

OFFICIAL SAFETY MANUAL AND POLICY HANDBOOK

(Revised & Approved January 26, 2020)



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0.00 PREFACE

This Official Safety Manual (OSM) is written to address the safety requirements and recommendations for the operation of tournaments and other events sanctioned by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (tournaments and other sanctioned events are referred to as “events” in this OSM). It is designed to cover both general and sport-specific procedures and policies. The general sections of this manual pertain to all sports disciplines of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. Where indicated, some procedures and policies pertain to specific sport disciplines. The following abbreviations are used throughout the manual to identify the sports disciplines.

ABC – American Barefoot Club

AKA – American Kneeboard Association

USA-WB – USA Wakeboard

AWSA – American Water Ski Association (three-event water skiing)

NCWSA – National Collegiate Water Ski Association

NSSA – National Show Ski Association

NWSRA – National Water Ski Racing Association

USA-AWSWS – USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports

USHA – United States Hydrofoil Association

USA-WSWS – USA Water Ski & Wake Sports

If sport discipline specific language differs from or contradicts general language of this OSM, the sport discipline specific language should be used to govern the specific rule in that sport discipline’s events.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL DEFINITIONS

SAFETY - “The control of recognized hazards to attain an acceptable level of risk.”

RISK - “Measure of the probability and severity of adverse effects.”

1.00 PURPOSE

Safety is everyone’s responsibility. It is “Rule One”. It is an attitude in which everyone assumes responsibility for their own equipment, safety and wellbeing and looks out for the safety and wellbeing of others as well. This Official Safety Manual (OSM) of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) identifies standards and procedures supporting the appropriate official tournament rule book. The Safety Director should rely on these and all available resources, as well as common sense and practical experience, in performing in the capacity of Safety Director. Changes to rules of each sport discipline’s rule book that are used in this manual will be considered automatic changes to this manual as well, unless otherwise indicated.

2.00 INTRODUCTION

The OSM is designed to assist all event participants and the Safety Director in assuring that skiers and officials are protected from danger, risk and injury to the extent possible during an event. Both general and specific guidance is provided. Some specific details in this manual will by necessity vary to suit the peculiarities of each site and the demands of competition.

3.00 HOST EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES/PREPARATION

Safety preparations for an event should begin well before the event day arrives. The sponsoring club of a USA-WSWS sanctioned event is responsible for the following safety preparations: A USA-WSWS trained Safety Coordinator or Director (as required for the particular event) (referred to as the “Safety Director” in this OSM, even though the Safety Director’s required rating may vary from event-to-event), shall be selected by the organizers early enough to participate in the planning, and organization of the event to help ensure compliance with all safety policies and procedures, and to assist in eliminating foreseeable safety deficiencies or other problems with tournament equipment or the site. The Safety Director may appoint such assistants as necessary. Additionally, the sponsor, in consultation with the Safety Director, will appoint swimmers, safety boat drivers, and workers as needed.

The Safety Director shall participate with the organizers to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements set forth in the USA-WSSWSWS Pre-Tournament/Event Safety Checklist as in effect and applicable to the event, including:

- Locate safety equipment, forms, checklists, maps, first aid station, and phone numbers of law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospital, etc.
- Make sure that all required and recommended safety equipment, as listed on the safety equipment checklist, is on site
- Make sure that adequate medical personnel and transportation to medical facilities are on site or can be available within a reasonable period (5-10 minutes is generally recommended)
- Make sure there is an adequate safety boat or PWC (Personal Watercraft), available if/as needed (see section below regarding safety boat design, although there are many different and alternative designs which may be suitable)
- The procedure for shore swimmers, boat/swimmer combinations, and the use of safety boats/PWCs should be established in consultation with the Safety Director.
- Confirm that there is a means of communication available for Safety Director, Chief Judge, and Safety Crew.
- Notify local emergency and regulatory authorities of the event and its location, if appropriate for the specific event (e.g., special requirements reflecting the number of participants in an NSSA event, etc.), including what will occur and what will be needed.

USA-WB Specific:

As it relates to cable parks, please consult the Water Sports Industry Association's [Wake Park Best Practices Guide](#).

NSSA Specific:

Safety Announcements: The sponsoring club shall make announcements that spectators should not try the stunts performed during the tournament without proper experience or expert instruction before each show during the event.

NWSRA Specific:

Safety Officials and Crews: At sanctioned NWSRA events comply with NWSRA safety rules relating to "Required Medical Services":

- a. the Safety Boat requirements (see OSM Section 6.1 below), Safety Equipment requirements (see OSM Section 6.03 below) and Safety Coordinator and Director Training and Qualification requirements (see OSM Section 9) shall be deemed satisfied (as the NWSRA requirements are more stringent than generally required under the OSM for other events); and,
- b. the Chief Judge of all such events shall:
 - i. supervise the performance of the event's safety crew in a manner which complies with the applicable NWSRA rules relating to "Required Medical Services" and which is generally consistent with the requirements and intent set forth in this OSM; and,
 - ii. file all reports required in connection with the event (see OSM Section 8 below).

State/Federal Boating Regulations: At the option of the sponsoring club, the Safety Director shall see that all competing clubs or participants conform to all state and/or federal boating regulations prior to the start of their show, including the following:

- a. ensure that the requirement of meeting all applicable boating laws was made in the tournament announcement; and
- b. ensure that all competing clubs from a state other than the state the competition is to be held in shall have been sent a copy of such laws.

Sponsor - Required Site Plan - The sponsor shall furnish a site plan for the Chief Judge, Safety Director, and all competing clubs prior to the start of the tournament.

4.00 SAFETY DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Safety Director is responsible for enforcement of the Official Tournament Rules as they relate to safety for their specific sport discipline and their applicable rules addenda. Any infractions of these rules must be communicated immediately to the Chief Judge so that appropriate action may be taken. The Safety Director shall be responsible for oversight of the safe condition of all equipment, facilities, and operation of the competition, and have the authority (in consultation with, and subject to (if provided by the applicable rules governing the event), the final decision of the Chief Judge) to stop competition whenever he/she feels an unsafe condition exists. The Safety Director should also be aware of weather conditions. The Safety Director, along with the Chief Judge, will be responsible to delay or call off the event if a (potentially) dangerous situation exists.

Prior to the start of the event, the Safety Director should:

- Make sure the event complies with all applicable requirements of the OSM and Tournament/Event Safety Checklist.
- Meet with all of the Appointed Officials and go over the emergency procedures established in the event of an injury.
- Make sure there are adequate safety personnel, safety boats and equipment appropriate for the event.

AKA Specific: The Safety Director has the final say, as per AKA rules.

