

**2008 AWSA Winter Board of Directors Meeting
Polk City, Florida
January 26, 2008**

1. Opening and Call to Order: Jeff Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m, welcomed everyone and thanked us for coming. He thanked the athletes for having such a good representation.

2. Introduction & Roll Call: Don Bucher VP/HND; West Directors - Barry Young/EVP, Laura Johnson (alternate for Merle Vasbinder), TC Boice, Carol Boice (alternate for Gaile Heieck); Midwest Directors - Jeff Surdej/EVP, Dean Chappell, Tom Danford, Jeff Smith/COB; South Directors - Jeff Clark (alternate for Carey Zimlich/EVP), Chris Eller, Lyman Hardy, Jim Jaquess; East Directors – Pat Byrne/EVP, Ed Nichols, Doug Robbins; South Central directors - Bob Mayhew/EVP, Jerry Bautsch, TC Caldwell, Ron Ives; AAC Reps - Rhoni Barton-Bischoff, Freddy Krueger, Lori Krueger, Karen Truelove; Janet Piercy, Secretary/HND; Jim Grew – President. Others in attendance: Dave Clark/HND, Tony Baggiano/HND, Hank Longo, George Lindy, Charlene Brown, Gene Davis/HND, Dick & Wilma Nock/HNDs, Sherm Schraft/HND and Steve Locke/Executive Director.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Agenda Review: Jeff Clark was duly appointed parliamentarian. **Action Item #1** – Tom Danford moved that all committee chairs be allowed to sit in the meeting. Jeff Clark seconded, motion passed. **Action Item #2** - Jeff Clark moved that all committee reports coming to the table already have a second. Pat Byrne seconded, motion carried.

4. Announcement of Quorum: There is a quorum with 18 members present increasing within 30 minutes to 24.

5. Review and Approval of the August Board Meeting Minutes: **Action Item # 3** - Jim Jaquess moved to accept with the correction of naming Roger Hammel as the outgoing director receiving the Board Certificate, not Doug Robbins. Pat Byrne seconded, motion carried.

6. Ratification of Mail Board Ballots: **Action Item #4** - Ratify email ballot, seconded and passed: Nationals awarded to WPB for 2008-09.

7. President's Report: Jim Grew thanked everyone and offered special recognition to Steve Locke and the staff. All regional recommendations need to be followed up by the EVPs to ensure the item(s) are completed. On National officials, everyone but the Western region has sent in their candidates with scorers still needed. **Action Item #5** - Pat Byrne moved to approve the 2008-2009 Committee Directory with the below two changes. Laura Johnson seconded, motion carried: Jody Seal has been added to Towboat (nonvoting-consultant) and Tom Mecham to Announcers, replacing Brad Hartwell. Jim asked the BOD to review for any corrections (phone numbers, addresses) and so inform Sandy Hardee. Jeff Smith thanked Jim for his continued excellent communication.

8. Executive Director's Report: Steve Locke said that it's been a privilege meeting everyone and being selected to his position. USA-WS has some budget challenges but has a plan to address them. He thanked Jim Grew and others for helping him get up to speed: He is still learning about the organization and looking forward to working with AWSA in the future. Steve has kept us informed with HQ weekly newsletters and plans to continue to do so.

9. Treasurer's Report (Tom Danford) - 2007 Year End Review: Our balance on 12/31/2007 was \$36,635. AWSA continues to struggle with funding teams. Jeff Clark asked about any Nationals entry fee assessment. This will be covered in the EC report. **2008 Proposed Budget Review:** The Treasurer's report was tabled until the end of day.

10. Executive Committee Report: A written report was included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew announced the \$10,000 grand prize winner of the AWSEF Raffle, Lynn Novakofski. Jim asked ALL committee chairs to forward the emails he sends to them out to their committee members. **Action Item #6 - Jeff Clark moved to table Item #2 until the Rules Co. presentation, seconded by Pat Byrne, motion carried.** Jim Jaquess asked to pull items #11 (guidelines for funding teams) and #13 (10% reduction in SD funding). **Action Item #7 - Executive Committee report approved subject to the items that have been pulled or tabled, motion carried.** Jim Jaquess wanted to address the funding of independents as Item #11 did not cover that issue. He was informed that it would be covered in the IAC report. **Action Item #8 - Approval of Item #11, motion carried.** Jim Grew gave an overview of Item #13. Basically, Steve Locke has asked that all of us to tighten our belts (page two of the EC report): All SDs will be treated equally with funding reduced by 10%. The proposal for funding the AWSA shortfall of close to \$6000 is: \$1000 (\$200 from each region), \$2000 from our SD funding and \$3000 from an increase in the Nationals entry fee (\$4 per skier). Each fall, the EC will determine how to make up for any shortfall over the prior year. **Action Item #9 - Approval on item 13, motion carried.**

11. National Championships

2008-09: The contract is under negotiation with WPB. Jeff Smith thanked the Nationals Task Force for working on updating and revising the contract. Jim Grew wanted to especially thank Carey Zimlich for chairing it and Carole Boice. It was a very much appreciated and successful group effort. At the January 09 winter meeting, AWSA will entertain bids on the 2010-11 Nationals.

