to be counted towards one of the Regional/National Tournament Credits required to upgrade.

Record Tournament Credit for Assistant Officials: Except at the National Tournament, Assistant Judges and Scorers may receive credit for working an event at a Record Capability tournament as set forth in AWSA Rule 15.05(c), or when an event is worked under the "direct supervision" of one of the event officials who is actually judging or scoring the event. "Direct Supervision" means that the supervising event official must be physically present with the assistant official during the event. The supervising event official must meet all applicable rating and other requirements with respect to the event, and shall be responsible for judging the contestant's score. In the slalom and jumping events (and tricks event with respect to scoring only), the assistant official may initially judge the contestant's score, subject to revision or correction by the supervising event official. In the tricks event, an Assistant Judge may work as an "extra" trick judge (who shall not replace any of the event judges) whose score shall not be utilized to determine the contestant's score. Following each skier or the event, the supervising event judge shall review the Assistant Judge's score with him. Additionally, Assistant Scorers may work and receive credit at Record Capability tournaments (except the National Tournament) under the general (not direct) supervision of a Senior or Regular Scorer and with the approval of the Chief Judge, but only when there are not enough qualified scorers available. Assistant officials working pursuant to this policy may receive event judging or scoring credit at Record Capability tournaments. Judges who are not rated scorers may not score at a Record Capability tournament.

Work Abroad: Work performed according to our guidelines in non-USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Record Capability tournaments taking place outside of the country will be credited upon submission of proof to USA Water Ski.

Tournament Requirements

- **Pan-Am Officials:** All USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Class R and L tournaments must have a Pan-Am certified Judge on the panel.
- **Non-AWSA Officials:** Non-AWSA rated officials may officiate as Event Judges at USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Record Capability tournaments, but the majority of the panel must be made up of AWSA-rated officials. This does not apply to IWSF-sanctioned international events held in the USA.
- **European, African and Middle Eastern (EAME or Region 2) and Canadian Judges' Ratings:** Other federations' or regions' judges' ratings are equated to those of AWSA for use in assigning tournament personnel as follows: AWSA Senior/EAME Class 1/Canadian Levels 3 and 4; AWSA Regular/EAME Class 2/Canadian Level 2; AWSA Assistant/EAME Class 3/Canadian Level 1.

STEP THREE - EVALUATION (TESTING FOR UPGRADE)

The program offers single event, two event or three event as well as cross-over ratings (i.e., Senior rating in one event, Regular in the other two). Because there is no practical test for the jumping event, aspiring Regular and Senior Judges will receive a rating in that event after passing the written tests. Aspiring Regular and Senior Scorers will receive a rating in jump when also receiving a rating in either slalom or tricks, or both.

Testing Procedures: Once ALL quantitative requirements (including a clinic) are complete for a given rating level, officials should contact USA Water Ski Headquarters' Competition Department to request that their work be verified. USA Water Ski will do so, then explain what is necessary to complete the written and practical exams.

The Regular Judges' and Scorers' written tests are mailed from USA Water Ski Headquarters, completed at home as open-book and sent back to USA Water Ski for grading. For aspiring Regular Scorers, this test serves as the practical portion as well. Upon passing the written test, aspiring Regular Judges will receive a list of the closest test administrators from USA Water Ski Headquarters who will also notify the regional Judges and Scorers Committee representative that these officials are eligible for practical testing. The Senior Judges and Scorers' written tests are administered under the supervision of a test administrator. It is the responsibility of the aspiring official to contact the test administrator and arrange a convenient date and location and advise the committee representative. Aspiring Senior Judges must also take the written portion of their evaluation on the same occasion as the practical test. For aspiring Senior Scorers, both the written and practical tests are administered in this manner as well.

Testing Opportunities: Aspiring Regulars may take the test on two different dates per calendar year, aspiring Seniors only once.

Written Test Format: The open book tests for Regular Judge, Regular Scorer, Senior Judge, and Senior Scorer consist of questions relating to the slalom, tricks, and jump events, along with questions of general application,. Passing percentages are:

- Regular Judge: 80% for each event, plus 80% for general considerations section
- Senior Judge: 85% for each event, plus 85% for general considerations section
- Regular Scorer: 80% for each event, plus 80% for general considerations section
- Senior Scorer: 85% for each event, plus 85% for general considerations section

Practical Test Format: The practical exam for Judges involves the use of video. Aspiring Regular and Senior Slalom Judges will call several slalom runs. Aspiring Regular and Senior Tricks Judges will call several trick runs, with tricks scores ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 points for Regular and 6,000 to 9,000 points for Senior. The applicant is evaluated on recognition of tricks and in-and-out-of-course determination. Aspiring Senior Judges are also graded on deciding credit/no credit. Passing percentages are:

