Minutes of the World Waterski Council Meeting held via Zoom on July 15, 2026

Present:

Candido Moz	CM	WWSC Chair
Bruce Coburn	BC	AAO WSC President
Glen Williams	GW	AAO Delegate
Geoffrey Kee	NT	AAO Delegate
Aristotelis Balais	AB	E&A Delegate
Morten Froulund	MF	E&A Delegate
Dana Garcia	DG	Pan Am WSC President
Larry Gisler	LG	Pan Am Delegate
Segio Font	SF	Pan Am Delegate
Martin Kolman	MK	Athletes Representative
Valentina Gonzales	VG	Athletes Representative
Archie Davis	AD	Athletes Representative
Will Bush	WB	Tech Committee Chairman

Agenda

1. World Panel
2. Extra weight Malibu Boat
3. Jake Abelson timing – Botaski PRO
4. Larry Gisler U-17 Worlds
5. Richard Abelson request
6. Giannina Bonneman – Botaski PRO
7. Rule 9.12 – reason for giving NC to tricks
8. Record approval process
9. Jake Abelson performance at Bill Wenner Memorial Record
10. U-12 age division
11. Judges change during event
12. Tricks boat speed
13. Re-evaluate the slalom buoy rule 8.08 a)
14. Adding BPMS rules for the gate
15. PreTurn Definition

1. World Panel

Based on the request and Proposal from the Confederation the following Officials will be appointed:

IWWF Under-21 World Championships - Peru

Chief Judge	Felipe Leal	COL
Ass. Chief Judge	Dan VanDyk	USA

Homologator	Jerry Jackson	USA

Chief Scorer	COITOU Annie	FRA
Ass Score #1	Diego Restrepo	COL
Alt Scorer #2	Debbie Kern	USA

Judge 1	FROMIAU Muriel	FRA
Judge 2	JOHANSSON Anders	SWE
Judge 3	MOULANIER Eudes	FRA
Judge 4	Erin Kalkbrenner	USA
Judge 5	Rebecca Ramsay	CAN
Judge 6	Robert Ritter	CHI
Judge 7	Jennyfer Cadena	COL
Alt #1	Nikki Lee	USA
Alt #2	Jersson Delgado	COL
Alt #3	Jeff Smith	USA

CDriver	MARTIN Glen	AUS
Driver	Russ Dickson	CAN
Driver	OBERLEITNER Franz	AUT
Alt #1	Darren Janzig	USA
Alt #2	GUSENBAUER Jorg	AUT
Alt #3	Scot Ellis	USA

CM will talk to the Chief Judge regarding the panel.

CM will ask the IWWF Office to clearly communicate to all Officials the exact amount of the travel-expenses reimbursement.

IWWF Open World Championships - Australia

Chief Judge	Candido Moz	ITA
Ass. Chief Judge	Kerri Lee	USA

Homologator	TALAMO Nigel	GBR

Chief Scorer	Kirby Whetsel	USA
Ass Score #1	LANGROCK Ulf	GER
Ass Score #2	Richard Carlson	NZL
Alt 1	THERIN Gael	FRA
Alt 2	Nikki Lee	USA

Judge #1	BALAIS Aristotelis	GRE
Judge #2	PERSOONS Marie-Anne	BEL
Judge #3	LAGAE Pieter-Jan	BEL
Judge #4	COCKBURN Bruce	AUS
Judge #5	SHAW Chris (J1)	NZL
Judge #6	HAYES Glenn (J1)	AUS
Judge #7	SMITH Jeff	USA
Judge #8	DICKSON Russ	CAN
Judge #9	LEAL Felipe	COL
Judge #10	RITTER Robert	CHI
Alt #1	MIKANOVICH Liudmila	BLR
Alt #2	MUHLITNER Richelle	USA
Alt #3	THERIN Gael	FRA

CDriver	MARTIN Glen	AUS
Driver 1	DOMINI Manuel	ITA
Driver #2	GREENWOOD Scott	USA
Driver #3	PIGOZZI Mario	DR
Alt #1	BERGMAN Andrew	CAN
Alt #2	SPARROW Nigel	AUS

