



OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(Revised 01/31/2008)

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 contained in the tournament kit packet, or available from USA Water Ski (on line or by mail). Open rated and ranking list Level 8 skiers may be issued an Assistant Judge rating in each event that an Open rating or ranking list Level 8 is held by sending an Assistant Judge Application, with the top portion completed, or a written request to USA Water Ski's Officials Programs Specialist.

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 in our publications. Attendance at a Judges and Scorers Clinic 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. Please review the Quantitative Requirements sheet printed on the back cover of your Official's Personal Performance Record or enclosed in the tournament kit for further details.

Step Two - Participation: There are certain quantitative requirements for each rating that must be fulfilled before the official proceeds to the next step. Please note that duties signed off on your application forms of prior years count toward meeting those requirements. Remember 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 included in all tournament kits and are available from USA Water Ski upon request. You no longer need to send copies of your work to USA Water Ski unless requested. For judges, work toward rating maintenance and upgrading includes only that performed as Shore Judge, Boat Judge, Meter Reader and Master Board Operator (includes video jump operation). It is also important to verify that your work is accurately listed on the Scorebook's Tournament Officials' Record since this is how your work is credited at USA Water Ski. Maintenance requirements for judges, scorers and drivers are based biennially (i.e., work performed January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 counts for renewal for 2009). Also, any senior driver holding a slalom rating must submit an end course video of their driving performance to their regional drivers' committee representative once a year for review.

Step Three, Part A - Written Evaluation: After having completed the quantitative requirements for your next rating, you may contact USA Water Ski's Officials Programs Specialist to verify that you have indeed done so and that Headquarters has accurately recorded your work. As applicable, you will be given specific testing instructions and a list of test administrators via a notification letter or e-mail from Headquarters.

1. **Aspiring Regular Judges and Scorers** will be mailed an open book test, which they have 30 days to complete and return to USA Water Ski's Officials Programs Specialist for grading. For scorers, this test will also constitute the practical portion of their evaluation.
2. **Aspiring Senior Judges and Scorers** will take a similar open book test, along with a practical test (Step Three, Part B) at a mutually convenient time and place with the test administrator.
3. **Aspiring Assistant Drivers** must complete an Assistant Driver's Application before attending a USA Water Ski/AWSA-sanctioned drivers' clinic for written and practical evaluations. Drivers are not eligible for testing until the application is completely filled out and signed off for the event(s) being applied for. Once the application is completed, the aspiring driver should contact the Regional Drivers' Committee representative or USA Water Ski's Officials Programs Specialist who will inform them of when and where the nearest clinic is to take place and provide them with a contact. The completed original application should be taken to the clinic and given to the clinic instructor(s) (it is wise to retain a copy for your records).
4. **Aspiring Regular and Senior Drivers** will take the written test at the same time as the practical test (Step Three, Part B-6) during previously designated Class C or higher tournaments. The test will be true-false/multiple choice/fill-in and open book.

Step Three, Part B - Practical Evaluation: This final evaluation is designed to simulate tournament conditions as much as possible. Once this phase has been successfully completed, the official will be awarded the rating achieved. No further approvals are necessary. As applicable, you will be given specific testing instructions and a list of test administrators via a notification letter or e-mail from USA Water Ski.

1. **Aspiring Regular Scorers:** Since a scorer in essence reconciles, computes and records, the take-home test described in Step Three, Part A-1 will constitute both the written and practical portions of the evaluation.
2. **Aspiring Senior Scorers** will take both the written and practical tests described in Step Three, Part A-2 at predetermined sites.
3. **Aspiring Regular Judges**, upon passing the written test, will be notified by USA Water Ski Headquarters of specific testing instructions and test administrators. The evaluation will be accomplished using a 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.
4. **Aspiring Senior Judges** will take both the written and practical tests described in Step Three, Part A-2 at once. The latter test is similar, but more difficult, than the one for aspiring regulars (trick runs in the 6,000 to 9,000 point range).
5. **Aspiring Assistant Drivers** will take both the written and practical tests, the latter under the supervision of a panel of three drivers, during a clinic as described in Step Three, Part A-3.
6. **Aspiring Regular and Senior Drivers** will take both the written and practical tests, the latter under the supervision of a panel of three drivers who will evaluate their ability in certain categories such as boat path, driving patterns, skier acceptance and speed maintenance.

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.

The evaluation process has been set up to allow for one, two or three event Assistant, Regular or Senior Judges, Scorers or Drivers.

Once you have successfully completed Step Three, you have achieved the rating you were seeking and will receive a new rating card from USA Water Ski Headquarters indicating your new rating. In the meantime, a temporary card, issued at the evaluation site, will allow you to start work at your new rating level immediately.

Senior Judge – Fast Track

As an alternative to meeting all quantitative requirements, 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.

Regular Driver – Fast Track

A fast track procedure has been established for Open rated skiers and Level III coaches to earn a Regular Driver’s rating in a reduced amount of time. The procedure reduces the quantitative requirements to be eligible to test for Regular Driver for 1.) An Open rated skier in the event/events the Open rating is held *or* 2.) A Level III coach.

The aspiring driver must fill out the Assistant Driver application and provide proof of rating and/or certification. The proof of rating and/or certification replaces the need to complete the sign-off requirements. The individual must take the completed form to a driver’s clinic and pass the written and practical evaluations to become an Assistant Driver.

The quantitative requirements to be able 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 practical evaluations are the same. After successfully completing the requirements and passing the evaluations the individual will have earned the Regular Driver Rating.

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