

# Competitive Wake Surf Association, Inc. (CWSA) Wake Surfing Competition Summary Guidelines

## **Exceptions to the Guidelines:**

Where compliance with these guidelines is not feasible, an Event Organizer and the Judges may make necessary changes that do not compromise the integrity of the event or the safety of the participants and spectators. **Such changes should be announced at a riders' meeting prior to the competition.**

## **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:**

Any rider (or his representative) or official whose conduct is deemed unsportsmanlike either on or off the competition site, before, during, or after the competition, may be disqualified from all or part of the competition subject to the discretion of the Event Organizer and Judges. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to: use of vulgar language in public, public tantrums, failure to attend designated mandatory functions or events, consuming alcoholic beverages during the competition, competing under false pretenses, concealing significant injuries or health problems.

## **Boat Drivers and Boats:**

Competitive events should strive to provide quality port and starboard wakes. When necessary, two separate boats should be used. One weighted to the starboard side, the other weighted to the port side. In order to assure fairness, the resultant wakes should be as comparable as possible with each other in terms of height and length.

The boat sponsor should also provide backup boats with identical hulls as the competition boats in the event of unforeseen circumstances that prevent a boat from being operational.

The boat drivers shall ensure safe operation of the competition tow boats. The boat drivers will pilot the tow boat course in a consistent manner for each rider.

Boat speed is at the discretion of the rider but must be within the maximum and minimum tolerances allowed for the site and equipment. A judge or a surfer not competing should take a test surfing run. Test runs verify adequate ballast set up and establish an adequate baseline speed. The best assessment of the baseline speed and wake should be provided to the riders prior to the start of competition. Once this information has been provided, any speed change remains the responsibility of the rider. The boat driver will adjust boat speed as directed by any judge after the judge receives a speed change request from the rider. The boat drivers shall not adjust the boat speed or direction of travel to "save" a rider.

Preventing sharing speed information is too difficult to manage in any practical sense. Teams and individuals may share speed information. No shared information should be relied upon as accurate. The boat driver will report the speed at the end of a run if requested. A speed protest may only be filed if the driver severely over or under shoots the requested speed while on course.

## **Equipment:**

The equipment of all competition personnel and riders shall be subject to the review of the Judges. Equipment shall be reviewed at the Judges' discretion. Review of equipment shall not be construed as approval or endorsement of that equipment. Personnel and riders shall be responsible for their own equipment and safety.

While on course, i.e. in the water, all competitors must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). It is the responsibility of personnel and riders to ensure their life vest floats them. There shall be enough PFDs on the tow boat for each person on the boat to have a PFD.

## **Riders:**

Anyone willing to compete in a sporting manner may enter a competition subject to qualifying standards established by the Event Organizer. Riders shall enter a competitive division at appropriate skill levels. Riders shall see the delegated Dock Starter for heat and estimated start times. Riders should be aware that timetables are subject to

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changes. Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety, or similar reasons as determined by the Event Organizer and/or Head Judge. The Dock Starter or their delegate shall announce these changes as appropriate.

Riders must ride in a safe manner and shall follow the Event Organizers' and Judges' directions and safety guidance.

## Heats and Seeding:

The Event Organizer and Judges shall determine if multiple heats or a single heat format will be used and how many riders should advance from each heat to the next. Heats may be seeded randomly or on past performance. The Event Organizer and Judges will determine the method used to seed heats.

The Judges may use their discretion to advance a rider from the first round of heats to the next heat. An example of when this might happen is if two randomly assigned heats are very unbalanced. The goal is for the best riders to advance to the next heat. This discretion should only be used for the first round of heats.

## Judges:

All references to the "Judges" in these guidelines are considered references to a consensus among the Judges delegated by the Event Organizer.

The Judges' rulings shall be final. Judges may alter rules to fit the venue as appropriate subject to maintaining the integrity of the competition and the safety of all participants and spectators. **All rule changes should be made prior to start of competition after consultation with all event officials.** Weather or safety concerns may result in rule changes after the start. The Event Organizer should hold a Judges meeting for instructions to all Judges. Judges may promote or demote riders into other competitive divisions (to prevent sandbagging). Judges may disqualify riders for unsportsmanlike conduct or other conduct disturbing the competition. Judges may deem equipment as unsafe or unsuitable for the competition. Judges shall hear and settle all protests. The Event Organizer or the Judges may delay or cancel the competition to ensure a safe event. Weather or other conditions may be deemed unsafe by the Judges.