12. Organization Reports

a. AAC (Freddy Krueger): The written report is included in the BOD packet with no board action items. Jim Grew asked for a third IAC AAC candidate.

Pan Am & IWSF (Jim Grew for Jeffrey Armstrong): The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jim added that the date for the FISU World Championships has been changed to October 1-5, 2008. Jim also informed the BOD that there is an IWSF athletes' commission. Each SD has one representative except Tournament (AWSA) with three for a commission total of eight of which USA-WS has three members: Bill Bowness (Disabled), Cathy Williams (Wakeboarding) and Marcus Brown (Tournament). It was also noted that a first ever coaching seminar

was held in Cuba hosted by the IWSF's two year old coaching development committee.

USOC (Rhoni Barton-Bischoff): The written report is included in the BOD packet. The USOC is looking at keeping athletes in the drug testing pool after they retire, which will affect our athletes. Rhoni said that she is concerned that athletes blog about the team's travel and practice schedules as it could become a safety issue. USA-WS athletes needed to be educated to this possibility. She will be sitting on a USOC Athlete Committee involved with the new media, Olympic TV channel project, giving USA-WS a voice. Jeff thanked Rhoni for her hard work.

13. Committee Reports

- a. **Awards :** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Sherm has had trouble with committee response.
- b. **Bylaws (Jeff Clark):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jeff Clark asked to have items 8 & 9 pulled for discussion. At the 2007 General Membership meeting, this committee was asked to look into the possibility of open attendance at AWSA Board of Directors meetings. This committee's recommendation is to keep our current system, although a live webcast is a possibility, an expensive and logistically complicated one. **Action Item #10 - Amendment to replace wording in P&P to "the committee will review the ranking levels every year" from "every two years". Bob Mayhew seconded, motion carried. Action Item #11 - Name change of "Skiers Rating" to "Skiers Qualification" and change of language from "ratings" to "rankings" in the committee description (section 11.9). Motion carried. Action Item #12 - The Midwest Region Draft 2.4 was approved, motion carried.**
- c. **International Activities (Jim Grew for Frank Harrison):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jim Jaquess asked to pull the 3rd bullet item from issue # 10 pertaining to independents' future self funding and team trials attendance. Jim Jaquess also said that AWSA needs to get the word out that Dave Hunter is contributing a lot of money to our teams and thank him for his support. **Action Item #13 - Motion to approve the rest of the IAC report. Motion carried.** Proposed amendment by Jim Jaquess is:
 - a) Independents will not be required to participate in team trials in order to ski in international events. As long as they meet the IWSF criteria and are in good standing with AWSA, they will be allowed to participate in the event by AWSA.
 - b) All independents that elect to participate in team trials will be provided entry fees and team clothing. Additional funding for those independents that participate in team trials but do not make the team will be provided IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.
 - c) Independents who do not elect to participate in team trials will not receive any funding from AWSA.

d) If you are selected to a team, then you will be expected to ski for the team. If a skier elects not to ski on the team, there will be no funding available for that skier, as if they had not competed in the team trials.

Jeff Clark seconded. Discussion followed. Rhoni clarified that HQ still sends in ALL U.S. entries including those for the independents, which should be clearly stated. Currently, independents do not have to attend team trials. Bob Mayhew was concerned that the BOD was acting as a committee as a whole. Jeff Smith said that the committee wanted the BOD to provide direction on this issue. Jim Grew added that there are two issues here: (1) Do independents need to attend team trials? (2) Do independents receive funding, a decision that has essentially already been made because of the budget cuts. A straw poll of the BOD showed no opposition to Jim J's recommendation. **Action Item #14 - This item was referred back to the IAC committee for the committee to bring a final proposal along the above lines back to the BOD for an email ballot within 45 days. Motion seconded and carried.**

