

Boat Drivers' Qualification Committee

DRIVERS' POLICY MANUAL

(Revised Jan. 2020)



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AWSA DRIVERS' POLICY MANUAL

(Revised Jan. 2020)

PURPOSE

The drivers' program is designed to improve, develop and maintain the skills of both aspiring drivers and those drivers with many years of experience behind the wheel. One of the goals of our program is to ensure knowledge and skills are shared to improve the skill levels of all drivers within the sport of water skiing. Advancement to Assistant, Regular and Senior driver is accomplished through three steps: Step 1 - Education; Step 2 - Participation and Step 3 - Evaluation.

STEP ONE - EDUCATION

Education is provided through drivers' clinics which are conducted in two parts; in a classroom setting and on the water. A clinic is mandatory to initially become an assistant driver and for upgrade to regular or senior driver. The concept of clinics is to provide background and education to apply during Step 2 - Participation. It is anticipated that drivers working towards an upgraded rating will not wait to attend a clinic as one of the last requirements for upgrade. Except for aspiring assistant drivers, a driver **may not** attend a clinic and be tested for upgrade on the same weekend. In addition, all drivers must attend a clinic once every four years to maintain their existing rating (see policies on clinics for further information).

STEP TWO - PARTICIPATION

For each rating level (assistant, regular and senior) there are quantitative requirements that must be met in order to advance. Typically, these requirements are met through experience gained from driving and working tournaments (refer to the *"Quantitative Requirements for Advancement"* section for details). A Driver's record of work at these tournaments is documented in the WSTIMS Scoring Program or recorded on the *"Tournament Officials' Record"* by the Chief Scorer and submitted to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) Headquarters. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure his work has been accurately recorded. Also, drivers should maintain an [Official's Personal Performance Record](#) so they can follow their progress towards advancement. It also serves as an important back-up to Headquarters records in case of discrepancies.

STEP THREE - WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS

The written testing for regular or senior driver is an open book exam. The on-water practical test evaluates a driver's skills under tournament conditions and is conducted under the supervision of three drivers as outlined in the *"Testing for Driver's Rating or Upgrade"* section below.

ASPIRING ASSISTANT DRIVERS

An aspiring Assistant Driver must:

- complete the tasks outlined on the [“Application for Assistant Driver”](#).
- purchase and authorize a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review as outlined on the application
- forward the completed application to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, Attention: Officials Programs. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

Once USA-WSWS Headquarters has been notified that the aspiring driver has successfully passed the MVR Review, Headquarters will notify the applicant and regional Drivers’ Committee representative that the aspiring driver is eligible to attend a clinic and take the written and on-water practical evaluations.

Upon successful completion of the clinic and practical, the Clinic Instructor will forward the aspiring drivers clinic payment, written test and the on-water practical evaluation to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, who will award an Assistant Driver rating.

QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCEMENT AND RENEWAL

DRIVER RATING	APPLICATION AND ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS									RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS		
	Min Age	Clinics	Tourns Driven	Tourns as Asst Chief Driver	Tourns as Chief Driver	TOTAL Minimum Tourns to Advance	Written Test	On Water Practical Test	Motor Vehicle Review (MVR)	Tourns/ 4-year cycle	MVR Review/ 2 years	Clinics/ 4-Year cycle
Assistant	16	1	See App				1	1	1	8	1	1
Regular	18	1	10 (5*)	2 (1*)		12 (6*)	1	1		12	1	1
Senior	18	1	16		2	18	1	1		12	1	1

*denotes Fast-Track requirement

Advancement to Regular or Senior Driver:

