

International Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation Show Ski Council



WORLD WATER SKI SHOW TECHNICAL RULES

Team Competition 2025 Edition

In the web version only

Changes in the 2020 edition in blue

Changes in the 2022 edition in red

Changes in 2025 edition in purple

IWWF TEAM COMPETITION RULES

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2025 IWWF WATER SKI SHOW COMPETITION RULES

Show Ski Technical Rules

These rules have been drafted in English. In the case of a translation and conflicting interpretation only the English text shall be considered authentic.

Please note that in the rules there may be references to water depths, lengths, distances, protective gear, procedures, etc. for safe skiing. The IWWF makes no implicit or explicit guarantee that conforming to the references will eliminate all possible safety hazards.

RULE 1 - GENERAL

1.01 Applicability of These Rules - The rules set forth here govern Show Ski competitions sanctioned by the International Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation (IWWF). With the exception of entry requirements and other administrative matters, it is recommended that Confederations and Federations follow these rules as closely as possible. Whenever the masculine is used, the same shall be construed as meaning the feminine where the context so requires.

1.02 Deviations - Where compliance with the rules is not feasible, the Chief Judge shall, with the approval of a majority of the Appointed Judges, make the necessary changes, inform each skier by posting and send a report to the IWWF Show Ski Council. Where the rules are definite and feasible, a vote of the judges to decide whether to enforce any changes is prohibited.

1.03 Interpretation - Questions of interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the IWWF Show Ski Council when possible. Any interpretation made by the IWWF Show Ski Council as a whole shall be considered final. Otherwise the interpretation shall be made by the majority vote of the Appointed Judges, and the Chief Judge shall make a report to the IWWF Show Ski Council concerning the question. Officials should be reminded to interpret the rules in the BROADEST interpretation.

1.04 Amendments - Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the IWWF Show Ski Council. The rules may be amended at any time by the IWWF Show Ski Council. The amended rules shall become effective 60 days after they are published. Until such time as a new edition of the rules is published, the current rules, as amended by the IWWF Show Ski Council remain in effect. A unanimous decision of the members of the IWWF Show Ski Council is immediately applicable.

1.05 Show Ski World Championships Dates - The Show Ski World Championships shall be held biennially in even numbered years **or 3 calendar years when switching hemispheres of World Tournament locations.**

1.06 Affectivity of the Show Ski World Championships - The inability of a country to attend the Show Ski World Championships for one reason or another (including political reasons) does not require that the entire competition be cancelled or postponed or that the titles are any less world titles.

1.07 Drug testing - All competitors must agree to be subject to doping control. Specific policies and procedures regarding doping control shall under the control of the Medical Commission of the IWSF and according to the rules of the WADA.

1.08 Post Tournament - The sponsor shall be responsible for mailing out the Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms and Tournament Reports. All items are to be mailed within ten days of the start of the tournament. Copies to be mailed are as follows:

1. All competing teams are to receive copies of their own Judges' Forms and copies of all Scorers' Forms. All Judges' and Scorers' forms are considered public information and shall be made available upon request. All requests for additional copies shall be made in writing, prior to the start of the tournament, to the sponsor; and the requesting person shall pay for all copying and mailing expense, if any.
2. All Judges and the Chief Judge will receive copies of all Scorers' Forms.
3. The IWWF Show Ski Council Chairman is to receive originals of all Judges' Forms, Scorers' Forms, Waive Right to Protest Form, the Tournament Officials' Record, the scores program disk and the results disc, if program is used.

1.09 IWWF Safe Sport Policy – All Competitors and Officials must comply with the IWWF Safe Sport Policy & Regulations (<https://iwwf.sport/safe-sport>)

RULE 2 – SKI SHOW ACTS

2.01 Counting and Scoring - The decision regarding the acts to be counted and scored shall be at the discretion of the competing team. To be counted and scored as an act, some portion must include at least one of the following:

1. A competitor must be towed across the water.
2. Involve performance by powered watercraft.

The use of powered watercraft to move or present non-skiers or equipment does not have to be listed or scored as an act.

This rule allows for a performance by powered watercraft to be scored as an act separate from introductions. This shall be at the discretion of the competing team and designated as an act rather than an introduction.

Interpretation: The use of Powered water craft to move or present non-skiers or equipment does not have to be listed or scored as an act.

The intent of non-skier is a person who is not currently being towed. This allows powered watercraft to present personnel to give performances while not being towed. This allows the craft to be used as a floatable stage or to move performers from point to point without being scored.

2.02 Introduction of Personnel - The introduction of competing personnel will be counted and scored as part of the Overall Show box score, and may come at any time during the show. The mechanics of the introductions are left to the imagination of the competing teams. At the end of each team's competition, the judges will give one score for introductions, which will include all introductions during the show.

Interpretation: To be counted as an introduction, individual names are NOT required. Introductions during the show must be considered as part of the introduction and may be the entire introduction. All introductions throughout the show shall be considered as part of the introduction **box score**.

2.03 Schedule of Acts - No later than **twenty-four (24) hours** before the scheduled start of the tournament, each team must furnish the **Chief Scorer** with copies of their Judges' Form, Act Reasoning Form, and Scorers' Forms, as per Rule 6.05. The sponsor may require the team roster up to seven (7) days prior to the scheduled start of the tournament, provided it is stated in the tournament announcement. Each act shall be clearly defined, such as clown, barefoot, jump, swivel, etc. The lists are for the use of the judges only. Teams are to list only the names of the acts and not the names of the skiers in the acts. Although teams are not bound to the sequence stated on their lists, there shall be no additions after the start of the tournament. If, in the opinion of the judges, an act is performed, but not listed or clearly defined, it shall be counted as an act and scored zero.

Competing teams shall be allowed to insert skits or cameo appearances between acts, which may include activity listed in 2.01 and not have that performance considered a scored act, but should be considered in overall show. This shall be done by listing the activity and indicating **on the judges' form with the words "Do not Score"**

It is the intent of this rule to provide the judges with a readily understood list from which to work and score the tournament and to prevent a team from adding a totally different act into their show after the start of the tournament. It is not the intent to restrict creativity or ingenuity, and officials **MUST** use the broadest interpretation possible and still allow for fair competition and adequate use of the list for scoring the tournament.

2.04 Outline of Acts - **Each show shall consist of a minimum of 13 acts. This is in addition to barefoot jump acts. If the barefoot jump is part of a multi – disciplined act which includes disciplines other than barefoot jump, then only 13 acts are required. Aerial acts to include parasail, flat kites, delta wing kites are not allowed.**

2.05 Continuous Acts - A team may have the option of designating a continuous act as one act. It shall be scored as one act and separate from any other act. To qualify as a continuous act, in the opinion of the judges, there must be continuity either from theme, individuals, type of act or any other activity that

ties the acts together. If an act is designated as continuous and, in the opinion of the judges, does not qualify, that portion shall be counted as an act and scored zero. If an act is continuous, only one portion of the act must meet the requirements of Rule 2.01.

Judges must use the broadest possible definition of continuity, as the intent is not to restrict creativity or ingenuity in designing the performance.

2.06 Canceling of Acts - Any act or part of an act may be scratched up until 30 minutes prior to the start of each team's own show with no penalty provided the 13-act minimum as per Rule 2.03 is met. Barefoot jump acts may be scratched at the discretion of the performer at any time with no penalty. Acts scratched other than under the above conditions will be scored zero with the exception of the approval of the majority of the judges. Failure to perform part of an act does not constitute a scratch of an act.

2.07 Fallen Acts - An act that falls may be performed again in the show; however, the judges shall give one combined score for both attempts and shall consider the overall effect of the fall and the repeat performance on the show.

