

**Minutes of the meeting of the World Tournament Council held on Sunday and Monday 24th and 25th
November 2013 at the Atton Vitacura Hotel, Santiago, Chile**

1. PRESENT

Bob Corson	Chairman and PanAm member
Jeffrey Armstrong	PanAm member
Peter Person	PanAm member
Larry Gisler	PanAm alternate
Murray Eade	AAO member
Bruce Cockburn	AAO member
Hannifah Yin Fah	AAO member – present for part of first day and second day
Candido Moz	E&A member
Gillian Hill	E&A member
Alain Amade	E&A member – present from midday first day
Ageliki Andriopoulou	Athlete representative
Esteban Siegert	Athlete representative
Jim Grew	Chairman, World Disabled Council – invited to attend (non voting)

Meeting times 0900 – 1900 hours Sunday and 0900 – 1230 hours Monday.

2. Seeding at this current World Championships

This was an important issue which needed a decision immediately. The rules are clearly published but Candido pointed out some anomalies which arose from the existing rules. It was realised that this was an unfair situation. With unanimous agreement the seeding would be based on both years ranking lists – from May 2012 (plus 25%) and May 2013. This enabled the seeding for this competition to be made.

3. Jump side curtain – length under water.

USA had suggested we adopt the AWSA rules to allow just 20cm under water. This proposal was agreed unanimously. Rule 13.02g) would be changed to read 20 cm minimum under water.

Their further suggestion to alter the angle of the side curtain did not meet with approval. No change in the angle requirement.

4. World 35+ Rules

The overall scoring matrix had been prepared by Bob, but not circulated. This was distributed during the meeting.

4.1. 45+ Slalom shortening speed

Australia proposed that the maximum speed for Over 45 Women's Slalom be reduced from 55k to 52k. Australia feel it will be safer and encourage more women to compete if they shorten at 52k. At the moment both men and women are at the same speed and this only happens at over 35 and 45 age groups. In all other cases the men slalom is 3k faster than Women.

After discussion it was agreed NOT TO CHANGE AT PRESENT, but offer the skiers at the 2014 35+ World Championships their input for the future.

4.2. 35+ Tournament qualifications via RL when changing divisions

Candido had been studying this issue. When skiers move up into 35+, they have scores at faster speeds in slalom and higher ramp heights in jump. As athletes go from one division in to another they may reduce the slalom speed or ramp height.

We should have a method/procedure to treat the crossing boundary scores."

Candido explained how we dealt with this in Europe for this year.

It had been agreed to treat slalom scores exactly the same except the speed. So a score at 58 kph was treated as the same score at 55 kph when moving into a new age category.

Similarly for jump – the distance remained the distance, despite the fact the speed goes down.

Slalom scores are same at 55 as at 58. Jump is the same distance. Tricks is not an issue.

He suggested to integrate those moving into the category into the May 2014 ranking list and compile **an entry list**. This is not a replacement Ranking List – just an Entry List for the World Championships.

The top x are protected per our rules and will remain in the list of qualified skiers. Those moving into the next age category will be removed into their next entry list.

4.3. 65+ Skier Entry limitation (updated for clarification 1/29/14)

There is currently no limit to the number of skiers a country can send in the 65+ division. The thought is that there might be an over large entry with the Championships taking place in the U.S. Initially the TC agreed NO LIMITATION on the number of 65+ skiers from each country.

There are currently no minimum qualifications either for the 65+ category, perhaps there should be.

The TC agreed that for this first World 65+ Championships there should be no minimum qualifications imposed.

Noted from the 2012 minutes on the introduction of the 65+ division:

No qualification required other than a score in the national, confederation or world ranking lists – proof to be provided on registration.

Also based on the discussion at the 2012 meeting and a further council discussion, the final decision is that there will be a limit of the 65+ entrants of 15 per country.

