

## USA Waterski East Region Follow Up Winter Meeting 2015

**When:** February 10, 2015 (Start at 7pm – 8.30pm)

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via webEx

Name	Representation	Attended
Pat Byrne	Director	Yes1
Hutch Haines	Director	Yes2
Jon Thacher	Director	Yes3
Tonya Maurer	Director, EVP & Council CT	Yes4
Bill Fosbenner	Council NJ	Yes5
Al Harris	Council VA	Yes6
Darlene McCormick	Council VT	Yes7
Brett Brandau	Council DE	Yes8
Dave Allen	Council MA	Yes9
Jean Giove	Council MD	Yes10
Dave Robbins	Council ME	
Bill Swaffield	Council NH	
John Paulovich	Council NJ	
George Vosburgh	Council NY	Yes11
Dean Rudy	Council NY	Yes12
John Davis	Council PA	Yes13
Gary Noll	Council PA	Yes14
Jeff Hardin	Council VA	Yes15
Sam Ingram	Council WA	
Roger Hammel	HND	
Doug Robbins	HND	
Jerry Stansberry	HND	Yes16
Steve Lohr	HND	
Bill Baker	HND	
Paul Allebach	HND	
Rick Norford	HND	
Marie Baker	Treasurer	
<b>Committee Members</b>		
Jennifer Kelly	Tournament Seeding	
Gary Noll	Rules Committee	Yes
Sara Lemley	Rules Committee	Yes17
Pat Byrne	Safety Committee	Yes
Dana Hinman	Skiers Rating	
Chip Shand	Technical Committee	
Doug Robbins	Towboat Committee	
John Davis	Regional Search/Site	Yes
John Harris	Waterways	
Darlene McCormick	Webmaster	Yes
Ralph Hall	International Activities	
Jon Thacher	International Activities	Yes
Tonya Maurer	Judges/Scorers Committee	Yes
Orly Berjarno	Jr Development	
Corey Vaughn	Jr Development	
Ann Lohr	Awards	

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**Membership Attendees:**


**Total Attended: 17**

**AGENDA & Notes, action items in Yellow/Red**

Key Topics
<p>1. Opening &amp; Call to Order <b>(5 min)</b> → <i>meeting started at 7.25 due to technical difficulties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Roll Call</li> <li>b. Agenda Review</li> </ul>
<p>2. Approve the P&amp;P changes <b>(30 min)</b> → <i>took 45 min to review</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Updated P&amp;P will be distributed with these notes</i></li> <li>b. <i>Council will have 5 days to respond with added changes, no response is acceptance then P&amp;P will be uploaded to the AWSAEAST.ORG website</i></li> </ul>
<p>3. Review topics from BOD mtgs @ HQ <b>(20 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sanctioning System – need feedback on what is working well and what needs to change. Any quick hit items? I'll need feedback by 2/28. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>ACTION:</b> <i>Tonya - Sending via separate email we ran out of time to discuss further</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Insurance Recommendation – next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>No update at this time</i></li> <li>ii. <b>ACTION:</b> <i>Tonya to send request for an update from Gordon Hall, Bob Mayhew and Jeff Smith.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Division 2 - very lively discussions - ultimately there is not a decision at this time. There is a taskforce working off line to bring forward options and a recommendation to the AWSA BOD by 2/28 at which time there will need to be a decision. There are several themes: a) allow anyone in LV8 to ski in div 1 or div 2 based on where they fall and allow anyone in LV7 to ski in div2; b) adjust the LV 8/7 requirements to gleam a smaller population of skiers in LV8, where as anyone that lands in LV7 would ski in div2 - but grandfather skiers that skied landed in LV8 in 2014 so that they can still ski in div1 if they want; c) leave as is and increase the entry fees to generate revenue. There are various spins on a-b-c and I'll work to get this group as much information as possible before 2/28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>Special Committee is on track to deliver options/recommendation to the AWSA BOD by 2/28.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>d. &lt;&lt;<b>NEW 2/10</b>&gt;&gt;The NMMA has sent the following for wide spread dissemination as they are trying to stop the ethanol mandate and protect our boat engines. Please alert your constituency groups as this affects all boat owners. Take Action: Contact Congress and Stop E15! Last week, a bipartisan group of Congress introduced legislation to reform the ethanol mandate and stop E15 from spreading across the country. The bill, HR 704, is championed by NMMA and a diverse coalition of stakeholder groups and has already received strong support in Washington—but it needs more to have a real impact. NMMA urges you to contact your local representative and ask him/her to co-sponsor HR 704 by taking less than two minutes to submit a pre-completed letter. With your help, the bill can move forward, stopping the continued spread of E15 across the US (now in 16 states and counting!). Click here and let your voice be heard in this important fight.</li> </ul> <p>4. Rules Committee – Timing for the updated rules? <b>(15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>No timing yet for the rules, likely within the next month.</i></li> <li>b. <i>Tonya asked if Gary/Sara would do a conference call for the East to outline the rule changes and bring awareness to the region before the season is in full swing.</i> <b>ACTION:</b> <i>Gary / Sara to discuss and get back to Tonya on timing.</i></li> <li>c. <b>**note this recommendation from the South</b> →Gary noted that one of the requests</li> </ul>

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from the east was to eliminate the calling in the times for slalom – the response from the rules committee that it is needed because the ability to accidentally gets into the recreational mode.