NSSA Specific: Prior to each competing team's performance, the Safety Director should meet with the entire team and go over the emergency procedures established in the event of an injury. They must be aware of the necessary signals to call for help and/or stop the event. All competing club boat personnel, Safety Director, and Show Director/Chairman shall meet with the tournament Safety Director and Chief Judge prior to the start of that day's competition. The sponsor shall state the time and place in the tournament announcements. All other club participants shall meet with the Safety Director prior to their 20-minute setup time. This meeting shall be a location convenient for club members and no earlier than during the competition time or two shows preceding a club's performance and stated in the tournament announcements. If not specified, the meeting will take place in the pre-staging area prior to the 20-minute setup time. Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety or similar reasons, and not for the convenience of any skier. A majority of the Appointed Judges must approve the change and all show chairpersons of the affected clubs shall be notified. Although schedule changes are to be discouraged, the Judges should not hesitate to make adjustments required for safety. Provisions for weather-related delays and the effect on tournament running order and completion of the tournament shall be stated in the tournament announcement. When unfair water or weather conditions or a malfunction of sponsored equipment occurs, the Judges may grant a reride of the act affected. Keep in mind that the competition is sponsored for spectator appeal and as though the "show must go on". The conduct of the competing club must be considered by both the competing club and the Judges as though the club were presenting a road show in which case conditions affecting the quality of the show are judged in the minds of the spectators. When severe weather or other unsafe conditions suddenly occur during the show, which would preclude the safe continuation of the show, the Chief Judge or Chief Safety Director may call for a "time-out". The Chief Judge may overrule the request for a time-out when initiated by the Chief Safety Director, in which case the clock continues to run. Return to safe weather conditions shall be determined by unanimous agreement of the Chief Judge and Chief Safety Director. When the weather improves to a safe condition the show may restart. The clock will not run during such time-out and will be started with enough lead-time for competition to continue. The competing club shall have the option of rerunning an act that was discontinued due to such conditions or continuing with a different act. If the act is rerun the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The judges will score the act, at the club's option, from the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

Interpretation: If the team decides to ski the next act, the time will start when the audible signal is given. The audible signal will be like the beginning of the show. Either the tight line or spoken word, depending, under the same conditions as rule 3.05, will restart the show. The announcer may give a brief summarization to refresh the memory of the audience.

If sponsor-supplied equipment fails, the show may be stopped at the option of the competing club until the equipment is repaired or replaced. The clock will not run during such time and will be started with enough lead time for competition to continue. The competing club shall have the option of rerunning an act which was discontinued due to such failure, or of not scoring the act and continuing with a different act. If the act is rerun, the timer will start the competition time at the point at which the show was stopped. The Judges will score the act, at the club's option, from either the beginning of the act or at the point of time restarting.

Safety Time-Out - An authorized representative of a competing team, such as the Show Director or President may call a safety time out if site or weather conditions make continuing the performance unsafe or dangerous. This request would be directed to the Chief Judge and confirmed by an audible signal or directive. Such time out would continue until the unsafe condition is removed or the weather situation resolved. If the delay is determined to not have merit the Judges may assess a scoring penalty against the performing team up to and including disqualification.

4.01 Site Inspection

The Safety Director should survey the tournament site to check the following:

- Take-off and landing areas to see that they are free of rocks, glass, and/or other hazards.
- General hazards such as judges' towers and stairs, spectator bleachers, boat launching ramps, moorings, and re-fueling areas.
- All other hazardous objects not specific to the operation of the tournament, should be removed or rendered safe. If that is not possible these hazards should be marked in manner to distinguish them from ski course markers, and the skiers and officials warned of their existence.
- The Safety Director's site survey should include an inspection of the jump ramp, sliders, kickers, and/or other obstacles for damaged surfaces, aprons, exposed nails/bolts, and sharp edges.

ABC Specific:

WBC Jump Specifications:

- The part that is submerged shall be painted a dark color or of a dark material. The exposed part above the waterline shall be of a light color.

- The jump ramp surface shall be the equivalent of 18- or 19-millimeter marine plywood in strength and stiffness, suitably braced and with smooth integral or glued safe surfacing. Suitable buoyancy properly disposed shall be used to ensure stability and the dimensions in 1) and 2) above. Centerline markings of a strongly contrasting color shall be placed on the front face of the ramp just below the top edge and at the waterline, to facilitate sighting the ramp, and measuring to the inner and outer course buoys.
- Jump ramp inspection should be required after any part of the skier's body other than the feet strikes the ramp to determine if any changes have occurred which might create a hazard to further jumping unless eliminated.

NSSA Specific:

The Safety Director should survey the event site to check the following:

- Common take-off and landing areas to see that they are free of rocks, glass, and/or other hazards. Also, relay the depth of takeoff and landing areas to competing teams.
- The skiing area must be clearly marked off and any hazards should be marked with a different marker or color.
- The end of the performance platform or starting dock should have a rub rail such that a boat cannot go under it.
- The performance platform should be checked to make sure it is sturdy considering the number of skiers and equipment. It should also be checked to make sure there aren't any splinters, screws, or nails sticking out.
- It also must be the right size. The sponsor shall provide a performance platform for the use of all clubs.
- It is recommended that the performance platform be at the left edge of the show course and will generally be used as the starting platform for most acts. For National, Regional, and Class A NSSA tournaments, the recommended minimum size shall be 20 feet x 36 feet of 720 square feet, with the short dimension parallel to the shoreline and the surface 12 to 20 inches above the surface of the water. The 12–20-inch range will be maintained with the dock edge loaded, with 1 to 24 average size skiers.
- It is recommended that the shore edge be in at least 3.5 feet of water, and that the platform end farthest out in the water be skirted from the surface of the platform to below the water line.
- Make sure the jump meets AWSA specifications, check to see that it is anchored securely, check to see that there are no protruding objects, check the wax and the watering system should be tested. The dimensions of a jump for NSSA purposes will be an inclined plane with mounted six aprons that meets the following specifications. This rule applies to tournament-sponsored supplied jumps only.
- Height: A level take-off edge which may be adjustable from 5 to 6 feet, with the primary position at 5.5 feet.
 - Surface width: 14 feet at all points + 2 inches.
 - Surface length out of the water: 21 feet to 22 feet evenly.
 - Surface length under water: 2 feet minimum evenly.
 - Side aprons on both sides shall extend the full length of the jump and shall be at least 6 inches under the water when the ramp is raised to its full height. The recommended apron angle is no less than 30 degrees to no greater than 60 degrees from vertical.
 - Buoy: 49 feet +/- 1 foot from the middle of the jump surface to the right of the jump as you approach go off it. The buoy shall be in a line even with the take-off edge of the jump.
- The landing stage(s) should be checked to be sure that it (they) is (are) sturdy and stable. Also, check the slickness when wet.
- For safety reasons due to the site, restrictions may be added to the listed restrictions by the majority of the Judges. Any restrictions must be determined before the start of the tournament and Show Directors from all competing clubs be notified prior to the tournament or upon their arrival at the site.

4.02 Safety Crew

The Safety Director shall review the following with all safety personnel.