However, the Entry system needs to change and be earlier so the organisers prepare or not for a big entry. Difficult to deal with this because the Federations were not sure at the time of the Intention to Enter how many skiers would go. The team part was relatively easy, but the number of individual entries fluctuated a great deal. The TC members would try to find some method of knowing how many skiers would enter. Bob would speak to Jack and Lelani Travers about this issue.

5. Slalom

5.1. The ¾ buoy in Slalom

A number of different ideas had been put forward to include a ¾ buoy. All the different ideas were shown on <http://www.iwsf.com/iwsftc/2014/New%20Slalom%20Rule.pdf>

Bruce is proposing we consider this to help alleviate ties and to reward the skier who goes further towards the next buoy.

But the skiers are very mixed in their views and those who want the change don't know how it can be judged.

The TC looked at the various options, all of which had some problems. It was agreed we are **not** ready to make a change at the moment. Ageliki was asked to continue discussion with the skiers.

5.2. Gate Camera height

14.11 Gate cameras must be at least the same height as a judges tower and must be high enough so that the buoy is not hidden by spray of the boat wake/rooster tail.

Agreed.

5.3. Recommendation

After a miss, the skier must ski straight behind the boat on the return non-scoring pass,.

5.4. Gate buoy judging problems

There had been much discussion about this on the Issue List because of the difficulty of judging the entry gates. There was even a suggestion of not judging the slalom gates at all. However, a skier survey had found the majority were in favour of retaining the gates as part of the course.

The TC discussed this at length, and some suggestions for improvement were made, including:

- Using a Goode bubble buoy which can sit high in the water.

- Gain more information on camera heights according to distance away.

Eventually it was agreed to reword Rule 14.11 to state “Video gate review may be done at normal speed, slow motion or frame by frame in order to get the right score. **A maximum of 2 video reviews can be made and a decision made.**”

A suggestion to allow no challenge was NOT agreed, there would be no change to the challenge rule.

A further change was agreed: “The Chief Judge and a designated review judge will review the video (boat video or gate video). Unless the CJ was already involved in the first review, in which case another review judge will be designated.”

5.5. Use of boat video in slalom

Examine if we will allow video to be used instead of direct observation in slalom on a regular basis rather than by exception.

Leave as is.

5.6. Slalom course Diagram 1

Recommendation that in the light of wider boat widths to change the boat guide buoys to a slightly larger width by option.

In the Diagram 1 Official Slalom Course: Dimensions "G"

G = 1.15m Option 1.25m	1.035- 1.313	10%
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No Change at this time.

5.7. Boat path

It was agreed to change the wording in Rule 14.01 1st paragraph as show below:

14.01: General

The contestant shall follow the tow boat through the entrance gate of the slalom course ([Diagram 1](#)), pass around the outside of any or all 6 buoys and proceed through the far end gate (constituting a pass), making the turn and returning through the course in a similar fashion, until he misses a buoy or a gate or falls. **The boat shall follow a straight path as close to the centreline of the course as possible.** The skier may elect to waive all passes below a selected rope length (or speed should the Event Judges lower the minimum starting speed).....

It was agreed for Rule 14.11 to delete the following paragraph as it is already stated in Rule 14.15:

14.11 delete the following paragraph

~~The boat Judge shall observe the boat path. If any part of the boat deviates outside the bounds of the boat gates, the boat judge shall award an optional reride with a protected score if the path of deviation was a disadvantage to the skier. If it was to the skier's advantage, a reride is mandatory.~~

See also [Rule 14.15](#) End Course Video

5.8. Boat Camera height

The TC considered if it was necessary to set the height for the boat camera in slalom.

It was agreed there was no need to do this. It was just important to make sure you can see the skier and the buoys. No change.

6. Ropes

Rule 10.04 Light weight ropes

Can be used, but must meet the criteria laid down in the rule book.

Leave out loops you do not need. All the rope specifications need reviewing. Bob would talk to manufacturers.

7. Age Category worldwide agreement

Under 13 or U14 rules.

