



## Minutes of W. W. Council meetings held on May 29

Candido Moz	CM	WWSC Chair
Dana Garcia	DG	Pan Am WSC President
Larry Gisler	LG	Pan Am Delegate
Segio Font	SF	Pan Am Delegate
Russ Dickson	RD	Pan Am Alternate
Bruce Coburn	BC	AAO WSC President
Glen Williams	GW	AAO Delegate
Geoffrey Kee	JK	AAO Delegate
Gavin Kelly	GK	E&A Delegate
Dimos Alexopoulos	DA	E&A Delegate
Valentina Gonzales	VG	Athletes Representative
Martin Kolman	MK	Athletes Representative
Jacinta Carrol	JC	Athletes Representative
Jose Antonio Perez Priego	JA	IWWF President
Will Bush	WB	Boat Testing Committee

### 1) Chief Judge IWWF World Under-21 Championships

CM has provided an update regarding the appointed Chief Judge for the Under-21 World Championships. Felipe has lost his passport and has since obtained a new one. However, he is uncertain whether he will be able to secure his VISA for Canada in time.

During the Masters, CM discussed potential replacements with Lisa Stainer and Jeff Smith. Both individuals are willing to assume the role, but their availability differs:

- Lisa will not be present for familiarisation, as she has a prior travel commitment.
- Jeff, however, will be available in time for familiarisation.

Given these circumstances, the WSC unanimously decided to grant Felipe 30 days to resolve his VISA situation. If the issue is not resolved within this timeframe, Jeff Smith will assume the position of Chief Judge for the event. Canada will then need to arrange for an additional judge.

### 2) Nautique boats for World Open Championships.

At the Masters, CM held a meeting with Brian Sullivan, Vice President of Nautique Marketing, and Jose Antonio, President of the IWWF.

During the discussion, Brian Sullivan stated that Nautique would like to use the new Nautique boat model, just presented on Friday, for the Open Worlds and assured that they would make every effort to provide new boats worldwide.

CM informed Brian that doing so would require a rule exception (IWWF Rule 14.11 and IWWF Rule 1.04) and committed to providing an answer before the end of May.

Meanwhile, an email was received informing the World Organizer that Nautique was willing to send 3 boats to Europe within a week.

CM then invited JA to add any remarks regarding the conversation with Brian Sullivan.

**JA** noted that using a brand-new model presents challenges for two main reasons.

First, the boat would not be available worldwide in time, preventing some athletes from having the opportunity to ski behind it.

Second, the performance of a new boat remains uncertain, as it has not undergone sufficient skiing time.

**JC** then stated that, from the athletes' perspective, it would be unfair, as Oceania would not have access to a boat in time for training. This situation has occurred several times before, and the previously approved model was always used. To ensure fairness for all skiers living outside Florida, the current Nautique model should remain in use.

**VG** pointed out that Europe might receive the new boats in a month, and Florida already has a few, but what about the rest of the world? She noted that Latin America would certainly not have access to one. As she understands, the new boat is completely different, making it unfair for athletes to train all season behind the 2025 model and then have only two passes (official familiarization) to test the new boat before the Worlds.

**CM** asked **WB** for information about the new boat, as he conducted all the tests. **WB** confirmed that the new boat is indeed different from the one currently in use. In tricks, the wakes are different, requiring skiers to adapt. The pull in slalom and jump is also different due to a different propeller. From a driver's perspective, there is little change—the handling remains quite similar to the current model. However, he tended to agree with **VG**, noting that skiers would feel the difference.

**DG** expressed that, in this situation, there would be no winner. She spoke with some athletes, and if fairness is the concern, even they believe the current situation is unfair to the rest of the world.

**MK** echoed this sentiment, agreeing that the transition would be unfair. He noted that if Nautique had intended to introduce the new boat, they should have informed the waterski community in a timely manner and proposed test events for athletes at no cost, allowing them to familiarize themselves with the new model.

**CM**, CM, as the organizer of the upcoming Worlds, declared that due to Nautique's proposal to send a new boat to Italy, he had a conflict of interest and, therefore, would not take part in the voting.

The vote proceeded with the following results:

**Use of the new boat for the World Open Championships:**

**YES:** 0

**NO:** 10

**Abstention:** 1

CM will inform Brian Sullivan of the WSC's decision.

This concludes today's agenda.

**DG** requested to **JA** some clarification regarding the boat bid. The discussion on this item will be documented separately and once approved, will be sent to the EB.