- duties
- use of spine board
- use of flotation device
- cervical immobilization device (CID)
- safety boat operation/swimmer positioning
- instruction in rollover and basic water rescue techniques
- emergency procedures in the event of an accident
- identification of location of all safety equipment and first aid facilities
- discussion of any possible problems that might arise and needs such as maps and phone locations, alternate personnel positioning

ABC Specific:

WBC RULE C806: Disqualification - a) The Safety Director shall monitor whether rules C803, C804 and C805 are being observed. Failure of a skier to comply with these rules shall be cause of immediate disqualification from the event. No skier shall be allowed to compete or continue to compete if, in the opinion of the Safety Director and a majority of the event judges, his competing would be a danger to himself or to other skiers in the tournament. Failure to wear a life jacket as described in C803 or C804 shall be reason for this action, as shall failure to wear a helmet in jump. During the competition, the Safety Director may at any time request the Chief Judge to halt the tournament for a poll of the judges in regard to a skier's actions or condition. Whenever practical, the advice of a doctor should be obtained. See C802.

ABC Addendum A409: General Qualifications A Competitor disqualification - The Chief Judge, with the recommendation of a majority of the appointed judges, may disqualify a skier who appears to be a danger to himself or other competitors.

NSSA Specific:

Mind-Altering Substances: Any competitor under the influence of any mind-altering substance, including alcohol, will cause their team to be disqualified. Under the influence is defined as: "any detectable level of the substance". Competitor is defined as: "any person that participates in the performance during the competition time in any manner".

5.00 EQUIPMENT

On each day of an event the Safety Director and all safety personnel should be at the site reasonably in advance of the first event. They should verify procedures, division of duties, set up inspection stations, check for last-minute changes, check that safety radios are working and that all safety duty stations are covered.

5.01 Equipment Approval

Skier responsibility – Each skier will be solely and personally responsible for the quality of safety of his/her equipment

All equipment of all participants may be inspected to ensure that no obvious hazards are observed. If hazards are observed the skier is responsible for all necessary repairs. This should be done each day of the tournament. The skier may be required to initial the running order next to his/her name (or an appropriate document) to indicate that his or her equipment has been self-inspected and they are satisfied with its condition, or it has been inspected by the Safety Director. At the request of the sponsoring club, and with the approval of the appointed judges, a "formal" inspection of personal equipment may be conducted. If this option is used the equipment will be clearly marked and the dock starter will check for such markers before allowing a participant to ski. Such a marker however does not release the skier from responsibility for the condition of his/her equipment, and the skier is ultimately responsible for the condition of all his/her equipment. **Event officials shall not repair skier's equipment.**

5.01.1 Ski(s)

The ski or wakeboard should be smooth with no splinters, gouges, or sharp edges cracks or delamination that render the ski unsafe which might cause injury. Fins should be firmly attached without protruding fasteners and must not be cracked or broken. Fins should not protrude above the fin block without protective covering.

AKA Specific: The Safety Director has the final authority to prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be unsafe. Kneeboards must not have sharp edges or exposed corners or any additions or devices that may pose a hazard or potential danger to the knee boarder. All kneeboards will be subject to inspection by the Safety Director or a Safety Appointee prior to entering the water. All after-market prototype kneeboards or any kneeboards that have been altered in any way after manufacturing must be approved by the safety director prior to the start of the tournament.

Fins must be attached firmly to the kneeboard with no protruding or sharp edges. All after-market fins must be approved by the Safety Director prior to the start of the tournament. The Safety Director has the final decision.

USA-WB Specific:

Towboat: Additional weight may be added to the towboat if the weight (including towboat's occupants) does not exceed the limits specified on the towboat's maximum occupancy plate.

Towing Pylon/Attachment: Towing attachments other than those supplied as standard equipment or approved by the towboat manufacturer may not be used. (Note: Currently, several boat manufacturers include extended pylons as standard equipment.)

Obstacles: No obstacles may be placed in the wakeboard course. The use of a grind rail is acceptable in the Professional events when approved by the Safety Director. Grind rails must be free of sharp edges, and protruding objects, i.e., jumps, docks, boats etc.

NWSRA Specific: Each competitor's ski will be painted bright international fluorescent orange on the top and bottom of the tip, nine inches minimum.

5.01.2 Bindings

Bindings should be firmly attached to the skis. Torn bindings shall be called to the skier's attention. In severe cases, where mechanical integrity may be compromised, the equipment will not be allowed to be used. Quick release binders shall be in good working conditions.

USA-AWSWS Specific: Sit ski cages and slings are defined as bindings.

AKA Specific: The binding may have only one side that is permanently affixed to the kneeboard. The binding may have only one side that uses a buckling device, release device, or other device that acts as a permanent fixture. These devices must not have any protrusions or sharp edges. These devices must not pose a danger to the kneeboard competitor.

The side of the binding that is not permanently affixed to the kneeboard must be a hook and loop closure (i.e. Velcro type) fastening device that is easily removable with one hand.

5.01.3 Screws

Screws are to be checked and no loose screws shall be permitted. Sharp heads, fittings, exposed bolts or nuts, including wing nuts, which might cause injury shall not be permitted.

5.02 Safety Apparel

- a. All contestants in slalom and jumping events must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) consisting of a United States Coast Guard-approved Type III PFD or a Coast guard approved type V PFD (or its equivalent), except that at the skier's own personal risk, he may wear a NON Coast Guard approved PFD, such as a neoprene, nylon (or similar material) covered suit or vest specifically designed by a manufacturer for that purpose if it does not violate the state laws where the event is being held . All PFD's must be capable of floating the skier.
- b. PFDs shall be of non-inflatable design, meeting the following specifications:
 - They must be of a smooth, soft material not likely to cause injury in a fall.
 - They must be fastened in such a manner that they are unlikely to be torn loose and render them useless in a hard fall.
 - They should be constructed to provide adequate protection from impact damage to the ribs and internal organs.
 - A life belt shall not be used as a PFD.
- c. Additional safety apparel is strongly recommended by the USA-WSWSWS Safety Committee, including jump pants specially designed to protect the skier from forceful injection of water during falls and seated landings.
- d. All non-swimmers must wear a PFD in all events.

ABC Specific:

Wet Suit Protection: Either a neoprene wet or dry suit or neoprene wet suit pants must be worn in all events and may have a life jacket incorporated in or be an integral part of the suit, if it meets all of the requirements in C803, it may be held to satisfy this requirement. A dry suit alone does not comply unless the material itself contains hermetically closed air or gas cells of adequate quantity. e.g. a neoprene dry suit of adequate thickness. In case of doubt, the Safety Director shall have the final decision, ordering a practical test in the water if necessary.

NSSA Specific:

Flotation: Please note the PFD requirements under item "b" in the NSSA Safety Deductions section that follows.

NWSRA Specific:

Life Jackets & Ski Vests

- a. All drivers, observers and navigators shall be required to use unaltered jackets, which includes the proper use of leg straps. Life jackets must be equipped with material high on the chest and must follow American Powerboat Association guidelines, except for color restrictions. Life jackets must be certified every three years.
- b. Skiers shall have a life jacket with a minimum of three functional buckles.
- c. A skier's vest must have a satisfactory method of attaching to the body to ensure that it will not come off as a result of a fall. The following methods are approved:
 - Two leg straps connected to existing jacket and legs
 - Vest connected securely to both sides of protective swimsuits
 - Vest (step in or twist locks on crotch straps) over wetsuit

- Flotation wetsuits will be inspected and approved by the National Race Committee prior to use in any NWSRA sanctioned event.
- d. A skier's outerwear must be of a bright color on 50 percent of the upper body front and back. Acceptable colors will be safety orange, yellow or an outstanding fluorescent color (not blue or black).

