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Rule 1. General Rules

USA 101) Amendments to the Rules

The American Barefoot Club (ABC) rules may be amended at any time by a 2/3rds majority of the ABC Board of Directors (ABC BOD).

USA 102) Application

These Rules govern Barefoot Water-Ski Tournaments held in the United States and supplements the Barefoot Water-Ski Technical Rules ("WBC Rules").

USA 103) Definitions

A. A “Closed” tournament is one which limits entry.

B. “Division” means the group of skiers that a skier competes against. Divisions are described in Rule 105.

C. “Event” means a particular contest in a Tournament competition. For purposes of traditional (Class RC, RL and C) barefoot water-ski tournaments, the Events are Jump, Slalom and Tricks for each divisions.

D. “Juniors” means skiers aged 17 and younger at the beginning of the calendar year.

E. Unless the context indicates otherwise, “Open” includes Open and Open Pro Division.

F. “Organizers” are the people who organize and put on a tournament.

G. “Rating” refers to a skier’s best personal performance score for an event within the applicable Ski Year and the two prior Ski Years.

H. “Record” is the highest score ever by any skier, within a Record Category at an RC tournament, that has been recognized pursuant to Rule 3.

I. “Record Category” means groupings of skiers for Record purposes as described in USA 301.

J. “Seniors” means skiers aged 60 and older at the beginning of the calendar year. This is separate from references to the Senior Division, which is a specific U.S. Age-based Division defined in Rule 105.

K. The “Ski Year” shall be the same as the calendar year.
USA 104) Skier Qualifications

Skiers must be an active member in USA Water Ski & Wakeboard Sports, Inc. (“USA-WSWS”).

USA 105) Divisions of Competition

A. The Divisions of Competition for any Regional or National Tournament shall be as follows. Divisions determined by scores are “Ability-based.” Divisions determined by age are “Age-based.”

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<td>Super Vet Men</td>
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</tbody>
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B. Determining Age. A skier’s age as of December 31 at 24:00 hr. shall be used to determine the skier’s Age-Based Division for the new ski year.
USA 106) ABC Ratings

A. Any Rating shall be effective immediately upon completion of the tournament where achieved. Any Rating will be valid for the remainder of the current ski year plus two additional ski years. Any Rating not so maintained will lapse.

B. Open Ratings are achieved by performing an Open score once at an RC tournament or twice at RL tournaments and are effective immediately upon completion of the tournament where achieved.

C. If a skier’s Rating lapses due to not competing, the skier may choose to compete:
   1. In the Division in which the skier last competed; or
   2. In the skier’s current appropriate Division based on Rule 105

USA 107) ABC Divisions

A. Except for Juniors and Seniors, Divisions of Competition shall be determined by a skier’s Rating. Skiers must compete in the appropriate Division except when Divisions are not scheduled.

B. Any Junior or Senior skier who is eligible for both an Ability-based (other than Open) and Age-based Division must declare, at the time of signing up for the tournament, which Division he or she intends to compete in, and such declaration shall be binding on the skier for the remainder of the tournament. The Chief Judge may combine Divisions by assigning skiers who are in an incomplete Division to a Division which most nearly matches the skier’s Rating.

C. Divisions shall not be combined for purposes of medal placement at Regionals and Nationals.

D. Divisions may be grouped to ski together for the purposes of event scheduling and to minimize unnecessary boat crew changes

E. Open Division Eligibility
   1. Open Division entry in an Event is mandatory for each skier who holds a valid Open Rating in that Event.
   2. Open Division skiers shall ski in accordance with IWWF Rules for RC, RL Tournaments and Record purposes.
F. Entry Level Division

1. Repeat tricks are allowed one time with a 50%-point reduction for the trick. Reverses must immediately follow the basic. A repeated reverse also scores 50%.