- Drivers should ensure they are receiving proper credit for events worked by logging into their [“Members-Only”](#) section of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site using their membership number and password and clicking on [“Official Ratings/Certifications”](#), [“My Officials’ Ratings”](#), [“Events”](#).
- Drivers that do not receive proper credit for an event, should notify the Chief Driver or Chief Scorer of the event and request that they e-mail officials@usawaterski.org with the event date, name, sanction number, class, state and the position and events for which they should receive credit.
- Upon completing all quantitative requirements noted above, including attendance at a clinic since receiving their current Assistant or Regular Driver rating, drivers should contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports’ Officials Coordinator at officials@usawaterski.org to request verification of their quantitative requirements to upgrade.
- Once verified, Headquarters will notify the driver and Regional Drivers’ Committee representative via e-mail that the driver is ready to take the written and practical on-water evaluations which are conducted in conjunction with a USA Water Ski & Wake Sports-sanctioned AWSA Class C tournament. The Regional Drivers’ Committee representative will assist the driver in setting up a testing date and location, as needed.

- For Regular Driver upgrades, the test administrator will forward the written test, and the on-water practical evaluation to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator to award the new Regular Driver rating.
- For Senior Driver upgrades, the test administrator will forward the written test, and the on-water practical evaluation and end course video to the Regional Drivers' Committee representative who will review and forward on to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports to award the new Senior Driver rating.

There is no minimum time requirement to complete the quantitative requirements to advance.

Renewals:

- To maintain a driver's rating, drivers must drive in the number of tournaments indicated in the renewal column above, for each event rated, during a four-calendar year period starting in the year the rating is awarded.
- **Senior Drivers** who hold a slalom rating must **submit an end-course video of their driving** performance to their Regional Drivers' Committee representative once a year for review.

FAST TRACK TO A REGULAR OR SENIOR TRICK DRIVER

- **Fast Track to a Regular Trick Driver:** If a driver holds a Regular or Senior Slalom Driver rating or a Regular or Senior Jump Driver rating AND does not have a rating to drive Tricks, they can Fast Track by passing the written portion of the Regular Trick Drivers exam. If they are successful, they will be elevated to a Regular Trick Driver.
- **Fast Track to a Senior Trick Driver:** If a driver holds a Senior Slalom Driver rating or a Senior Jump Driver rating AND holds an Assistant or Regular Driver rating in Tricks, they can Fast Track by passing the written portion of the Senior Trick Drivers exam.

Process to Fast Track to a Regular or Senior Tricks Driver

1. The Regional Drivers' Committee representative is responsible for coordinating the Fast Track process for a Regular or Senior Tricks Driver.
2. The Regional Drivers' Committee representative will verify the person meets requirements to take the written exam.
3. The written portion of the Regular or Senior Tricks Driver exam shall be administered by the Regional Drivers' Committee representative.
4. The completed exam results are to be scanned/mailed to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator. Please include an email/note to with the following information:

Applicant's Name:

Applicant's USA-WSWS Membership Number:

Results of the Written Tricks Driver Exam:

Level of Tricks Driver After Exam (Regular or Senior):

Name of the Exam Administrator:

USA-WSWS Number of the Exam Administrator:

FAST-TRACK PROCEDURES FOR LEVEL III COACHES AND OPEN RATED SKIERS

As an alternative to meeting all quantitative requirements for a driver's rating, Level III Coaches and skiers who hold an "Open" rating on AWSA's National Rankings List may take advantage of "Fast Track" options for earning an Assistant Driver rating or upgrading to Regular Driver in the event(s) the rating is held.

Fast Track to Assistant Driver: The aspiring driver must:

- purchase and authorize a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review as outlined on the [Application for Assistant Driver](#).
- complete the top portion only of the [Application for Assistant Driver](#). Level III Coaching certification or an "Open" rating replaces the need to complete the sign-off requirements.
- submit the application, along with proof of Level III Coach certification and/or proof of an "Open" rating" for each event for which the applicant is applying, to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Program Coordinator.

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will review and approve the application and notify the applicant once they have received the MVR Review. USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will notify the applicant and Regional Drivers' Committee representative that he is eligible to take the written and on-water practical evaluations in conjunction with a USA Water Ski & Wake Sports-sanctioned AWSA Drivers' Clinic. The Regional Drivers' Committee representative will assist you in locating a clinic.

