

2019 Southern Region Summer Meeting Minutes

7:13 PM CST Thursday, July 25, 2019 Tuscaloosa, AL Hotel Capstone

A big thanks to Lyman, Taylor and the crew of Lymanland USA for hosting another fantastic Southern Regionals.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13pm. A reminder that this is a membership meeting let's share general information and not get caught in too much detail. We want to hear from everyone, and we want to be courteous to those speaking.

Jeff Clark was appointed Parliamentarian

Attendance during meeting:

Directors: Bob Archambeau, Jim Jaquess, Lyman Hardy, Kirby Whetsel

Alabama: Jazmine Gagner, Doug Hamrick, Chris Logan

Florida: Gordon West, Monica Seal, Stan Switzer, Dennis Longo

Georgia: Ray Crenshaw, Matt Page, Craig Bryans

Kentucky: Pat Coomes, Bobby Hill, Eric Kelly

North Carolina: Chris Eller, Keith Lindemulder

South Carolina: Jennifer Wood

Tennessee: Greg Webb, Tommy Newman, Kathy Webb

Committees: Jeff Clark, Cynthia Logan, Leon Larson, Roger Logan, Michele Seal

Membership: Debbie Kern, Bob Harris, Terry Harris, Allison Blair, Jeff Blair, Dana Garcia, Jim Powers, Tracy Powers, Donna Switzer, Joy Coomes,

A Quorum was announced

Agenda was Approved (motion and second)

2019 Winter Meeting Minutes were Approved (motion and second)

Nominating Committee – Bob Archambeau

There were no additional candidates submitted by the committee for the offices of EVP (and alternate), Director (and alternate), USA-WSWS (and alternate)

Tellers Committee – Gerald Kirschner

A Teller Committee was appointed – Chris Eller and Greg Webb. Gerald's report and tally was handed over to this group prior to the Elections to be added in to the floor vote.

Election of Officers

The election results are as follows...

<i>EVP</i>	<i>Keith Lindemulder (NC)</i>	<i>EVP Alt.</i>	<i>Bob Harris (KY)</i>
<i>AWSA Nat Dir.</i>	<i>Lyman Hardy (AL)</i>	<i>AWSA Nat Dir. Alt.</i>	<i>Leon Larson (FL)</i>
<i>USA-WSWS Director</i>	<i>Bob Archambeau (NC)</i>	<i>USA-WSWS Dir Alt.</i>	<i>Lyman Hardy (AL)</i>

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Clark

Jeff reviewed our profit & loss statement and went over each line item and answering any questions submitted from the floor. One note – (Bob A) Junior Development has spent a little more that what they were bringing in and we are in the process of correcting that situation.

Total income to date - \$12,545.72 Total expenses to date - \$12 309.99 Net income to date \$235.73

Total assets - \$51,728.90

It was moved to accept the report and seconded. Motion passed

It was announced that Jeff is stepping down as the S Reg Treasurer and Cynthia Logan will be taking over the reigns Jeff has been working with Cynthia in getting her up to speed and will continue to support her if any questions come up. All members present thanked Jeff for his years of service and welcomed Cynthia to the role as Treasurer.

Report of Executive Vice President – Bob Archambeau

It has been a pleasure to serve you the past nine years. I have learned a lot and really enjoyed this role. EVP is a growth role and for the most part has been rewarding. I hope that we all continue to work together and grow even stronger as a Region. Thanks to all of you in making the Southern Regions so strong.

Report of Federation Presidents: AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN

All States provided verbal reports and their written reports (if provided) are attached at the end as an appendix attachment.