5.02.1 Protective Head Gear

Use of protective head gear in an AWSA, NCWSA, or ABC (see appropriate rule book) jumping event is mandatory, as well as a USA-WB (see rule book) event whenever sliders, kickers, or other obstacles are used by a rider. Protective head gear is defined as an article of apparel whose manufacture and use is solely for the purpose of protecting the head from injury. It is recommended that such head gear be constructed of high impact material and have a three-point chin strap suspension, be non-bucketing, and be of good fit.

NWSRA Specific:

Race Helmets:

- a. Driver, observer and navigator helmets must be of a racing competition type and must cover the lower back of the head and ears. No half-shell or sports-car racing type helmets will be permitted.
- b. All crash helmets and skier headgear must be painted bright international florescent orange. Headgear is defined as a helmet or nylon cap which provides coverage for the ears and fits securely on the head.

Note: All participants must race with all safety equipment intact and worn as intended and required from start to the completion of the race or the entire team will be disqualified for that event and they will not earn any points.

NSSA Specific:

Safety Deductions: Any of the judges or the Safety Director may poll the scoring judges for a 1% to 3% point deduction from the total score of a club for each instance that, in the opinion of the majority of the judges, there was a serious failure to exercise proper safety precautions during their show. The following will constitute automatic penalties under the rule:

- a. Failure to wear a helmet when a competitor skis under another competitor or a competitor's rope - 5% deduction. The exception to this rule would be before changing positions.
- b. Failure to apply and properly use a quick release for all acts in which the skiers do not hold the "normal skiing handle" in their hands at all times - 5% deduction. Also, to include "flip starts", which the towline is wrapped around the skier's body - 5% deduction.

Interpretation: *If a skier in a harness falls*, the release must be pulled by the time the point at which the rope that is connected to the harness contacts the water. If the release is not pulled by that time, it is an automatic 5% deduction. A barefoot handle that is non-bear-trap in nature is not required to be on a release when the skier's foot is in the handle and his/her hands are released from the handle. A team representative is required to show the handle to the Chief Judge prior to the team's competition and identify the act/acts that the handle will be used so that Chief Judge can inform the judges prior to the show that it's in compliance.

A release person (observer) may hold no more than one release per hand. It is the intent of this rule to allow for pulling up on the ropes for the purpose of changing positions without penalty.

- c. Failure of aerial acts to land in the water or aerial acts coming over land while the participant has his skis on - 5% deduction. This rule may allow for the flyer to choose a safe alternate area away from spectators for reasons of his own safety.
- d. Failure to wear a personal flotation device which will float the skier under the following circumstances:
 - Any time a competitor goes over a jump ramp.
 - During rope braid acts.
 - During 360s around the boat.
 - While barefoot skiing.
 - All clowns/comedy performing in more than waist deep water.
 - If any part of a formation being towed is three or more tiers, then all members being pulled by that towboat must wear flotation.
 - At least one rider/spotter (if any) in all towboats and pick-up boats must wear a minimum of Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V flotation while skiers are on the water. The exception to this is the incidental use of barges to pick up debris, skis, and people. This exception can only be made if the club has pickup boat(s) and the barge operator is wearing the Coast Guard Type I, II, III or V flotation. If the driver leaves the motor/control area the motor MUST be shut off or placed in neutral.
 - Hydrofoil

Life belts are not considered adequate personal flotation devices for parts (A) through (E), (G), and (H). Life belts are considered adequate flotation devices for part (F) (All of the above violations - 5% deduction.)

- e. Failure to initiate all boat washouts, high-speed boat spins, or similar stunts with an approach parallel to the shoreline and beginning the turn-away from the spectators. Towboat and pickup boat drivers leaving the driver's seat when the boat is in gear and the neutral safety lock has not been detached, except for the purpose of increasing visibility during inclement weather - 5% deduction.

Other dangerous boat driving will be penalized at the judges' discretion and could include thread-the-needle maneuvers and failure to maintain safe control of the boat – up to 5% deduction.

- f. Failure to complete or finish barefoot acts in more than knee-deep water - 3% deduction. It is the intent of this rule to keep barefooters from approaching shore to the point where a forward fall becomes dangerous. Judges should use reasonable judgment and not try to determine the exact level of the water to the skier's knee.

5.03 Ropes and Handles

All ropes and handles must be free of signs of excessive wear. Areas of note are the splices, loops and knots.

ABC Specific: The contestant may furnish his own line(s) and handle(s) for tricks, of any size, length and material. Detachable handles must be finished with a 15cm minimum loop through which the handle and all attachments can be passed, unless a clip or clips are fitted.

AWSA Specific: Ropes and handles shall not contain any knots that were not specifically inserted by the manufacturer as part of the original rope and handle design.

NSSA Specific: Ropes and handles may contain knots that were not specifically inserted by the manufacturer as part of the original rope and handle design.

USA-WB Specific: Ropes and handles may contain knots that were not specifically inserted by the manufacturer as part of the original rope and handle design.

5.04 Shock Tubes

Shock tubes shall be used during all AWSA slalom events (as required by AWSA rules). The use of shock tubes is recommended during the jump events for both three event and ABC. Shock tubes shall be of the standard length (approximately 1 meter) unless used with the slalom/jump switch or boat video camera (in which case it can be shortened).

ABC Specific: In the jump event a shock tube shall be fitted on the towline at the pylon end.

AKA Specific: The use of a shock tube is mandatory for all AKA events.

5.05 Inclined Ramps

NSSA Specific: Inclined ramps, to include kicker jumps/ramps, fastened to performance platforms and/or any other equipment, and intended to be skied up, the surface must be a minimum of 42 inches wide and the lower edge at least 7 inches vertical and 24 inches of surface below the surface of the water. Attachment points shall not extend above the surface of the jump/ramp at any time. Inclined ramps should be is angled placed in such a manner that the landing area, defined as a 16' by 60' box, away from shore. Anyone going over an inclined ramp must land in 2 meters (6.5') of water.

Anyone going over an inclined ramp must line up with the inside edge of the ramp, closet to the boat. For multiple riders over the ramp, the only cuts permitted are those check cuts required for spacing.

No dive or run outs are permitted off an inclined ramp

5% penalty for failure to comply.

