Minutes of the World Waterski Council Meeting held via TEAMS on September 2nd 2026

Present:

Candido Moz	CM	WWSC Chair
Bruce Coburn	BC	AAO WSC President
Glen Williams	GW	AAO Delegate
Geoffrey Kee	GK	AAO Delegate
Aristotelis Balais	AB	E&A Delegate
Morten Froulund	MF	E&A Delegate
Dana Garcia	DG	Pan Am WSC President
Larry Gisler	LG	Pan Am Delegate
Segio Font	SF	Pan Am Delegate
Martin Kolman	MK	Athletes Representative
Valentina Gonzales	VG	Athletes Representative
Archie Davis	AD	Athletes Representative
Will Bush	WB	Tech Committee Chairman

Agenda

1. C.J. report Over 35 Senior World
2. Boat situation for U-21 Worlds and Open Worlds
3. U-12 age division
4. World University Championships
5. Judges change during event
6. Tricks boat speed - Trick boat speed in middle of pass- allowing re-ride if the issue is mechanical/boat error (I have a proposal)
7. Re-evaluate the slalom buoy rule 8.08 a)
8. Adding BPMS rules for the gate
9. PreTurn Definition
10. Rope release

1. **C.J. REPORT OVER 35 SENIOR WORLD**
2. **BOAT SITUATION FOR U-21 WORLDS AND OPEN WORLDS**

The Chief Judge report of the Over 35 World Championships has been received and circulated. The following issues were identified:

a) **Lack of Judges and Judges/skiers**

The event did not have a sufficient number of appointed Judges. For this reason, the WSC authorised the use of several Competitors who also hold a Judge qualification. The shortage of Officials at these types of tournaments is primarily due to two factors: **travel costs not fully reimbursed** and the **extended duration of the event**, often exceeding one week. Many Officials choose not to apply because the financial burden is excessive.

The Committee agreed that this issue must be brought to the Executive Board, with the aim of identifying a sustainable solution to ensure adequate staffing at future titled events.

b) **Jump speed**

Despite all adjustments made on site, the boat was unable to reach the required Jump speed of **57 kph**. This represents a significant concern, especially in view of the upcoming **Under-21 and Open World Championships**. WB reported that on September 28 & 29, USA Water Ski will be testing a modified Malibu TXi which Malibu says should resolve the speed issue for Jump.

c) **Boat rooster tail**

In Tricks, the rooster-tail obstruction view of the ski remains problematic. While the height limitation of the camera was addressed in the April 26th Rules Addendum, there remains a problem for the release/pin person having a clear view of the ski during toe tricks. Malibu should be requested to produce a dedicated elevated seat in the boat for the release person. WB will discuss this matter with Malibu technicians and validate height during the testing session scheduled for late September.

The WSC requests that, during the boat homologation process, the issues related to Jump speed and the boat rooster tail in Tricks be thoroughly evaluated and that all manufacturers be required to implement the necessary corrections before homologation is confirmed.

Furthermore, the WSC recommends to the Executive Board that, in the future selection of boats for World Championships, it be verified that—although homologated—they fully meet the requirements of the current sport, ensuring performance standards appropriate for elite competition.

d) **Thecnical issue**

The report highlighted several operational and technical issues associated with running a World Championships simultaneously on two lakes, particularly regarding technical staffing, SurePath and DVR operation, video transmission and backup systems, communications, judging facilities, qualified officials, boat camera installations, Wi-Fi reliability and live results.

For future World Championships conducted on two lakes, the WSC considers that both competition sites must be fully and independently equipped, with adequate technical personnel, backup video systems, suitable communications, sufficient appointed officials and properly tested technology in place before the start of the event.

For future bids involving two-lake sites, the WSC will therefore require specific assurances and detailed provisions covering these matters to be included in the LAO.

e) **Virginie Sourty**

The WSC reviewed the circumstances reported concerning Virginie Sourty and the video published on her social media account following the 35+ Women's Tricks Final.

Based on the information provided, the WSC does not identify any defamatory, derogatory or disrespectful behaviour by the skier towards the Tournament Judges.