RULE 3 – COMPETITION

3.01 Time Limit - The period of competition time allowed for each competing team shall be in one hour.

3.02 Time Penalty - There shall be no penalty for using less than the time allowed.

3.03 Equipment Failure - If sponsor-supplied equipment fails, the show may be stopped at the option of the competing team until the equipment is repaired or replaced. The clock will not run during such time and will be started with enough lead-time for competition to continue. The competing team shall have the option of rerunning an act that was discontinued due to such failure or continuing on with a different act. If the act is rerun the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The judges will score the act, at the team's option, from either the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

Interpretation: If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.

3.04 Starting Times - The first team to compete on any day shall begin its preparation time at the hour and minute specified by the sponsor (with the approval of the Chief Judge) under penalty as specified by the rules. Starting times for all succeeding teams will be continuous according to the rules. Up to one hour of fill time may be granted for each "scratch" or "no-show" at the request of succeeding teams. See Rule 13.02, Preparation and Clean-Up.

Interpretation: This means that all succeeding teams may be allowed to request fill time up to a total of one hour for each scratch. Once the hour has been used no additional fill time will be allowed.

3.05 Preparation Time - The first team to compete on any day shall be given 20 minutes preparation time beginning at the hour and minute specified by the sponsor (with approval of the Chief Judge). The team may start its show any time during this 20-minute preparation time, after the team gets permission from the tournament timer.

Each team shall be allowed 20 minutes, prior to the start of their performance, beginning at the conclusion of the preceding team's clean-up, as preparation time to assemble its equipment and be ready to perform. The team may start its show any time during this 20-minute preparation time, after the team gets permission from the tournament timer.

The period of competition shall begin when any one of the following first occurs:

1. With a spoken word recorded or live

(It is not intended for the time to start because of words in commercially available music which may be played by the competing team during its setup time unless prearranged. Microphone and sound checks are allowed provided that they are done to set the levels and the crowd is not addressed other than to check for their ability to hear the announcer.) There will be a period of silence and then any music,

spoken word or tight line will start the show. The competing team will let the timer and/or chief judge know when they are in this period of silence prior to the start of the show.

2. The crossing of the show site outer buoys with a tight line.

(The buoys shall be placed near both of the shorelines, 750 feet from the center of the center stage, in both directions of the show course. For sites that are more than 750 feet wide, the show site outer buoys opposite the stage will be located 750 feet out from the stage shoreline. If the site is not at least 750 feet in any of the three directions (no buoys need to be placed in that respective direction), then any visible tight line within that respective direction will be considered as starting the show and the competition time will start.)

3. The first visible tight line within the show site outer buoys

(If the site is not at least 750 feet in any of the three directions [no buoys need to be placed in that respective direction], then any visible tight line within that respective direction will be considered as starting the show and the competition time will start.)

4. Expiration of the 20-minute set-up time

(If a team has not begun its show and the 20-minute preparation time has elapsed, the competition time will be started and the show director or an appointed person will be so notified by the timekeeper, provided the person to be notified is at a previously designated place.)

5. Or at a time prearranged with the team representative.

(Whenever the competition time begins an audible signal will be sounded by the timer.)

Any activity prior to the actual start of the competition period is to be disregarded by the judges.

Teams may set up equipment around the show site prior to the 20-minute preparation time provided there is absolutely no interference or disruption of any competing team.

3.06 Ending Time - The competition by a team shall end when the time period allowed has elapsed or the team has ended its show.

3.07 Audible Signal - An audible signal shall be given at the end of the competition period or the end of the show, whichever occurs first. Any act not completed shall be scored "zero". Complete is defined as "the act is carried out to its intended, apparent ending and has the appearance of having finished its intended activity." Complete will also be defined as no skiers on the water, with a tight line, within the area defined for starting the show in Rule 3.05, #2 & #3. If under the judges' discretion there is a question of whether an act was complete, the judges will be polled and the majority will rule, and the act will be scored accordingly. An audible signal will be given five minutes before the end of scheduled competition time. This shall be a different signal than that which designates the end of the competition period or show. There will be a 1% penalty if the announcer keeps talking after the final horn goes off.

Interpretation: If anytime following the end of the competition period, there are skiers on the water, with a tight line within the area defined for the starting of the show in Rule 3.05, #2 and #3, the act will score zero.

3.08 Clearing Equipment - Each team will be given ten minutes from the end of the competition period or the end of the show to clear its equipment from the show area. Equipment shall be considered cleared provided it is moved to an area where it will not cause any interference or disruption to another competing team. Site-specific requirements may be enforced. A 1% deduction of the total score of the team if the team exceeds the time allotted.

RULE 4 – ORDER OF COMPETITION

4.01 Seeding - The method of determining the order of competition shall be specified in the tournament announcements and may allow for seeding.

4.02 Schedule - Not later than seven days before the start of the competition, all competing teams and all officials shall receive a schedule showing the starting time and order of competition for each day of the tournament.

4.03 Weather Conditions - Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety or similar reasons, and not for the convenience of any skier. A majority of the appointed judges must approve the change and all show chairmen of the affected teams shall be notified. Although schedule changes are to be discouraged, the judges should not hesitate to make adjustments required for safety. Provisions for weather-related delays and the effect on tournament running order and completion of the tournament shall be stated in the tournament announcement.

4.04 Safety Time-Out - An authorized representative of a competing team, such as the Show Director or President may call a safety time-out if site or weather conditions make continuing the performance unsafe or dangerous. This request would be directed to the Chief Judge and confirmed by an audible signal or directive. Such time out would continue until the unsafe condition is removed or the weather situation resolved.

If the delay is determined to not have merit the Judges may assess a scoring penalty against the performing team up to and including disqualification.

RULE 5 – DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION

5.01 Amateur/Professional - There shall be no distinction between amateurs and professionals.

5.02 Separation of Divisions - Competition may be separated into divisions, with the approval of the Chief Judge, if so stated in the tournament announcement.

RULE 6 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6.01 General Qualifications - All teams and their competing members, competing in all classes of IWWF sanctioned tournaments, shall be affiliated with IWWF. Sponsoring National, Regional or State associations may also require membership in their organizations. This rule shall be considered satisfied if the competing team meets such membership requirements prior to their own performance in competition. Competing teams or competitors in an IWWF sanctioned ski show tournament must show proof of IWWF Active" (insured) membership *by providing a list, made by their federation, including the names of all competitors from that country*, to tournament officials. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer to ensure that all entry requirements and affiliations have been met, prior to the start of the tournament.

The definition of a competitor is as follows: All personnel of a competing ski team who participate in any way in any of the scored areas of the tournament, or who are in the defined competition area during the competition are considered competitors. This includes but is not limited to: the dock crew, sound people, announcer, boat personnel; and costume, backdrop and prop people, etc.

6.02 Roster - Competing teams must furnish a roster with the names of all team members, including alternates, prior to the start of the tournament. *The roster should show proof of team members' membership in their respective federations. This roster may be required by the tournament officials up to seven days prior to the start of the tournament to allow for verification of the roster. No participation of any kind during the competition period is allowed by any one not on the roster. Exceptions may be made for non-skiing persons with the approval of the IWWF Show Council.*

Upon the Chief Judge's request, each team member must show a copy of a valid passport from the country they are representing. Each team member must also be a member of that NGB unless the IWWF Show Ski Council makes an exception.

6.03 Skier eligibility - Only athletes eligible and entered by their National Federation may compete in World and Confederation Titled Events. A Federation may select its team in any manner it desires. Athletes may not represent more than one country at any one time. Each Federation shall certify to the Judges that all members of its team *and those entered in Individual competition* meet these qualifications.

Exceptions may be made for non-skiing persons with the approval of the IWWF Show Council.

The IWWF Rules of Eligibility must be applied. These can be found at

<http://iwsf.com/eligibility/IWWF%20World%20Eligibility%20Rules2015.pdf>

Athletes wishing to change their country of representation must conform to the rules within this document.