2. Boom skiing is permitted: Scoring for boom skiing shall be:
   a) directly on the boom: 25% credit
   b) on the 5-foot extension: 50% credit

3. Scores performed in Entry-level competitions are not eligible for a Rating for any other purpose.

4. Entry level skiers may not jump.

5. A skier who falls before entering the course will be allowed an optional re-ride for that pass.

6. Skiers who have not surpassed the Entry Level Division maximum scores during the previous two ski years and the current ski year may ski in Entry Level. Once a skier exceeds the maximum Entry Level score that skier must ski in his/her respective Division, unless that maximum score was exceeded while skiing on the boom. Scores exceeding the maximum Entry Level Scores shall be valid for Entry Level Division placements and trophies in that tournament.

7. An Entry Level Competition should have separate men’s and women’s Divisions.

8. The maximum rating score for Entry Level skiers is 2.3 points in Slalom and 250 points in Tricks.

9. Entry Level scores are not eligible for Standings Lists.

10. The Organizers may have an Entry Level Division in any class of tournament defined in Rule 2.
USA 108) Overall Scores – Overall Placement

A. General.

In tournaments, skiers place in individual Events (Slalom, Tricks, Jump) and Overall. Overall placements are determined for each Age-based or Ability-based Division by summing Overall placement points that are awarded to the skier for each of the 3 Events as follows:

1. For each Age-based or Ability-based Division, the best score (also called “Top Performance”) by any skier for that Event shall be awarded 1000 Overall points. The Top Performing Skier’s Event score shall be used to calculate the Overall points for remaining skiers for that Division Event.
2. All other performances by other skiers for that Event shall be awarded Overall points according to the following formula:

Skier’s Overall points for the Event = skier’s best score for the Event x 1000/Top Performing Skier’s score for the Event

3. When more than one round of an Event is skied, (for example a preliminary and final round), the skier’s highest score from either round is used to calculate the skier’s Overall points, with the exception that scores from tie-breaking runoffs are not valid for Overall points.
4. Exceptions for calculating and awarding Overall points for Split Division Skiers are provided in 108 B

B. Overall Placement for Split Division Skiers

1. Skiers who qualify for different Age and/or Ability-based Divisions for 2 or more Events are termed “Split Division Skiers” for purposes of Rule 108. Assignment of Split Division Skiers for purposes of determining Overall placement shall be according to Rules 108 B (2) and 108 B (3).
2. Open Division Skiers: Split Division Skiers who ski only one Event in either the Open or Open Pro Division shall be placed in their Age-based Division for Overall placement, or, if non-Open Events are skied in an Ability-Based Division, shall follow the Overall Division placement rules for Split Division Ability-Based Skiers in 108 B(3).
3. Ability-Based Divisions:
   a. Skiers who ski 2 or more Events in the same Ability-Based Division, shall be placed in that Division for Overall Placement.
   b. Skiers who ski in only two Ability-Based Events (including Open or Open Pro) shall be placed in the lowest of the two Divisions for purposes of Overall Placement.
c. Skiers who ski in 3 Events, each in a different Ability-Based Division, shall be placed in the 2nd of their Ability levels for Overall placement. For example, a skier who skis in the “Open” Division for Jump, the “A” Division for Slalom, and the “C” Division for Tricks, would be placed in the “A” Division for purposes of Overall Placement.

4. If a Split Division Skier’s Event score exceeds the Top Performing Skier’s score for their Overall Division, the Split Division Skier shall receive 1000 Overall points for that Event. Otherwise, they shall be awarded Overall Points for the Event based on the Top Performance of skiers who skied in that Overall Division Event as follows:

Split Division Skier’s Score X 1000/Top Performance in that Event for the Split Division Skier’s Overall Division

As an example, A Split Division Skier who skis the “Open” Division for Tricks and the “A” Division for Slalom, and does not compete in Jump would be placed in the “A” Division for Overall. The Top Performance of Division A skiers in the Trick Event is 2000. If the Split Division skier scores 1500 points in the Open Trick Event, then that Split Division skier would be awarded 750 Overall Points for the Trick Event [skiers performance of 1500 x 1000/ Top Division A performance of 2000].

USA 109) Adaptive Performance.