The video published by the skier was not recorded from the boat during her performance but was recorded subsequently from video footage being reviewed. Furthermore, the social media post did not contain comments insulting, denigrating or otherwise attacking the Judges or questioning their integrity.

The WSC therefore does not see sufficient grounds for disciplinary action against the skier, nor for preventing her from publishing or reposting the video concerned.

The WSC also considers that, where competition footage is being transmitted publicly through a live stream, it is in practice not possible to prevent athletes, team officials or members of the public from recording, sharing or commenting on such footage.

A distinction should therefore be made between the publication or discussion of competition footage and conduct which directly attacks, insults or improperly discredits appointed officials. In the present case, the WSC does not consider that Virginie Sourty's actions reached that threshold.

The WSC therefore considers the matter closed, with no further action required against the skier.

3. UNDER-12 AGE DIVISION RANKING

It has been noted that an unofficial **U-12 age division** is currently included in the Ranking List, as this category is used in **Europe and Australia**.

The WSC agreed to officially recognise this Ranking division. CM will provide the Overall Score Basis currently applied for this division, so that it can be formally incorporated into the IWWF Ranking List structure.

The Under-10, Under-12, and the specifications for the Over-65 age division (Overall and Overall Score Basis) will be removed from Rule 11 and incorporated under Rule 24, where all age-division-specific Overall criteria are consolidated.

4. WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIP

CM has received the following preliminary information: The event is expected to be held in Auburndale, Florida, in November 2027, as a multi-discipline World Championships, including Wakeboard and possibly Cable Wakeboard. A budget of US$ 5,000 has been allocated for Officials' travel expenses.

The WSC noted that, even with maximum use of local Officials and a streamlined panel, a World Championships requires worldwide Officials' representation. The Committee believes that the allocated budget is insufficient and that additional funding should be provided to ensure proper international representation.

DG will seek for additional information.

5. JUDGES CHANGES DURING EVENT

A concern was raised regarding changes to the appointed officials during specific events.
While the WSC considers that such changes should, whenever possible, be avoided, they cannot be ruled out in advance. Circumstances affecting individual officials, such as work commitments, illness or other unforeseen situations, may arise and should not prevent or unnecessarily delay the continuation of the competition.
Any replacement must, however, be made with an appropriately qualified official who is suitable for the position concerned.

6. TRICKS BOAT SPEED

The possibility of granting re-runs for incorrect boat speed during a Tricks pass was considered. In many boats, the speed is still adjusted manually by the driver under the direction of the pin man. The newer Nautique boats provide a dual-speed selection system; however, the speed change is so immediate that many skiers still prefer the traditional system, with the speed being changed manually by the driver.
Taking all of this into consideration, granting re-runs for incorrect speed would be extremely difficult to regulate consistently and could open the door to a wide range of situations and claims that would be very difficult to manage.

7. RE-EVALUATE THE SLALOM BUOY RULE 8.08 a)

There is still considerable inconsistency in the application and interpretation of Rule 8.08.
The following amendment is therefore proposed:

8.08: A Miss or "Riding Over"

a) Skier Turn Buoys. It is a miss for the skier to pass inside a turn buoy, or to ride over, straddle, or jump a turn buoy. There is no penalty for grazing a turn buoy with the ski or any part of the body. A turn buoy shall be judged at the instant the skier's front binding is in line with the buoy.

Grazing: If any portion of the buoy remains visible when the skier's front binding is in line with the buoy, any subsequent contact between the front binding and the buoy shall be judged as grazing and not as a ride over. Contact with a turn buoy that does not constitute a ride over shall be considered grazing and shall not result in a penalty.

Ride Over: A "ride over" occurs when contact with the skier, ski, or equipment causes the buoy to be significantly displaced from its normal position or temporarily submerged, except for contact with the front binding as described under Grazing.

b) Entrance & Exit Gates. It is a miss to ride outside the entrance or exit gate, but there is no penalty for grazing a gate buoy with the ski or part of the body. A skier shall be judged as missing the entry or exit gate when the centreline of the ski, at the position of the front binding, passes outside the centre of the gate buoy, as illustrated in the diagram below.