Exceptions for skier eligibility for competition in the Show Ski World Tournament are as follows:

1. Teams competing for the first time in a Show Ski World Tournament will be allowed to include up to eight (8) members (*to only include drivers, spotters, sound personnel, and/or announcer*) from another nation in their team list.
2. Teams competing in their second (2nd) Show Ski World Tournament will be allowed to include up to four (4) members (*to only include drivers, spotters, sound personnel, and/or announcer*) from another nation in their team list.

3. Teams competing for the third (3rd) time in a Show Ski World tournament will be allowed to include up to two (2) members (to only include drivers, spotters, sound personnel, and/or announcer) from another nation in their team list.
4. Teams that have competed in at least three (3) Show Ski World tournaments will not be allowed to have foreign nationals or members from another nation in their team list.
5. Teams competing for the fourth or more times in a Show Ski World tournament and are in need of a qualified twin-rig driver, may make a request to the Council for consideration of a rules variance to allow a twin-rig driver from another nations to drive for them.
6. Members of another nation that are used in competition count as part of the 35 member team roster for the Show Ski World Tournament.
7. Members of another nation that are used in the competition to help another country, as indicated in exceptions 1, 2, 3, 5 above, and 8 below above, do not lose their eligibility for their own country.
8. An interpreter may be used by non-English speaking teams to translate what the announcer is saying into English when the Show Ski World Tournament is held in an English speaking country. Conversely, an interpreter may be used by English speaking teams to translate what the announcer is saying into the host country's language when the Show Ski World Tournament is not held in an English speaking country. The interpreter is strictly a translator, but is allowed to still convey the energy and excitement of the announcer, and is not part of the announcing crew, and does not count towards the 35 member team roster when used in this manner. If there is an issue with this, please contact the IWWF Ski Council Chairperson.
9. A request may be made to the Council for an eligibility rules variation to include competitors from countries that do not/will not have a Show Ski team competing at the Show Ski World Tournament. The purpose of this variation is to develop more Show Ski teams globally through these participative experiences.

The following guidance applies to these requests:

- a. The variance is only applicable for Show Ski Team competition.
- b. The variance competitors are from a country that does not have a team competing at the Show Ski World Tournament, or the variance competitors are from a country that has not competed at the Show Ski World Tournament in the past 10 years.
- c. The variance may be only for a maximum of 5 competitors.
- d. The variance competitors will NOT lose their eligibility for their own country in future events.
- e. As of 2022 tournament, the variance competitors may only participate in two Show Ski World Tournaments on another team. The expectation is that they will assist their home country in developing a show ski team after experiencing the Show Ski World Tournament.
- f. If the variance competitors wish to switch to another team in the future (except to compete for their home country), then they must wait a period of 10 years from the last Show Ski World Tournament in which they competed, to the next Show Ski World Tournament. This rule (7F.) shall be applicable as of the 2022 Show Ski World Tournament going forward.
- g. Interdisciplinary Athletes: The participation in world title events of other skiing/riding disciplines (example - wakeboard) is immaterial to the above rules variation. The purpose of this variance is to strengthen the interdisciplinary character of show skiing in the home country of the variance athlete and hence grow the sport overall (see also point 7A).
- h. This variance request is different in purpose than those exceptions noted in numbers 1, 2, and 3 above.
- i. A report of the Council ruling on any such variance request will be sent to the IWWF Headquarters.

6.04 One Show Rule - A participant may enter no more than one **Team**.

Interpretation: This means a participant may not **participate** with more than one **Team** under the same sanction competition.

6.05 Entry Requirements and Tournament Paperwork - The competing team shall be responsible for meeting all entry requirements. Each team must send a representative to the Mandatory Meeting as per Rule 10.04. Each team entering any IWWF sanctioned tournament must furnish the tournament sponsor or designee with the properly completed forms, 1 hard copy or an electronic copy, no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start of the tournament. Failure to comply with this rule (1-10) may result in a 2% deduction in your score.

1. Team Tournament roster with Name, Address, Birthdate and federation proof
2. A copy of a valid passport may also be required at check-in by the Chief Judge
3. A signed IWWF Release and Waiver form for each member of the team
4. Judges Form
5. Act Reasoning Form
6. Scorers Form

7. IWWF Safety Directors Tracking Report form
8. Team radio and wireless microphone frequencies (to chief judge)
9. Outstanding Male/Female Performer form
10. Ski Team Fact Sheet
11. Webcast Form

It is each competing team's responsibility to ensure that all entry requirements are met. It is recommended that each team verify with the sponsor that all required documents have been received prior to the start of the tournament.

6.06- Failure to comply with this rule (1-10) may result in a 2% deduction in your score.

RULE 7 – OFFICIALS

7.01 Personnel - Officials for the World Tournament (Chief Judge, Scoring Judges, Secretaries, Chief Scorer, Assistant Scorer, Timer/Staging Marshall, Chief Safety, Assistant Safety, Tournament Driver and, Tournament Director will be selected by the Council. Secondary positions shall be filled by the host organization in cooperation with the Chief Judge.

7.02 Disagreement - In any disagreement among judges, the majority rules; all issues should be settled before the next show begins.

7.03 Scoring - The total computed scores, the individual judges' scores and score sheets shall be held confidential by the Chief Scorer until the results of the tournament are announced. The first round of team scores will be released at the completion of day 1. Judges names will be removed from these sheets. At this time they shall be available for inspection by the designated show chairman or their representative. The judges will be permitted to keep copies of their own score sheets throughout the tournament provided they are kept confidential along with any particular comments about a team's performance.

7.04 Location - Judges shall be separated to ensure completely independent opinions. Areas designated for Judges' stations, Scorers' work areas, etc., shall be restricted to tournament officials only.

7.05 Secretaries/Trainees - A judge trainee or secretary may work and communicate with a judge during competition provided that the secretary or trainee works with the judge he is assigned to at all times during the competition. This secretary or trainee is responsible for keeping all information or discussion regarding the competition confidential for the duration of the tournament. At IWWF tournaments, all judges are required to use secretaries.

7.06 Conflict of Interest - The Chief Judge, all Scoring Judges, all scorers, and the Chief Timer shall not have a conflict of interest with any competing teams. A conflict of interest shall be regarded as existing if the Chief Judge, Scoring Judge, Scorers or Chief Timer/Staging Marshall is:

1. A member of the immediate family of a competitor to include lineal descendants and ancestors, brothers and sisters and wives or husbands of the competitor or any of the above family members.
2. A competitor in the division of the tournament in which they are one of the above listed officials.
3. In a position that may give the appearance of a lack of independence. These conflicts shall be determined by the Chief Judge with respect to Scoring Judges and the Scoring Judges with respect to the Chief Judge and the Timer.

Any person with a conflict of interest, as defined above, will not be allowed to be present at any meetings where officials are discussing rule violations and potential penalties during the tournament.

For the purpose of expanding the international pool of officials, the IWWF Show Ski Council can approve exceptions to the Conflict of Interest rule as the Council deems appropriate.

Aspiring Safety Directors may be allowed to volunteer to staff the safety boat or assist the Safety Directors with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and the Chief Judge.

RULE 8 – RERIDES AND PROTESTS

8.01 Weather/Unfair Water - When unfair water or weather conditions or a malfunction of sponsored equipment occurs, the judges may grant a reride of the act affected. Keep in mind that the competition is sponsored for spectator appeal and as though "the show must go on".

Both the team and the judges must consider the conduct of the competing team as though the team were presenting a road show in which conditions affecting the quality of the show are judged in the minds of the spectators.