6.00 SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

6.01 Safety Boats

6.01.1 Purpose

The purpose of the safety boat is to help injured skiers, and to clear the course of dropped skis or floating debris with maximum safety and minimum interference with the event progress. At least one safety boat shall be used during all events unless the Chief Judge and the Safety Director agree that they are not necessary. All safety swimmers must always wear a PFD and, in the event of a serious fall or injury, will jump into the water to assist the skier. The swimmer should jump (not dive) into the water

to always keep the fallen skier in view. The safety boat will be at an easily accessible, designated position and always manned by a competent operator during the event. In the event safety boats are not used, safety swimmers will be positioned on the shore. PWCs may be used as an aid for shore-based safety swimmers. Safety boats shall not be used as pick-up boats for uninjured skiers who are able to swim out of the course and to shore. It is imperative that the safety boat be ready for immediate use should an accident occur. No injured skier will be allowed to climb into a boat, but will be floated ashore if necessary, on an improvised stretcher and lifted from the water on a suitable board or stretcher. Under no circumstances will an injured skier be lifted passively over the side of a boat. Smoking is not allowed at any time in any official tournament boat(s). (Tow boats or safety boats.) Only designated persons may occupy a safety boat. The safety boats are under the direction of the Safety Director in coordination with the Chief Judge.

AWSA Specific: With proper training and approval of the Safety Director, the boat judge or third person in the official slalom/jump towboat may be designated as the safety swimmer. He/she shall have a PFD available in the boat, for immediate use. A spine board and CID should be located at an appropriate location so that it can be immediately retrieved in the event of an injury requiring its use.

ABC Specific: The safety boat may used to retrieve fallen skiers.

NSSA Specific: Pick-up boat(s) and crew(s) must be operational both during competition and official practice. The sponsor shall have the option of supplying a pick-up boat which may or may not be used at the discretion of the competing club. If one is supplied, it must be so stated in the tournament announcement. A club may not compete without using a pick-up boat. The pick-up boat must be manned by a competent operator and rider/spotter and be approved by the Safety Director and Chief Judge. In the opinion of the Chief Judge and Safety Director, the spotter must be able to physically handle an emergency on the water. The rider/spotter must be capable of water rescue.

Safety Boat - The tournament sponsor shall supply one low-sided tournament safety boat with adequate power for the use of the Safety Director and/or first aid personnel. The boat shall be equipped with a satisfactory backboard and adequate personal flotation devices. The safety boat will be at an easily accessible designated position and must always be manned by a competent operator during competition.

USA-WB Specific: Towboats or Personal Watercraft (PWC) may be used to retrieve fallen skiers. Both shall have a PFD available in the boat, for immediate use.

6.01.2 Design

A great variety of designs are suitable for safety boats. The following features are desirable but not mandatory:

- a. Capacity: Space for 5 people comfortably.
- b. Power: Sufficient power to allow adequate acceleration without the bow riding high in the air.
- c. Free Board: A low freeboard with an open foredeck.
- d. Length: About 5 meters (approx. 16').
- e. Stability: The safety boat should be stable enough so that the weight of a person on the side will not tip the boat.
- f. Where safety boats to be used the sponsor should supply one low-sided safety boat with adequate power for the use of the Safety Director and / or first aid personnel.
- g. The boat should be equipped with adequate personal flotation devices.

6.01.3 Positioning:

AWSA Specific: In each event, positioning of the safety boat is important. Rule 12.06 diagrams the various suggested positions for each event.

- a. Jump Event: The greatest risk of personal injury frequently occurs in the jump event. Positioning of the safety boat shall be such that it does not interfere with the skier's path, either over the ramp in a jump effort or a balk. While this is applicable to most sites, the position and designation of the safety boat will be determined by the wake dispersal peculiarities of each site, as well as the position of the ramp, relative to the shore and meter stations. Positioning of the boat should be such that the driver always has the skier in sight and can anticipate a possible fall by observing the skier's attitude on and over the ramp. Should a fall appear inevitable, the safety boat should not wait for the hands-up "OK" signal but move toward the skier. If sufficient personnel are available, an additional swimmer in the safety boat is preferable.
- b. Slalom event: The safety boat should operate outside the course across from the approximate center. The safety boat shall maneuver so that the bow is continuously pointed into the course to minimize back wash, always keeping well clear of the turning buoys and skier's path to avoid any condition that would be unfair or not safe. Skiers should be

asked to swim out of the course when possible to expedite pick-up and reduce wake. Safety boats, except when going to the aid of a fallen skier, always travel parallel to the course and not across the course.

- c. Trick Event: Safety boat personnel should always be alert. If a skier falls, the safety boat should move in immediately to evaluate the skier and equipment if there is not an immediate hands-up sign of "OK". Positioning of the safety boat in the trick event should be on the "outside" of the course opposite the judges. Any cast-off equipment must be picked up before the next pass. If a skier drops a ski during the first pass, be alert for a signal from the skier or boat that the skier would like the dropped ski for the next pass. If a skier falls during the second pass and is unable to swim in, the safety boat should move in immediately, wake free, to pick up the contestant and equipment.

6.02 Personnel

6.02.1 Drivers

Safety boat drivers' availability is the responsibility of the tournament sponsor. Sufficient drivers and relief drivers must be appointed and available to the Safety Director, to assure that fatigue does not reduce efficiency. Safety boat drivers should have event/competition driving experience whenever possible and be thoroughly familiar with the site. Rarely is there need for more than one safety boat to attend to an injured skier. The intent is to supply assistance to the skier with dispatch, but without risking a collision with the skier or another boat. This applies to the towboat(s) and a secondary safety boat(s). No Driver shall pick up a skier, ski, rope or any other item from the water with the ignition on.

6.02.2 Swimmers

Designated swimmers (boat or shore) need to review with the Safety Director or assigned assistants the safety procedures outlined in this manual and as instructed in the safety directors training clinic. This review should be done before the event(s) to which the swimmers are assigned. Each designated swimmer in the safety boat, towboat, or on shore must always wear a Coast Guard-approved Type III personal flotation device or its equivalent and be prepared to enter the water. It is recommended that the safety swimmers be in the following areas:

- In the towboat if the room is available and the Chief Judge and Chief Safety Director agree
- On shore, only if the distance is not too great as to make it difficult for the swimmer to reach the victim and still be able to help with the rescue. This will have to be decided by the Chief Judge and the Chief Safety Director
- In an LOC supplied safety/rescue boat

6.03 Equipment

Each safety boat shall carry, or have quick access to, the following standard equipment:

- A suitable back (spine) board (6' x 18" maximum size, minimum four straps or equivalent)
- One immobilization device for the neck/head, preferably of the C.I.D. (cervical immobilization device) type attached to the spine board
- Tools that can easily cut through towlines, straps, etc.
- A two-way radio, worn by the driver of a safety boat or one of the swimmers, that is in direct communication with the Safety Director
- A basic first aid kit with triangular and adhesive bandages
- An extra flotation device
- Fire extinguisher

Duplicate safety equipment is recommended for each safety boat used. A basic checklist should be provided, and safety crews should review it before the start of their event. Other equipment strongly recommended to be made available: additional spine board, blankets, towels, gloves, splints for arms and legs (short and long, wood or air), an additional cervical collar, and pocket mask. These items should be used by qualified personnel only.

NWSRA Specific:

Required Equipment: The rescue litter must be available on the race course in a designated rescue boat at all sanctioned events. The Chief Referee shall designate the location on the course.

