

Minutes

**American Water Ski Association
Board of Directors Meeting
2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road, Auburndale, Florida 33823
Saturday, January 26, 2019 8:00 a.m.**

1. Opening & Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Gordon Hall, Chairman. Roll Call was via introduction and sign-in. Present in person were the following:

Voting Members
and Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Others</u>	
Alex Lauretano	Ath Rep	AAC	Bill Murbach HND
Nate Smith	Ath Rep	AAC	Bill Wenner HND
Freddy Krueger IV	Ath Rep	AAC	Bob Corson HND, IWWF Tmt Council rep
Scot Ellis	Ath Rep	AAC	Dean Chappell HND
Karen Truelove	Ath Rep	AAC	Don Bucher HND
Jim Powell	EVP	E	Floyd McCreight HND
Hutch Haines	Dir	E	Ham Wallace Cmte Chair-Drivers
Doug Robbins	Dir	E	Hank Longo Cmte Chair-Announcers
Gary Noll	Dir	E	Jeff Clark HND, Cmte Chair-Bylaws
Dennis Downes	EVP	MW	Jeffrey Smith HND, Cmte Chair-Intl Activities
Jim Babcock	Alt Dir	MW	Jerry Jackson Cmte Chair-Technical
Mike O'Connor	Dir	MW	Nate Boudreaux Exec. Dir., USAWSWS
Roy Surdej	Dir	MW	Ron Koenig Special Cmte-Team Fundraising
Bob Archambeau	EVP	S	Steve Lohr HND
Kirby Whetsel	Dir	S	Tom Nathan Cmte Chair-Judges & Scorers
Lyman Hardy	Dir	S	Tony Drake Cmte Chair-National Junior Dvlpt
Jim Jaquess	Dir	S	
Van Parker	EVP	SC	
Jerry Bautsch	Dir	SC	
Julie Krueger	Dir	SC	
Bob Mayhew	Dir	SC	
Brad Corbin	EVP	W	
Barry Young	Dir	W	
Richelle Muhlitner	Dir	W	
Brad Hartwell	Dir	W	
Gordon Hall	COB		
Jeff Surdej	Pres		
Keith Lindemulder	VP		
Delaina Downes	Sec		
Robert Rhyne, III	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 Peter Dahl, who is being replaced by Jim Babcock, alternate director for the MW region, for this meeting. 14 affirmative votes will be required to guarantee a simple majority. Noted was the 100% attendance of the AAC Athlete members, much appreciated.
 6. Adoption of Agenda – The published agenda was presented. Two additions were made: Team Funding, and updates on the 2019 & 2020 Nationals. Motion to approve the agenda, as amended, carries.
 7. Review and Approval of Aug. 8, 2018 BOD Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve, as published in meeting package (Barry / Roy). Motion carries.
 8. Ratification of BOD Electronic Ballots since last Meeting - Motion to approve, as published in meeting package: (Barry / Julie). Motion carries.
 9. Nominating Committee Report - Barry Young, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. No action items.
 10. Team Funding – Ron Koenig, Chair. Ron gave an update on his efforts to raise funds for travel expenses of World Teams. Donations were down this year; we did not raise nearly as much as the previous year. Ron has found that direct mail is the most effective method of raising funds. Every donation counts, no matter how small. The most common donation made is a \$25 donation.
 11. AWSA President’s Report – Jeff Surdej, President. Review of report submitted in Board Package.
 - a. Thanks to Ron Koenig for his efforts on raising donations for our World Teams.
 - b. Virtual Slalom App – The Iphone app is in beta, targeting for full launch this spring.
 - c. Where2Waterski.com – Review and discussion of this new app, developed by John Horton. John will be donating his time, and we are budgeting \$2000 for Google fees for this initiative. Discussion over the term “Ambassador”, suggestion to rename that term in order to avoid confusion with AWSA Ambassador member program.
 12. AWSA Executive Committee Report - Jeff Surdej, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package.
 - a. Proposals
 - i. 2020 Jr US Open bid @ Mystic Lakes – Motion to approve; Motion carries.
 - ii. 2019 National entry fee – Motion to raise entry fee to: 1 Event: \$165; 2 Events: \$200; 3 Events: \$235; Family of 3: \$430; family additional entries: \$80 for each additional family member. Increase late entry fee from \$10 to \$15/day. Motion carries