2. Extra weight Malibu Boat

DG, I received a phone call today from the Chief Judge and the Organiser of the IWWF Over-35 World Championships. They are requesting an exception. The Malibu wakes are essentially non-existent, and the lake is quite shallow — approximately 5 feet deep. They are therefore asking whether we can add a baseline weight in addition to Rule 9.14, specifically an extra 50 kilograms to the boat. This would give the boat sufficient weight to generate a wake. At the moment, the wakes are non-existent, and even if the skiers add the allowed 50 kilograms, it is still not enough. For this reason, they are requesting an exception to add an additional 50 kilograms that would remain in the boat at all times.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- Whether it is appropriate to modify or grant an exception to a rule only 15 days before the event.
- If the boat was tested in shallow-water conditions, met the rule requirements, and was therefore approved, whether it is correct to grant an exception at this stage.
- The implications for all skiers who have trained and competed under the conditions as defined and approved by the rules.
- The possibility that adding extra weight could generate further issues or unforeseen consequences.

Following the discussion, the WSC does not approve the request for an exception.

CM: Another issue that has emerged during the Over 35 Worlds and has also occurred in previous editions of the same event, is the high number of withdrawals. This trend requires careful consideration, and the WSC will need to reflect on it and identify an appropriate and sustainable solution.

---

3. Jake Abelson timing – Botaski PRO

At Botaski Pro, two new World Record performances were set: Jake Abelson in Open Men and Erika Lang in Open Women.

Upon receiving the record files, CM discovered that Jake Abelson's time was incorrect before submitting the material for review. CM contacted Donal Connolly for a second verification. The verification confirmed that, for unknown reasons, the start frame was wrong and consequently the end frame was also incorrect. DC also provided a screenshot of the selected frame.

CM conducted a full verification of all original recorded passes from the competition. DC conducted a full verification of all computer backup recorded passes. No additional issues were found.

In conclusion, this was a genuine error which, although it should not occur, can occasionally happen.

The record procedure for Erika Lang will proceed in full compliance with the applicable rules.

4. Under-17 Worlds

LG raised the issue of whether the WhatsApp Team Captain group should be regarded as an official instrument for schedule changes and formal announcements. The circumstances at the Under-17 Worlds—characterized by a hotel located far from the competition site, last-minute schedule modifications, and communications sent at any time of the day, including early morning—make it necessary to determine the official status and appropriateness of this channel.

After the discussion, and considering that WhatsApp is a very fast and direct communication tool, it was noted that schedule changes or any official communication must still ensure that athletes are given adequate time to react. CM committed to drafting a regulatory proposal on this matter, which will be submitted to the WSC for approval

Proposed New Text

13.07: Posting and Official Communication Definition

For an Official document to be posted it must be:

a) Either:

1. *A physical copy posted on the Official Notice Board, or*
2. *A virtual copy posted on the Official Competition Results Website.*

b) Clearly show the time and date that it was approved by the Chief Judge.

c) Be signed or expressly approved by the Chief Judge.

If a document does not include a statement that it is the "Final Results" in the heading, it MUST be considered provisional.

In addition to being posted as specified above, Official documents and communications may also, for the purpose of improving communication, be announced through an official electronic communication channel designated by the Chief Judge, such as a social media or messaging channel (for example, an official WhatsApp group).

When such electronic communication is used, the Chief Judge MUST ensure that the communication is made at a reasonable time of day and sufficiently in advance to provide all affected athletes with adequate time to receive the information and react accordingly.

The use of an immediate or direct communication system does not, by itself, justify a reduction of the reasonable notice required for any schedule change or other official communication.

***Note:** If documents are posted online, they should either have an e-signature or another indication (such as a box to be checked indicating "Approved for posting by the Chief Judge") that the Chief Judge has agreed that these are the final results. If the software can include an e-signature, then this is not necessary.*

Another issue that arose during the Under-17 Worlds concerns the interpretation of the “30 minutes” rule, which appears to be applied in a manner not fully consistent with the original intent of the regulation.

CM will propose an amendment to the wording of the rule and submit it for approval.

