

**USA Water Ski & Wake Sports
Executive Committee Call
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2021**

Archambeau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM ET.

ROLL CALL:

In Attendance: Bob Archambeau (President); Doug Robbins (Chairman of the Board); Dale Stevens (Vice President); Doug Ribley (NSSA President, At-Large Member); Joel Johanningmeier (Treasurer/Secretary); Nate Boudreaux (Executive Director, nonvoting); Kate Knafla (AWSA VP, nonvoting); Jim Grew (Past President, non-voting)

Absent: Jason Lee (AAC Rep); Alex Lauretano (AAC Rep); Tim Cullen (Immediate Past President, non-voting). Cullen was excused due to a potential Hearing Panel conflict.

Guests: AWSA leadership including Lyman Hardy, Cynthia Logan, Bob Harris, Karen Melnick, Robert Howerton and Dennis Downes

Archambeau welcomed the group and turned the discussion over to the AWSA leadership to address their concerns.

Harris, Hardy and Howerton voiced some of the concerns they are hearing from AWSA members regarding “all adults” being subject to Safe Sport training, issues with background screening for judges and the liability of clubs hosting events.

Hardy suggested most of the complaints he is hearing involve AWSA members “blaming show ski” for the mandates, and they do not like the excessive USA-WSWS oversight. They just want to ski without so many requirements. Howerton and Hardy both agreed that AWSA membership feels as if they have lost their “just-go-ski” freedom. Boudreaux commented that all of sport is evolving (not just water skiing) and many sports organizations are going through similar challenges.

Hardy questioned the status of USA-WSWS insurance coverage going into 2022. Boudreaux assured the group that we will have coverage for 2022, which will cover sexual abuse and misconduct, bound by the end of the year.

Boudreaux addressed the differences between the Safe Sport requirements (voluntarily imposed by the USA-WSWS board for all members, considering nearly 50% of the membership is already required to do the training as it includes all show ski members and all USA-WSWS tournament officials) and background check requirements (required by the USOPC for all judges). Boudreaux acknowledged that there is a challenge from HQ to enact a qualify control program around officials/judges at this time and that he is working on an interim solution for 2022. The current recommendation is that all judges get background screened (per the USOPC requirement) but USA-WSWS is working with the various Sport Discipline Judges’ Committees to create a new judges’ rating (e.g., USA-WSWS appointed Nationals judge). This new judge rating would be subject to background screening while local, state and regional level judges (all

other judges) would not. This option mirrors what US Speedskating has in place for their judges. The suggestion was made that USA-WSWS look into officials' qualifications across all sports disciplines.

Downes stressed that, whatever the group decides to do, everyone needs to stand together. He suggested trying to phase in any new background check requirements for judges if possible.

As a group, the AWSA leadership suggested the following priorities:

- Delay the start of the background screen requirement for judges if possible and work to better define which judges need to be screened and which do not.
- Work to integrate background screen status into the officials' program and officials' roster when sanctioning tournaments so that LOCs can see an officials' background screen status at that time.
- Develop a better, more frequent communication plan with members and keep them updated on changes to come in the foreseeable future.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Archambeau adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM ET.