- iii. Motion to divide funds that were not specifically allocated to any specific team, to divide among the 5 age groups' team funds on an "as needed" basis as determined by the AWSA President. Motion carries.
 - iv. 2021 Nationals bid @ Waters Edge. Motion to approve bid from Waters Edge for the 2021 Nationals. The tournament will use 2 lakes and a 6 days schedule. Motion carries. Discussion over allowing appointed officials to split the week rather than serving the entire week; no action.
13. AWSA Treasurer's Report - Rob Rhyne, Treasurer. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Motion to accept report (Roy / Brad). Motion carries.
14. USA-WS Executive Director's Report - Nate Boudreaux. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Thanks to all attendees for their support and donation of time and talent to the sport. Thanks to Mark Crone for all of his help and support. Our top priorities now are to fix our IT infrastructure.
15. PanAm Confederation IWWF Report - Review of report submitted by Jeffrey Armstrong in Board Package. Motion to approve report (Bob A). Motion carries.
16. PanAm Tournament Council Report - Bob Corson, Tournament Council rep. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Jeff Surdej asked that Bob Corson suggest to the PanAm council, to consider schedules and conflicts with other events when looking at bids and event scheduling. There is a lot of overlap making it difficult for athletes to choose. A uniform Judges' exam is being put online, along with a retesting schedule. If you have been a senior for 5 years you can take the written test, you can take the online test within the next year and you can become a PanAm judge for Slalom and Jump only.
17. International Activities Committee Report – Jeffrey Smith, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Consideration of action items in report:
- a. Motion to approve 2019 CanAm Qualifications and Procedures document. Motion carries.
 - b. Motion to approve 2019 U21 Qualifications and Procedures document. Motion carries.
 - c. Motion to approve 2019 Elite Worlds Qualifications and Procedures document. Motion carries.
 - d. Motion to approve 2019 Officials and Team Staff Member selections/nominations document. Motion carries.
18. Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) Report – Alex Lauretano, Chair. No issues or action items to report. Thanks to the AAC for attending the meeting and representing the interests of our athletes.
19. USOC Report – No report or action items. Comment on importance of attendance at meetings by athletes.
20. 2019 Nationals – Update by Dale Stevens, Ski Club of the Palm Beaches LOC representative. Event preparation is coming along well. A trick panel of judges is being discussed, and they feel it's progressing in the right direction. Goal is to provide more timely and accurate scores for the skiers. Assignments for the panel will come from the Assignments Official and Charlotte Melchers. There will be an opportunity for aspiring judges to get Nationals judging credit, by sitting with the panel and boat judges.

Everything is secured with the county. Boats are tight but Jeff S. is working to help them. Hotels are secured. The America's Cup and Big Dawg events will also be held in conjunction with the national tournament, so 4 lakes will be used. The event schedule is due to be posted in a couple of weeks.

Other Committee Reports

21. Announcers Committee – Hank Longo, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. No action items. Looking for volunteer announcers for the National tournament.
22. Awards Committee - Review of report submitted by Lori Krueger, Chair, in Board Package. Concern expressed over number of awards going to athletes and that there is more to our sport. Recommendation for Awards Committee to look into increasing the number and recipients of our awards.
23. Boat Driver's Committee – Ham Wallace, Chair. Review of report submitted as addendum to Board Package. Consideration of action items in report:
 1. Drivers should be awarded event credit towards upgrade even if they are chief driver. Motion carries.
 2. Motion to change the quantitative requirements time frame from 2 years to 4 years, so that it aligns with J&S and Tech (#4) | **Carries**
 3. Motion for Senior drivers in Slalom and Jump to be able to drag in tricks (#6)... | **Carries**
 4. Drivers should be able to get event credit towards upgrade even if they are Chief Driver (#1) | **Carries**
 5. Policy change to drivers manual (#2) Motion **Hamm / Bob A | Carries**
24. Bylaws Committee – Jeff Clark, Chair. Review of report and addendum submitted in Board Package. Consideration of action item in report: Jeff has been working with NSSA and AWSA to change the member/director ratio from 4000, down to 2500. If approved, this means we will be able to seat another USAWSWS director, we will go from 2 to 3. However we will still have fewer seats than we do regions. So we now must determine the method of selecting USAWSWS directors for seating at the USAWSWS board meeting. A few options were presented and discussed. Motion to adopt Option #2; mandatory rotation schedule among all regions. Motion to Call the question (Jim Jaquess / Bob A), carries; Motion to approve Option #2 carries
25. Judges & Scorers Committee – Tom Nathan, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Consideration of action item in report: Allow the Collegiate Nationals tournament as credit toward upgrade to Senior Judge/Scorer. Motion (automatic) to approve. Motion carries.