Committee Reports

Most Committees provided verbal reports/updates and their written reports (if provided) are attached at the end as an appendix attachment. [Some committees may not have reports as they usually only submit one report a year – BA]

Announcers - Hank Longo
Awards - Michele Seal
Boat Drivers - Ham Wallace
Bylaws, SR, AWSA, USA-WSWS - Jeff Clark
International Activities - Stan Switzer
Judges/Scorers Qualifications - Ray Crenshaw
Junior Development - Freddie Snell
Rules - Sara Lemley / Jazmine Gagner
Safety - Leon Larson
Seeding - Kirby Whetsel
Skiers Qualification - Dennis Longo
Technical - Roger Logan
Towboat/ Speed Control - Greg Webb
USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation - Jeff Clark

Old Business

Regional Guides – Please remember that any Region wishing to have a Regional Guide printed next year they will be charged an additional amount. This has been discussed over several meetings and the Region has always supported keeping the printed version. If the Southern Region goes with an electronic version, it must be an interactive version and not a rough PDF copy. Membership at this meeting decided to table the discussion until the Winter Meeting.

New Business

- Any new rules need to be submitted to Jaz, Sara or rules committee no later than August 31, 2019.
- Can we look into the Big Dawg schedule and not have it conflict with State Tournament weekends as it hurt South Carolina by taking away several big names from their State Tournament.
- Regional Recommendations
 - Southern Region unanimously approved Jeff Clark - Emeritus Status – Scorer
 - Southern Region unanimously suggests that The Rules Committee separate AWSA Rules from IWWF Rules in our published Rule Book

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm (motion and second)

Addendum

State Reports

Alabama – Doug Hamrick

Alabama has had a great year, so far. Below are a few highlights:

- Inducted Lyman Hardy into the Alabama Water Ski Hall of Fame - Oct
- Passed a resolution to encourage collegiate skiers to participate in local tournaments by offering a discount on entry fees - Oct
- Bama Spring Tournament (Collegiate) at Lymanland – Apr
- Drivers Clinic at Lymanland – May

- Mobile Spring Slash at Ski Chaste – Jun
 - June Jam at Lymanland – Jun
 - Regina Jaques Open at Lymanland – Jul
 - Sunday Slalom at Lymanland – Jul
 - AL State at Ski Chaste – Jul
 - Southern Regionals at Lymanland – Jul
- There will be a Junior Clinic at Faith Lake in August.

Kentucky – Joy & Pat Coomes

- We held 3 Tournaments in 2019 so far.
- Paducah held the 46th Kentucky Lakes Open
- Patriot Lake held the Kentucky State Championship - the first time at this site in Scottsville, KY. Skiing was free for everyone and in return, asked for donations towards JDRF. Over \$2600 was raised. Several State Records were broken at this event.
- Paducah will host the 26th David Moffatt Memorial on August 24th.
- We held 2 Junior Development Clinics. The first was a 3-day clinic before the KLO. We also had another the day before the State Tournament.
- Membership is on the rise in Kentucky and we are up 10 skiers over last year.
- We are currently in discussions with officials in hosting the Adaptive Nationals again in 2020

North Carolina – Chris Eller

After a slow start in the fall due to some weather issues, we have turned the corner this spring and hit the ground running.

We started the year off with a 2-day jr clinic at Skyview that led to a great turnout. We had over 50 skiers that included everything from tournament skiers, to new skiers and some adaptive skiers. While not skiing the kids had all kinds of inflatables and toys to keep them busy. We finished off the day with ice cream, a cookout, movie night and smores by the fire. Fun was had by all.

Our Jr development ladies, Valerie Coble and Allison Blair, have done an outstanding job over the last year. They have raised over \$10k this year to be used on our jr's. We have been able to do all kinds of cool stuff this year, such as:

- Swag for all the jr's – backpacks, towels, shirts and other cool stuff
- Inflatables at all the tournaments to play on while not skiing.
- Ice cream and snow cones at tournaments

So far, we have had 6 tournaments this year including state championships with 5 of them being 3 event. Some of the highlights:

- Records were broke at Little Mountain Pro-Am
- PB's set at Beaver Lake Record
- \$500 donated to NC Jr Scholarship at Jerry Hargis Memorial at Lake Magnolia
- Several new State Records set and tied at NC State Championships

State Championships:

- First year we have done the Award of Distinction for NC. Our inductees included: Mike and Betty Smith, Mike Partin, Don Eason and Bruce Jones
- Hall of Fame inductees where: Pam Bass and Bill Barringer
- Jerry Hargis Service Award was Larry Michael
- Gary Pressley Scholarship Award was Alex Dymond

2019 has been great so far and we look forward to finishing out the 2020 fall season with the Queens Cup and 3 other tournaments.