Proposed New Text

13.01: Who may Protest and How it is done

Protests shall be made to the Chief Judge only by a Team Representative and shall be considered by the Appointed Judges. Protest must be made in writing, must state the reason(s) for the protest and quote the relevant rule number(s), and must be filed as soon as possible, but no later than 30 minutes after the results of the event are announced and the Judges scoring forms are available for inspection.

For Tricks, the inspection and protest time limits shall be those set out in Rule 13.06.

If a skier believes that he has been given a higher score than he actually achieved he may ask the Chief Judge to have it reviewed. The Chief Judge may reduce the skier’s score after consulting the Appointed Judges. A fee is not required for this specific challenge.

After the 30-minute period, or the applicable period provided for under Rule 13.06 for Tricks, has expired, the results shall be considered Final and no further changes or corrections may be made.

13.06: Tricks Score Sheet Availability

The tricks scoring sheets of each Judge for every skier shall be made available for inspection by the Team Captain for 30 minutes from the time the provisional results are posted. Under the Team Captain’s responsibility, a skier may inspect his or her own scoring sheets.

If a score sheet is changed, the revised sheet shall remain available for inspection for at least 15 minutes from the time the revised results are posted, without reducing the original 30-minute inspection period.

Each subsequent change shall start a new 15-minute inspection period.

Examples:

1. **If provisional results are posted at 14:00 and revised results are posted at 14:10, the original 30-minute inspection period still applies and ends at 14:30.**
2. **If provisional results are posted at 14:00 and revised results are posted at 14:25, the revised score sheet shall remain available for 15 minutes from the posting of the revised results, and the inspection period therefore ends at 14:40.**

If the Team Captain requests the Officials to review a specific result, a notice shall be posted indicating that the result is under review and identifying the skier concerned. This may be done by marking the posted results or by posting a separate notice.

Judges are required to list the official code and/or variations for each trick. The Scorer may reasonably interpret the Judge’s form to correct obvious errors in the written trick codes.

~~Shorthand may be used to record the run initially, but the official trick codes must be entered before the sheets are handed to the Scorer. The Scorer must also be provided with a copy of each Judge’s shorthand.~~

5. Richard Abelson request

A request was submitted by Richard Abelson concerning Jake Abelson's Overall performance achieved at the following tournament:

Travers Cup – 25S042
Sunset Lakes (USAS0355), Groveland, FL
21 September 2024 – Round 1

At this tournament, Jake competed in the **Open Men Division**, while complying with the speed and ramp-height restrictions applicable to his natural Age Division.

The performance was not processed for the Overall Ranking List on the basis of the following rule in force at the time:

World Ranking List
The World Ranking List is a list ……
If a skier competes in a different age division, a Slalom score at 58, 55, 52 or 49 will be equal to a score at any slower speed of 55, 52, 49 or 46. A Tricks score will be accepted as it is. A Jump score will be accepted as it is regardless of speed/ramp height, except that, a Jump performance done in an age division different from the Natural Age Division, will only be used in the Under 21 or Open Division Ranking List, regardless of the skier age, requested speed and ramp height.

Richard Abelson states that, since the rule was amended in 2026 as follows:

World Ranking List
The World Ranking List is a list ……
f a skier competes in a different age division:

- *Slalom scores at 58, 55, 52 or 49 will be equal to a score at any slower speed of 55, 52, 49 or 46.*
- *Trick scores will be accepted as they are.*
- *A Jump score executed in a different age division from the athlete's own, can only be used in the skiers age-division ranking list, if performed with a ramp height and speed appropriate to the athlete's age division.*

If not, the score will only be valid for the U-21 and Open age divisions.

he considers that Jake Abelson's performance should now be processed under the amended rule and, consequently, recognized as a new U-17 Overall Record.

Following discussion, the WSC reaffirmed that records must be reviewed and validated in accordance with the rules in force at the time the performance was achieved. Rules or amendments adopted subsequently cannot be applied retroactively for the purpose of validating or recognizing a record.

CM informed the Council that all issues related to the rule amendment mentioned above should now be resolved, and that the corrected Jump Ranking is expected to be available shortly.