Should any skier with a physical impairment desire adaptation of these Rules to allow such skier to participate in any such tournament such skier should request such adaptation in writing to the President of the ABC (or individual designated for that purpose), with a copy to the Chair of the Rules Committee, for any such desired adaptation providing as much detail as possible regarding what adaptations are requested and how such adaptations will foster full participation by such skier. The Rules Committee will consider such request and make a recommendation for consideration by the Board. The Rules Committee is also authorized to make a recommendation as to adaptive performance for any skier in appropriate circumstances without such skier’s request.
Rule 2.  ABC Tournaments Rules

USA 201) Tournament Classification

There are 4 classifications of tournaments:

- RC: Record Capable
- RL: Rankings List but not RC
- C: Tournaments that are not RC, RL or alternative format
- Alternative Format Tournaments [Class X or F] see Addendum A

USA 202) RC and RL Tournaments


USA 203) Class “C” Tournaments

It is recommended that Class C tournaments have at least Level 4 officials. A USA-WSWS qualified Safety Director is required. Compliance with the technical requirements of the WBC Rules, particularly regarding Events, is recommended but not required.

USA 204) Safety Director

An USA-WSWS trained Safety Director shall be appointed for each ABC sanctioned tournament.

USA 205) The content of Rule 205 was moved to Rule 107

USA 206) “Closed Tournaments”

Tournaments may have closed registration. For RC and RL tournaments with closed registration, a minimum of two Appointed Judges shall be from outside the region in which the tournament is held.

USA 207) Towboats

A. Speed Requirements - USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboat minimum top speeds must be obtained with a crew of five officials and towing a 175 pound barefoot skier and engine trimmed as tested.
1. At elevations \( \leq 3,000 \) feet above sea level USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboats are required to achieve minimum top speed of 45 M.P.H.

2. At elevations \( \geq 3,000 \) feet above sea level USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboats are required to achieve minimum top speed of 43 M.P.H.

B Non-Open Divisions shall have their choice of towboat make for the Slalom and Trick Events from ABC eligible towboats made available at the tournament.

USA 208) Accidents

Accidents with a towboat should be reported to, and investigated under, the direction of the Chief Judge.

USA 209) Ramp Inspection

The Jump ramp shall be inspected if any part of the skier's body other than the feet strikes the ramp.

USA 210) Scheduling

The ABC National Tournament will normally be held annually during the month of August, unless the ABC Board of Directors determines otherwise. The ABC Regional Tournaments shall be held annually, prior to the Nationals.

USA 211) Divisions Scheduled

A. National and Regional Tournaments must schedule all Divisions except Entry Level.

B. For other tournaments the Organizers may determine what Divisions to schedule.

USA 212) Schedule of Events

A. Nationals

The Nationals schedule of events shall be completed by the Chief Judge with input from the Organizers. After ABC Board approval, the schedule shall be submitted to USA-WSWS for publication in the July Water Skier Magazine.

B. Other tournaments

The schedule may be published or may be distributed or posted at the Event.
USA 213) Ties-Towboat

Barring towboat malfunction, tie runoffs shall use the same towboat used in the applicable Event.

USA 214) ABC Regional Tournaments

A. To place in a United States Region, a skier must be a United States citizen, or be declared a permanent resident of the United States. If the skier does not have a United States passport, he must prove residence in the USA for at least 5 years and current membership in the ABC. The skier must not have represented another Federation in a World or Region titled Event in the past 24 months, unless the former Federation agreed to the transfer, in which case the period of 24 months is reduced to 12 months.

B. A skier's Region shall be the Region where more than half of his or her practice and competition is accomplished during the 10 weeks prior to the Regional Tournament. If more than half of the barefoot skiing is not done in any single region, he or she shall compete in the Region in which the most barefoot skiing has been done. If a skier is in doubt about the qualified Region, such skier shall present all the facts to the Executive Regional Director ("ERD") of the skier's legal residence, and that ERD's decision shall be final. Such ERD shall, if applicable, provide written authorization for competition as a nonresident, and notification to the appropriate ERD.

USA 215) ABC National Tournament Competition

A. Skiers must be United States citizens, or be declared a permanent residents of the United States. If the skier does not have a United States passport, he must prove residence in the USA for at least 5 years and current membership in the ABC. The skier must not have represented another Federation in a World or Region titled Event in the past 24 months, unless the former Federation agreed to the transfer, in which case the period of 24 months is reduced to 12 months.