Upon successful completion of the clinic, the Clinic Instructor will forward the clinic payment and written/on-water practical evaluations to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator who will award the Assistant Driver rating.

Fast Track Upgrade to Regular Driver: The quantitative requirements to advance to Regular Driver are reduced, as follows:

- drive five tournaments (reduced from ten)
- serve as Assistant Chief Driver at one tournament (reduced from two)
- attendance at a USA Water Ski & Wake Sports-sanctioned AWSA Drivers' Clinic since becoming an Assistant Driver

Upon completing the reduced quantitative requirements noted above, the applicant should contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports at officials@usawaterski.org with his request to fast-track to Regular Driver and include proof of Level III Coaching certification or "Open" rating(s) in the events for which he is applying.

Once USA Water Ski & Wake Sports verifies that the applicant has successfully completed the fast-track quantitative requirements, they will notify the applicant and Regional Drivers' Committee representative that he is eligible to take the written and on-water practical evaluations in conjunction with a USA Water Ski & Wake Sports-sanctioned AWSA Class C tournament. The Regional Drivers' Committee representative will assist you in setting up a testing date and location.

Upon successful completion of the testing, the test administrator will forward the written and on-water practical evaluation to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator to award the Regular Driver rating.

EVENT CREDIT

Chief Driver: The Chief Driver shall receive credit for driving a tournament even if he does not actually drive in the tournament.

Assistant Chief Driver: The Assistant Chief Driver **WILL NOT** receive credit for driving a tournament in which he does not drive. However, credit will be given for advancement purposes in meeting the requirement to serve in the capacity as assistant chief driver.

Multiple Credits: For upgrade purposes, work towards fulfilling the quantitative requirements as Chief Driver or Assistant Chief Driver of a tournament may not also count towards the required number of tournaments to be driven. For example, serving as Chief Driver of a tournament counts toward work as a Chief Driver or toward tournament quantity, but not both.

Other Drivers: Appointed or assigned drivers will only receive credit for those events driven in a sanctioned tournament.

Driver Test Administrators: Drivers who serve as test administrators for on-water practical testing for rating upgrades in conjunction with a Class C or higher tournament, qualify for tournament credit. Test administrators should check with the Chief Scorer of the tournament to be sure they are properly listed on the *"Tournament Officials' Record"* that is returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports in order to receive credit.

GrassRoots (Class F) Tournaments: Driving in a GrassRoots (Class F) tournament counts for maintenance purposes only – not for upgrade. The Chief Driver of a Class F tournament receives one credit (for maintenance or upgrade) for the events included in that tournament.

Drivers' Clinics: Clinic attendee and instructor participation in a Drivers' Clinic may be used in place of one tournament credit per calendar year.

Driving Credit: Event/Tournament credit will be given to drivers who drive at the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports / AWSA Towboat Evaluations.

MOTOR VEHICLE RECORD (MVR) REVIEWS

Aspiring Assistant Drivers must successfully pass a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review before attending an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic as outlined on the [Application for Assistant Driver](#). Current rated drivers must also pass a MVR Review once every two years to maintain their rating.

Follow the instructions below to purchase and authorize a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review. Typically, it takes two to three business days for the results to be returned to USA Water Ski. The screening agency will only notify the applicant if they fail the review.

- Log into your "Members-Only" section of the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site using your membership number and password
- Select the *"Drivers' Programs"* link from the navigational menu on the left-hand side of the page
- Select the *"Purchase and Authorize a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review"* link and follow the instructions to pay the screening fee

DRIVER CLINICS

An AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic may consist of classroom and/or on-water practical instruction. Annual participation in an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic is recommended.

Rating Maintenance: All drivers must attend an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic once every four years to maintain their current rating. Failure to do so will result in an automatic downgrade to the next lower rating.

