



2026

RULEBOOK



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Rule 1. General Rules

USA 101) Amendments to the Rules

The American Barefoot Club (ABC) Rules may be amended at any time by a 2/3rds majority of the ABC Board of Directors (ABC BOD).

USA 102) Application

These Rules govern Barefoot Water-Ski Tournaments held in the United States and supplements the Barefoot Water-Ski Technical Rules ("WBC Rules").

USA 103) Definitions

- A. A "Closed" tournament is one which limits entry.
- B. "Division" means the group of skiers that a skier competes against. Divisions are described in Rule 105.
- C. "Event" means a particular contest in a Tournament competition. For purposes of traditional (Class RC, RL and C) Barefoot Water-ski Tournaments, the Events are Jump, Slalom and Tricks for each Division.
- D. "Juniors" means skiers aged 16 and younger at the beginning of the calendar year.
- E. Unless the context indicates otherwise, "Open" includes both the Open and Open Pro Divisions.
- F. "Organizers" are the people who organize and put on a tournament.
- G. "Event Rating" refers, for each Event, to the result after applying a skier's best performance score in that Event, within the applicable Ski Year and the two prior Ski Years, as applied to the chart found in USA 105 A.
- H. "Overall Rating" means the Division where the skier competes as determined by USA 106.
- I. "Record" is the highest score ever by any skier, within a Record Category at an RC tournament, that has been recognized pursuant to USA Rule 3.
- J. "Record Category" means groupings of skiers for Record purposes as described in USA 301.
- K. "Seniors" means skiers aged 60 and older at the beginning of the calendar year. This is separate from the Senior Division, which is a specific U.S. Age-based Division defined in USA 105.
- L. The "Ski Year" shall be the same as the calendar year.

USA 104) Skier Qualifications

Skiers must be an active member in USA Water Ski & Wakeboard Sports, Inc. (“USA-WSWS”).

USA 105) Divisions of Competition

- A. The Divisions of Competition for any Regional or National Tournament shall be as follows. Divisions determined by scores are “Ability-based.” Divisions determined by age are “Age-based.”

Female Divisions				
Division	Age	Slalom Scores	Tricks Scores	Jump Scores
Open Women	All Ages	≥ 10	≥ 1600	≥ 10.5
Girls B	0 to 12	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Girls A	13 to 16	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Women B	≥ 17	< 6	0 to 799	
Women A	≥ 17	6.00 to 9.99	800 to 1599	< 10.5
Master Women	60 to 64	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Senior Women	65 to 69	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Veteran Women	70 to 74	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Super Vet Women	≥ 75	< 10	< 1600	< 10.5
Male Divisions				
Division	Age	Slalom Scores	Tricks Scores	Jump Scores
Open Men	All ages	14.00 to 15.99	3000 to 4499	15.0 to 19.9
Open Pro Men	All ages	≥ 16	≥ 4500	≥ 20
Boys B	0 to 12	< 14	< 3000	< 15
Boys A	13 to 16	< 14	< 3000	< 15
Men C	≥ 17	< 6	0 to 799	
Men B	≥ 17	6.00 to 9.99	800 to 1599	< 10.5
Men A	≥ 17	10.00 to 13.99	1600 to 2999	10.5 to 14.9
Master Men	60 to 64	< 14	< 3000	< 15
Senior Men	65 to 69	< 14	< 3000	< 15
Veteran Men	70 to 74	< 14	< 3000	< 15
Super Vet Men	≥ 75	< 14	< 3000	< 15

- B. Determining Age. The competitor’s age at midnight on December 31st of the year preceding an Event.