When severe weather or other unsafe conditions suddenly occur during the course of the show, which would preclude the safe continuation of the show, the Chief Judge or Chief Safety Director may call for a "time-out". The Chief Judge may overrule the request for a time-out when initiated by the Chief Safety Director, in which case the clock continues to run. Return to safe weather conditions shall be determined by unanimous agreement of the Chief Judge and Chief Safety Director. When the weather improves to a safe condition the show may restart. The clock will not run during such time-out and will be started with enough lead-time for competition to continue. The competing team shall have the option of rerunning an act that was discontinued due to such conditions or continuing on with a different act. If the act is rerun the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The judges will score the act, at the team's option, from the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

Interpretation: If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.

8.02 Team Representation Protests may be made only by the person identified on the Chief Judge's Checklist.

8.03 Protest Procedures

1. Protests must be made in writing and shall be considered by the appointed judges. The protest must contain the reason for the protest and be signed by the designated representative as per 8.02. The protest must be filed prior to 30 minutes after the Judges' Forms are available for inspection. A protest will only be accepted for a team's own performance, never for another team's performance.
2. Protests shall be allowed only for the failure of the tournament committee or the officials to comply with the rules. No protest shall ever be allowed on judgment decisions by the officials. Any protest considered frivolous or directed at another team will be given an automatic 3% deduction from the final score of the team submitting the protest.
3. A correction of an error in the computation of scores shall not be considered a protest. Such correction shall be made upon the approval of the Chief Judge and the Chief Scorer, if requested, within 24 hours after the Judges' Forms are available for inspection.
4. All officials shall remain on the site, available to handle any previous protests or corrections of computations of scores, for a minimum of 60 minutes after the results are announced, or until all previous protests have been settled. If a team representative from each competition team waives their interest in a protest, by signing the "Waiving Right to Protest" form, then the tournament officials need not remain at the tournament site for the full 60 minutes. Teams not picking up their team scores within thirty (30) minutes of availability forfeit their right to protest and the officials may be released.
5. The use of videotapes is not to be used for judgments of any kind in the scoring of tournaments.

RULE 9 – EQUIPMENT

9.01 Towboat – All potential towboats must be **pre-approved** for use by the IWWF Show Ski Council for use in the World Water Ski Show Tournament. The potential towboats must be submitted to the IWWF Show Ski Council for consideration at **least 6 months prior to the Tournament**.

The Tournament LOC shall provide a minimum of 4 towboats for teams to use. The towboats specifications are as follows:

1. One towboat shall be a twin rig equipped with:
 - a. A minimum of 200hp for each motor (300hp recommended).
 - b. The propellers shall be counter-rotating.
 - c. 15 pitch propellers.
 - d. Speedometers that read in kilometers per hour (KPH) and miles per hour (MPH).
 - e. Must have a mirror that is positioned such the driver can see over the motors.
 - f. Must be equipped with at least a 4-place release.
 - g. Must have power steering.
 - h. Digital controls are recommended.

2. At least three (3) towboats shall be true inboards with mid-mounted engines.
 - a. One of these inboard tow boats must not have anything mounted on it which would interfere with around the boat (ATB, 360, etc.) acts. The mirror must be able to be lowered quickly and easily.
 - b. Must have a mirror.
 - c. Speedometers that read in kilometers per hour (KPH) and miles per hour (MPH).
 - d. Must be equipped with at least a 2-place release.
 - e. Minimum of 350hp.
 - f. ACME 515 prop is recommended.

Each team may select up to 3 towboats for use during their shows.

The IWWF Show Ski Council may adjust this requirement from time to time; however, the IWWF Show Ski Council must state the final requirement at least one year in advance of the World Ski Show Tournament.

Any and all attachments for the boats (high poles, booms, etc.) being used/provided by the home country's team; must be offered to all teams, must be available from the commencement of official practice days for teams or individuals as set by the Show Ski Council, and are recommended to be available from the commencement of any team or individual extra practice sessions, and must be listed as sponsor supplied equipment. The information of available attachments by the host must be sent to all competing teams at least 6 months prior to the tournament.

All towboats, pick-up boat(s), and motorized floating dock(s), must be available from the commencement of official practice days for teams or individuals as set by the Show Ski Council, and are recommended to be available from the commencement of any team or individual extra practice sessions. The towboats must be complete with safety releases installed.

The tournament host will not require a Release and/or Waiver for boats. The tournament host is responsible for any insurance that the host may desire.

9.02 Pick-Up Boat The sponsor shall supply at least 1 pick-up boat that must be used by the competing team. A team may not compete without using a pick-up boat. The pick-up boat shall be used to pick up skiers, skis, equipment, etc.; and not used to pull skiers. The pick-up boat must be manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter, and be approved by the Safety Director and Chief Judge. In the opinion of the Chief Judge and Safety Director the spotter must be able to physically handle an emergency situation on the water. The rider/spotter must be capable of water rescue. (See exception Rule 10.05 4g)

9.03 Jump Ramp The sponsor shall supply one IWWF regulation-size jump ramp with side aprons. The jump ramp will be adjustable to IWWF standards. The jump ramp provision may be waived if stated in tournament announcements. The dimensions of a jump for IWWF purposes will be an inclined plane with mounted side aprons that meets the following specifications. This rule applies to tournament-sponsor supplied jumps only.

1. Height: A level take-off edge, which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet with the primary position at 5.5 feet.
2. The surface must be a flat solid surface of either fiberglass, or treated or marine grade plywood with an appropriate wax coating.
3. Surface width: 14 feet at all points ± 2 inches.
4. Surface length out of water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly.
5. Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly.
6. Side aprons on both sides shall extend the full length of the jump and shall be at least 6 inches under the water when the ramp is raised to its full height. The recommended apron angle is no less than 30 degrees to no greater than 60 degrees from vertical.

7. Buoy: 49 feet \pm 1 foot from the middle of the jump surface to the right of the jump as you approach to go off it. The buoy shall also be in a line even with the take-off edge of the jump.

9.04 Safety Boat The sponsor shall supply one low-sided safety boat with adequate power for the use of the Safety Director and/or first aid personnel. The boat shall be equipped with a satisfactory backboard and adequate personal flotation devices.

9.05 Team-Supplied Equipment All other equipment needed shall be supplied by the competing teams.

9.06 Storage and Staging Areas The sponsor shall provide an adequate area for the current competing team's equipment and an adequate pre-staging area for the next team to compete adjacent thereto.

9.07 Changing Rooms The sponsor shall provide adequate male and female costume changing rooms in the equipment area.

9.08 Performance Platform The sponsor shall provide a performance platform for the use of all teams. The performance platform will be set at the left edge of the show course and will generally be used as the starting platform for most acts. For IWWF tournaments, the minimum size shall be 20 feet x 36 feet or 720 square feet, with the short dimension parallel to the shore and the surface 12 to 20 inches above the surface of the water. The 12-20-inch range will be maintained with the dock edge, loaded with 1 to 24 average size skiers.

It is recommended that the shore edge be in at least 3-1/2 feet of water and that the platform end farthest out in the water be skirted from the surface of the platform to below the water line.

9.09 Sound System At an IWWF Tournament, a tournament host supplied sound systems will be provided and must be used by all teams. A team may also feed their signal to additional equipment separately. A team may not move, alter, modify or add to the tournament supplied house sound system in any way. The team supplied sound equipment may not be placed or connected in such a way as to damage the tournament supplied house sound system. The tournament host supplied house sound system will meet, but not be limited to, the minimum specifications. A written description of the system will be available from the tournament host to the competing teams no later than one week prior to the start of the tournament. All wireless microphone frequencies must be registered with the Chief Judge during the pre-show meeting with the show director.