B. Skiers must compete in their own Regional Tournament the same year as the Nationals, in each corresponding Event as entered in the Nationals, except by waiver by the ERD for reason of sickness of the skier or in the immediate family, or for other good and sufficient cause.

C. Skiers who do not qualify under rule 215 A (non-U.S. skiers) shall compete in separate International Divisions.

D. National Tournament entries should be received by Local Organizing Committee by midnight, 14 days prior to the start of the Nationals. Late entries shall be accepted, with an additional entry fee of $10.00 per 24-hour period, or portion thereof, after the deadline, unless such other fee is determined by the Organizers,
subject to approval by the ABC Board of Directors. The entry fee must accompany the entry form.

USA 216) National Tournament - Advancement to Second Round

A. Non-open skiers

There will normally be one round of skiing only for all but Open skiers, subject to modification by the Organizers. The Organizers may choose to have more than one round of skiing for other Divisions, in which case the Rule 216 B shall apply.

B. Open Division skiers

1. The number of Open & Open Pro Division skiers advancing to the second round will be cut in half with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12. To advance into the second round a skier must post a positive score in the first round.
2. If there is an odd number of skiers posting a positive score in the first round, the number of skiers who advance to the second round will be rounded up to the next whole number.
3. In the case of a tie for the last position all skiers with that score will advance.
4. The first round of the corresponding Division event will be eliminated at tournaments with four or fewer skiers in that Division event.
5. For each Division Event, Event medals will be awarded based on the results of the last completed round for an that Event.

USA 217) World Participation

Individuals must participate in all US Barefoot Nationals ("Nationals") in the 18 months prior to the World Championships to be eligible to participate in the World Championship. An exception maybe granted by ABC Board of Directors, for death of immediate family, pregnancy or injury. The ABC Board may grant exemptions for any appropriate reason with a 2/3 majority (8 votes). Although individuals should compete at Nationals whenever possible, an individual may “participate” in Nationals without being present or competing. Any individual who is not able to be present or compete at Nationals should make arrangements with the ABC Board of Directors to participate in some other manner.

USA 218) RC and RL Tournaments

RL and RC tournaments shall adhere to WBC Rules with the following administrative exceptions:

A. To the extent inconsistent with USA ABC Rules.
B. Familiarization at the tournament site may or may not be available.
C. A team representative is not required.
D. Protest procedures and inquiries shall be determined according to USA ABC Rules and WBC Rules or as determined by the Chief Judge.

1. A protest fee is not required.
2. Skiers shall use the protest form attached as Addendum B

Rule 3. ABC Records

USA 301) Record Recognition

ABC shall recognize Records as follows:

A. IWWF World and Region Records as specified in the IWWF Rules.

B. ABC U.S. National Records shall be maintained for each Record category listed below achieved in Record Capability (RC) tournaments as specified in Rule USA 202, for skiers who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and be Skiing for the US Federation at the time of the Record setting performance.

Record Categories:
- Boys 1/Girls 1 9 years and under
- Boys 2/Girls 2 10-12 years inclusive
- Boys 3/Girls 3 13-16 years inclusive
- Men 1/Women 1 17-24 years inclusive
- Men 2/Women 2 25-34 years inclusive
- Men 3/Women 3 35-44 years inclusive
- Men 4/Women 4 45-52 years inclusive
- Men 5/Women 5 53-59 years inclusive
- Men 6/Women 6 60-64 years inclusive
- Men 7/Women 7 65-69 years inclusive
- Men 8/Women 8 70-74 years inclusive
- Men 9/Women 9 75-79 years inclusive
- Men 10/Women 10 80 and over
- Open Men/Open Pro/Open Women

USA 302) Verification

Verification of U.S. Records shall be based on the “World dossier form”, with accompanying video of the passes constituting the Record in Slalom or Tricks. When application is made for both a World Record and a U.S. National Record for the same performance, the U.S. Record shall be recognized as follows:

A. If a World Record score is verified as submitted, the U.S. Record shall be valid as submitted.
B. If a World Record score is down graded, the lower score shall be valid for a U.S. Record, if still applicable.