USA 106) ABC Ratings

- A. Any Event Rating shall be effective immediately upon completion of the tournament where achieved. Any Event Rating will be valid for the remainder of the current ski year plus two additional ski years. Any Event Rating not so maintained will lapse.
- B. A skier shall have only one Overall Rating and compete in only one Division.
- C. The Skier's Overall Rating and Division of Competition shall be determined as follows:
 - 1) For any skier not skiing in an Age-based Division the skier's Overall Rating shall be the same as the skier's highest Event Rating.
 - 2) Any Senior may elect to ski in that skier's age division or in the ability-based Division for which that skier qualifies pursuant to Rule 105 .A Senior who qualifies for Open or Open Pro must ski in the Open or Open Pro Division as the case may be.
 - 3) A Junior must ski in the Junior Division unless that skier qualifies for Open or Open Pro in which case such skier must ski in the Open or Open Pro Division as the case may be.
- D. A skier must make the election referenced in this USA 106 when registering for the tournament.
- E. Open Ratings are achieved by performing an Open score once at an RC tournament or twice at RL tournaments and are effective immediately upon completion of the tournament where achieved.
- F. If a skier's Overall Rating lapses the skier may choose to compete:
 - 1. In the highest Division in which the skier previously competed; or
 - 2. In the skier's current appropriate Division based on USA 105 and 106C.

USA 107) ABC Divisions

- A. Except for Juniors and Seniors, Divisions of Competition shall be determined by a skier's Event Rating. Skiers must compete in the appropriate Division except when Divisions are not scheduled.
- B. The Chief Judge may combine Divisions by assigning skiers who are in an incomplete Division to a Division which most nearly matches the skier's Event Rating. Divisions shall not be combined for purposes of medal placement at Regional and National tournaments.

C. Divisions may be grouped to ski together for the purposes of efficiency.

D. Open Division Eligibility

1. Open Division entry in an Event is mandatory for each skier who holds a valid Open Rating in that Event.
2. Open Division skiers shall ski in accordance with IWWF Rules for RC, RL Tournaments and Record purposes.

E. Entry Level Division

1. Repeat tricks are allowed one time with a 50%-point reduction for the trick. Reverses must immediately follow the basic. A repeated reverse also scores 50%.
2. Boom skiing is permitted: Scoring for boom skiing shall be:
 - a) directly on the boom: 25% credit
 - b) on the 5-foot extension: 50% credit.
3. Scores performed in Entry-level competitions are not eligible for a Rating for any other purpose.
4. Entry level skiers may not jump.
5. A skier who falls before entering the course will be allowed an optional re-ride for that pass.
6. Skiers who have not surpassed the Entry Level Division maximum scores during the previous two ski years and the current ski year may ski in Entry Level. Once a skier exceeds the maximum Entry Level score that skier must ski in his/her respective Division, unless that maximum score was exceeded while skiing on the boom. Scores exceeding the maximum Entry Level Scores shall be valid for Entry Level Division placements and trophies in that tournament.
7. An Entry Level Competition should have separate men's and women's Divisions.
8. The maximum rating score for Entry Level skiers is 2.3 points in Slalom and 250 points in Tricks.
9. Entry Level scores are not eligible for Standings Lists.
10. The Organizers may have an Entry Level Division in any class of tournament defined in Rule 2.

USA 108) [ENTIRE RULE DELETED]

USA 109) Adaptive Performance.

Should any skier with a physical impairment desire adaptation of these Rules to allow such skier to participate in any such tournament such skier should request such adaptation in writing to the President of the ABC (or individual designated for that

purpose), with a copy to the Chair of the Rules Committee, for any such desired adaptation providing as much detail as possible regarding what adaptations are requested and how such adaptations will foster full participation by such skier. The Rules Committee will consider such request and make a recommendation for consideration by the Board. The Rules Committee is also authorized to make a recommendation as to adaptive performance for any skier in appropriate circumstances without such skier's request.

Rule 2. ABC Tournaments Rules

USA 201) Tournament Classification

There are 4 classifications of tournaments:

RC: Record Capable

RL: Rankings List but not RC

C: Tournaments that are not RC, RL or alternative format

Alternative Format Tournaments [Class X or F] see Addendum A

USA 202) RC and RL Tournaments

RC and RL tournaments shall follow the technical requirements of the WBC Rules and Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines of the World Barefoot Council.

USA 203) Class "C" Tournaments

It is recommended that Class C tournaments have at least Level 4 officials. A USA-WSWS qualified Safety Director is required. Compliance with the technical requirements of the WBC Rules, particularly regarding Events, is recommended but not required.