Tournament Supplied House Sound System Minimum Specifications

A tournament supplied house sound system will be provided by the host team of any IWWF Show Tournament for the use of all participating teams. Said sound system shall meet, but not be limited to, the following minimum specifications:

1. Loudspeaker cabinets sufficient to provide clear, intelligible coverage of the entire spectator and judging area. Sound pressure level (SPL) at the judging area should be at least 70 db.
2. Monitor loudspeakers with adjustable gain placed so as to provide sufficient coverage of:
 - a. The primary starting dock.
 - b. The main performance platform.
3. Amplification to adequately power the venue.
4. At least one backup amplifier on site.
5. A mixing console with at least six input channels.
6. A direct box or the adapters necessary to allow RCA, XLR and 1/4" input to the main console, stereo or sum and mono.
7. A house microphone.
8. At least one technician on site at all times during competition.
9. Properly grounded 110v or 220v 60Hz, 20a circuit (or whatever is the local current is in the host country) for team usage. It needs to be stated in the Tournament announcement.
10. Teams may only add Music Source (CD player, Laptop, etc.) and microphones and supporting equipment.

9.10 Public Address System The tournament shall supply a public address system to use as required by the tournament announcer and to make required public address announcements.

RULE 10 - SCORING

10.01 Scoring Outline (Skiing Acts) - An act shall be evaluated on:

Flow	0-25 points
Execution	0-25 points
Difficulty	0-25 points
Spectator Appeal	0-25 points
Total Possible per act	100 points
Total Possible per show	1300 points

Any act listed as clown or comedy is not scored in the 25-point breakdown as other acts, but one score, 0-100 points.

10.02 Additional Scoring (Box Scores) - In addition, the judges shall award points as follows:

Sound Crew & Audio Presentation	0-270 points
Towboat Driving	0-200 points
Pick-up Boat Crew	0- 55 points
Showmanship	0-300 points
Overall Show	0-475 points
Total Possible Points	1300 points

10.03 Calculations - When there are only **three** judges, the scores from all three judges will be added for the total for each skiing act. Add the total from each act to come up with a sub-total for the skiing acts. Divide the sub-total by 3 (scoring judges) and then divide this number by the actual number of acts skied. Multiply this number by 13 to get the total skiing points. With three judges, add the scores for each box score together. Then add all of the box score totals together and divide this number by 3. At this point, add the skiing scores to the box scores to get the team's sub-total. Now subtract any penalty points from the sub-total to get the team's final score.

When there are **five or seven** judges, the scores of the high and low judge for each act will be eliminated. The scores from the rest of the judges will be totaled for each skiing act. Add the totals from each skiing act to come up with a sub-total for the skiing acts. Divide the sub-total by two less than the total scoring judges (3 or 5), then divide this number by the actual number of acts skied. Multiply this number by 13 to get the total skiing points. With 5 or 7 judges the high and low scores in each box score will be eliminated. Add the remaining scores in each box category. Add the totals for all of the box scores. Take this sub-total and divide it by two less than the actual number of scoring judges (3 or 5). At this point add the skiing score to the weighted box score to get the teams sub-total. Now subtract any penalty points from the sub total to get the team's final score.

Penalties for safety violations are deducted based on the total score resulting in the final score for each team and placement based on this score.

Scorers shall indicate on the Scorer's Form, the reason for any penalties and the act in which they occurred.

The official scoring program for IWWF Show Tournaments will be "Water Ski Show Tournament Scoring Program – IWWF Version" written by Mark Bortz. If this program is unavailable and/or does not meet the required functionality for IWWF Show Rules, hand scoring is an alternative option.

10.04 Mandatory Tournament Meeting – There will be a mandatory meeting with the Chief Judge for a representative of each competing team to attend. Time and place will be in the tournament information kit. Failure to have a representative present will result with a penalty of 50% of the entry fee for that Tournament. There will also be a 3% deduction to the final score for any team who doesn't have a representative at the meeting.

10.05 Safety Deductions - Any of the Judges or the Safety Director may poll the Scoring Judges for a 1% to 3% point deduction from the total score of a team for each instance that, in the opinion of the majority of the Judges, there was a serious failure to exercise proper safety precautions during their show. The following will constitute automatic penalties under the rule:

1. Failure to wear a helmet at any time a competitor skis under another competitor or a competitor's rope - 5% deduction. The exception to this rule would be for changing positions.

2. Failure to apply and properly use a quick release for all acts in which the skiers do not hold the "normal skiing handle" in their hands at all times - 5% deduction; also, to include "flip starts", when the towline is wrapped around the skier's body. A release person (observer) may hold no more than one release per hand. It is the intent of this rule to allow for pulling up on the ropes for the purpose of changing positions without penalty.
3. Failure to wear a personal flotation device, which will float the person under the following circumstances:
 - a. Any time a competitor goes over a jump ramp.
 - b. During rope braid acts.
 - c. During around the boat acts.
 - d. While barefoot skiing.
 - e. All clowns/comedy performing in more than waist deep water.
 - f. If any part of a formation being towed is three or more tiers, then all members being towed by the towboat must wear flotation.
 - g. At least one rider/spotter (if any) in all towboats and pick-up boats must wear a minimum of Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V flotation while skiers are on the water.

The exception to this is the incidental use of barges to pick up debris, skies and people. This exception can only be made if the team has pick-up boat(s) and the barge operator is wearing the Coast Guard Type I, II, III or V flotation. If the driver leaves the motor/control area the motor **MUST** be shut off or placed in neutral.

h. Hydrofoil

Life belts are not considered adequate personal flotation devices for parts a through e, g and h. Life belts are considered adequate flotation devices for part f.

(All of the above violations - 5% deduction.)

4. Failure to initiate all boat washouts, high-speed boat spins or similar stunts with an approach parallel to the shoreline and beginning the turn-away from the spectators and towboat drivers leaving the driver's seat when the boat is in gear and the neutral safety lock has not been detached, except for the purpose of increasing visibility during inclement weather - 5% deduction. Other dangerous boat driving will be penalized at the judges' discretion and could include thread-the-needle maneuvers and failure to maintain safe control of the boat - up to 5% deduction.
5. Failure to complete or finish barefoot acts in more than knee-deep water - 3% deduction. It is the intent of this rule to keep barefooters from approaching shore to the point where a forward fall becomes dangerous. Judges should use reasonable judgment and not try to determine the exact level of the water to the skier's knee.
6. Safety deductions may be assessed anytime during the tournament. Safety deductions may occur whether or not competition time is running (i.e. during set up time, tear down time.) Safety deductions may be assessed during a time-out.

Interpretation: Some question as to what constitutes a "serious" condition as opposed to a frivolous condition. While safety is the first priority, these penalties should not be arbitrarily applied. It is the intent of this rule to only address situations that place participants and/or spectators in danger of injury because of an action or lack of action. There are no automatic penalties other than those listed.

Ref #2. The purpose of the rule is to include but not limited to strap doubles, heel holds, and things like that. This pertains only to flip starts. This rule is intended for the proper use of a release to prevent injuries and not necessarily to require release a skier because of a fall if the skier is free of the rope.

Ref #4. The interpretation of clown includes comedy type acts.

Ref e. For clowns, the original intent of the rule was for clowns performing on the water, being towed by a boat. Clowns or comedy acts on shore that may come into contact with the water should not have to wear flotation. If a clown is performing in front of the audience in waist deep water or less, they should not have to wear flotation. In these cases, the clown is not being towed across the water and not doing dangerous maneuvers like those in the other acts listed above that require flotation.

"Float" means will float the person in full costume after expelling the air out of their lungs.

10.06 Judges' Forms The sponsor shall supply the scoring judges with two copies and the Chief Judge with one copy of each team's Judges' Forms.