This subject had been discussed on the Issue Board. The aim is to find a way to have an age category used worldwide – with a long term view perhaps of establishing a World Championships. Australia, Asia and Europe have similar rules for an Under 14 category. PanAm use Under 13.

There is a good feeling to head down the direction of a worldwide age category and discussions will continue.

8. Boat choice

Rule 10.01g – skier choice of boat

Murray had raised this because some skiers do not like the decision made at our last meeting, preventing skiers from choosing their boat within a round of competition.

Esteban says the skiers need this rule to be changed back in order to make money.

Jeffrey also supported the idea of allowing this as it was done for many years prior to the change. The TC voted not to change and the rule remains as decided last year.

9. Video systems and resolution

Candido has raised this issue. He thinks we need a minimum standard for the videos organisers have to submit. Frames per second, resolution, etc. Agreed it is needed. Bob would prepare some ideas for consideration.

10. Tricks

10.1. 15.06 starting point for Tricks

Bruce raised this issue again. He questions if we need the start buoy any more? Let the skier declare a positional trick or not, and then they can start anywhere they like.

The TC were not against the declaration of a positional trick, but they wished to retain the start buoy.

After discussion was agreed that positioning tricks at the start of a pass must be done before the entrance gate, **unless the skier declares the positional trick to the jetty marshall and in that case the skier's run will start with the first trick after the declared positional trick.**

Candido and Gill would work on the wording.

Ageliki would write to the skiers again on this subject, and it will be revisited as necessary.

10.2. Trick Scoring:

It had become apparent that the Confederations were scoring some sequences of tricks differently, in particular following:

S, RSnc, RScredit;

TS, RTSnc, RTScredit;

B, F, RBnc, REnc, RB, RF;

TB, TF, RTBnc, RTEnc, RB, RF.

Eventually after a lot of discussion and realization that we all had different interpretations of the rules, it was agreed to change Rule 15.19c) as follows:

c) A reverse trick must immediately follow the basic turn in the same pass; however, any type of 180° turn is allowed between two such turns. The reverse shall not be disallowed simply because it follows an attempted trick which has not been credited or because the basic trick is a repeated trick.

The following sequences **ARE** allowed in the same pass

S,RSnc, RS credit	This concerns only Trick Number 1
TS, RTSnc, RTScredit	This concerns only Trick Number 2
B, F, Rnc, Rnc, Rcredit, Rcredit	This concerns only Trick Numbers 3 & 4
TB, TF, Rnc, Rnc, Rcredit, Rcredit	This concerns only Trick Numbers 8 & 9

15.19 a)

Agreed to change last line of the first paragraph to:

“If this rule is violated, only the higher scoring **sequence of** the repeated tricks shall be scored. See.15.17”

A suggestion from AWSA to amend Rule 15.19c to allow flips with 180 degree turns to be performed between a trick and its reverse was not accepted.

Agreed to change Rule 15.19b paragraph as follows:

For wake flips with body rotation – **for example** (#54, #55), the body rotation must be done simultaneously with the flip, not before or after. The WFLIPBFB is not considered a 180 degree turn either for purposes of declared tricks as referenced in [Rule 15.16](#) or for reverse turns as described in [15.19c](#). Additionally, for the

WFLIPBFB, the reverse must land in the opposite wrap or turn in the opposite direction. Also, specifically for the WFLIPBLB, the stepover portion of the trick must be done simultaneously with the flip and the body rotation.

10.3. 15.19 Ski Line tricks definition - rope in water

This had been raised from the US Judges Seminar – skiers being coached to drop the line in the water and then as it comes up – jump over. The TC did not believe there was any rule change required on this issue. Eventually the skiers have to do the trick correctly to get credit.

10.4. Reverse Front Flip submitted by Alex Laurentano.

Alex Laurentano had submitted a video of the Front Flip Reverse. The TC noted that it is clearly a reverse trick, with all movement mirrored from the basic. The TC approved this new trick as a reverse with a value of 800 points.

Bob would make the video available.