USA 204) Safety Director

An USA-WSWS trained Safety Director shall be appointed for each ABC sanctioned tournament.

USA 205) The content of Rule 205 was moved to Rule 107

USA 206) "Closed Tournaments"

Tournaments may have closed registration. For RC and RL tournaments with closed registration, a minimum of two Appointed Judges shall be from outside the region in which the tournament is held.

USA 207) Towboats

- A. Speed Requirements - USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboat minimum top speeds must be obtained with a crew of five officials and towing a 175-pound barefoot skier and engine trimmed as tested.

1. At elevations $\leq 3,000$ feet above sea level USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboats are required to achieve minimum top speed of 45 M.P.H.
2. At elevations $\geq 3,000$ feet above sea level USAWS/ABC tournament approved towboats are required to achieve minimum top speed of 43 M.P.H.

B Non-Open Divisions shall have their choice of towboat make for the Slalom and Trick Events from ABC eligible towboats made available at the tournament.

USA 208) Accidents

Accidents with a towboat should be reported to, and investigated under, the direction of the Chief Judge.

USA 209) Ramp Inspection

The Jump ramp shall be immediately inspected if any part of the skier's body other than the feet strikes the ramp.

USA 210) Scheduling

The ABC National Tournament will normally be held annually during the month of August, unless the ABC Board of Directors determines otherwise. The ABC Regional Tournaments shall be held annually, prior to the Nationals.

USA 211) Divisions Scheduled

- A. National and Regional Tournaments must schedule all Divisions except Entry Level.
- B. For other tournaments the Organizers may determine what Divisions to schedule.

USA 212) Schedule of Events

A. Nationals

The Nationals schedule of events shall be completed by the Chief Judge with input from the Organizers. After ABC Board approval, the schedule shall be submitted to USA-WSWS for publication in the July Water Skier Magazine.

B. Other tournaments

The schedule may be published or may be distributed or posted at the Event.

USA 213) Ties-Towboat

Barring towboat malfunction, tie runoffs shall use the same towboat used in the applicable Event.

USA 214) ABC Regional Tournaments

- A. To place in a United States Region, a skier must be a United States citizen, or be declared a permanent resident of the United States. If the skier does not have a United States passport, he must prove residence in the USA for at least 5 years and current membership in the ABC. The skier must not have represented another Federation in a World or Region titled Event in the past 24 months, unless the former Federation agreed to the transfer, in which case the period of 24 months is reduced to 12 months.
- B. A skier's Region shall be the Region where more than half of his or her practice and competition is accomplished during the 10 weeks prior to the Regional Tournament. If more than half of the barefoot skiing is not done in any single region, he or she shall compete in the Region in which the most barefoot skiing has been done. If a skier is in doubt about the qualified Region, such skier shall present all the facts to the Executive Regional Director ("ERD") of the skier's legal residence, and that ERD's decision shall be final. Such ERD shall, if applicable, provide written authorization for competition as a nonresident, and notification to the appropriate ERD.

USA 215) ABC National Tournament Competition

- A. Skiers must be United States citizens, or be declared a permanent residents of the United States. If the skier does not have a United States passport, he must prove residence in the USA for at least 5 years and current membership in the ABC. The skier must not have represented another Federation in a World or Region titled Event in the past 24 months, unless the former Federation agreed to the transfer, in which case the period of 24 months is reduced to 12 months.
- B. Skiers must compete in their own Regional Tournament the same year as the Nationals, in each corresponding Event as entered in the Nationals, except by waiver by the ERD for reason of sickness of the skier or in the immediate family, or for other good and sufficient cause.
- C. Skiers who do not qualify under rule 215 A (non-U.S. skiers) shall compete in separate International Divisions.
- D. National Tournament entries should be received by Local Organizing Committee by midnight, 14 days prior to the start of the Nationals. Late entries shall be accepted, with an additional entry fee of \$10.00 per 24-hour period, or portion thereof, after the deadline, unless such other fee is determined by the Organizers,

subject to approval by the ABC Board of Directors. The entry fee must accompany the entry form.