RULE 11 – SAFETY

- 11.01 Safety Director** Prior to the competition, the Council shall appoint a Chief Safety Director who shall be responsible for the safe condition of all equipment, facilities and operation of the competition and have the authority to stop competition whenever he feels an unsafe condition exists. The Chief Judge may overrule any contemplated action or decision of the Chief Safety Director.
- 11.02 Injury** The competition time will be stopped by the Chief Judge or the Safety Director whenever there is apparent injury to a skier during the show. After the Chief Judge and the Safety Director are confident that necessary aid has been given to the injured person and all equipment involved has been checked, the team may start with the next act or rerun the act during which the injury occurred. If they choose to rerun the act, the competition time and scoring (judging), will start when they reach the point at which the injury occurred. The skier that was injured may, with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and Chief Judge, participate in the remainder of the show.

Any bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered, and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the costume, it must be changed or covered before the participant may continue with the show.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

Interpretation: If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be similar to the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.

If a team calls for a stop in competition and it is determined there is not an apparent injury, the Scoring Judges may assess an unsportsmanlike penalty against the team up to and including disqualification.

- 11.03 Emergency Personnel and Transportation** All IWWF Show Ski Tournaments: Adequate medical personnel on site or available within a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: less than 4 minutes.) Transportation to medical facilities present or available in a reasonable period of time. (Suggestion for reasonable period of time: 5-10 minutes.)
- 11.04 Safety Boat** The safety boat will be at an easily accessible designated position and will be manned by a competent operator at all times during competition.
- 11.05 Safety Announcements** The sponsoring team shall make announcements that spectators should not try the stunts performed during the tournament without proper experience or expert instruction before each show during the tournament.
- 11.06 Additional Safety Rules Related to Site** For safety reasons due to the site, restrictions may be added to the listed safety restrictions by the majority of the judges. Any restrictions must be determined before the start of the tournament and show directors from all competing teams be notified prior to the tournament or upon their arrival at the site.
- 11.07 Inclined Ramps** Inclined ramps (to include mini-ramp) fastened to performance platforms and/or any other equipment, and intended to be skied up, must be at an angle of not greater than 17 degrees to the surface of the water. In addition, the surface must be a minimum of 42 inches wide and the lower edge at least 6 inches below the surface of the water vertically. Anyone going over the inclined ramp must land in at least 1.25m depth of water. No double-wake or single-wake cuts are allowed going over the inclined ramp (Anyone going over an inclined ramp must line up with the inside edge of the ramp, closest to the boat. For multiple riders over the ramp, the only cuts permitted are those check cuts required for spacing).

Interpretation: Same angle as the 6' jump.

A mini-ramp is not required as part of the tournament mandatory provided equipment. If a mini-ramp is provided as part of the tournament supplied equipment, it must be positioned in the same manner and placement for all teams during the competition and official practices.

11.08 State/Federal Boating Regulations At the option of the sponsoring team, the Safety Director shall see that all competing teams conform to all state and/or federal boating regulations prior to the start of their show, PROVIDING:

1. The requirement of meeting all applicable boating laws was made in the tournament announcement.
2. All competing teams from a Federation other than the Federation in which the competition is to be held shall have been sent a copy of such laws.

11.09 Required Safety Meeting All competing team boat personnel, Safety Director, and show director/chairman shall meet with the tournament Safety Director and Chief Judge prior to each team's performance. Boat personnel who are also skiers have the option of having their meeting with the Safety Director immediately following their team's safety meeting. The sponsor shall state the time and place in the tournament announcements. All other team participants shall meet with the Safety Director prior to their 20-minute set-up time. This meeting shall be at a location convenient for team members and no later than during the set-up period of the team preceding them. The exception to this would be the first team. There shall be an interval of at least ten minutes between the end of the meeting and the start of their set-up time. If not specified, the meeting will take place in the pre-staging area prior to the 20-minute set-up time.

11.10 Sponsor-Required Site Plan The sponsor shall furnish a site plan for the Chief Judge, Safety Director and all competing teams prior to the start of the tournament.

RULE 12 – CONDUCT

12.01 Unsportsmanlike Conduct Any skier or his representative, or official whose conduct is deemed unsportsmanlike or whose conduct may cause discredit to the IWWF either on or off the competition site, before, during or after the competition, may be disqualified from all or part of the competition including completed events, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Appointed Judges and/or be subject to a fine to be determined by the IWWF Executive Board. The affected individual will be given an opportunity to present his case before a disqualification decision is made. In the case of a finding of unsportsmanlike conduct, a report must be submitted by the Chief Judge to the Chairman of the IWWF Show Ski Council. If the IWWF Executive Board assesses a fine, it will be paid by the skier's federation.

The intent is to provide a method for enforcing the rules and ensure a well-run tournament. All penalties should be enforced considering the overall intent of the tournament rules and the effect of the violation on the tournament.

Interpretation: Can potentially include any and all unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior by competing personnel either on or off site.

12.02 Mind-Altering Substances Any competitor under the influence of any mind-altering substance, including alcohol, will cause their team to be disqualified. Under the influence is defined as: "any detectable level of the substance". Competitor is defined as: "any person that participates in the performance during the competition time in any manner".

RULE 13 - VARIATIONS

13.01 General Variations to the rules may be allowed by the IWWF Show Ski Council upon the submission of such variations to the Council. The intent of this rule is to allow for the widest variation possible in the use of water ski show competition for the purpose of promoting spectator appeal and a spirit of cooperation and relaxation among water ski teams and water skiers generally. Such requests for variations must be received by the IWWF Show Ski Council at least 60 days prior to the tournament date.

13.02 Preparation and Clean-Up Rule 3.04 may be amended to allow for specific starting time and expanding preparation and clean-up times provided there is equality for all teams.

RULE 14 - Drones

14.01 General If used, drones must follow all IWWF safety/insurance requirements, must follow all host site laws and ordinances, and may only be used if a Team signs off on the ability to use a drone during their performance. There is to be one and only one Official Drone during a competition.

IWWF Show Ski OFFICIALS' INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

Section 1 - Instructions to the Chief Judge

As Chief Judge, your responsibility covers the entire tournament. You are obligated to see that the tournament is run fairly and safely according to the rules.

This includes the responsibilities of the following personnel: (1) sponsoring team, (2) competing teams, (3) scoring judges, (4) chief scorer, (5) scorers, (6) timer/staging marshal, (7) safety director, and (8) secretaries. It is important that you become familiar with all the responsibilities and positions.

Prior to the start of the tournament, you should review the following items:

1. Is the required equipment ready and adequate?
2. Are personnel available and familiar with their official responsibilities?
3. Check docks, jump, landing area, skiing area, etc., for safety hazards.
4. Make sure all entry requirements have been met.
5. Prepare and present a Judges Clinic to include minimally 4 hours of training.

Meet with each competing team's show director prior to their competition. Ask for questions and inform the show director that it is his responsibility to know the rules and that you cannot make exceptions simply because they are not aware of the rules. Review any changes in rules or interpretations that are not included in the current "Water Ski Show Competition Rules." Ask if they have anything unusual in their show that you should be aware of. Review the Chief Judge's checklist with the show director, covering all items.

It is recommended that the Chief Judge review all teams' schedule of acts for rule violations and to notify the teams of his findings; however, it remains the responsibility of any competing team to comply with all rules.

Remember, all decisions made by the Chief Judge or majority of judges must be made keeping in mind the intent of the rules and be based on keeping the competition fair for all competing teams.

Other responsibilities of Chief Judge at a Worlds Tournament include:

1. Prepare and present a Judges Clinic for Officials which will minimally be required for Judges/Secretaries
2. Responsible for the Selection Process in conjunction with the Tournament Director
3. Responsible for the Order of Competition Process/Schedule of Competition in conjunction with the Tournament Director
4. Responsible for the Official Practice Schedule coordinating implementation with the LOC
5. Be available for questions from teams/competitors on Rules or other competition issues

Section 2 - Instructions to the Scoring Judges

Before reading these instructions, read and become familiar with the IWWF Water Ski Show Competition Rules and Judges' Forms. A water ski show tournament judge has two main responsibilities during the tournament. The first is to ensure that every team abides by the rules and has a fair opportunity to compete under the rules. The second is to score each team's show under the intent of the rules.