10.5. Failure of equipment

What should happen when the first trick or two is missed and cannot be retrieved from the video.....what is fair to the athlete? Mandatory and not protected seems unfair.

General feeling that an optional reride with a protected score of what can be seen and timed should be given. This protected score could equally be zero. The Rule 15.12 would be changed as follows:-

15.12: Timing the Trick Pass

A video trick timing system shall be used. The timer(s) shall determine the beginning of the trick pass as defined in Rules [15.06](#), [15.07](#).

The homologator can accept a new timing system if he can prove it is working correctly according to the rules. The audible device to signal the end of the pass shall be located in the centre of the course. If possible, additional devices should be located at both ends of the course.

An audible signal different from the end of pass signal indicating the start of each pass shall be given by the timer to the judges.

In the event that there is a malfunction and the video or backup video is not captured or the timing cannot be determined from the video, a re-ride is optional with a protected score if one can be determined.

If any score can be determined it can be protected.

10.6. Judging in real time

The TC wished to make it clear that all Judging should take place in real time – not recorded and judged later. This to this end Rule 15.15 was amended as shown:

10.7. 15.15: Use of the Video Camera

The tricks shall be filmed by a video camera from the boat. The usual procedure will be to transmit the signal by radio to the judges tower **and the intention is to judge in real time**. Backup video will be a stored copy of the video at the camera. Other than as stated in [15.11](#), the video film may only be shown as an aid to the Event Judges under the following circumstances:

11. Age division RL qualifications for World Championships

Bob had raised this point about qualification from the ranking lists in age division championships. Example, we say #8 is qualified from the previous year list and #9 is not. However, in the year of the championships, skier#2 went to the next division. Does that mean #9 is qualified. Bob had always answered no as it is the rank that is used and the rank was earned in the conditions of that year. However, this is not stated explicitly in the rules. The TC discussed this issue and agreed that as skiers moved out of one age category and into another, they should be removed into the next age category **ENTRY LIST**. The those left in the original age category would be reclassified in the ENTRY LIST for the next Championships.

Entry/qualifications lists to be published. This would mean that all references to Ranking List placement qualifications for age category events should now refer to ENTRY LISTS.

11.1. 13.01 Changing ramp heights

Does the minimum distance required for a skier to jump 1.65 exclude him from that event? The issue was brought up in the U21 where you could have a junior aged skier who might not have jumped 38m. Some male skiers wanted to jump at 1.5m which is not available according to the rule so they had to jump at 1.65m. The 38m minimum is only listed under the World Juniors so it did not apply. Should it have? Should the rule be global rather than tournament specific?

The TC agreed this safety issue should apply across the board.

It was agreed to allow an Under 17 skier competing in the U21 Championships to can jump at 1.50m. This means there will be a choice of 3 ramp heights for the U21 Men category.

There was NO agreement to extend this idea to the Open World Championships.

12. Record approval

16.07 a) Use of additional non-official video in judging?/records?

The TC AGREED we will not accept the use of non official videos in record review process.

ALSO during the competition no use of non official videos is not allowed.

The TC approved the record application of Nate Smith World of 2.5buoys @ 58kph/ 9.75m. Congratulations to Nate.

The TC did **not** approve a record application of Regina Jacquess of 3.5 buoys @ 55kph/10.25m.

Judges for World record review

All members believed the World record review panel for tricks was working well. The Confederations should update their list of judges every year and place them in order of preference which Bob would use.

13. 2.02 Seeding

This item came from the Judges at the World U21 Championships where there was a tie for 1st place in the preliminary round. The final skiing order was done by random draw, would it be better to break the tie from the seedings.

The TC deliberated this idea, but decided that for the U21 Worlds a random draw is good. The rule would not change.

14. Experimental Ranking List progress

The experimental list was working well, but was of course handicapped by late filing of homologation dossiers and results and lack of skiers with ID numbers. Bob will now start contacting individual federations with duplicated skiers, no numbers, etc..... There will be a European licence issuing numbers meeting the requirements set out by Bob. This was good progress, but at some stage we will have to disallow skiers from competing if they do not have a number. Agreed to keep going.