- d. Awareness - Rule proposal 2 (scores for elites should come from ELR tournaments)
  - i. Gene Levine contacted the directors
  - ii. Agenda topic for the summer meeting

- 5. Unfinished business from our winter meeting **(10 min) -> did not get to these topics**
  - a. Reminder that there will be a round table of those that have hosted regionals in the past to find out potential of hosting in the future & if not why
  - b. Outside of rules are there other recommendations we need to bring forward to the AWSA summer BOD mtg?
  - c. Next year – recommend that we host a conference call focused on the rules, then the winter meeting can be adjusted to focus on other topics that need time to discuss (i.e. think tank on membership drop). **ACTION** → 2/10 Per follow up email → Gary and Sara will discuss options.

- 6. Regionals **(10 min) → did not get to these topics**
  - a. Any new news to discuss?

- 7. Other topics?
  - a. Meeting ended at 9pm – ran late because we started late due to technical issues.

**Gary's response for P&P:**

P&P 3.16 Regional Towboat Selection. As per Rule 8.02 D the assignment will be made by the Chief Judge and the Chief Driver. I would suggest adding CJ to you proposal. → 2/10 P&P updated to include CJ and CD

3.1.5 3.

Obtain a tournament score from the National Ranking List 2 weeks prior to the start of the regional championship if it was lower than the value published in the regional guide book.

Shouldn't that read higher than the value published? → 2/10 P&P updated to stripe any reference of timing

**Roger's response for the P&P:**

3.1.5 Regional Entry - states that the performance requirements must be met 5 days prior to the tournament. I think this essentially eliminates the ability to qualify at a tournament the weekend prior to Regionals. Is that what we want? Say a youth were to ski well and qualify for Regionals on Sunday prior to Regionals. But that youth would then ski Regionals on following Thursday which tends to be heavy with Juniors. That is not 5 days. It seems to me we would want to allow skiers who skied well enough to qualify the weekend prior to Regionals to be able to ski in Regionals. Perhaps P&P should be worded that rather than stating a number of days, it allows scores obtained weekend prior to Regionals. I recognize that the short interval places stress on scorers and qualifications registrar, but considering our dwindling number of skiers at Regionals, we need everyone who can qualify to have a chance to ski. We are no longer having Regionals of 230 - 240+ skiers like we had in the mid to late 1990's. → 2/10 P&P updated to stripe any reference of timing

3.2.1 - It looks as though cross state tournament conflicts of equal class tournaments are not being dealt with except by statement toward last of paragraph

"With conflicting tournaments of equal class, those tournaments submitted earliest will generally have priority". Are we essentially punting responsibility for cross state coordination of tournament schedule and trying to work out a process whereby nearby states can work together? Maybe this is not so much an issue as in past years with our now reduced number of tournaments, but historically there have been some cases of schedule conflict. Again conflicts were mostly in 1990's in the days of 75+ tournaments / yr in East. → 2/10 P&P not updated, feel that the review or discussion at the winter meeting supports the resolution of conflicts.

3.3 Regional rules for tournaments. I think if this minimum set down time rule is eliminated without general discussion and the input of skiers, we are making a mistake. If modified, the rule needs a scalpel, not a meat cleaver. I see no evidence presented or other discussion that it is broken. If a tournament sponsor wants to lengthen the set down time, he/she is able to do this. But the 45 second set down insures a uniform attempt at giving skiers optimum water conditions. → P&P altered to focus on the 30 second knees to knees requirement, whereas the amount of time from exit gates to drop zone would be added into the ZO wait timer.

Background - As lakes got smaller, backwash sometimes became an issue, especially on repeated passes with no set down time. Some lake's tournament sponsors and some officials seemed to favor fastest run tournament, essentially no set down time, which was not always giving the skier the best conditions. Hence the establishment of a minimum set down time in Eastern Region. Originally the minimum set down time was established at like 30 seconds so that lake rollers would dissipate. Later that was lengthened to 45 seconds. There was widespread skier support for this. (Admittedly a parallel issue was conditioning and aging ski population who were finding it harder to get their wind between

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passes with no set down time.) Placing the set down time in the hands of tournament sponsor or officials without input from skiers to me is a serious mistake that will come back to bite us. I think we need to continue to give skiers the best conditions we can.

6.3.2 Funding .Jr Development clinic activities This has been the effective policy for years, except that the clinic did not have to be a multi day clinic. (Many/most were however). It may not have been documented except in meeting minutes. Does adopting this paragraph mean then that requests for jr devel funds for 2014 per this paragraph are denied or approved ? As it was the de facto policy, to me 2014 should be approved. → *P&P updated with more clarification*

Going forward, perhaps we need to add wording regarding coordination of funding from the region per this paragraph and from the Jr Devel committee - which is separate. but 2014 should be done on the policies in place during 2014. → *P&P updated with more clarification*

From Darlene:

3.1.2 second bullet: not an accurately phrased sentence, perhaps remove last 4 words. → P&P updated

3.1.6 Last sentence: scorer → P&P updated based on feedback above

3.1.8 The Alan Rossi award: VT → P&P updated

3.3.1 reword for spirit of 30 seconds min. → P&P updated