Considerations Before going into the definition of scoring, some items you should keep in mind during the tournament are:

1. It is the responsibility of each judge to keep his scoring and comments about scoring confidential during the tournament.
2. Any questions, comments or discussion between judges concerning a show shall be handled through the Chief Judge no later than before the start of the next show. Any decisions regarding a show shall be made prior to the start of the next show in the presence of the Chief Judge. Discussions should not include opinions of acts or scores given, but only to the application of the rules.
3. Audience and weather conditions will vary throughout the tournament. You will have to allow for these when scoring.
4. Check your show lists for questions you may have on any of the listed acts prior to each show.
5. You are encouraged to make comments about your scoring for your benefit and that of the competing teams.

6. Water ski show audiences are usually made up of family groups. Keep this in mind when judging the tournament.
7. When possible, as a courtesy to competing teams, it is suggested that the Chief Judge inform them of any rule violations or penalties as soon as possible.
8. Lastly and most importantly, you are looking for a well-produced, well-staged, well-performed and entertaining water ski show.

Judging the Show As a judge you will be supplied with a form for each competing team listing the acts that they will perform. (Remember, the acts do not have to be done in the order listed.) You will judge each act based on four categories. Each category may be scored up to 25 points based on your opinion of the act. (Your scores should be whole numbers). It is recommended that 12 be considered a median score for flow, execution, difficulty and spectator appeal. You should work from a median score when scoring the box scores. Give a score that reflects your opinion on the performance in these areas as to whether you felt it was better or worse than your average expectation. Also, it is important that your scores to be relevant to the performances in the tournament.

A median score for an average performance for the box scores should be:

Sound

Music Selection	25
Audio Effects	38
Announcer/Entertainment	73

Towboat

Starts	25
Patterns/Speed	25
Landings	25
Skill/Difficulty	25

Pickup Boat

Positioning	10
Rough Water	8
Overall Safety	10

Overall Show

Introductions	25
Dock and Equipment	13
Variety	50
Production	125
Costuming/Makeup	25

Showmanship 150

In these categories, if there is no clear difference either negative or positive, it is acceptable and suggested to score teams at the median.

The Four Categories of Scoring an Act:

1. **Flow** In scoring flow ask yourself this question "Did the act progress smoothly?" Things to consider:
 - a. Did the act get started without delays?
 - b. Was the boat pattern poorly chosen or too lengthy, which caused "dead time" during the act?
 - c. Was the act designed to keep your interest at all times or were there unnecessary lags during the performance?
 - d. If there are necessary delays (e.g., smooth water for barefoot), is something planned to keep your interest during the delay?
 - e. Did the act cause problems or delays in starting the next act?

The flow of a particular act should be considered from the time the preceding act ends to the start of the next act.

2. **Execution** Look for a good, solid performance. How well did they do what they did? The more there is to be "executed" the greater the execution, because more execution is happening. A Judge should not separate what is being done from how it is being done. There should be a blend of degree of performance and the style that is performed.
3. **Difficulty** You must estimate the degree of difficulty of the act as compared with similar acts. The key word here is similar. You should not rate the difficulty of one type of act to another; e.g., a slalom act should be compared to other slalom acts; jumping acts to other jumping acts. It is not

necessarily important that your difficulty ratings compare with every similar act in the world; however, it is important that at the end of the particular tournament your difficulty scores line up according to the similar acts of the tournament.

When scoring difficulty, base your score on what was accomplished by the skier(s), not what they may have been attempting.

A problem that will come up from time to time in scoring difficulty is, "What to do with certain novelty acts." The best solution to this is to consider the other categories and the overall effect on the show and give a score that reflects the act in general.

One good thing to remember in scoring difficulty is to leave yourself a little room at the top. It seems there are always new "25 pointers" being invented. Another important item is "score what you see on the water, "not what you see on the show list." For example, a barefoot pyramid is not a barefoot pyramid until completed. In general, compare what you see to what could be done in that type of act.

4. **Spectator Appeal** The two primary things to consider when judging spectator appeal are:
- The entertainment value of the act versus similar acts.
 - Did the performers direct their performance to and acknowledge the audience?

Be careful not to rely on the audience too much for your score because some teams will load the audience and you do not always have the same audience or the same size audience.

Falls should not necessarily score a zero or even mean a point deduction. There has been much discussion on this subject. The general feeling is that a fall at the right time in a difficult act, and handled correctly, can actually increase the spectator appeal or entertainment value of that act. Score falls as they affect you. A fall in an act, handled correctly, can conceivably enhance the act score in all categories. If the skier was picked up, was it smooth? The rules provide that an act may be skied again if it falls, in which case you must score the act considering the fall and the second attempt as they affect the overall show.

Scoring Zeros If an act falls off the dock, it is recommended you score zero for execution and low scores for flow, difficulty and spectator appeal. A fall before accomplishing a stated act — the score is based on the percentage that is completed.

Improper Safety Precautions Be alert during the show for violations of the safety rules or the failure to exercise proper safety precautions as defined in Rule 10. As a judge, you have the right and responsibility to enforce these rules. Any possible point deductions should be discussed and assessed prior to the start of the next show.

Clown or Comedy Acts Any act listed as "clown or comedy" will not be scored in the 25-point categories but will be given one score between 0 and 100 for the entire act. Your score should be based on the originality, humor, and overall entertainment of the act and not on the difficulty of the skiing. Remember that to be counted as an act, some portion must include either a competitor towed across the water or a performance by powered watercraft.

This concludes the scoring of individual acts. At the bottom of the judge's sheet are six categories that are scored at the end of the show. These items are the "Box Scores."

Box Scores

Sound Crew & Audio Presentation (0-270 Points) The announcer should be considered your host and you should rate him accordingly. If a team does not use an announcer then the music and recorded items on the sound system are your host. Be aware that there are various styles to audibly promote the show, so rate the shows on the following criteria:

1. Music selection (0-50 points) - Does the music follow the theme of the show?
2. Audio Effects (0-75 points) - Is all of the audio clearly understood and interesting?
3. **Announcer/Entertainment value (0-145 points)** - Do you know where to look? Can you follow the story line, no matter if it is from the announcer or from the audio transmissions of the show (if no announcer is used)? **The announcer (if used) gets scored on how well they direct your attention to where the crowd should or shouldn't be looking, bring up or down the tone of the show, and engages the audience.**

Pick-Up Boat Crew (0-55 Points) - Criteria to watch for:

1. Positioning (0 – 20 points) - was the boat able to cover acts and make it to and from the dock as seamlessly as possible
2. Rough Water (0 – 15 points) - Did the pick-up boat(s) cause any excessive rough water for the skiers on the water while picking up skis, fallen skiers or when getting into position for the next act.
3. Safety positioning (0 – 20 points) – was the boat in a safe spot to assist with acts like jump?

The general rule is, if the work of the pick-up boat(s) is done without it being noticed, you have seen a good performance by pick-up crew(s).

Towboat Driving (0-200 Points) The performance of the towboat driver(s) can be very important to the performance and timing of the whole show. Things to look for:

1. Starts (0-50 points) – Were the starts appropriate for the respective acts?
2. Patterns & Speed (0-50 points) - Was the boat pattern selected to minimize “dead time”, the best water for the skiers and presentation of the skiers to the spectators?
3. Landings (0-50 points) - Did the boat drivers bring the skiers into their landings at the best location and with the best water as possible?
4. Skill/Difficulty (0-50 points)

If more than one boat is used during the show, the score given shall include the combined quality of the towboat driving.