USA 216) National Tournament - Advancement to Second Round

A. Non-open skiers

There will normally be one round of skiing only for all but Open skiers, subject to modification by the Organizers. The Organizers may choose to have more than one round of skiing for other Divisions, in which case the Rule 216 B shall apply.

B. Open Division skiers

1. The number of Open & Open Pro Division skiers advancing to the second round will be cut in half with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12. To advance into the second round a skier must post a positive score in the first round.
2. If there is an odd number of skiers posting a positive score in the first round, the number of skiers who advance to the second round will be rounded up to the next whole number.
3. In the case of a tie for the last position all skiers with that score will advance.
4. The first round of the corresponding Division event will be eliminated at tournaments with four or fewer skiers in that Division event.
5. For each Division Event, Event medals will be awarded based on the results of the last completed round for an that Event.

USA 217) World Participation

Individuals must participate in all US Barefoot Nationals ("Nationals") in the 18 months prior to the World Championships to be eligible to participate in the World Championship. An exception maybe granted by ABC Board of Directors, for death of immediate family, pregnancy or injury. The ABC Board may grant exemptions for any appropriate reason with a 2/3 majority (8 votes). Although individuals should compete at Nationals whenever possible, an individual may "participate" in Nationals without being present or competing. Any individual who is not able to be present or compete at Nationals should make arrangements with the ABC Board of Directors to participate in some other manner.

USA 218) RC and RL Tournaments

RL and RC tournaments shall adhere to WBC Rules with the following administrative exceptions:

- A. To the extent inconsistent with USA ABC Rules.
- B. Familiarization at the tournament site may or may not be available.
- C. A team representative is not required.

- D. Protest procedures and inquiries shall be determined according to USA ABC Rules and WBC Rules or as determined by the Chief Judge.
1. A protest fee is not required.
 2. Skiers shall use the protest form attached as Addendum B

Rule 3. ABC Records

USA 301) Record Recognition

ABC shall recognize Records as follows:

- A. IWWF World and Region Records as specified in the IWWF Rules.
- B. ABC U.S. National Records shall be maintained for each Record category listed below achieved in Record Capability (RC) tournaments as specified in Rule USA 202, for skiers who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and be Skiing for the US Federation at the time of the Record setting performance.

Record Categories :

Boys 1/Girls 1 9 years and under
Boys 2/Girls 2 10-12 years inclusive
Boys 3/Girls 3 13-16 years inclusive
Men 1/Women 1 17-24 years inclusive
Men 2/Women 2 25-34 years inclusive
Men 3/Women 3 35-44 years inclusive
Men 4/Women 4 45-52 years inclusive
Men 5/Women 5 53-59 years inclusive
Men 6/Women 6 60-64 years inclusive
Men 7/Women 7 65-69 years inclusive
Men 8/Women 8 70-74 years inclusive
Men 9/Women 9 75-79 years inclusive
Men 10/Women 10 80 and over
Open Men/Open Pro/Open Women

USA 302) Verification

Verification of U.S. Records shall be based on the "World dossier form", with accompanying video of the passes constituting the Record in Slalom or Tricks. When application is made for both a World Record and a U.S. National Record for the same performance, the U.S. Record shall be recognized as follows:

- A. If a World Record score is verified as submitted, the U.S. Record shall be valid as submitted.

- B. If a World Record score is downgraded, the lower score shall be valid for a U.S. Record, if still applicable.
- C. If the World Record application is rejected completely, the U.S. Record application shall also be rejected.

USA 303) Record Maintenance

A master list of U.S. Records shall be maintained by the ABC Records Committee annually for each calendar year including the date of the achievement of each Record in each Division.

USA 304) Division Records

- A. National Records shall be the top score set within a Record Category for that Event. One Record shall be listed for each Record Category. Only scores from RC tournaments will be eligible for recognition as a Record.

USA 305) Record Capable ("RC") Tournaments

ABC National Records may be accomplished at any RC tournament (U.S. or international), sanctioned by the IWWF or its affiliates.