C. If the World Record application is rejected completely, the U.S. Record application shall also be rejected.

USA 303) Record Maintenance

A master list of U.S. Records shall be maintained by the ABC Records Committee annually for each calendar year including the date of the achievement of each Record in each Division.

USA 304) Division Records

A. National Records shall be the top score set within a Record Category for that Event. One Record shall be listed for each Record Category. Only scores from RC tournaments will be eligible for recognition as a Record

B. So long as a skier holds an Open Rating in an Event that skier is no longer eligible to set a non-Open Record in that Event.

USA 305) Record Capable (“RC”) Tournaments

ABC National Records may be accomplished at any RC tournament (U.S. or international), sanctioned by the IWWF or its affiliates.

USA 306) Record Submission

A. It shall be the responsibility of the skier to cause the following items to be submitted to the ABC record committee within 14 days after the pending record score is achieved:

B. Signed and completed record dossier;

C. Video of the record performance for Slalom and Tricks;

D. Scores sheet written and signed by the judges;

E. Video jump setup drawing, computer setup file and image from the jump program of the skier’s jump landing point
Rule 4. Towboats

USA 401) TOWBOAT REQUIREMENT

A. ABC eligible towboats at RC and RL tournaments are determined according to the requirements established by the WBC.
B. Towboats at other tournaments may be selected by the Organizers on any reasonable basis

USA 402) NUMBER OF TOWBOATS

For the ABC Nationals, there shall be one qualified boat available for use per lake plus one additional qualified towboat. At all other tournaments, there shall be at least one qualified towboat.

USA 403) TOWBOAT AVAILABILITY

Any towboat that is to be used in the tournament shall remain available until the end of the tournament unless released by the Chief Judge for earlier departure. Once a towboat has been received, inspected, approved and calibrated for that tournament, it may not be used except for regularly scheduled Events in that tournament. Joy-riding or being used as a utility boat will require re-inspection and calibration.

USA 404) CORRECTION FOR SUBSTANDARD PERFORMANCE

If a towboat is observed to have substandard performance at a tournament, the Chief Driver may elect to stop usage of the towboat in question until the cause of the problem is determined and corrected.
Rule 5. ABC Teams

USA 501) Team Composition

The U.S. Open Barefoot Team, U.S. Sr. Barefoot Team and U.S. Jr. Barefoot Team (including reserves) (“Team Members”) shall be selected by the ABC Team Selection Committee (“Committee”) and ratified by the ABC Board of Directors. Once ratified, the decision is final. If the Committee's recommendations are not accepted, a written explanation of the reasons for nonacceptance, and if applicable, any alternative nominations shall be sent back to the Committee. The Committee will respond to the concerns raised by the ABC Board of Directors and/or provide an alternative recommendation for ABC BOD ratification. Should the Board be unable to ratify the Team proposed by the Committee, the Board may, at its discretion, nominate and/or reject Team members outside of the Committee’s recommendation, in which case a 2/3rds majority vote of the ABC BOD would be required for ratification of any Team member not recommended by the Committee.

A. Any skier wanting to be considered for membership on the U.S. Open Barefoot team must qualify for, and ski in, the Open Division in at least 1 Event during the Ski Year prior to that in which the World Tournament is to occur.

B. A Team manager and Team coach shall be selected by the Committee and recommended to the ABC BOD for approval.

C. Following selection and ratification, of Team Members, any replacements for Team Members who are unable or unwilling to compete shall be made by unanimous approval of the Team Coach, and Manager. If the Team Coach and Manager do not agree, then the President of ABC will break the tie.
ADDENDUM A

Endurance & Figure 8 Rule Addendum

A) SANCTIONING AND OFFICIALS

1. Endurance tournaments shall be sanctioned by the USA-WSWS as Class F tournaments for non-cash-prize Events. Cash prize Events shall be sanctioned as a Class X (Experimental format) tournament under the USA-WSWS/ABC sanctioning process.