- Fire Extinguishers - At least one accessible fire extinguisher secured to the boat that must be Coast Guard approved, fully charged and currently certified/validated.
- One paddle on board (a water ski is not a paddle)
- Safety Collar on the propeller shaft.

7.00 WATER RESCUE

A water skier may sustain any kind of injury in a fall. It is imperative that the unconscious skier receive assistance with cautious urgency.

7.01 Signals

A fallen skier must clearly signal that he/she has not been injured. If a signal is not given, the safety crew must assume that the skier is injured and move in immediately. The signal by which a fallen skier indicates that there is no injury is to wave both arms above the head with the hands clasped. This signal indicates the skier is OK and does not need assistance. If this signal is not given, then the safety boat should assume the skier is injured and move in to evaluate. Some skiers may take a moment or so to assess themselves before giving the OK signal and the pick-up boat crew must make a judgment. In such cases the safety or pick-up boat crew may begin to idle towards the skier. Utmost urgency is only demanded for unconscious skiers and those unable to keep their airway clear and above water. A dazed or confused skier may thrash about in the water with the arms above the head in such a way that may be mistaken for an OK signal or an OK signal may be given out of sheer habit but the skier may actually be injured. In either case the safety crew must decide. If there is not a purposeful and clear-cut signal given, the safety boat must respond. This signal may not apply to jumpers wearing arm slings. If the injury to the skier requires the show or event to be stopped to properly give care, then the safety or safety crew must give the signal or radio it. This signal to stop the show is done by crossing the arms over the head in a deliberate, still manner. A decision must then be made by the safety crew if they are able to properly handle the situation or if help is needed.

NSSA Specific: The Safety Director must pay close attention when falls occur because the stop the show signal may be given from various sources such as an alert fallen skier, towboat crew, or dock personnel. The Safety Director must maintain close observation of fallen skiers and may utilize other personnel, such as the Safety Boat Crew, to help in this task.

Whenever the show has been stopped for an injury, the Tournament Safety Boat should begin to idle in the direction of the injured skier. The Safety Boat should not move into the proximity of the injured skier unless needed as previously stated. The competition time will be stopped by the Chief Judge or the Safety Director whenever there is apparent injury to a skier during the show. After the Chief Judge and the Safety Director are confident that necessary aid has been given to the injured person and all equipment involved has been checked, the team may start with the next act or rerun the act during which the injury occurred. If they chose to rerun the act, the competition time and scoring (judging), will start when they reach the point and which the injury occurred. The skier that was injured may, with the approval of the Chief Safety Director and Chief Judge, participate in the remainder of the show. Any bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered, and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the costume, it must be changed or covered before the participant may continue with the show.

While time is stopped, competitors are free to move about as they wish and either prepare to ski the act over or ski the next act. An audible signal will be given when competition time is stopped and when competition time is restarted.

If a team calls for a stop in competition and it is determined there is not an apparent injury, the Scoring Judges may assess an unsportsmanlike penalty against the team.

7.02 Medical Emergencies

In the event of an accident, the Safety Director and safety personnel must be prepared to be first responders. The responsibility of the safety swimmers include:

- Helping to prevent further injury
- Activating the appropriate emergency system(s).
- Calming and stabilizing the injured person until professional help arrives.

7.03 Procedures

The following procedures are procedural reminders. Every injury situation is unique and may require a different approach. Perform only what you have been trained to do. Beyond that pursue professional assistance. Common sense should prevail.

7.03.1 Removing the Fallen Skier from the Water

If the fallen skier is unable to climb aboard the safety boat with little or no assistance, the event needs to be stopped and the victim needs to be floated to shore with appropriate care being given by the swimmer. Under no circumstances shall an injured skier be hauled passively over the side of the boat. A swim platform is not intended for transportation of injured skiers, however there may be a rare occasion in which this may be done.

7.03.2 Helmet Removal

In the event of an injury, a helmet should not be removed other than by the skier. In-line stabilization of the cervical spine can be obtained with a properly applied spine board and CID. There may be an occasion where a face piece may need to be removed to maintain a proper airway.

7.03.3 Assessment of Injuries

When an injured skier has been removed from the water, a decision must be made as to whether professional medical and/or emergency assistance is required. All injuries should be professionally assessed either at the site or at a local hospital. Serious injuries may not always be readily apparent. If any questions or uncertainties exist, additional medical treatment should immediately be sought either from a physician or at a local hospital.

7.04 Tournament Medical Facilities/Personnel

7.04.1 On-site Medical Facilities

A medical/first aid area should, when possible, be established at the tournament site. This unit should be prepared to deal with minor trauma (basic first aid) so that a competitor or official can be returned to tournament participation as soon as possible in appropriate circumstances. Ambulance personnel, EMTs and paramedics are often willing to be present and serve in this capacity. These persons are trained to assess and stabilize major trauma before removing the injured person to a trauma center.

NSSA Specific:

Emergency Personnel and Transportation

1. Nationals: Adequate emergency personnel and transportation from the site must always be available during the competition. Emergency personnel and transportation will always be at a designated, easily accessible location.
2. All Other Tournaments: Adequate medical personnel on site or available within a reasonable period. (Suggestion for reasonable period: less than 4 minutes.) Transportation to medical facilities present or available in a reasonable period. (Suggestion for reasonable period: 5-10 minutes.)
3. At NSSA sanctioned tournaments, the minimum required emergency personnel are defined as “state certified basic Emergency Medical Technician.”

7.04.2 Hospital Liaison

Liaison with the local hospital/emergency facilities is the responsibility of the tournament sponsor, when appropriate or required.

7.04.3 Tournament Medical Officer

At some tournaments, the sponsor may be fortunate in securing the services of a physician to serve as medical officer. If the Safety Director is a physician, the Safety Director may serve in both capacities. If the medical officer is not the Safety Director, the medical officer will be responsible to the Safety Director.

7.04.4 Spectators

The Safety Director’s responsibilities are to the contestants and officials. Separate arrangements should be provided for spectators by the tournament organizers. Spectator areas are however, under the jurisdiction of the Safety Director as is the risk management of the entire site. The Safety Director may assist an injured spectator commensurate with his/her training, and as a courtesy.

8.00 FORMS AND FOLLOW-UP

8.01 Forms

The Safety Director shall be familiar with and use the following forms as published on the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports in the “Insurance Resources” section under “Sanctioned Events Program”:

8.01.1 Safety Director’s Checklist:

This form is to assist the Safety Director in organizing the many tasks and responsibilities that are vital to running a safe tournament. The Safety Director’s checklist must be completed and submitted with the Master Scorebook.

8.01.2 Safety Report

As noted in the summary of the Safety Director's responsibilities, the Safety Director shall fill out a detailed report at the conclusion of the tournament. The report is to be complete whether there has been an injury or not. The report is also to be signed by the Chief Judge and returned to USA-WSWSWS with the Master Scorebook.