The Judges or their delegate shall compile the scores of all Judges on board the competition boat. The Judges shall position all passengers for the best surfing wake. The Judges may permit or deny request to repair equipment on the competition boat. Every attempt should be made to provide a reasonable opportunity for a rider to repair equipment.

Judges shall evaluate rider performance based on the scoring guidelines.

## Competition Runs:

The Event Organizer will determine exact tournament setup dependent on number of participants and venue particulars, such as size or configuration of lake or spectator areas. The following guidelines are provided:

A two-leg, out-and-back, course is recommended. The first and second legs are symmetrical. The course includes a boat start area at each end, a course start and a course end, in each direction. The distance from boat start to course start should be a minimum of 150 feet. The course distance should be a minimum of 45 seconds long at the established base line speed for all Divisions other than Pro. Pro Divisions course distance should be a minimum of 1 minute long at the established base line speed. If a last fall buoy is utilized, the distance from the last fall to the course end is approximately 250 feet.

At the end of the first leg of the course, the tow boat shall come to a stop, bring the tow rope to the rider then restart the rider for the second leg. The tow boat may tow the rider to the start point for the start of the second leg of the course. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> pass the boat crew should not pull the rider through the turn at the end of the course. At

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the end of the second leg of the course or after the last fall, the pickup vessel shall recover the surfer. *It is recommended that two jet skis be utilized for transporting riders to the staging boat and for transporting riders from the course to the shore at the end of their run.*

Wake surf specific ropes should always be used. Dropping the rope beside the rider should be discouraged. It is more preferable to gently toss the rope to the far side of the wake and have the boat crew recover the rope.

While on course, each rider may perform any routine he chooses. Riders are allowed a total of **three** falls per run. The tow boat will not return to the rider after the **3<sup>rd</sup>** fall. Judging of the routine begins when the rider enters the course or drops the rope, whichever occurs later and ends when the rider exits the course, or falls for a **3<sup>rd</sup>** time. Riders are encouraged to perform a smooth flowing routine with a wide variety of tricks. Each trick should be executed as cleanly as possible and taken to its limit. Judges will provide subjective scoring of each rider based on their overall opinion of how well the rider performed his routine in relation to each of the established subjective scoring criteria, in comparison to other riders within the same Division.

Within a round of heats the performance of all riders in each Division should be evaluated by the same panel of Judges for that Division.

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## Scoring Criterion:

The published scoring criterion is the measure by which a surfer's performance is judged. An understanding of the criteria is important to both judge and competitor. Wake surf judging is a subjective assessment. For a competitive event this evaluation must be converted into a score. The elements of the scoring criteria are the methodology that will be utilized to convert the subjective evaluation into a score. The elements of the scoring criteria include the subjective categories of; Degree of Difficulty, Intensity, Variety, and Execution. These Subjective scoring criteria are further clarified on the score sheet.

Any trick started outside of the course or while holding the rope will not be scored. A trick started on the course but finished in control off the course will be scored. After falling, riders may only swim to their board. Swimming back up the course to increase ride time, may result in disqualification. A rider must choose which side they will ride (starboard or port) at registration. Event Organizers may determine if switching sides during a competition run or during a competition event is allowable. The Event Organizer and Judges may disallow tricks which leave loose equipment on the course. It is the riders' responsibility to inform the Judges of a trick which will result in loose equipment on the course. The rider under normal conditions will be disqualified for intentional contact with the boat once underway. An exception to this is if the boat abruptly slows down or the wake abruptly changes and the rider is thrust toward the boat; the judges may determine to not disqualify the rider. Swim platform starts and exits shall not be permitted. Only one rider shall be allowed on the course at one time (e.g. no tandem riding) unless specifically provided for as a separate Division.

Judges score each rider after each riders run. Care should be taken to watch the riders run as tricks may be performed quickly. It is strongly recommended that a scribe be provided in the competition boat so that the primary boat judge will not be required to look down to write but will call tricks audibly as they are performed. The first rider in each division will be used as a benchmark. Each judge will score said rider and at the end of the run the panel of judges will confer and agree upon the subjective scores. As such, the first rider in each division will have almost identical subjective scores from each judge. Subsequent riders in that division will be scored using the subjective score benchmarks described above. To allow subsequent riders in the division to be scored higher or lower than the subjective benchmarks, every effort should be made to place the subjective benchmark scores at a point that will allow higher and lower scores than the benchmarks. It should be understood that EACH division needs separate subjective score benchmarks.