2. All skiers, officials, and support personnel shall be USA-WSWS insured members for Class X and Class F tournaments.

3. Both Class F and Class X tournaments require a USA-WSWS rated Driver. The Chief Judge shall be a minimum of Level 3 judge for a Class X tournament. Class F tournaments may use any competent Chief Judge as determined by the Organizers.

4. All USA-WSWS-ABC safety rules will be enforced by an USA-WSWS-rated Safety Director.

B) COMPETITION

1. Organizers shall determine, or delegate the chief judge to determine, divisions of competition, the criteria for these divisions (e.g., sex, age, performance, or other factors) and all other tournament rules at their discretion, such as:
   a. The number of competition rounds
   b. The order of contestants
   c. The shape and size of the tournament course (in conjunction and the Safety Director)
   d. The criteria for awarding and administering any re-rides
   e. The process for timing of tournament runs and when timing starts and stops
   f. Use of head to head competition, including whether to have more than one skier behind the boat simultaneously.
   g. The method of determining the winner (examples may include, highest aggregate times from all rounds; the skier with highest total time from a single round; or the winner of head-to-head competition).
   h. Whether skis, kneeboards or other devices may be used for the start.

2. All rules will be announced prior to the commencement of the tournament.
3. It is recommended but not required that organizers use USA-WSWS approved towlines, handles and towboats (including applicable safety boats) for class F tournaments. These items are required for Class X tournaments.

C) SAFETY

1. The Safety Director may at any time take whatever actions necessary to correct an unsafe condition, including temporarily stopping the tournament. The Chief Judge may overrule the Safety Director’s actions or decisions, but only on his/her responsibility.

2. Either a neoprene wet suit with an incorporated PFD or neoprene wet suit pants and a Coast Guard approved PFD must be worn during the Event. A dry suit that depends on contained air for flotation or any inflatable device does not comply. The Safety Director shall have the final decision, ordering a practical test in the water if necessary.

3. Failure of a skier to comply with tournament rules and safety requirements may result in immediate disqualification from the Event. At any time during the competition the Safety Director may request the Chief Judge to stop the Event for safety reasons. The Safety Director and the Chief Judge may disqualify a skier if they determine that the skier’s competing would be a danger to him/herself or to other skiers.

4. The Safety Director, in consultation with the Chief Driver and Chief Judge will determine the process for picking up fallen skiers and start devices.

5. Tournament Organizers, in conjunction with the Chief Judge and the Safety Director, may limit the top speed for the competition.
Official Protest Form

TO: The Competitor

FROM: The Chief Judge of the Tournament

Instructions: Please read the appropriate section of the rule book before completing this form. Be sure you are filing a protest and not requesting a re-ride. Note that a protest is never allowed in a judgment decision and that you must identify the rule or rules that were violated. Once completed and signed, return this form to the Chief Judge.

Tournament Name ___________________________ Sanction Number __________
Tournament Location______________________ Tournament Date(s)__________
Contestant’s Name ________________________________
Event______________________ Division____________________
Rule Number(s) Affected________________________________
Reason________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Contestant’s Printed Name: _______________________________________________________________________
Contestant’s Signature: ________________________________________________________________________

Date Filed_______ Time Filed_______ Time Results Posted__________________
________________________________________________________________________
National Record Dossier

Tournament: ________________________ Sanction#________
Competitor: _________________________ Division_________

Score: _______
Previous Record: _______

Lead Officials

Chief Judge    X ____________________________
Chief Scorer   X__________________________
Homologator X__________________________

To file a record, a copy of the following must be submitted to the ABC Records Committee within 14 days and attached to this dossier:

- Pylon Height in Meters ______ 1st pass ______ 2nd pass
- Video of performance
- Signed score sheets from the boat crew
- Actual date/time of performance ________________
- Skier’s birth year ______

Reviewed by: X_________________________________
Reviewed by: X_________________________________
Reviewed by: X_________________________________
2020 World Technical Barefoot Rulebook
effective May 1, 2020

For corrections or omissions contact:
Mark Shank at mailto:mshank@diamondmccarthy.com
Andrea Formella at andrea@formellafamily.net