8. ADDING BPMS RULES FOR THE GATE

WB reported that, in order to properly monitor boat movements throughout the entire course, it would be necessary to include a tolerance also for the gates.

The WSC agreed to adopt, for the course gates, the same tolerance used for individual buoys:

- **25 cm for L class events**
- **20 cm for R class events**

WB will ask JT to implement this adjustment in the **SurePath software**.

9. PRE-TURN DEFINITION

The redefinition of the Pre-Turn was one of the primary objectives behind the establishment of the Tricks Committee. To date, however, no progress has been achieved — neither regarding the revision of the Toe Tricks point values, nor on any of the other assigned tasks.

The WSC noted that, if the Committee is unable to deliver the expected results, it would be preferable to disband or replace it.

MK stated that he has pushed hard and tried to organise the Committee as effectively as possible, but nothing has happened in the last four months.

DG and all the WSK thanked MK for his commitment.

CM asked MK to convene a meeting with the Tricks Committee in order to understand their intentions and determine how they plan to proceed.

In the meantime, Jake Abelson has submitted some specifications regarding the Preturn, which will need to be reviewed and handled by the Tricks Committee.

On September 10, MK organised a video call with the Tricks Committee. During the discussion, the members expressed the need to appoint a President who could dedicate sufficient time to the Committee's activities. This need did not arise from any shortcoming on SF's part, but from the requirement for greater availability.

The Committee proposed Bob Harris, an experienced L1 judge with a strong interest in Tricks and now retired, who would have the necessary time to serve as President of the Committee.

In a subsequent postal ballot, the WSC approved the appointment of Bob Harris, indicating as priorities the revision of Toe Tricks points and the definition of the Pre-turn.

The WSC also recommended keeping the Tricks Committee to a manageable size, while ensuring an appropriate balance of roles and Confederation representation.

10. ROPE RELEASE RULE

LG noted that there is still considerable misunderstanding regarding the correct use of the rope release, particularly concerning the meaning of the following provision:

Once the skier begins their run, after passing the approximate position of the entrance timing buoy (red buoy), the release person may not adjust or move the rope in any way to take up slack or allow extra length. He must hold it in one position or release it. Using the rope to intentionally aid the skier will subject the skier to disqualification.

In recent months, several situations have occurred that suggest the need for a clearer and more precise specification of the rule. LG will prepare a revised wording to be submitted for consideration.

11. AOB

1) ramp angle

VG reported that, after discussing the matter with FG and other technical experts, having the ramp opened at 2.5 degrees is considered dangerous for skiers. With such an open angle, skiers may believe they are correctly positioned for the cut, but this is only an optical impression: the wider ramp angle creates the illusion of being on time, while in reality they are late, often realising it only at the last moment—too late to refuse safely.

After the discussion, the WSC agreed that the previous recommendation of 1.8 degrees open will be reinstated in the Rulebook.

2) reason for "nc" in Tricks

This matter has already been discussed in the previous meeting.

There was consensus among the WSC members that the reason for the NC should be listed, and this matter needs to be discussed with Lion to determine whether such an implementation is technically feasible within the Waterski Scoring Software.

2) Entry deadline for individual participation at the U-21 worlds

BK: The U21 Worlds entry deadline, including payment, is 30 October. However, eligibility is based on the Ranking List as of 31 October, which will not be finalised until mid-November.

This creates a practical issue, as Federations are required to submit entries and make payment before knowing which skiers will have a confirmed qualifying ranking.

How should Federations enter ranked skiers whose eligibility cannot be confirmed by the entry deadline?

CM: As exceptions have already been made in similar circumstances, I propose that the entry and payment deadline will be postponed to 30 November, allowing Federations to confirm the eligibility of their ranked skiers before submitting their final entries.

WSC agreed

BK: Going forward, the WSC should review this issue whenever a World Championships entry deadline falls close to the publication or finalisation of the relevant Ranking List, so that ranked skiers are not required to pay an entry fee before their eligibility has been confirmed.

Meeting closed at 1:20 CET