

Wake Surfing Competition Summary Guidelines

Starting in 2006, the American Wake Surf Association began developing rules. The first published version of rules drew on lessons learned in early year's competitions. The American Wake Surf Association (AWSA) is a collection of wake surfing enthusiasts. They have developed rules to support the growth of this sport. A portion of their work has been modified in this document and referenced credit is hereby assigned to the American Wake Surf Association.

Exceptions to the Guidelines:

Where compliance with these guidelines is not feasible, an Event Organizer and the Judges may make necessary changes. 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 pretences, concealing significant injuries or health problems.

Boat Drivers and Boats:

Competitive events should strive to provide quality port and starboard wakes. When possible, 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 two backup boats with identical hulls as the two 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 at a riders meeting. 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 of that equipment. Personnel and riders shall be responsible for their own equipment and safety.

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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. 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 changes. Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety, or a similar reason. The Dock Starter or their delegate shall announce these changes as appropriate.

Riders may submit Protests to the Event Organizer.

Riders must ride in a safe manner and shall follow 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. 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 may offer re-runs if the course presented an unfair interference. 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.

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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 approximately 1,500 feet. If a last fall buoy is utilized, the distance from the last fall to the course end is approximately 300 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 course the boat crew shall not throw the rope back to a rider and pull the rider through the turn at the end of the course. At the end of the second leg of the course or after the last fall, the pick 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 wake and have boat crew recover the rope. The rope should be thrown to the opposite side of the wake and the rope should be pulled in by a designated person on the boat.

While on course, each rider may perform any routine he chooses. Riders are allowed two (*or three depending on time constraints*) falls in each direction for a total of four falls per run. Unused falls may not be carried forward. A third fall in one direction will end that riders run. If the third fall happens in the first direction, the rider will not get a run in the opposite direction. 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 third time in one direction. 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 score riders based on their overall opinion of how well the rider performed his routine, compared to other riders. Falls are NOT reflected in Control/Execution, Intensity/Aggressiveness and Style/Composition scores.

Within a round of heats the performance of all riders in each Division shall 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 partially subjective, a "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" 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 a partially subjective evaluation into a score. The elements of the scoring criteria include trick points, control/execution, intensity/aggressiveness, and composition/style.

Trick Points

The points per trick are published on the official scoring sheets approved by the Event Organizer and the Judges. Each unique trick is only counted once. Multiple attempts at any trick are permissible in attempt to improve that trick score (i.e. altitude or quality bonus points). Tricks performed switch are not considered to be the same trick as the trick performed regular, i.e., a regular (*bs-inside*) 360 surface spin and a switch (*fs-inside*) 360 surface spin are two unique tricks. Likewise, tricks performed revert (fin/tail forward) are typically not considered the same as the duplicate trick performed regular. Combination points are awarded for two or more tricks combined in a fluid combination. Spin tricks in the same rotational direction are not combinations, i.e., a regular (*bs-inside*) 180 surface spin combined with a switch (*fs-inside*) 360 surface spin is not a combination; a (*fs-outside*) 180 surface spin combined with a switch (*fs-inside*) 360 surface spin would be considered a combination.

Points are awarded for each unique grab in a trick with aerial loft. A duplicate trick will not be awarded trick points a second time but the unique grab will be awarded, i.e. an aerial with an Indy grab will be awarded aerial trick points and grab points; a subsequent aerial with a Roast Beef grab will not be awarded aerial trick points but will be awarded unique grab points.

Control / Execution

Control / Execution criterion is an assessment of how well the wake surfing maneuver was performed. Execution / Control criterion should be applied to the body of maneuvers a surfer completes or attempts.

Intensity / Aggressiveness

The intensity / aggressiveness criterion is an assessment of aggressiveness of the performance. Higher Aerial tricks are more "intense" than tricks completed with less air. Carving maneuvers that are performed more rapidly, in tighter arcs, throwing more water are more aggressive and intense. Other attributes may also be attached to intensity and aggressiveness.

Composition / Style

The composition / style criterion is an assessment of how well rounded the tricks and overall performance was. Good composition / style should include a range of tricks, variety of tricks completed, style of tricks completed, division appropriate tricks, compound tricks, unique tricks with grabs, personal flair, or other embellishments.

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Any trick started outside of the course or while holding the rope will not be scored. A trick started on the course but finished 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. The Judges may choose to disallow any subsequent request to change sides. The rider must complete his entire run on the boat set up for their selected side. 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).

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 score. As such, the first rider in each division will have an almost identical score from each judge. Subsequent riders, in that division, will be scored using the benchmark described above. To allow subsequent riders in the division to be scored higher or lower than the benchmark every effort should be made to place the benchmark score at a point that will allow higher and lower scores than the benchmark. It should be understood that EACH division needs a separate benchmark. As such, a score of 8 in the men's open is NOT equivalent to a score of 8 in the boy's division.

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 awards. 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.

Protests:

Protests in any competitive event are inevitable. These challenges will be handled as follows:

- a. Protests shall be granted, when the majority of judges agree, that the rider had unfair conditions. The protested run will be performed when the Judges decide.
- b. No protest shall ever be permitted on a subjective judgment decision by the Judges.