Discussion on the issue with the 4-year cycle for clinics. Melanie would like us finish out the current cycle, end of 2019 would start the next cycle, and then start the 4 year cycle beginning in 2020. The clinic can occur anywhere in the 4-year window. This will reduce staff time, and align with the drivers. No action.

Kelly Stumph, SC rep, will be stepping down after 2019 Nationals.
26. Junior Development Committee – Tony Drake, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. No action items. Thanks to Tony for taking over this committee.

27. Rules Committee – Richelle Muhlitner, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. Consideration of action items in report:

- a. Motion to approve the consent list, i.e. all proposals in the report that were approved by the Rules Committee (Proposals 1 through 22), except the exceptions below:

1. East Region – Proposal #15
2. S – #4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 19, 20, 21
3. MW – 1
4. SC – no additions
5. W – no additions

Motion to approve all proposals (#1-22) EXCEPT the above list. Motion carries.

- b. Proposal #1 – MW is concerned about getting notifications out. Call of the question (Barry), call to vote passes. Motion to approve as written. Motion carries.
- c. Proposal #4 – S feels that diluting the kid’s groups dilutes the competition. Call the question, call to vote passes. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- d. Proposal #5 – S feels that we are changing something that doesn’t align with school sports. Call the question, call to vote passes. Motion fails, unanimously.
- e. Proposal #6 – S, have a problem with Level 10, feel we should take out the language at this time. Call the question, call to vote passes. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- f. Proposal #7 – S, same issue. Call the question, call to vote fails. Further discussion. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- g. Proposal #13 – S, delete paragraph on Team scoring. Want to check with Scorers committee first, and then take back to Rules committee. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- h. Proposal #15 – E, would like to add a scorer for a 4-lake site (3 scorers rather than 2, per region). S would like to clarify and have the 1 TC be for all 3 positions and remove the redundant “per lake”. Motion to approve proposal, as amended by Rules cmte (clarify TC and remove redundant “per lake”). Motion carries.
- i. Proposal #19 – S, Discussion of what constitutes “approximate” start of trick pass. IWWF still says “approximate.” Motion fails.
- j. Proposal #20 – S, do we still agree with IWWF? It does, S withdraws their concern. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- k. Proposal #21 – S, (OK for CJ to serve as event judge). Confusing wording, re: applying only at record tournaments, not at Class C tournament. What about review positions. Motion to approve proposal carries.
- l. Clean up items (Proposals #23-27). Motion to approve 23-27 together. Motion carries.
- m. Other items in addendum to report:
- i. 8.09D skier buoy specs to match IWWF rules. TC Cmte approves. Motion carries.
 - ii. 10.16B Match IWWF wording allow 15 minutes after skier skis to measure rope, then retest. TC Cmte approves. Motion carries.
 - iii. Remove verbiage on use of flags. Motion carries.

- iv. 15.05E (meter readers, master board operators in record tournaments). Motion carries.
 - v. Change verbiage re: running over centerline gate buoys versus skier turn Ramp settings. No action.
 - vi. ramp setting chart. Amend ratios to match IWWF. Discussion and explanation by Jerry Jackson, TC Cmte chair. Motion carries.
- n. Other items, not in report:
- i. Motion (Bob A / Barry) to change how the Rules committee starts the rules change process. Require all rules change proposals to send to regional council for review and endorsement, prior to consideration by the Rules committee. Discussion. Motion fails.
28. Safety Committee - Jim Babcock, Chair. Review of report submitted in Board Package. No action items. Reminder that boat judges should report all safety issues to the Chief Safety or Chief Judge.
29. Seeding Committee – Kirby Whetsel, Chair. No report or action items.
30. Skier’s Qualification Committee - Review of report submitted in Board Package by Jeff Surdej. Consideration of action item in report to remove equivalencies for jump. Motion carries.
- Barton Rockwell will be stepping into Kelvin Kelm’s role as Committee Chair, taking over on April 15.
31. Technical Committee – Jerry Jackson, Chair. Review of report and addendum submitted in Board Package. Consideration of action items in report:
- i. Approve TC Ambassador - Norman Wingerd. Motion carries.
 - ii. Approve updates and new requirements to TC policy manual (To be a Regular TC, must also be an Asst. Judge; to be a Senior TC, must also be a Regular Judge; to be an Ambassador, must be a TC for 20 years). Motion carries.
 - 1. Other items in the report have already been addressed, during the Rules committee report.
 - iii. Southern region asks Jerry to go back and look at Master’s Women benchmark records. Discussion. No motions.
32. Towboat Committee. Review of report submitted in Board Package by Will Bush, Chair. No action items. For information, the revised Towboat Damage policy (\$750 max) will be taken to USAWSWS board for approval, since it applies to all sports divisions.
33. Regional Recommendations
- a. East – Jim Powell, EVP
 - i. Marie Baker – Recognize her; regional treasurer since 1986. Stepping down this year. Applause
 - ii. Rules committee – 11.09D eliminate the \$100 requirement to protest the timing of a trick run. Happens frequently due to positioning tricks.
 - iii. Drivers – development of a virtual clinic..