- d. **Judges & Scorers (Jeff Smith):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. There are no action items. The annual Senior Clinic is scheduled for February 29-March 2nd in Indianapolis, IN. The South wanted information coming out of Senior Clinic disseminated to educate others not able to attend. The committee was also asked to look again at Open rated skiers under 18 being allowed to upgrade. It was noted that all clinic and testing video and written material needed upgrading.
- e. **Rules (Tom Danford):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Tom introduced Scott Snape as co-chair. Tom Danford asked to pull proposals 7 & 9, Jim Jaquess 6 & 15, Jeff Clark 3, 8 & 10 and Bob Mayhew 2. **Action Item #15 - Approval of the rest of the report. Motion carried.** Bob Mayhew rescinded the pull of proposal 2. **Action Item #16 - Approval of proposal 2, motion carried.** Jeff Clark (#3) is concerned that foreign and/or dual citizenship skiers are not being tracked. Tom said that the new wording clarifies the rule's intent. **Action Item #17 - Approval of proposal 3. Motion carried.** Jim Jaquess (#6- correction of scoring errors): Discussion ensued. It was agreed that the best way to catch errors is at the tournament itself; but, with some tournaments not posting results in a timely manner, some errors have been found later only upon the actual posting of scores on the ranking list come Tuesday morning. **Action Item #18 - Approval of proposal 6. Motion carried** (two opposed from the South). Jim Jaquess (#7): The South wants the speed control systems chosen to be the same at Regionals and Nationals with no choice. Tom pointed out that Rules and Towboat reached two different conclusions. **Action Item #19 - Doug Robbins moved to amend the chart to allow a skier to change systems and settings between slalom passes. Amendment failed** (4 in favor, 20 against). **Action Item #20 - Freddy Krueger moved to amend that each towboat manufacturer designate one approved speed control system per slalom/jump event per division for Regionals & Nationals on or before July 1. Jim Jaquess seconded.** Boat draws for Regional & Nationals may differ. The BOD will vote on a modified proposal 7 later after Tom Danford has written it out. **Action Item #21 - Jeff Clark moved to amend proposal 8 - Rule 8:10(h) so that the last allowable chip change matches that of the speed control system designation, i.e.,**

July 1st. Tom Danford seconded. Motion carried. **Action Item #22 - Approval of proposal 8 as amended. Motion carried.** Tom Danford (#9) initiated discussion. **Action Item #23 - Approval of proposal 9. Motion carried.** Jeff Clark (#10) was concerned with the removal of verbiage for the recording of boat times. Tom clarified that Rule 1.13 already covers this requirement in Class C and higher tournaments. **Action Item #24 - Approval of proposal 10. Motion carried** (3 opposed). **Action Item #25 - Jim Jaquess (#15) moved to eliminate references to officials' compensation in Rules (1:10 & 16.01(f)). TC Boice seconded.** Discussion. Motion carried. **Action Item #26 - Approve proposal 15 as amended. Motion carried.** **Action Item #27-** Tom Danford's written concept on proposal 7 is as follows: **"For the slalom and jump events at the 2008 Regionals and Nationals, eligible towboat manufacturers will be required to designate on or by July 1, 2008 a speed control system to be used per event in each division in their allotted events (as selected in the official boat draw); and boat draws may differ for Regionals and Nationals."** Proposal 7 carried as amended (2 opposed). **Action Item #28** - Although Item #16 (Rule 10.03 - A Miss) did not pass the committee, Tom asked that the entire BOD consider it as this issue is sent back to Rules every year. **Tom Danford moved to adopt the gate calls according to IWSF Rules. Jim Jaquess seconded. Motion carried** (3 opposed). Jim Jaquess asked that we send item #6 (Masters Men Jump Division) that did not pass the committee back for another look.

- f. **Towboat/Speed Control (George Lindy/Will Bush):** The written report is included in the BOD Packet. **Action Item #29 - Approval for the Power & Acceleration revision in the towboat manual and report as written - motion carried.**
- g. **Technical (Gene Davis):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Gene added that a 6.8 meters (22' 3.75") ramp length out of water is recommended. **Action Item #30 - Change to Rule 9.16(c)4 - motion carried.**
- h. **Coaches Advisory (Jim Grew): No report.**
- i. **Junior Development (Charlene Brown):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. There are no action items. Charlene thanked retiring chair Debbie Lamb for her many years of dedication. The committee is still looking for a volunteer to shoot video for the junior awards ceremony at Nationals. She thanked the many donors for their contributions and volunteers for their fund raising efforts.
- j. **Safety (Pat Byrne for Jim Babcock):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. He noted that our safety statistics have improved from .17% injury relative to the number of ski rides in 2006 to .15% this past year. **Action Item #31 - State Safety directors should be required to chief at least one tournament in a two year period.** Discussion took place, including the fact that many state directors just want to be helpers, not Chiefs. **Motion failed.** .

Jim Grew reminded the BOD that, if a tournament does not turn in a safety report, the club will not get approval for the next year's event. For the first time ever, 100% of safety reports were turned in for 2007.