Johnny Thomas - President
 Ari Groode - Vice President
 Erica Bleier - Secretary/Treasure
 Chris Eller - Council
 Robbie Parks - Council

Tennessee – Greg Webb

It has been a very good year for water skiing in the great State of Tennessee. We have been fortunate to have several clubs host a total of 8 tournaments throughout the State. In addition, several clinics (including Junior Development, a Seth Stisher clinic in Memphis, and a Mark Lane clinic in Sweetwater) have been held this year.

Team Tennessee placed 2nd in the Team Competition at the 2018 Southern Regionals in Paducah and qualified to ski as a team in the 2018 US Nationals in Maize, KS, and placed 7th at Nationals.

The 2019 inductee into the Tennessee Water Ski Hall of Fame is Doug Irwin. Doug was a Nationals Competitor (during the Vic Varallo era) and specialized in the jump event. Doug was a teacher and coach at Litton High School in Nashville.

The 2019 Vic Varallo Award is presented to Michael Bullock. Michael is the proprietor of Swerve Watersports in Manchester, TN. In addition to hosting the 2019 Tennessee State Championships, Swerve has hosted a Record Tournament in the Fall, a Purdue Intercollegiate tournament in April, the Intercollegiate All-Stars in May, Junior Development clinics, and has operated a well-known ski school.

The 2019 Tm Denny Award is presented to Will Ware. Will has been an outstanding contributor to skiing in Tennessee. He is a Regular 3 – event Driver and he also upgraded to a Regular 3 – event Judge this past year.

Other news across the State:

Memphis held the 42nd Annual Ski Freeze on January 1, 2019 and raised \$23,000 for the Dream Factory of Memphis. They also held a Seth Stisher slalom clinic in June and a novice slalom clinic. They will host a “learn to ski day” in conjunction with a local Boy Scout Troop in July, and they will host the Memphis Cup Slalom Tournament in August.

As mentioned above, Swerve watersports has hosted numerous events.

Sweetwater hosted a Record Tournament in the Fall of 2018 and they hosted a Mark Lane Clinic in June. The Sweetwater club will also host a Record Tournament this Fall in September.

Wally’s Ski Club in McDonald hosted the Frosty Ball in November, and they hosted the 25th Annual Ski Party in June.

Freddie Snell has done a great job as Junior Development coordinator for the Southern Region.

Joy Kelley and Kirby Whetsel competed in the 2018 Senior Worlds in Chile. Joy Kelly also competed in the Pan Am Games in Chile. Joy Kelley has continued her record-breaking performances in all 3 events and overall in Women’s 6.

Allie Nicholson won the LCQ at Jack Travers and qualified to ski in the 2019 Masters at Callaway Gardens. She also skied in Italy this year.

Committee Reports

Drivers Report

Al sent us a few revisions, for clarity, to the Drivers Clinic Purpose document---all great edits (thank you)! Please note that Al's changes are incorporated in the version attached to this document.

We did not change the language that references the "approved instructor list" (that is highlighted in Blue in the attachment). We would like to hear from all the regions and each of your respective Councils on this issue.

Next step for the Drivers Committee Members:

- 1) Please take the 2 documents attached to your Council meetings, discuss the purpose of the changes & garner input.
- 2) Submit any comments you received to Greg & me by July 29 so that we can get the comments assembled and back out to all of you.

3) Depending upon the input we receive on the 2 documents, we will decide whether to make any further changes. If the Committee decides we have the support of the majority of our regions to proceed, we will ask the AWSA Board, at their summer meeting in West Palm, for approval of the document(s).