- Regular Judge: 80% for each event (slalom and tricks)
- Senior Tricks Judge: 80% for credit/no credit; 90% for recognition
- Senior Slalom Judge: 80%

The practical test for Senior Scorer is in written test format. The practical test consists of two sections of questions dedicated to each of the slalom and trick events. There is no practical exam for Regular Scorer; the Regular Scorer written test serves as the practical test as well. Passing percentages for Senior Scorer are:

- 80% for each event (slalom and tricks)

Pan Am Judge's Rating: Senior Judges who seek to be appointed to international events must take written and practical exams, more extensive and challenging than those for Senior Judge, to become classified as Pan American Judges. Further information is available from USA Water Ski upon request.

HARDSHIP

The Judges' and Scorers' Committee has the responsibility of ensuring that all officials have the skills necessary to guarantee skiers the best possible environment and that these skills have not eroded because of a lack of practice. There are, however, exceptional situations that prevent an official from meeting the renewal requirements. An excusable hardship involves an event or condition over which an official has no control. In other words, the event or condition is not self imposed and personal choice has not been exercised.

Each request for hardship will be considered on its own merits. Hardships will not be granted for ability, prior qualifications, personality or length of service. Hardships are not renewable.

The following are hardship examples and are not all inclusive:

- Excusable Conditions:
 1. Medical problems - major injury or illness, surgery, etc.
 2. Military Duty
 3. Temporary job assignments lasting two months or more over which the official has no control
 4. Pregnancy
- Inexcusable Conditions:
 1. Non-awareness of renewal requirements
 2. Personal error in record keeping
 3. Lack of tournament attendance due to other personal activities
 4. Failure to attend an officials' clinic

Hardship applicants should submit a completed hardship petition to their Regional Judges and Scorers Committee Representative. The petition form is available from USA Water Ski's Competition Department. The representative will in turn forward the form with a recommendation (yes or no) to USA Water Ski for circulation and voting by the National Judges and Scorers Committee. USA Water Ski will inform the petitioner by letter of the approval or denial of his request. The deadline for submission is May 1 of the year following downgrade or 60 days after official USA Water Ski notification of the downgrade, whichever is later.

REINSTATEMENT

An official who is not granted renewal due to lack of work in a given calendar year (for example, 2008) loses his rating effective January 1 of the next year (2009 in this example), although a "grace period" to complete any clinic requirements is given through May 1st of the following year. Any official seeking reinstatement must apply within five years of the effective date of the downgrade/rating loss. (In this example, January 1, 2009 is the effective date so the official must apply by December 31, 2013.)

Judges and scorers applying for reinstatement must have held the requested rating within the last five years as verified by USA Water Ski Headquarters. Applicants not meeting this requirement must start over again. Once an official's rating is reinstated, unless he is reinstated as a Senior, he regains all credit he had originally obtained toward advancement to the next rating.

Assistant Judge or Scorer: If a person has held a valid Assistant Judge's or Scorer's rating in the previous five years, the individual may reinstate his assistant rating by attending a USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Officials' Clinic. The clinic registration form should clearly indicate that the person is applying for reinstatement so USA Water Ski Headquarters can verify previous tournament credits. The official should follow-up.

Regular Judge or Scorer: If the applicant has held a valid Regular Judge's or Scorer's rating in the previous five years, the individual may reinstate his Regular rating by first attending a USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Officials' Clinic. Upon completion of the clinic, the applicant must contact USA Water Ski's Competition Department who will in turn verify the date the rating was downgraded to Assistant and then mail the appropriate written test. Upon successful completion of the written test, reinstating Regular Scorers will be sent an official's qualification card. Reinstating Regular Judges will be sent notification of passing the written test and readiness for practical testing along with a list of test administrators. By copy of this letter, the Regional Committee Representative will also be notified. The applicant will be reinstated as a Regular official upon successfully retesting.

Senior Judge or Scorer: If the applicant has held a valid Senior Judge's or Scorer's rating in the previous five years, the individual may reinstate his Senior rating by first attending a USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned Officials' Clinic. Upon completion of the clinic, the applicant must contact USA Water Ski's Competition Department who will in turn verify the date the rating was downgraded to Regular and send notification to the applicant and Regional Committee Representative of readiness to take the written and practical testing. The applicant will be reinstated as a Senior official upon successfully retesting.

Pan-Am Judge: A Senior Judge who also holds a Pan Am rating must meet the normal AWSA reinstatement requirements (clinic, written and practical tests) for Senior Judge except that one or both of the tests may be waived if the Pan-Am equivalent was passed in the year for which non-renewal resulted in a need for reinstatement.

