Are you good enough?

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This question is, I'm sure, in many barefooter's minds, and it may or probably has stopped a footer or two from competing in their first event. Being one of those persons at one point in my life, I can tell you that your ability alone should not affect your decision to compete. This question is, I'm sure, in many barefooter's minds, and it may or probably has stopped a footer or two from competing in their first event. Being one of those persons at one point in my life, I can tell you that your ability alone should not affect your decision to compete. I come from a show-ski background (22 years), but Barefooting has always been my first love. I remember watching the local show team practice and thinking to myself “If I could just learn to barefoot, I'd join" Well, at the tender age of 13, I did just that. Now, show-skiing was fun, but in the back of my mind, I'd always wanted to ski a barefoot tournament. However, I thought I needed to get better first. I'd think that if I just learned a toehold, or a tumbleturn, I'd do it. Then I'd think that I needed to learn surface turns before competing. But even after learning those, I still didn't feel I was good enough and that ultimately, I would get embarrassed. It wasn't until my 34th birthday, that I decided to finally make the move and give it a try. What I found was a community of skiers that didn't care about my ability at all, and just welcomed me wholeheartedly.... They have become my second family, indeed. The camaraderie andFriendships are unparalleled in my life experiences. I've met people from all walks of life. I've met doctors, lawyers, bankers, carpenters, plumbers, business owners, moms and dads, kids, etc., etc... The list goes on and on. Also, I found that skiers, no matter what their level, were willing to share their experiences, and give tips, even if those very pointers aided me in competition, against them. Ultimately, I found that the barefoot community and its friendships are what matters - the skiing is a bonus! Barefoot tournaments aren't just about showing up and skiing, if you are looking for more. Like show- skiing, there are many ways to get involved. We are always looking for assistance in our events. We need drivers, judges, scorers, pick - up boat drivers, videographers, timers, and so-on. Parents are welcome to join in. In fact, it's encouraged. No experience is necessary. So, footers, bring your family. Make an event out of it. Pitch a tent, get involved - I guarantee that, if you do, you will not regret it. Also, we have programs in place to accommodate the 1st time skier. Some tournaments have boom divisions, and, as always, 1st timers can ski in the novice division. Some events also offer free entry if you've never skied a tournament. I guess, in summary, what I'm saying is “Don’t procrastinate". If you think you want to ski a tournament, do it! Don't wait 20 years, like I did, to find out what a rewarding experience 3-event Barefooting can provide - Truly, some of the nicest people you will ever meet. SincerelyKen Kaestner