At the end of each heat, judges will give scores sheets to the judges' delegate. Each judge should review their score sheets to insure they have scored each rider appropriately and written appropriately on the score sheet before relinquishing control of the score sheet. Judges' notes should support their scoring. Subsequently, the judges' delegate sums the points for each individual rider. This summation process should be completed at the conclusion of each heat. The judges' delegate then ranks each rider in descending order based upon total points: First Place, Second Place, etc. In the event of a tie in total points, the judges will check their notes and collaborate on the final ranking. Once this is complete, a summary sheet is prepared by the judges' delegate. Each Division will be listed as a section heading and then each rider's name and ranking will be listed in descending order. Each rider in each division will be included. This summary sheet will be transmitted to the organizer, judge or delegated individual responsible for presentation of rankings. Care should be taken to retain proper control of the Judges' score sheets, judges' notes, the summation ranking sheet and the summary sheet used for presentation.

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## Protests:

### I. Conflicts of Interest:

- a. The following are *per se* relationships:
  - i. Family member, or extended family member of a competitor in a division
  - ii. Cohabitation with a competitor in a division
  - iii. Engaged in a present or past romantic relationship with a competitor in a division
  - iv. Employer or employee of a competitor in a division
  - v. Commercial sponsorship (including any managerial level personnel of such sponsor) and of a competitor in a division
  - vi. Non-commercial 'team' or organization affiliation with competitor in a division
  - vii. Providing financial support to a competitor in the division, or a person who receives financial support from competitor in the division
  - viii. Individuals, or family and extended family members of such individuals, who own title or interest in real, personal or intangible property together with a competitor in the division, or a family member or an extended family member of such competitor.
  - ix. There shall be no presumption that the existence of a *per se* relationship is a basis to disqualify a judge.
- b. Conflicts of interest, appearance of a conflict of interest, other conflicts:
  - i. A specific conflict of interest, or a specific appearance of a conflict of interest, or any other basis including the existence of a *per se relationship*, may be identified by a competitor as an alleged conflict of interest.
  - ii. There shall be no presumption that any alleged conflict of interest is a basis to disqualify a judge.
- c. In the absence of an objection as set forth below, any actual or alleged conflict of interest shall be deemed to be waived by all affected competitors.

### II. Procedure Prior to Event:

- a. No later than 12 noon (5) FIVE days before an event begins (in the time zone where the event is to be conducted), the event organizer must post on its event website, Facebook page, or other location calculated to give notice to all the competitors in the Event:
  - i. the names of the competitors for each division as of that date.
  - ii. the names of the judges for each division as of that date.
  - iii. the name of the head judge for the event, and co-head judge, if any.
  - iv. An email address, text number or other manner in which to communicate with the event organizer concerning objections to judges, and protests that may be initiated at any stage of the event.
- b. Any competitor may object to any judge in a division in which that competitor is competing by notifying the event organizer. Such objection shall be specific as to the nature of the objection and any alleged conflict of interest, and shall be timely if submitted to the event organizer within 48 hours of the posting of the list judges for each division. A CWSA form will be available on the CWSA website for this purpose.
- c. The event organizer shall notify all competitors in the division subject to the objection, and may consult with the judging team, the head judge, and the co-head judge, if any.

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- d. The event organizer may elect to either replace such judge, or deny the objection of the alleged conflict of interest, not later than 12 noon ONE (1) day before the event begins. All competitors in the division shall be notified of the decision. Any decision to deny the objection of the alleged conflict of interest shall be final for the purpose of the judging team for that division.
- e. If any judge is replaced, or for any reason is substituted less than 24 hours before the start of the event, any objection by any competitor in that division to a replacement or substitute judge shall be specific as to the nature of the objection and any alleged conflict of interest and must be raised at least one hour prior to the first competition run of the division in the event. In the case of an objection to a replacement or substitute judge, the event organizer may elect to either replace such judge, or deny the objection. The decision, and any election, by the event organizer shall be final for the purpose of the judging team for that division.
- f. If an objection on the basis of an alleged conflict of interest is denied, the competitor, at his option, shall be entitled to a refund of the entry fee, and shall not compete. If the competitor chooses to compete, no other alleged conflict of interest shall be permitted to form the basis of a protest by that competitor.
- g. No alleged conflict of interest, if not raised prior to the event by a competitor as set forth above, shall be the basis of any protest.

### III. Event Results:

- a. The head judge or co-head Judge shall post, either physically or electronically, the result for each division not later than 2 hours after the judge team and judging documents for a division returns to shore.
- b. The official posting time should be noted on the posted results, together with the name, email or text address to whom a protest, if any, should be delivered.
- c. The posted results shall be presumed correct.