8.01.3 Incident Reporting Procedures and Incident Report Form

Incidents may include injuries to participants, spectators, volunteers, boat accidents, theft or damage to property of a third party. At the time of an accident, injury, or other incident during a USA-WSWS sanctioned event, the on-site Safety/Club Official or Event Organizer should complete an Incident Report Form as outlined in the Incident Reporting Procedures. **It is important that key information is recorded for every incident that occurs during sanctioned events, and that this information is promptly reported.**

8.01.4 Medical Claim Filing Instructions and Medical Claim Form

Should an injury during a USA-WSWS-sanctioned event require medical treatment, the on-site Safety/Club Official or Event Organizer should provide the injured party with a copy of the Medical Claim Filing Instructions and a Medical Claim Form. NOTE: If an Incident Report Form is not prepared and submitted to document an injury, any subsequent medical claims will likely be denied by the Participant Accident carrier.

8.02 Releasing Incident Reports

Incident reports for incidents completed during USA Water Ski & Wake Sports sanctioned events may be provided to members of the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Risk Management committee, or members of a sport discipline safety or risk management committee, for the purpose of improving athlete safety and the training of our officials only. These reports are to be released with the names of competitors, officials, and all other personal information redacted. All legal requests for incident reports will be handled through the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports executive committee.

9.00 SAFETY COORDINATOR AND DIRECTOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

9.01 Purpose

The USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Safety Director's Development Program is designed to provide each official with the experience and knowledge necessary to create the safest possible environment for competitive water skiers. It is the goal of this program to improve the skill levels of these officials while ensuring consistency of expertise nationwide. Advancement to all rating levels (Coordinator, State, Regional and National) is achieved through the three steps of education, participation and evaluation common to all USA Water Ski & Wake Sports officials' development programs.

9.02 Education

Education is provided through sanctioned Safety Director's Clinics which include classroom and on-water instruction. Individuals who attend a clinic and successfully complete all required testing are awarded a Safety Coordinator rating. Clinics are conducted by a trained Safety Clinic Instructor. A list of trained Safety Clinic Instructors can be found on the USA-WSWS Web site by going to the "Officials' Resources" section and selecting "Officials' Directory." Check the applicable checkboxes for the area to be searched and select the following options:

- Sport Discipline = "USA"
- Rating Type = "Safety"
- Level = "All"
- Limit to Clinic Instructors = "True"

If an official needs to attend a clinic, it is his responsibility to contact his sport discipline safety representative. There is a USA Water Ski & Wake Sports clinic registration fee for each participant in addition to that requested by the sponsor.

Clinic Maintenance Requirements: All rated Safety Coordinators and Safety Directors must attend a Safety Director's Clinic once every four years to maintain their rating. Failure to do so will result in an automatic downgrade to the next lower rating or loss of rating if an official holds a Safety Coordinator rating. USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will notify all officials that they must attend a clinic early during the last year of this time frame.

Clinic Duration: It is recommended that a clinic include at least six to eight hours of instruction.

First Aid/CPR Training: Current American Heart Association Basic First Aid and CPR certification (or an equivalent or higher certification) are required for state, regional, and national ratings, and must be kept current.

Clinic Instructor's Credit: Clinic instructors are not required to pay a registration fee and receive full credit toward clinic maintenance requirements. Instructing a clinic may be used to replace the Chief requirement for renewal. A clinic may also count as one of the required tournament maintenance credits.

Clinic Instructor Status: A clinic instructor is certified by the National Safety Committee to conduct sanctioned Safety Directors' Clinics. To become a clinic instructor, the applicant must hold a Regional or National Safety Director rating and have attended at least two Safety Clinics within five years. The aspiring instructor must assist with the administrative portion of a Safety Clinic and instruct a clinic under the supervision of an instructor trainer. The instructor trainer will then notify the appropriate National Safety Committee representative and the Officials' Coordinator at USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.

Instructor Trainer Status: The Instructor Trainer is a person certified by the Safety Committee to teach and certify clinic instructors. To become an Instructor Trainer the applicant must hold a Regional or National Safety Director rating, and they must be a current instructor. The applicant must submit a resume' and a letter of intent to their committee representative. The committee representative must then write a letter of recommendation to the National Safety Committee. Once this process and a thorough review are completed, the National Safety Committee will then vote on whether to approve the applicant. If the applicant passes the vote, the committee will appoint applicant as an Instructor Trainer.

It is recommended that all USA Water Ski & Wake Sports safety officials complete the SafeSport certification and annual SafeSport refresher training.

9.03 Participation

For each rating, there are certain quantitative requirements which must be fulfilled before the safety director proceeds to the next step. Remember to record your work as such in your Personal Performance Record and have it signed by the Chief Safety Director. Personal Performance Records are available on USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site under "Officials' Resources". Credit for upgrading and renewal is awarded only if your participation is recorded accurately on the Tournament Officials' Record returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.

Maintenance requirements are based on calendar years (i.e. work performed January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021, counts toward renewal for 2022.)

Aspiring State Safety Directors: Individuals seeking a State Safety Director rating must use the Application for State Safety Director that lists the duties to be performed to acquire the rating (which must be completed within four years). The application is available from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site. Upon completion, forward the application and proof of current First Aid and CPR certification to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator. Once approved, the aspiring State Safety Director will be sent an e-mail notification confirming his rating upgrade.

Aspiring Regional and National Safety Directors: There are quantitative requirements to be met to advance to Regional or National Safety Director. Typically, these requirements are attained by working in a variety of safety roles at sanctioned events to gain experience. Work is recorded on the printed Tournament Officials' Record or on the electronic .PDF file returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports following a sanctioned event. It is the responsibility of the official to ensure that all work is accurately recorded at USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. Officials should also maintain their own work records on the Officials' Personal Performance Record available on USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site to track their progress toward maintenance and advancement.

9.04 Evaluation (Testing for Upgrade)

Testing Procedures: Once ALL quantitative requirements (including a clinic) are completed for a given rating level, Safety Directors should contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org) to request that their work be verified. USA Water Ski & Wake Sports will do so, then explain what is necessary to complete the written exams. The Regional Safety Director test, mailed from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, is to be completed as an open-book evaluation and returned to be graded. The National Safety Director test is closed book and may be taken under the supervision of an Instructor Trainer at a clinic or other meeting place that has been mutually agreed upon.

Fast Track: Persons having relevant health care first aid and patient experience (e.g., ER physician or nurse, EMT, etc.) may apply to the Safety committee of their sport discipline for approval (by majority vote) to become a State Safety Director upon completing all of the following:

- Providing current proof of completion of a basic first aid/CPR program (or equivalent training and experience per existing USA-WSWS policy);
- Attending a USA-WSWS Safety clinic; and
- Serving as Assistant Safety Director at two tournaments

Testing Opportunities: Aspiring Regional Safety Directors may take the test on two different dates per calendar year, aspiring National Safety Directors only once.

Passing Grades for Tests: The regional open-book test requires a minimum score of 90 percent; the National closed-book test requires a minimum score of 80 percent.

9.05 Rating Maintenance Requirements

Safety Coordinator: Rated Safety Coordinators must attend a sanctioned Safety Clinic once every four years to maintain their rating.