Drivers' Policy Manual Update Proposals - July 2019

Proposal #1: Describe clearly the purpose of a Drivers' Clinic

Current clinic description:

DRIVERS' CLINICS

An AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic shall consist of classroom and on-water practical instruction unless otherwise approved by a Regional Drivers' Committee representative. Annual participation in an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic is recommended.

Proposed clinic description:

DRIVERS' CLINICS

AWSA sanctioned Drivers' Clinics consist of classroom instruction and may include on-the-water practical instruction as described below. The Clinics must be sanctioned by USA-WS. [USA-WS will certify that the instructor for the Clinic\(s\) is on the "approved" instructor list provided to USA-WS by the National Drivers' Committee.](#)

Clinics requirements:

1. Obtaining an Assistant Drivers Rating: Aspiring Assistant Driver must have met the quantitative requirements and shall take the classroom clinic and pass the written and practical on water exams.
2. Aspiring Regular Drivers Rating: Driver must have met the quantitative requirements, which includes a clinic since becoming an Assistant Driver. Driver must take & pass the written and practical on water exam while driving & being tested at a Class "C" tournament or higher.
3. Aspiring Senior Drivers Rating: Driver must have met the quantitative requirements, which includes a clinic since the last upgrade. Driver must take & pass the written and practical on water exam while driving & being tested at a Class "C" tournament or higher.
4. Maintain an existing Rating: All drivers must attend an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic once every 4 years in order to maintain their current rating. Failure to do so will result in an automatic downgrade to the next lower rating.

While not mandatory, annual participation in an AWSA-sanctioned Drivers' Clinic is highly recommended.

Fast Track to a Regular or Senior Tricks Driver

*Current fast track description approved by the AWSA Board on January 26, 2019 is as follows:
"Motion for Senior drivers in Slalom and Jump to be able to drag in tricks (#6)... | Carries".*

Proposed "process" to Fast Track to a Regular or Senior Tricks Driver is as follows:

- **Fast Track to a Regular Tricks Driver:** If a driver holds a Regular or Senior Slalom Drivers rating or a Regular or Senior Jump Drivers rating AND does not have a rating to drive Tricks, then they must pass the written portion of the Regular Tricks Drivers exam. If they are successful & pass the exam, they will be elevated to a Regular Tricks Driver.
- **Fast Track to a Senior Tricks Driver:** If a driver holds a Senior Slalom Drivers rating or a Senior Jump Drivers rating AND holds an Assistant Driver's rating in Tricks, then they must pass the written portion of the Senior Tricks Driver exam. If they are successful & pass the exam, they will be elevated to a Senior Tricks Driver.

Rules

The Rules Committee still tends to be very active. We have had a few items that we have needed discussion since the approval of the National Board of Directors meeting. We also have one action item to vote on from SQC.

Action items discussed by the Rules Committee since the BOD meeting:

There were changes to trick #5 that were voted on by the National BOD. Originally the Rules Committee expanded the amount of tricks under that trick number. When IWWF came out with their rulebook, it was expanded even more. Now there is a possibility of 24 tricks between one and two skis that are allowed along with all the reverses. Since we are now in the middle of summer, has anyone had feedback on how that is working for skiers and officials?

IWWF also increased the ratio to allow for longer jump ramps. The BOD was polled to approve the increase but for Regionals and Nationals 2019 the tolerance will stay within the 2018 specifications. This change was implemented for safety of the Open skiers when going to sites that are more challenging. AWSA has kept the old tolerance so that sites do not have to spend the money to change their jump ramps. This will also give us time to get feedback from sites that can adjust their ramps.

There was one error in the 2019 Rulebook regarding Men 7 & 8 jump speeds which was fixed and a revised edition was published.

After adopting the rule that only USA Citizens may populate the AWSA ranking list, we have not been able to get that into the system. There is currently nowhere for those skiers scores to populate without the foreign federation code. And by using the USA code that impacts our AWSA skiers and could hold those skiers back from competing in Regionals or Nationals.

Overall table has been created for Regional and National Tournament regarding where to ski and what is required when skiing Elite or Age divisions. This is in our Rules section on USA-WSWS web site.