Showmanship (0-300 Points) - In this category, do not consider the performance of the acts, but the overall production of the show. Items you should consider are:

1. Appearance of the participants.
2. Appearance of the equipment.
3. Did all persons involved act as actors or actresses, display charisma, and acknowledge the audience?
4. Was the show well-choreographed (skiers, dock personnel, boat drivers)?
5. Crowd interaction - did the skiers attempt to interact, and improve the experience of the crowd?
6. Theme actualization - Did the performers present the theme to the audience in a meaningful and entertaining way. Did the performers stay in character (if there were any characters) Was the theme presented thoroughly throughout the show?
7. Crowd reactions – Did the competitors captivate the audience? Did the competitors move from act to act, and to different locations discretely without distracting the audience?

Overall Show (0-475 Points) - These scores should reflect your composite impression and opinion of the atmosphere created by the complete show in the categories as follows.

1. Introductions (0-50 points) - The judge shall consider the overall introduction or introductions according to precision, entertainment value and attitude of the skiers and rate accordingly. Boat introductions are included unless designated as an act by the competing team.
2. Dock & Equipment (0-25 points) - The judge should not notice the dock and equipment personnel if all goes well. Were there any knots or equipment malfunctions? Was the equipment for each act set up smoothly and was it ready for each act?
3. Act Variety (0-100 points) - Was there a good variety and/or innovation of the different types of skiing that a team could ski?
4. Production (0-250 points) - Did the show hold your attention throughout its performance? Consider the impact of props and backdrops on the production. Was this an entertaining, high quality performance?
5. Costuming/Make-up (0-50 points) - Consider the appearance of the participants. Were the costumes colorful and well visible from the water? Do the costumes fit the theme of the show?

A few final points about scoring—before you turn your sheets in, make sure you have listed the number of acts and given scores for all acts and categories. Do not add any of your scores; the scorers must add them anyway.

Judging a water ski show tournament is not easy. You are scoring entertainment and there are different likes and dislikes. We do not want to lose the creativity of a water ski team by making the judging too stereotyped. You are expected to recognize a good performance. You should judge accordingly, remembering that a good performance may be good even if you did not like it. So you see, your judging has to primarily be based on quality of performance with a controlled influence of your own likes and dislikes.

Section 3 - Instructions to the Chief Scorer

As Chief Scorer, your responsibility covers the tabulation of all the teams' scores. Your main responsibility is to ensure that all the results are accurate. You will also, along with the Chief Judge, be responsible to ensure that all the entry requirements have been met. You must fully understand the scoring system.

The scorers will tabulate all the scores. You will be responsible for checking all their figures and verifying that they are correct. You also must review all the teams' forms to make sure that they have been properly filled out, that they have the correct amount of forms and that they are all the same.

You will be responsible for the completion of the scorers' forms, including the deduction of any penalty points from a team's final score. All penalties need to be verified by the Chief Judge. (See attached Scorers' Form.)

The Chief Scorer shall work with the Tournament Chairman to make sure that all necessary supplies are on hand to facilitate the scoring of the tournament (i.e. calculators with tapes, pencils, carbon paper, clipboards, paper rolls, etc.).

Section 4 - Instructions To The Scorers

The scorers' duties consist of tabulating the Judges' Forms and relaying the information to the Chief Scorer. The Chief Scorer will then record the results on the Scorers' Form. You shall be responsible to ensure that all the figures are correct by checking and rechecking the final results.

Remember, the correct addition of the scores is needed for fair competition to all teams.

Section 5 - Instructions To The Official Timer/Staging Marshal

As the official timer, your responsibility is to ensure that all phases of the competition are documented with the correct time (see Rule 3).

You shall be responsible for the tracking of time for:

1. Set-up Time (The 20-minute period prior to the team's performance.)
2. Competition Time (The 60-minute period for the team's competition.)
3. Take-Down Time (The 10-minute period after the completion of the show.)

It is the responsibility of the timer to observe the entire show and be in a position available to the Chief Judge and Safety Director. If the show is stopped for sponsor-supplied equipment failure (Rule 3.03) and the competing team chooses to rerun the act, the procedure is to allow them to start at the beginning of the act in which the time was stopped and to start the competition time where they reach the point at which the show was stopped. The same procedure will apply if the show is stopped for an injury (Rule 11.02).

Your responsibility is to ensure the smooth transition of ski teams, in and out of the competition area, between the ski shows.

For "optional tournament formats", it is also the responsibility of the Timer/Staging Marshal to keep track of the alternate team members. Only 35 team members are allowed to compete in the show. The alternates may be dressed and ready to enter the show in the case of an injury or illness that prevents the regular member from continuing on with the competition. A separate area for the alternates to wait will be placed next to the skiers staging area.

If a team calls for the substitution of an alternate during their show and it is determined there is not an apparent injury, the Scoring Judges may assess an unsportsmanlike penalty against the team up to and including disqualification. Once an alternate is substituted, the original injured competitor cannot re-enter that day's team competition.

You must be familiar with the site's physical layout, as to where the pre-staging and competition areas are located. You must ensure that the next team up does not get into the competition area prior to their 20-minute set-up time, and that they do not in any way interfere with the competing team's

performance. You will also have to make a visual check to see that all of the previous team's equipment is out of the competition area prior to the next team's set-up time.

At three minutes prior to the anticipated beginning of the next show, the Official Timer/Staging Marshal shall ensure the officials are in place. If not, he shall notify the tournament announcer and the Chief Judge, and all possible attempts to locate the officials shall take place.

All of the above information must be coordinated with the Chief Judge, the Safety Director, and the competing teams. The Chief Judge must also inform you of the competing team's start of the show (i.e., tight line, spoken word, prerecorded announcement, etc.).

All of the times must be recorded on the official timer's log and turned into the Chief Judge at the end of the tournament.

Please remember that all teams should be given the same information as to the transition between shows, to ensure equal competition between all the teams.

In most cases, the Chief Judge would be a back-up timer.

Section 6 - Instructions To The Safety Director

As the Safety Director, you are responsible for ensuring that the competition is conducted safely and that all teams perform safely, both on the water and off. See Rule 11—Safety.

Some things that you need to consider prior to the beginning of the competition:

1. Are there adequate safety personnel on site or available within a reasonable amount of time?
2. Is there adequate access for emergency vehicles and transportation to necessary facilities?
3. Is the competition area free from potentially dangerous obstacles?
4. Does the ski jump fall under AWSA specifications?
5. Is the dock safe? (Can it hold mass numbers of skiers and equipment?)
6. Is there an adequate safety boat available?

Prior to each competing team's performance, you should meet with the entire team and go over the emergency procedures established in the event of an injury. They must be aware of the necessary signals to call for help and/or stop the competition.

You should also be aware of the weather conditions. You, along with the Chief Judge, will be responsible to delay or call off the tournament if a potentially dangerous situation is on the way (i.e., electrical storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.).

Section 7 - Instructions to The Secretaries

As a secretary your main responsibility is to record the number and comments for the judge for whom you are working. As a general rule, you are there to learn and observe the judging system and that particular judge's techniques.

Your position should be to ask questions or take care of whatever items the judges may ask you to do. At no time should you be inputting your unsolicited comments or remarks to the judge. You must also keep all scores and comments confidential during the competition.

III. FORMS

All Judges' Forms and Scorers' Forms along with any reports are contained in the Tournament packet available from IWWF Show Ski Council.

IV. Optional Tournament Formats

1. The **IWWF Show Ski Council** may choose to limit the size of the teams to 35 competitors total with up to 5 alternates (for illness or injury). This must be stated in the Tournament announcement. Competitor is defined as: "any person that participates in the performance during the competition time in any manner".

2. The **IWWF Show Ski Council** may choose to limit the number of acts and time for each show. This must be stated in the Tournament announcement.
3. See Rule 9 regarding boats and other equipment.

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