### IV. Protest Grounds:

- a. Objections by a competitor to adverse riding conditions during a competition run must be raised by the competitor at the time such alleged adverse conditions occur, and any such objection shall be decided by a majority vote of the judging team in the boat at the time such conditions occur. The decision, including any remedy granted to the competitor, shall be final and will not be the subject of a protest by the objecting competitor, or any other competitor.
- b. Protests of the subjective scores of the judges and ranking within a division based upon such subjective scores shall not be permitted.
- c. Protests shall be permitted on the following basis:
  - i. A mathematical or transcription error.
  - ii. A conflict of interest, provided that the procedures for objection to a conflict of interest prior to the event has been followed.

### V. Protest Procedure:

- a. Any result of any division heat, preliminary or final may be protested by a competitor in that heat, preliminary or final. Grounds for protest are:

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- i. Mathematical or transcription errors.
  - ii. An alleged conflict of interest, provided that the procedures for objection to a conflict of interest prior to the event has been followed.
- b. Protest of another competitor's score or ranking in the division shall be permitted upon the same basis as set forth in (a.) (i.) and (ii.) above.
- c. All protests must be initiated within one (1) hour of the posting of a division's results, either electronically per § II a., above, or physically, by the Event's Head Judge.
- d. Protests shall be initiated by delivering the protest form, together with a \$25 cash protest fee to the head judge, the co-head judge, if any, or the event organizer in person or pursuant to § II a., above.
- d. The protest form must state the specific grounds of the protest (what the protester contends is wrong with the judge's scores). The protest form must also contain a concise statement by the protester of the relief sought. If a conflict of interest is alleged, the precise conflict and judge(s) must be identified, and such conflict of interest protest must have been raised by of an objection filed prior to the event as required in § II, above.
- e. Each competitor in the division's heat, prelim or final protested shall be given notice of the protest.
- f. The judges, including the head judge, shall be provided the competitor's protest form, the judge scoring sheet for each judge (his own, the head judge shall receive all judges scoring sheets), the scribing sheet for each rider in the protested heat, prelim or final.
- g. The protest shall be decided by the judge team involved, and as detailed below, the event's head judge. A co-head judge should also be appointed by the event organizer to participate in protests should the head judge be one of the three judges involved in a protest.
  - i. The standard of review for the judging team (excluding the head judge) in the protest is de novo, meaning a fresh look at the results of each rider in the division protested to check the mathematical calculations and transcription errors in the scoring documents, and to review if it is more likely than not that a conflict of interest exists, and that such conflict of interest was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form.
  - ii. The judging team may make adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result if a majority of the judging team determines that a mathematical or transcription error has occurred that has materially affected the results.
  - iii. If the judging team determines that a conflict of interest exists, the judging team may make such adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result ONLY IF a majority of the judging team finds that there is clear and convincing evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the results.
- h. The decision of the judging team on the protest shall be communicated to the head judge (or co-head judge if the head judge is part of the protested judging team).
- i. The decision of the judging team upon the protest shall be reviewed by the head judge (or co-head judge if the head judge is part of the protested judging team).
- j. The head judge (or co-head judge) may overrule the decision of the judge team and grant relief only upon a finding by the head judge that:

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- i. there is clear error in the mathematical calculations or transcription of the judges scores, or
- ii. it is more likely than not that some other conflict of interest exists, and that such conflict of interest, was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form, AND there is clear and convincing evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the results;
- iii. there is clear and convincing evidence that a majority of the judging team erred in finding that:
  1. it is more likely than not that a conflict of interest exists, or
  2. such conflict of interest was the subject of a pre-event objection and was raised as a ground of error in the protest form, or
  3. evidence from the D.I.V.E. scores of the conflicted judge, and any other evidence, that bias has materially affected the result.
- k. Upon a finding of either (i.) (ii.) or (iii.) (1)(2) or (3), the head judge may make such adjustment to the scored results of the protested heat, prelim or final to produce a fair result.
- l. In the event of multiple protests, all protests filed with regard to a heat, prelim or final in a division should be decided simultaneously.
- m. The final decision on the protest of a heat or prelim should be communicated to the protester by the head judge not later than two (2) hours after
  - i. the protest is filed, or
  - ii. the last competitor of the event finishes his competition run on the day of such protest, whichever is later.
- n. In the event of a final, the protest decision should be communicated to the protestor by the head judge not later than one (1) hour
  - i. after the protest is filed, or
  - ii. the last competitor of the event finishes his competition run on the day of such protest, whichever is later.