Mike Smith with Global Marine presented information on Global Marine's marketing. There are currently 1712 policies in force. There were 550 new policies in 2007 (down from 2006). The goal in 2008 is to write 1000 new policies. Staff has been hired to go to boat dealers in the Southeast and Midwest. USA-WS' loss ratio is in the 30% range, considered good. The insurance company's name has now been changed from Ace-Inamar to Ace-USA. It was suggested to give Mike a list of clubs that have not renewed. Cass Korb is the one to call about club insurance.

- k. Seeding (Laura Johnson):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. **Action Item #32 - Approve doubling of E, L or R score values. Motion carried** (4 opposed). Dave Clark and Mark Crone were thanked and applauded for their many hours of work.
- l. Skiers' Qualifications (Jeff Surdej):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. **Action Item #33 - Approve Committee report (which entails passage of the proposal on penalties). Motion carried.** He would like feedback from the BOD on when and how often to adjust Nationals qualifications/rankings and is waiting to see how it all plays out this year at Nationals.
- m. Boat Drivers (Jerry Bautsch):** The written report is included in BOD packet. **Action Report #34 – Action items (Ralph Armstrong as emeritus and minor policy manual changes) as presented - motion carried.**

After the Boat Drivers report, discussion followed on what Skiers Qualification and Seeding proposed on the weighting/penalty issue. After looking at what the BOD approved, it was determined that all the proposals did not work together well and that the BOD needed to re-address them after a break. **Action Item #35 - Bob Mayhew moved to bring the issue back on the floor for further discussion. Seconded by Jim Jaquess, motion carried.** It was suggested that the BOD follow the "do-no-harm" approach suggested by the Rules Committee. **Action Item #36 - Bob Mayhew moved to rescind the Qualification/Seeding proposals approved earlier and have Jim Grew appoint a special committee to study the issue in depth, reporting back to BOD with a specific proposal at its summer meeting. Doug Robbins seconded. Discussion took place. Motion failed** (15 opposed). **Action Item #37 - Bob Mayhew moved to form a special committee to study the data from Rules/Skiers Qualification/Seeding on these issues and come back to the BOD at the August meeting with a proposal. Barry Young seconded, motion carried. Action Item #38 - Jeff Smith moved to reopen discussion on the two proposals from Skiers Qualification and Seeding. Bob Mayhew seconded, motion carried.** Dave Clark affirmed that a study was needed to see how the implementation of these two proposals would interact. The BOD felt that it should go with one or the other but not both at this time. **Action Item #39 - Rescind both**

proposals by Skiers Qualification & Seeding. Seconded by Bob Mayhew, motion carried. A straw-vote was taken: Four were in favor of the Seeding proposal (doubling scores) and 19 favored the Skiers Qualification proposal (penalties). **Action Item #40 - Carol Boice moved to adopt the Skiers Qualifications proposal and study Seeding's, reporting back to the BOD. TC Boice seconded, motion carried (1 opposed).**

- n. **Cable (Sherm Schraft):** The written report is included in the BOD packet.
- o. **NSL (Don Bucher):** The written report was included in the BOD packet. **Action Item #41 - Tom Danford moved to approve the Qualifications Committee report's verbiage re the inclusion of N & L scores on the ranking list. Seconded by Jeff Surdej. Action Item #42 - Friendly amendment by Dave Clark with change underlined: "Scores for inclusion in the ranking list achieved in a Class F or N event shall also be included, however, such scores will be limited to no more than the previous ski year's level 5 COA score value. Motion carried as amended.**
- p. **Announcers (Hank Longo):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. A list of announcers is now on record at HQ. Hank is excited that the numbers are growing. Jeff Smith thanked Hank for his hard work and for the progress this committee has made.

15. Regional Recommendations

East: All **officials' committees** involved and **HQ** should make it a priority to update all video and written training, testing and clinic materials for officials.

Midwest & West: None

South:

1. **Rules:** Look at lowering the number of appointed judges required on site at one time to five per day, one per region, and rotate the judges in this group on a daily basis at the National Championships.
2. **EC:** Establish a task force to improve the quality of the Nationals Championships including the qualification standards.
3. **Tech:** Address the issue of who is eligible to set National records and how holding dual citizenship plays into that equation.

South Central:

1. **HQ:** Update the officials' directory online to make it and keep it current.
2. **HQ:** Look into renewing members automatically by credit card.
3. **HQ:** Look into reducing the costs of membership.
4. **Judges & Scorers:** Look into fast tracking provisions for scorers.

16. **Any Other Business: Action Item #43 - Motion to approve budget item out of Executive Committee Report increasing Nationals single event entry fee by \$5. Motion carried. Action Item #44 - Motion to approve proposed budget. Motion carried.**

17. **Adjourn: Action Item #45 - Motion to adjourn by Jeff Clark, seconded by Dean Chappell, motion carried. Adjourned at 3:05 PM.**