Rating Upgrade: Aspiring Regular and Senior Drivers must have attended an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic, as part of their quantitative requirements for advancement, sometime after the date they received their current Assistant or Regular Driver rating.

Clinic Requirements:

AWSA-SANCTIONED DRIVER CLINIC REQUIREMENTS		
<i>(current speed control system required)</i>		
CLASSROOM	ON THE WATER	
Clinic Instructor Requirements	Minimum Clinic Instructor/Test Administrator Requirements	Alternate Clinic Instructor/Test Administrator Requirements
1 Senior Driver	1 Senior Driver 2 Regular Drivers	2 Senior Drivers + ECV ³

ECV = End course video meeting the technical guidelines for record capability tournaments is required for slalom and recommended for jumping.

Splitting Clinics: With prior approval of the Regional Drivers' Committee representative, a clinic can be split into two separate sessions so that the classroom portion of the clinic can be administered at an earlier date than the on-water portion of the clinic. A clinic cannot be split over two calendar years.

Clinic Sanctioning:

- AWSA Drivers' Clinics can be sanctioned by completing the ["AWSA Drivers' Clinic Sanction Request Form"](#), located under the ["Officials' Resources"](#) section of the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site, and submitting it to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.
- Refer to the ["Application for Assistant Driver"](#) on the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site for requirements for aspiring Assistant Drivers prior to attending a clinic.
- Once approved, USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will send a sanction approval via e-mail along with a sanction number and the electronic clinic materials.
- Within ten days of clinic completion, the clinic registration form and all completed written tests and practical evaluation forms must be returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator along with the required clinic fee for each clinic attendee. Instructors receive clinic credit but are not required to pay a clinic fee.
- USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will issue clinic credit for the instructors and all rated drivers and award Assistant Driver ratings, as appropriate. USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will also send a notification to new Assistant Drivers via e-mail.

TESTING FOR DRIVER'S RATING OR UPGRADE

Testing to become an Assistant Driver or upgrade to a Regular or Senior Driver, requires the driver to successfully pass both a written test and an on-water practical evaluation of his skills.

Written Testing: The written test shall be an open book test with a copy of the current AWSA rulebook made available. Passing scores for the written test are provided below.

WRITTEN TESTING PASSING PERCENTAGES				
<i>(# questions correct ÷ total questions)</i>				
Testing for:	General Considerations	Slalom	Tricks	Jumping
Assistant	80% (20/25)	80% (17/21)	80% (12/15)	80% (18/22)
Regular	85% (21/25)	85% (18/21)	85% (13/15)	85% (19/22)
Senior	90% (23/25)	90% (19/21)	90% (14/15)	90% (20/22)

On-Water Practical Evaluation: Drivers successfully completing the written test may proceed with the on-water practical testing as outlined below.

ON-WATER PRACTICAL EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS				
<i>(current speed control system required)</i>				
Testing for:	Testing Location	Test Administrator Requirements	Alternate Test Administrator Requirements¹	Maximum # of Times Can Test Per Calendar Year
Assistant	AWSA Drivers' Clinic	1 Senior Driver 2 Regular Drivers	2 Senior Drivers	2
Regular²	Class C or higher tournament	2 Senior Drivers 1 Regular Driver	2 Senior Drivers + ECV ³	2
Senior²	Class C or higher tournament	3 Senior Drivers	2 Senior Drivers + ECV ³	1

NOTE: All upgrades to Senior Driver must be submitted to Regional Drivers' Committee representative. Be sure to include all testing materials and end course video.