Hannifah asked for dispensation for Asian skiers on the site limitation in the RL. In fact this was a problem in several confederations where few competitions were held. There was a general agreement to be realistic on this issue and the TC were in favour of the site limitation being lifted in certain countries. Bob would deal with these RL issues by hand.

15. Ownership of competition videos

Bob had inquiries about the tournament video (tricks in this case). Who owns it? What is the publication policy? The question concerned a record, but it could apply to all video in general. He thinks we should discuss this.

Candido said E&A has a clearly written rule :

All videos become the property of Europe & Africa and shall be kept in the custody of the Chief Judge during the competition. The videos required are the originals from the boat camera in tricks and the end course camera in slalom (not copies made on the tower). A copy of all the video taken must be retained for one year.

Bob would to investigate some technology for publishing competition videos for anyone to see.

16. Jump

16.1. 13.08a Boat path in Jump – ability to allow young kids to have the boat path inside the course and the ramp.

The TC reviewed rule 13.08a and decided there is no change needed. The rule already allows the skier to decide where they wish the boat to go.

13.08a: Boat Path

The jumper shall tell the boat driver at which distance and at what speed to pass the ramp, and the boat shall follow a straight path through the jump course at the specified distance from the right-hand side of the ramp.

16.2. Jump letters for Zero Off

Candido raised this point. The chart for jump for Zero off says the skiers may choose their letter + or – 4 letters, but we understand it is not actually being used.

Rule 11.02

In the jumping event, it is the responsibility of the driver to set the speed control to the base speed and cut letter selected by the skier (see [Rule 13.04](#)).

Candido proposed we allow to the skier to choose the letter and remove all reference to the chart.

This was agreed unanimously and would be used in these current Championships.

16.3. Jump safety

An item from the Italian Federation.

They have noted that to make the jump event more spectacular, very often the ramp jump is placed too close to the shore and this can cause problem of safety to the athletes. It is important to regulate the minimum distances that the ramp jump has to be from the shore for the athletes security.

Bob noted there is a **recommendation** for a minimum of 40 metres in the tournament manual. Perhaps this needs to be recomputed. He will work on this idea.

The Italian Federation was also concerned that the choice of helmet is with the athlete. They asked if IWWF could approve helmets. The TC believed this was a difficult problem and IWWF did not have the ability to homologate helmets. It was the responsibility of skiers to choose their own helmet and ensure its safety.

The Tournament Manual would be published.

16.4. Power Factor in Jump

Candido – at this competition we will use 5.2 – what if the skier wishes to change. The rules state the Driver and judge set the power factor with the input of the skier. They are allowed by the rules to choose to change the PF and then the driver and judge will have to put it right on the next jump. Candido will be clear about this with the Team Captains.

17. Judges display in boat

10.07 j) Second display in the boat.

Zero Off are no longer making displays for the boat judge to use.

If we cannot acquire them we cannot have the rule in place. It was agreed to remove this requirement from the rules.

18.6.05: Placement of Judges

This rule states “Where practical, Judges shall be separated to ensure completely independent opinions.”

Should this rule be mandatory. The TC decided that this was not feasible. NO CHANGE.

It was agreed to recommend this also in Rule 15.11 in Tricks.

Addition to Rule 15.11: Officials.

The TC agreed to add a recommendation to this rule that the Judges for Titled and Record Capability events shall be separated to ensure completely independent opinions.

19. Additional Rules

19.1. Conflict of Interest at RC competitions

In many sports World records could only be set at certain events. It seemed that within waterskiing at record tournaments, there is sometimes a perception that an official might be in some kind of relationship with an athlete. Perception is a bad thing – for RC tournaments it needs to be perceived to be correct. The TC discussed different kinds of relationships that could be considered a Conflict of Interest.