Regional Recommendations:

Eastern Region: Eliminate the \$100 challenge fee for trick timing as this happens more because of positional tricks.

Action Items:

The Skiers Qualifications Committee would like to make the following recommendation to rules to be effective for ski year 2020. There are 2 concepts that SQC is recommending based on its research to establish L10 ratings in S,T,J, and O for ski year 2020.

- a) Overall should be excluded from L10 in both open and masters. Rationale---The main concept of L10 is to assure competition within the event. i.e anyone running 41 off should not be skiing against someone running 28 off. But when you incorporate L10 into Overall it gets messy. Most skiers who are L9 or L10 in overall only have 1 event, maybe 2 events that they are also L9/L10 qualified in. This forces said skier to compete in some events in elite that they are not qualified for. Now I know we have recently fixed that but in the end overall overly complicates an already complicated L10 concept. But the other main issue is finding a good L10 score to use for overall. Now as we shift to more IWSF scores and try to combine M3/M4 to form an L10 overall ratings its not easy due to M4 jumping on different ramp speeds and heights. Yes NOPS can tie it all together but there are equivalent flaws to truly come up with a fair overall score for L10 and we therefore think it might be best to just leave overall out of L10 as we evolve this concept.
- b) L10 should not be mandatory for anyone in W5/M5 and up. Rationale-----When establishing L10 ratings for ski year 2020 some of the skiers that would be forced into L10 would be forced to ski at speeds and ramp heights that are no longer existent in their current division/event. Example Joy Kelly. Most of the complaints of L10 have also come from skiers aged 55 and up who think it is not fair to force them to compete against 35 years old. It is also interesting to note that American Barefoot Association, who recently moved to Ability based divisions, maintained age groups for 55 and up for many of the same reasons.

RULE BOOK CHANGES

C. Open Qualification:

1. A skier of any age shall be ELIGIBLE to compete in the Open Division in an event (or in Overall) if his ranking score in any reported division for that event equals or exceeds the Level 9 Cutoff ranking score for that event on any date within the current ski year.
2. Additionally, a skier age 18 or greater shall be REQUIRED to compete in the Open Division in an event (or in Overall) slalom, trick, or jump if his performance score(s) in any reported division for that

event equals or exceeds the Level 10 Cutoff rating score for that event by 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the first Thursday of July within the current ski year.

This rating score for each event will be established annually by the Skiers Qualification Committee. a. Junior Skiers (Boys 1-3 4 or Girls 1-3 4) are exempt from this mandatory requirement to compete in the Open Division. b. Skiers, age 35 or greater, who have an Open Level 10 ranking in an event (or in Overall) may elect to compete in that event in the Masters Division rather than in the Open Division.

D. Masters Qualification:

1. A skier age 35 or greater shall be ELIGIBLE to compete in the Masters Division in an event (or in Overall) if his ranking score in any reported division for that event equals or exceeds the Level 9 Cutoff ranking score for that event on any date within the current ski year.

2. Additionally, a skier age 35-54 or greater shall be REQUIRED to compete in the Masters Division in an event (or in Overall) Slalom, Trick, or Jump if his performance score(s) in any reported division for that event equals or exceeds the Level 10 Cutoff rating score for that event by 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the first Thursday of July within the current ski year. This rating score for each event will be established by the Skiers Qualification Committee.

The Rules Committee is in favor of the SQC proposal.

Rule Change requests which will be discussed at November meeting:

- 1) Match IWWF wording on gate vs turn buoy
- 2) How long to hold handle on tricks in toe strap
- 3) Kurt Mechler's wording regarding skiers being responsible for where they ski when skiing twice for overall.

Unfortunately, there is too much discussion regarding a grievance process which doesn't help our volunteer group of officials or committee members. Hopefully we are soon past that and can continue to enjoy and be proud of what we are doing to help our sport.

Towboat Report

No formal Towboat Committee report for summer meeting. Committee will meet at Nationals in West Palm Beach Florida. The 2020 boat test dates are TBD. If there are any questions, please let me know.