6. Giannina Bonneman – Botaski PRO

At the Botaski Pro, Giannina Bonnemann was entered in the Pro Women category for Jump and Tricks, but not for Slalom, where, due to the specific competition rules, she was required to compete in the Open Women category.
As the scoring software treats Pro Women and Open Women as two separate categories, her results were not combined and, consequently, no Overall result was calculated for this tournament.
The WSC considers that, since the decision to compete in two different categories was not made by the skier but was required by the specific competition rules, and since all performances were achieved under the same competition conditions and on the same site, the individual scores should also be used for the calculation of the Overall result.
CM, will fix the competition files.

---

7. Rule 9.12 reason for giving NC to tricks

Regarding this item, VG asked why the reason for the NC in Tricks was not posted during the first round of the Botaski ProAM.
This practice originates from the Morocco ProAM, where the Chief Judge, AB, explicitly instructed Donal not to display the individual reasons given by each Judge for not crediting a trick, as these may differ and could lead athletes to argue that different reasons should not be combined to invalidate the trick (e.g., two Judges calling a pre-turn and two calling a slide-end), in such a case there is no majority: only two Judges call pre-turn and only two call early landing. Therefore, the trick must be credited.
It should be noted that Judges list only one reason for not crediting a trick and listing all possible reasons would require additional time and is not feasible. In any case, if a trick is not credited by 3 out of 5 Judges, regardless of the specific reason, the trick is invalid.

SF proposed that the system should display all the reasons why a trick was not credited, without indicating which specific reason was selected by each Judge. The idea is that the system could show “3 no credits” together with the list of the reasons, without revealing whether a Judge selected one, two, or three different options. This approach would avoid situations where an odd number of reasons appears in the NC summary and would ensure clarity while preventing misinterpretations.

CM, we’ll need to give this some more thought.

DG, while we are discussing tricks, I believe it has now been demonstrated that EYETricks can be used at 100% speed and not only at 80%.

CM explained the results of the experiment conducted in Morocco, where EYE-Tricks was used at 80% speed and the same panel subsequently called the same tricks at 100%, while a different panel evaluated them manually. The comparison showed no difference between calling at 80% and at 100% when using EYE-Tricks. The manual calling, instead, resulted in a higher number of NCs compared with the calls made through EYE-Tricks.

Having already established a comparison for skiers of a certain level, Donald is now expanding this experiment with passes ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 points.

CM, as a conclusion, with EYE-Tricks, both speeds can be used. When judges are properly trained with the system, there is no issue. Using 80% provides slightly more time, since the full sequence lasts 24 seconds instead of 20, allowing judges a bit more focus on the tricks. However, both speeds are workable. At 100%, judges must be well trained, because—as always—if the video is stopped at the wrong point, it becomes difficult to determine what comes before and what comes after.

At this point, the discussion moved to whether EYE-Tricks videos should be played at 100% speed or at 80% speed, followed by a vote on the matter.

At this point, the discussion moved to whether EYE-Tricks videos should be played at 100% speed or at 80% speed. Three options were considered: 80%–80%, 100%–100%, and 80%–100%. After the vote, it was established that the original video will be shown at 80% speed, while the review will be played at 100% speed.

---

8. Record review process

A few weeks ago, CM proposed a change to the Record Review process aimed at speeding up the procedure. While some members agreed, others within the WSC did not support the proposal.
CM noted that, with the current procedure, responses often arrive very slowly, and at times he has to request feedback more than once.
The discussion concluded with the decision not to change the existing rule, but to involve the Chair of the respective Confederation Council (E&A, PANAM and AAO), as it is their responsibility to support and help expedite the process.

---

9. Jake Abelson Performance at “Bill Wenner Memorial Record)

CM informed that he received a request to verify an Overall record performed by Jake Abelson during the “Bill Wenner Memorial Record” tournament. The record had not been approved by the event Panel, but it was nevertheless submitted for verification due to doubts concerning the last trick.

After the discussion, it was agreed that no potential record should be reviewed unless it has been approved on site.

The meeting concluded at 1:00 CET.