¹ *Use of reduced test administrator rating requirements or the use of two test administrators requires the approval of the Regional Drivers' Committee Representative*

² *For Regular and Senior Driver testing, one of the test administrators must also be an AWSA-rated judge*

³ *ECV = End course video meeting the technical guidelines for record capability tournaments is required for slalom and recommended for jumping.*

- **Assistant Driver Testing:** In the event the appropriate level of drivers is not available to hold a CLINIC, the Regional Drivers' Committee representative shall describe, in writing, the situation and forward it to the Chair of the Committee for a vote and/or appropriate action, prior to holding the clinic.
- **Test Administrator Roles:** Two of the test administrators shall ride in the boat with one acting as the boat judge. The third test administrator shall be positioned at the end of the course to observe the boat path both inside and outside of the course. If the third test administrator is not used, end-

course video (required for slalom and recommended for jump) must be used to evaluate boat path inside the course. All evaluation of in-course slalom boat path must be done either by a test administrator stationed at the end of the course or by the two test administrators' review of end-course video. The video should be made available to the driver for feedback on his performance. For Senior Driver upgrades, end-course video must be captured and forward to the Regional Drivers' Committee representative along with relevant paperwork.

- **Inspection of Equipment:** The test administrators will inspect the boat to be used prior to testing to ensure it is adequate to pull the event. Inspection shall also be made to ensure there is no play in the steering, that the throttle operates smoothly, that the speed control system and related instrumentation are in good working order, and that there are no problems with the boat that will affect the results of the practical evaluation.
- **Skiers for Practical Evaluation:** When administering the practical test for upgrade to Regular or Senior Driver, the candidate must drive the more difficult events (i.e., Mens 1, Mens 2, Mens 3). An adequate number of skiers should be pulled to properly evaluate the candidate's skills and abilities; typically, at least 10 to 15 skiers per event (two events can be combined to obtain enough skiers for testing). Also, when selecting a tournament for testing purposes, select one where slalom, tricks and jumping performances will be in the range expected for a Regular or Senior Driver.
- **Scoring the On-Water Practical Evaluation:** All test administrators shall rate the driver on those critical factors observed, as outlined in the supplied Boat Driver's Practical Evaluation Forms. Each test administrator shall compute a score for each event (slalom, tricks, jumping). A score for EACH EVENT will then be computed by averaging the individual examiner's scores for that event. The following minimum scores are required for upgrade:
 - Assistant Driver – 3.0
 - Regular Driver – 3.5
 - Senior Driver – 4.0

Each event (slalom, tricks and jumping) must have an average score equal to or exceeding the above numbers in order to advance to the next higher level for that event. Scores should not be rounded and shall be computed to at least one decimal point. A driver may pass in one event but not pass in another. This may result in a driver with a regular rating in slalom, for example, and an assistant rating in jump.

REINSTATEMENT

Assistant Driver – Applicants must:

- have held a valid AWSA Assistant Driver's rating within the previous five years
- attend a sanctioned AWSA Drivers' Clinic
- successfully complete both the written and on-water practical portions of the Assistant Driver's test
- insure that the *"Drivers' Clinic Registration Form"* returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports clearly indicates that the driver is applying for reinstatement

Applicants for reinstatement as an AWSA Assistant Driver **DO NOT** need to complete an ["Application for Assistant Driver"](#). Once the required paperwork is received by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, the applicant will be notified of reinstatement as an Assistant Driver via e-mail.

Regular Driver – Applicants must:

- have held a valid AWSA Regular Driver’s rating within the previous five years
- attend a sanctioned AWSA Drivers’ Clinic
- contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator to verify the date of downgrade to an Assistant Driver and date of the last clinic attended

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will contact the applicant’s Regional Drivers’ Committee representative who will schedule a date to take the written and practical portions of the Regular Driver’s test in conjunction with a Class C tournament. Once the required paperwork is received by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, the applicant will be notified of reinstatement as a Regular Driver via e-mail.

Senior Driver – Applicants must:

- have held a valid AWSA Senior Driver’s rating within the previous five years
- attend a sanctioned AWSA Drivers’ Clinic
- contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials Coordinator to verify the date of downgrade to a Regular Driver and date of the last clinic attended

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will contact the applicant’s Regional Drivers’ Committee representative who will schedule a date to take the written and practical portions of the Senior Driver’s test in conjunction with a tournament.