Eventually after much discussion it was agreed to add “R tournaments” into the existing COI rules:

*4 No conflict of interest allowed for Cash Prize and R tournaments. For L no conflict of interest is allowed unless it is not possible to run the tournament according to the rules. (i.e. no properly qualified official available without a conflict of interest)

Official’s Conflict of Interest:

(2) In a position which may give the appearance of a lack of independence. These conflicts shall be determined by the Chief Judge with respect to event officials and by the Appointed Judges with respect to the Chief Judge and other appointed officials.

19.2. Record Tournament Notification

The TC then agreed that for record capability tournaments there should be a public calendar on which all RC events must be notified, at least 30 days before the date of the event. The officials panel would be published at the same time. Bob would arrange a system of notification to be made public.

19.3. Use of out of Confederation Judges at Elite events

Candido asks that we try to do this again, as we did in 2009. Bob sent out an email to all top officials. This is part of the Elite registration and Bob will get on with making sure this is done.

20. Rule 1.12 Practice guide for World Championships.

It was noted that at this current World Championships the home team has much more time on the water. This is a standard problem. In South America the two days before the event are under the control of the CJ. We should enforce our existing rule and say during the last 2 days before the tournament – every team must be given time on the water – to familiarize.

The current wording of the rule is as follows:

1.12: World Championship Site Practice Guidance

As a guidance for Organizers - If practice is to be offered at a cost to teams then a deadline date (latest 60 days before the scheduled start) should be set by which time all requests must be submitted. After this deadline practice times should be allocated to ensure all countries have an equal opportunity according to their request.

It was AGREED that the during the last 2 days before the event practice must be provided for every team (they pay) with time allocated to each country based on the number of skiers. Agreed. The wording for this has to be defined.

21. Historical records

Ed Brazil believes some old records are missing from the published lists. The TC believed the records were accurate as far as APPROVED records were concerned. A record not approved cannot be listed.

22. Report on jump course at 13S191R

There had been some discussion concerning the Jump course at a US competition. Jeffry suggested that PanAm be allowed to handle this issue with AWSA with a view to checking what had happened.

23. Review of the U17 World Championship minimum performances

Larry suggested the minima be reviewed and put down slightly to encourage new countries to participate. The TC agreed the following changes.

	Slalom	Tricks	Jump
Men	6@55 kpH	2000	25 m
Women	6@52 kpH	1500	17 m

It was noted that E&A would also alter their entry minima to the same level.

24. Environmental issues

Alain said we are not going in the right direction with the boats – getting bigger, heavier, bigger engines, more energy usage. The whole world is trying to be greener, but we are going in the opposite direction. Price is another issue. We are losing skiers from the jump event – national survey done. Ramps are expensive to maintain and if there are few jumpers, why bother to maintain it. These are very concerning issues for us.

He asked the TC to consider limiting the size of the boat and engine, the length of the jump skis – he has no obvious solution, but we must start to think about this.

25. Who beat Who Rankings List

Candido will continue his work on this in an effort to persuade the TC that many of our current problems would disappear if our RL was not performance based.

26. Rule 2.02

The TC agreed to change the wording for entry into the finals. As shown below:

Number of skiers entered and paid in the Preliminary round	Number of skiers in Finals
1 - 5	All
6 - 10	first 5
11 - 12	first 6
13 - 15	first 8
16 - 19	first 10
20 and more	first 12

27. Worldwide video Judges exam

Candido has sent the exam to everyone, and nothing has happened since.

2 or 3 hours need to be set aside at the next TC meeting for this video to be agreed.

Part of this is also that we have to try to cover the expenses of our officials to titled events. We want to use the best officials, not the wealthiest.

28. Homologation Best Practice

As agreed at the last meeting Nigel Talamo has kindly prepared the homologation best practice document. Gill would circulate this to the TC members after the meeting.

29. Election of the chairman.

Peter proposed Bob remains as Chairman and this was agreed unanimously. Congratulations to Bob.

There being no further business Bob closed the meeting.

It was noted this was Gill's last meeting at the TC, and Bob expressed his thanks for her work over many years!