- iv. Development an electronic clinic and test form that can be uploaded to database. – Already done! Wish granted.
 - v. Tow boats – increase the number of sanctioned tournaments required to pull Regionals / Nationals to 40%.
 - vi. Tow boats – create a document on how to become a promo member.
 - vii. Judges & Scorers – allow aspiring assistant slalom judge to complete 3 instances of observing 6 slalom skiers regardless of how many tournaments they span as long as each instance is with a different qualified supervising judge.
 - viii. USAWSWS – convert application for assistant officials to be online
 - ix. USAWSWS – convert upgrade test forms to an automated format.
 - x. Create an online way to be able to collect state federation dues.
 - xi. Provide an efficient way for EVP's to communicate.
 - xii. Devise another way to code the new U12 divisions to not shift those scores.
- b. Midwest – Dennis Downs, EVP
- i. J&S evaluate the value of the clinic and whether there is a better way to get rule changes communicated.
 - ii. TOURNAMENTS WITH PLACEMENT: Skiers with a level 9 or 10 qualification in one or two events and skiing in a tournament with placement, such as Regional or National tournaments, may ski in the Elite division for placement and must also ski a second time in their age division event, for Overall score purposes only, if desiring to compete for Overall placement. Any skier invoking this Rule is required to ski this second time prior to those skiers actually competing in the Event. It is the skier responsibility to make sure that the scorer is notified and the running order clearly reflects their intent so as not to cause any confusion of the officials and actual competitors. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of Rule 7.07(C) and the skier will be subject to disqualification.
 - iii. Eliminate manufacturers names out of the rulebook.
- c. South – Bob Archambeau, EVP
- i. Drivers, when developing the new CE training please do all boat displays.
- d. South Central – Van Parker, EVP
- i. Auto renewals for memberships are needed
 - ii. Safe sport – educators have to go through much more than what is required by Safe Sport and would like it to be an equivalency. (Might already be there.)
- e. West – Brad Corbin, EVP
- i. Can ranking list be sorted by level? (Multi-level)

34. Old Business

- a. Investigative Report – Mechler Grievance. (Item discussed immediately after lunch break.) The party filing the grievance (Dr. Mechler) was invited to be present and participate and was not able to attend and sent a letter instead, which was included as an addendum to the Board Package. Jeffrey Smith outlined the procedure for adopting or modifying the report prior to adopting a resolution. Any resolution must be adopted by a 2/3's majority. Motion (Bob Mayhew / Brad Corbin) to approve the Investigative Committee's report, as written. Discussion. Motion amended (Bob Mayhew / Brad Corbin) to approve the following statement as the board's final report: Based on the information provided by the Investigative Committee in its final report, the board finds and

determines that no grievable conduct occurred and the grievance is therefore dismissed. Motion carries with 2/3rd majority (23 in favor / none opposed / 1 abstaining).

35. New Business

- a. Former AWSA President Gene Davis is in critical condition, and the family has requested privacy and prayers.
- b. World Water Skiers tournament info request. This private group is developing an event management system (www.worldwaterskiers.com) and has requested access to our tournament schedule and score data for use in their system. Motion (Roy S / Lyman) to allow AWSA President Jeff Surdej to provide information at his discretion. Discussion. Motion amended (Roy S / Lyman) to allow the President to release the events of this season only, for this purpose. Motion as amended carries.

36. Date & Time of Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held Monday, August 5, 2019, at the host hotel for the national tournament in West Palm Beach, FL.

37. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.