For Senior Driver upgrades, the test administrator will forward the written test, on-water practical evaluation and end course video to the Regional Drivers' Committee representative who will review and forward on to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports to award the new Senior Driver rating.

Reinstated drivers can use any tournaments driven in the past five years as credit towards advancement to the next driver’s rating level.

HARDSHIP

The AWSA Drivers' Committee has the responsibility to ensure that all drivers have the current skills necessary to guarantee skiers the best ride possible. A skier should not have to ski behind a driver who has not practiced his or her skills. Driving skills require continual work during practice and tournaments. The requirements for maintaining a rating are minimal and necessary to ensure our skiers receive the best driving available.

There are, however, situations beyond a driver's control which would prevent him or her from meeting the minimal renewal requirements. An excusable hardship is an event or condition over which a driver 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 examples and are not all inclusive:

Excusable conditions:

- Medical problems - major injury or illness, surgery, pregnancy
- Military duty
- Temporary job assignments lasting two months or more over which you have no control

Inexcusable conditions:

- Non-awareness of renewal requirements
- Personal error in record keeping
- Lack of tournament attendance due to other personal activities
- Absence due to school
- Failure to attend a drivers' clinic

Individuals applying for hardship shall obtain and complete an AWSA Hardship Renewal Petition form from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. The deadline for submitting a hardship request is May 1 of the year following the downgrade or 60 days after official notification of downgrade by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, whichever is later.

SENIOR DRIVER EMERITUS

A Senior Driver Emeritus is recognized as a Senior Driver who:

- has made a significant contribution to the sport of water skiing through many years of driving
- retains the right to work as a Chief Driver or Driver of a Class C or lower tournament with no tournament or clinic maintenance requirements; however, the driver must maintain a current USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Active membership and Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review.
- recognizes that it takes significant practice to retain the skills necessary to drive in a sanctioned tournament and would not drive if his or her skills were not up to date

Minimum Requirements - Applicants must have:

- held a Senior Driver's rating for a minimum of ten years
- driven five Regional tournaments
- driven two National tournaments

Extensive special service of a driver in professional or international events may, at the discretion of the Drivers' Committee, be substituted for any of the above toward meeting minimum requirements.

Application Process: Candidates can apply for Emeritus status in one, two, or three events and will retain their current driver rating in the events not granted Emeritus status.

- Submit a letter requesting Emeritus status along with your qualifications, to your regional Drivers' Committee representative
- Your Drivers' Committee representative will verify that the minimum requirements have been met and obtain regional approval by a vote of the Regional Council.
- Upon regional approval, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Drivers' Committee Chair who will forward it on to the entire Drivers' Committee for a vote. Approval requires a 2/3 vote by the committee.

- The recommendation will then be sent forward to the AWSA Board of Directors for final approval.
- USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will formally notify the driver with a letter of confirmation and a certificate of recognition via mail.

REGULAR/SENIOR DRIVER "RETIRED"

Many Regular and Senior Drivers do not meet the requirements for Senior Driver Emeritus but have been a dedicated driver in the sport for many years. The Regular/Senior Driver "Retired" status allows a driver to retire from the sport of water skiing without being subjected to downgrading.

Retirement means no more driving.

Minimum Requirements – Applicants must have held a Regular or Senior Driver’s rating for a minimum of five years.

Application Process:

- Submit a letter requesting “Retired” status to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, your regional Drivers’ Committee representative and Regional Executive Vice President
- USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will formally notify the driver with a letter of confirmation and a certificate of recognition via mail.

DISCIPLINE

Any driver intentionally breaking the rules may be subject to disciplinary action. Any individual observing such intentional disregard of the rules shall report the incident in writing to their regional Drivers' Committee representative, copying the Committee Chair. The Chair will ballot the committee, and, if the committee finds that the situation so warrants, will recommend a course of action to the President of AWSA. Actions may include a letter of reprimand, suspension and/or demotion depending on the nature of the incident and any past occurrences.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. Distractions are shown to compromise the safety of the driver, passengers, and individuals being towed behind a boat.

