

## Minutes of the IWWF Waterski Council Meeting

February 13, 2019 By Video Conference

### Attendees:

Bob Corson – USA – Co-Chairman  
Candido Moz – ITA – Co-Chairman  
Larry Gisler – ARG – Pan Am Waterski Chairman  
Sergio Font –MEX  
Dimos Alexopoulos – GRE  
Nigel Talamo – GBR  
Bruce Cockburn –AUS - AAO Waterski Chairman  
Manon Costard – FRA – AAC Chairman  
Ryan Dodd – CAN – AAC

This meeting is a continuation of the January meeting to address a review issue from the 2015 Pan Am Games as well as the final items of the January agenda as follows:

### 2015 Pan Am Games Issue

- 10) Divisional Record at R tournaments (additional consideration)
- 13) Over 35 shortening speed
- 14) Over 35 divisions age category change
- 18) Slalom Course Buoys names
- 20) World L1 exams

### Additional Items on the agenda:

Ramp Proposal submitted at the January meeting  
2021 World Games proposal  
Trick #5 additional review  
Meeting dates in Malaysia  
World Championships Driver Selection  
Gate 2.0 (a proposal from the AAC)

## 2015 Pan Am Games Issue

Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada requested that the Waterski Council review the decision to award a reride in the jump event at the 2015 Pan Am Games and to provide an explanation of how the rules were used to arrive at this decision.

The Council reviewed all of the previously submitted information including the Chief Judge's report and decided that the judges acted correctly and according to the rules. A detailed explanation of the process and decision will be sent to Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada.

## 10) Divisional Record at R tournaments (additional consideration)

In the January meeting the Council decided to allow records for the U17 age category at R tournaments instead of just at the U17 World Championships. The additional consideration was whether to use the existing U17 World records as the starting point or to use the best performances of U17 skiers at R tournaments from the ranking list. After discussion, the Council decided to use the existing declared U17 records from the U17 World Championships. From this point on, any performance exceeding those records should be submitted for normal record processing to be approved by the Council as a new record.

## 13) Over 35 shortening speed

## 14) Over 35 divisions age category change

There are two aspects to the 35+ skiing divisions that were discussed. The first discussion was about the recommendation to change the age categories to 5 years rather than the current 10. The council reviewed the number of slalom skiers in each division by age from the 35+ World Championships and the ranking list. The council also reviewed the ages of the slalom medal winners at the World 35+ Championships. The data did show that the majority of medals won were won by skiers in the first 5 years of the 10 year division. The data also showed that the largest number of competitors were in the slalom event by a significant amount. Some of the issues raised were how might the 5 year division affect team score and if other events than slalom had the populations to support the smaller age division. Even with the largest divisions (men slalom), there was a question if that supported a split to a smaller division. As the next World 35+ Championships is in 2020, the Council decided to seek more information and continue the discussion at our meeting at the World Championships in Malaysia this summer.

The second issue was about the proposal to lower some division's maximum slalom speed. The results of a survey taken were reviewed again and possible options were discussed. One of the options that was considered was to use a system used in the US that allows skiers to ski at a slower maximum speed but with a score penalty. For example if the divisions maximum speed was 55kmph, a skier could opt to shorten the line at 52kmph instead with a score reduction of 6 buoys or shorten the line at 49 kmph with a reduction of 12 buoys. The skier would also be free to up the speed at any point to get back the

penalty. The speed of the last completed pass would be the speed used for determining the score reduction. However the council decided that before taking any action, it would survey the skiers in the 35+ divisions about these options. A survey will be created and distributed to gain more information.

#### 18) Slalom Course Buoys names

A request was considered labeling the buoys in the slalom course diagram in the rulebook based on surveying programs now in use. After discussion the Council decided that no change to the diagram was needed.

#### 20) World L1 exams

The Council discussed the on-line practical judge's test that has been developed. It has been reviewed by a few of the Council members. The council has decided to proceed forward with the next step being a full council review at our meeting in Malaysia this summer. The issue of the theoretical rules exam was discussed as well. It may be that the best option is to keep the current regional versions of these going forward but that is being examined.

#### 2021 World Games proposal

The IWWF Executive asked the Council to consider a proposal to allow a barefoot competition to be in the World Games. This would be done by reducing the number of water ski competitors and officials as well as the number of wakeboard riders and officials to allow room for the barefoot skiers as our sport as a whole is only allowed a fixed number of competitors. The current number of skiers is 11 men and 7 women per event. The requested reduction is to 8 men and 6 women. The council discussed this and did not accept the proposal. The World Games is asking for the best skier in each event with World wide representation. The Council felt that at 11 and 7 this is very difficult, but at 8 and 6 it would not be possible to achieve that goal.

#### Trick #5 additional review

In our previous meeting we accepted a proposal to list the tricks currently under #5 under separate numbers. We did not specifically address the issue of the reverse tricks. It was felt that without the reverse tricks, these tricks could all be performed in the same rotation making it difficult to judge. Including the reverses of these tricks will most likely allow more accurate judging. The chart will be updated accordingly.

#### Meeting dates in Malaysia

Our meeting in Malaysia will be scheduled for the Monday after the tournament.

## World Championships Driver Selection

The AAC raised concerns about the selection of drivers for the World Championships. They expressed the concern that it was a safety issue, especially in jumping, if a driver is assigned to the event without appropriate experience in driving top level skiers. As we are in the middle of the Officials selection process, there is potentially room for adjustment. The driver selection process is for each region to nominate a number of drivers. From that list of drivers, the Council Chairman selects 4 drivers for the event. As the nomination list is not yet complete, no selections have been made. Once the list is complete, the AAC will be consulted regarding potential choices. It was also discussed that in the future we might consider accepting nominations from the AAC. It was also discussed that some Federations felt that there was not appropriate representation of drivers across Federations and consideration for allowing opportunities for newer drivers. The Council needs to address this issue and it will be put on the agenda in Malaysia.

## Gate 2.0 (a proposal from the AAC)

Manon Costard, the AAC Chair, discussed the progress to the Gate 2.0 proposal in which missing a gate in slalom would be allowed under some circumstances. She is still working to get consensus from the top level skiers and will propose a final plan in the future.

## Ramp Proposal submitted at the January meeting

The proposal to lengthen the jump surface and reduce the angle for Open Men was further discussed. It was felt that it was not practical to have a different surface length for different divisions in that it would create too much of a problem in ramp change between divisions. The council decided to accept the proposal in the following form. The specification for surface length will be changed from 6.4m-6.8m to 6.4m-7.1m. This will allow existing ramps to remain in tolerance with no change.

The Open Men angle ratio will change from  $0.271 \pm .003$  to  $0.266 \pm .005$ . In Rule 13.02 b) the recommended setting will change from 6.75m-6.8m to 6.75m-7.10m. In Rule 13.02 h) a 7.10 length marking will be added if the jump is capable of extending the length beyond 6.8 and still keep other required parameters, e.g. length under water of 50 cm.

The Ramp Setting Chart currently says "A combination that lies on the middle line is the most desirable." It will be changed to "A combination that lies on the middle line is the most desirable unless conditions indicate that another in tolerance setting would be more appropriate."

The Council accepted this proposal by unanimous decision making it effective immediately.

Meeting adjourned 6:47 PM New York time