RETIRED STATUS

Regular or Senior Judges and Scorers may retire at their present rating levels provided they have held a Regular or Senior rating for a minimum of five years. Retirement means that no further officiating is allowed. If during the next five years, they wish to work tournaments again, they will be awarded their former ratings upon attending a clinic and successfully completing both written and practical exams. This procedure permits all officials to retire with dignity if they are no longer able to work at tournaments and have not met the requirements for Senior Official Emeritus.

To apply, the official must send a letter requesting "Retired" status to USA Water Ski's Competition Department, their Regional Judges' and Scorers' Committee Representative and their Regional Executive Vice President. USA Water Ski Headquarters will send the candidate a letter of confirmation and a certificate honoring their years of service.

SENIOR JUDGE OR SENIOR SCORER EMERITUS

A Senior Judge or Scorer may be recognized as a Senior Emeritus if he has made a significant and lasting contribution to the sport of water skiing during many years of service. Although there is no application form, certain requirements, listed below, must be met. The intent is to honor these individuals, prevent forced retirement and allow them to stay in the ranks to use and share their expertise and experience.

Emeritus Requirements

1. The applicant must have been an Active Senior Judge or Senior Scorer for ten years or more (need not be active at time of submission).
2. Official must have acted in some capacity on the National level, e.g., as an appointed/assigned judge or scorer at the Nationals; member of a National Committee; Regional Councilperson; National Director; National/Regional tournament Chief Judge, Assistant Chief Judge, Tournament Director, etc. WSDA Nationals work is also eligible for consideration.
3. A candidate must send a written request to his regional member of the Judges' and Scorers' Committee, that he be allowed to move to this position if he meets the above requirements.
4. The Regional Committee representative must bring the application before the Regional Council of the candidate's home region to be voted on.
5. Upon receiving regional approval, at the request of the committee chairperson, the candidate will be presented to the National Judges and Scorers Committee for approval (2/3 vote necessary) then on to the AWSA Board of Directors for final approval (majority vote).
6. After final approval, a lifetime Senior Judge or Scorer Emeritus card will be issued allowing the official to serve as Chief, Assistant Chief or Judge or Scorer in any tournament up to and including Class C, or as an event judge (as the equivalent as an Assistant Judge) at a Class E event.
7. The only maintenance requirement for Emeritus is: maintain a current USAWS "Active" membership.

Emeritus Reinstatement: Emeriti are eligible for reinstatement under the same guidelines as other judges and scorers.

DEFINITIONS

Assistant Judge: An Assistant Judge may serve as an Assistant Chief Judge or Event Judge in any Class C or lower tournament (and as a slalom event judge or tricks boat judge in any Class E tournament), as well as work (for credit only) under the supervision of a Regular or Senior Judge in a Record Capability tournament, as discussed elsewhere in this manual.

Assistant Scorer: An Assistant Scorer may score or serve as Assistant Chief Scorer or Event Scorer in any Class C or lower tournament. Assistant Scorers may also work (for credit only) at Record Capability tournaments under the direct supervision of a Senior or Regular Scorer, and under the general (not direct) supervision of a Senior Scorer and with the approval of the Chief Judge when there are not enough qualified scorers available

Regular Judge or Scorer: A Regular Judge or Scorer may serve as Chief Judge or Chief Scorer in any Class C or lower tournament and as an Event Judge or Scorer at Regional tournament Class E or L events, but with a majority of Senior Judges in Class L events.

Senior Judge or Scorer: Senior Judge or Scorer is the highest national rating offered by AWSA. This official may serve as Chief Judge or Scorer or Event Judge or Scorer at all USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned tournaments.

Assistant Chief Judge or Scorer: An Assistant Chief Judge or Scorer at Class C or lower tournaments may be an Assistant, Regular or Senior Judge or Scorer. At all Record Capability tournaments, except the Nationals (Senior required) and the Regionals, he shall be a Regular or Senior Judge or Scorer. His role is determined by the Chief official. At local tournaments, he may be asked to assign all judges or scorers and substitute for the Chief if necessary.

Chief Judge or Scorer: The Chief Judge or Scorer at Class C or lower tournaments shall be a Regular or Senior Judge or Scorer. At all Record Capability tournaments, he shall be a Senior Judge or Scorer. The Chief officials are responsible for ensuring the validity of the sanctioning classification and the correct implementation of all rules and for assigning all working personnel, a role that may be delegated to their Assistants or others. With the assistance of the Chief Scorer, the Chief Judge makes certain that all the necessary paperwork is forwarded to USA Water Ski's Competition Department.

In areas where a Regular or Senior Scorer is not available, the Executive Vice President may approve the use of an Assistant Scorer as the Chief Scorer of a Class C tournament, under the supervision of the Chief Judge.