Every state has a different set of laws regarding Distracted Driving, particularly with the use of cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. State laws define a boat as a motor vehicle.

For laws in your state please refer to:

<https://www.idrivesafely.com/driving-resources/laws/distracted-driving/>

Policy

- A boat driver shall not use a cell phone while operating a boat unless that phone is used in a hands-free manner such as with the use of a headset. Use during a sanctioned event, even with a headset,

should be minimized to communication with officials, safety crew, dock starters and shore personnel in conduct of the event.

- A boat driver shall not text while operating a boat.
- Operating a boat is defined as in the driver's seat with the motor running.

SENIOR SLALOM DRIVERS - END COURSE VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

To refine the skills of our Senior Slalom drivers, the Drivers' Committee continues to stress the importance of End Course Video review. While it is a requirement that all senior drivers submit a copy of an End Course (EC) video annually (as described below), it is just as important that drivers not only take the time to review their EC on a regular basis but also ask for immediate feedback when they are driving during a tournament. Asking a seasoned senior driver to watch you drive an event and provide you immediate feedback, via a cell phone/radio, is the most effective way to get "real time" feedback and make corrections.

As stated earlier, in order to maintain your Senior Slalom driver's rating, you are required to submit an EC video by December 31 every year as set forth below. Failure to submit a copy of your EC video once a year will result in an automatic downgrade (unless a hardship is granted by the Drivers' Committee Chair per the Drivers' Policy Manual).

The EC video must be either from a Record tournament or a preapproved Class C tournament. The EC video should include, at a minimum, six skiers at short line lengths (35/38/39).

The fastest and easiest way to get a copy of your EC Video is to bring a thumb drive with you to the tournaments you plan to drive. Give the thumb drive to the Technical Controller, Tournament Chair or whoever oversees the EC Video DVR before the tournament starts. It is recommended that you let this person know which event you are going to drive before the event starts so that they know ahead of time that you would like to have a copy of your driving to take home that day.

File Name Format: Driver Name then date

Example: Dave Driver-06-15-2019

File Upload Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/kspVkuZjm5GYYjyxpLeO>

The preferred file format is .AVI. Acceptable video file formats include:

.avi
.avchd
.mov
.mpg
.mpeg
.mp4
.qt
.wmv

Please NO .AVR or .VOB file formats; they each require a special viewer or conversion.

You can also find the upload link on USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site under Technical Controller Resources - EC Video. Links to view end course video from other events can also be found there.

DEFINITIONS

Assistant Driver: An Assistant Driver may drive any Class C or below tournament.

Regular Driver: A Regular Driver may drive any class of tournament, including record capability, except for the National tournament. A Regular Driver may serve as Chief Driver of a Class C or below tournament.

Senior Driver: A Senior Driver may drive any class of tournament and serve as Chief Driver.

Assistant Chief Driver: An Assistant Chief Driver, if used, shall act in the place of the Chief Driver in the event the Chief Driver is unavailable. In situations where the Assistant Chief Driver is fulfilling requirements toward an upgraded rating, the Chief Driver should try, when at all possible, to allow the Assistant Chief Driver to make boat and driver assignments to gain the knowledge necessary to function as a Chief Driver in the future.

The minimum driver rating required to serve as Assistant Chief Driver shall be:

- Class C and Below Tournaments – Assistant, Regular or Senior Driver
- Class E, L, R and Regional Tournaments – Regular or Senior Driver
- National Tournament – Senior Driver

Chief Driver: The Chief Driver is responsible for assigning all boats and drivers to events and for completing all necessary towboat documentation and other paperwork related to drivers' assignments.

The minimum driver rating required to serve as Chief Driver shall be:

- Class C and Below Tournaments – Regular or Senior Driver
- Class E, L, R, Regional and National Tournaments – Senior Driver
- National Tournament – Senior Driver

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