Sanctioned Event Credit: All rated State, Regional and National Safety Directors must work four sanctioned events or exhibitions averaged over two years (2/2, 3/1, 1/3, or 4 in one year). An event may be of any type from any sport discipline. Safety Clinic attendance may be used to replace one of the four event requirements. Regional and National Safety Directors must work two of the four events as Chief. Serving as an instructor at a sanctioned Safety Clinic may be used to replace one of the two Chief requirements, and two of the four total event requirements. To receive credit for working a sanctioned event, a Safety Director must adequately perform duties as assigned by the Chief Safety Director. Safety Directors working the event must have their names listed on the Tournament Officials' Record returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports following an event to receive credit. Chief Safety Directors must submit all appropriate forms to obtain credit for the event.

GrassRoots Tournament Credit: Full credit, for both maintenance and upgrading, is given for work at GrassRoots events.

NSSA Exhibition Credit: Safety Directors may use sanctioned NSSA tournaments and ski show exhibitions for maintenance and upgrade credit. For sanctioned exhibitions, an Exhibition Safety Director's Work Record, available on USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Web site under "NSSA Officials Resources," must be completed and returned to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator for exhibition credit to be awarded.

Work Abroad: Work performed according to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports guidelines in Record Capability tournaments not sanctioned by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports that take place outside of the United States will be credited upon submission of proof to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.

Rating Upgrade Credit: To upgrade, work toward fulfilling requirements in any of the categories of "Tournaments, Chief Safety Director and Regionals" may NOT also count toward fulfilling those in another category at the same time at the same tournament. For example, serving as Chief Safety Director counts toward work as a Chief Safety Director or toward tournament quantity, but not both.

Regional Tournament Credit: Aspiring National Safety Directors may use a National Tournament for their Regionals requirement (if they are unable to work at the same year's Regionals) but they may not count both as a Regionals and a Nationals in the same year. Safety Directors will still need three years to fulfill their Regionals requirement.

9.06 Hardship

The Safety Committee has the responsibility of ensuring that all Safety Directors have the skills necessary to provide skiers the safest possible environment and that these skills have not eroded because of a lack of practice. There are, however, exceptional situations that can prevent a Safety Director from meeting the renewal requirements.

An excusable hardship involves an event or condition over which an official has no control. In other words, the event or condition is not self-imposed and personal choice has not been exercised. Each request for hardship will be considered on its own merits. Hardships will not be granted for ability, prior qualifications, personality or length of service. Hardships are not renewable. The following are examples and are not all inclusive:

- Excusable conditions:
 - Medical problems - major injury or illness, surgery, pregnancy
 - Military duty
 - Temporary job assignments lasting two months or more over which the official has no control

- Inexcusable conditions:
 - Non-awareness of renewal requirements
 - Personal error in record keeping
 - Lack of tournament attendance due to other personal activities
 - Failure to attend a Safety Clinic

An individual applying for hardship may obtain the hardship petition from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org). Upon completion, the form should be returned to the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator for forwarding on to the applicable Safety Committee representative. The representative will in turn forward the form with a recommendation (yes or no) to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Headquarters for circulation and a vote by the National Safety Committee. The petitioner will be informed via e-mail from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Headquarters of the approval or denial of his request. The deadline for submission is May 31 of the year following downgrade or 60 days after official USA Water Ski & Wake Sports notification of the downgrade, whichever is later.

9.07 Reinstatement

Safety Directors applying for reinstatement must have held the rating applied for within the last five years as verified by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Headquarters. Those applicants not meeting this requirement must start over again. Once a safety director is reinstated at a given rating, unless they are reinstated as a National, all credit originally obtained toward advancement to the next rating is reinstated. Proof of current Basic First Aid and CPR certification is required.

State Safety Director: Assist the Chief Safety Director at two sanctioned tournaments and attend a sanctioned Safety Clinic if more than four years have elapsed since last clinic attended. Submit proof of the above with request for reinstatement to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org).

Regional and National Safety Directors: After attending a sanctioned Safety Clinic, contact USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org) and request reinstatement. USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Headquarters will verify eligibility for reinstatement and send the appropriate testing or notify the Safety Committee representative, as necessary.

9.08 Retired Status

Regional or National Safety Directors may retire at their present rating levels provided they have held a Regional or National rating for a minimum of five years. Retirement means that no further safety officiating is allowed. If they wish to work at tournaments again during the next five years, they will be awarded their former rating upon attending a clinic and successfully completing the applicable written exam. This procedure permits all officials to retire with dignity if they are no longer able to work tournaments.

9.09 Definitions

Safety Coordinator: A Safety Coordinator may serve as the safety personnel required to be present at any sanctioned practice, exhibition or GrassRoots event. A Safety Coordinator may also be considered an aspiring State Safety Director. A Safety Coordinator may not serve as Chief Safety Director at any sanctioned tournament. A Safety Coordinator may assist at any sanctioned event to gain credit towards achieving a State Safety Director rating.

State Safety Director: A State Safety Director may serve as:

- Safety Director at all sanctioned events except National tournaments
- Chief Safety Director at all events except Regional and National tournaments.

Regional Safety Director: A Regional Safety Director may serve as:

- Safety Director at all sanctioned events
- Chief Safety Director at all events except National tournaments.

National Safety Director: A National Safety Director may serve as:

- Safety Director at all sanctioned events
- Chief Safety Director at all events.

9.10 Performance of Duties

The USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Tournament Rule Book appropriate to the sport discipline of the event and the OSM will be followed in the performance of all official duties.

9.11 General Requirements

Aspiring Safety Coordinators: An aspiring Safety Coordinator must:

- be a minimum of 18 years old
- attend one sanctioned Safety Clinic

Aspiring State Safety Directors: An aspiring State Safety Director must complete an Application for State Safety Director with the following requirements signed off and return it to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org) along with proof of current American Heart Association First Aid and CPR certification (or equivalent).

- attend one sanctioned Safety Clinic
- assist the Chief Safety Director (or Show Director at an NSSA event) at three sanctioned tournaments (except Regional and National tournaments)

Aspiring Regional Safety Directors: An aspiring Regional Safety Director must:

- attend one sanctioned Safety Clinic since becoming a State Safety Director
- provide proof of current American Heart Association First Aid and CPR certification (or equivalent)
- serve as Safety Director or Chief Safety Director at eight sanctioned tournaments or show ski exhibitions
- serve as Chief Safety Director at two additional sanctioned tournaments
- successfully pass a written take-home test once the above requirements are met and verified by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org)

Aspiring National Safety Directors: A National Safety Director must:

- attend one sanctioned Safety Clinic since becoming a Regional Safety Director
- provide proof of current American Heart Association First Aid and CPR certification (or equivalent)
- serve as Safety Director or Chief Safety Director at nine sanctioned tournaments or show ski exhibitions
- serve as Chief Safety Director at three additional sanctioned tournaments
- serve as Safety Director at three sanctioned Regional or National tournaments in three SEPARATE years (in addition to the previous two requirements)
- successfully pass a closed-book written test under the supervision of an instructor/trainer once above requirements are met and verified by USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Officials' Coordinator (officials@usawaterski.org)