USA 306) Record Submission

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the skier to cause the following items to be submitted to the ABC record committee within 14 days after the pending record score is achieved:
 - B. Signed and completed record dossier;
 - C. Video of the record performance for Slalom and Tricks;
 - D. Scores sheet written and signed by the judges;
 - E. Video jump setup drawing, computer setup file and image from the jump program of the skier's jump landing point.

Rule 4. Towboats

USA 401) TOWBOAT REQUIREMENT

- A. ABC eligible towboats at RC and RL tournaments are determined according to the requirements established by the WBC.
- B. Towboats at other tournaments may be selected by the Organizers on any reasonable basis.

USA 402) NUMBER OF TOWBOATS

For the ABC Nationals, there shall be one qualified boat available for use per lake plus one additional qualified towboat. At all other tournaments, there shall be at least one qualified towboat.

USA 403) TOWBOAT AVAILABILITY

Any towboat that is to be used in the tournament shall remain available until the end of the tournament unless released by the Chief Judge for earlier departure. Once a towboat has been received, inspected, approved and calibrated for that tournament, it may not be used except for regularly scheduled Events in that tournament. Joyriding or being used as a utility boat will require re-inspection and calibration.

USA 404) CORRECTION FOR SUBSTANDARD PERFORMANCE

If a towboat is observed to have substandard performance at a tournament, the Chief Driver may elect to stop usage of the towboat in question until the cause of the problem is determined and corrected.

Rule 5. ABC Teams

USA 501) Team Composition

The U.S. Open Barefoot Team and the U.S. Junior Barefoot Team, including reserves (collectively referred to hereafter as “Team Members”), for any event that requires team selection, shall be selected by the ABC Team Selection Committee (“Committee”) and ratified by the ABC Board of Directors (“Board”) using the following process:

1. The Committee shall first present a pool of potential Team Members to the Board for approval. The Board may question members of the pool at its discretion prior to approval and return any concerns and additional names to the Committee.
2. Once the pool approval occurs, the Committee shall select the Team Members from the approved pool without further input from the Board.

A. Any skier wanting to be considered for membership on the U.S. Open Barefoot team must qualify for, and ski in, the Open Division in at least one event during the ski year prior to that in which the World Tournament is to occur.

B. A Team Manager and Team Coach shall be recommended by the Committee and approved by the Board.

C. Following selection and ratification of Team Members, any replacements for Team Members who are unable or unwilling to compete shall be made by unanimous approval of the Team Coach, and Team Manager. If the Team Coach and Team Manager do not agree, then the ABC President will break the tie.

ADDENDUM A

Endurance & Figure 8 Rule Addendum

A) SANCTIONING AND OFFICIALS

1. Endurance tournaments shall be sanctioned by the USA-WSWS as Class F tournaments for non-cash-prize Events. Cash prize Events shall be sanctioned as a Class X (Experimental format) tournament under the USA-WSWS/ABC sanctioning process.
2. All skiers, officials, and support personnel shall be USA-WSWS insured members for Class X and Class F tournaments.
3. Both Class F and Class X tournaments require a USA-WSWS rated Driver. The Chief Judge shall be a minimum of Level 3 judge for a Class X tournament. Class F tournaments may use any competent Chief Judge as determined by the Organizers.
4. All USA-WSWS-ABC safety rules will be enforced by an USA-WSWS-rated Safety Director.

B) COMPETITION

1. Organizers shall determine, or delegate the chief judge to determine, divisions of competition, the criteria for these divisions (e.g., sex, age, performance, or other factors) and all other tournament rules at their discretion, such as:
 - a. The number of competition rounds.
 - b. The order of contestants.
 - c. The shape and size of the tournament course (in conjunction and the Safety Director).
 - d. The criteria for awarding and administering any re-rides.
 - e. The process for timing of tournament runs and when timing starts and stops.
 - f. Use of head-to-head competition, including whether to have more than one skier behind the boat simultaneously.
 - g. The method of determining the winner (examples may include, highest aggregate times from all rounds; the skier with highest total time from a single round; or the winner of head-to-head competition).
 - h. Whether skis, kneeboards or other devices may be used for the start.
2. All rules will be announced prior to the commencement of the tournament.

3. It is recommended but not required that organizers use USA-WSWS approved towlines, handles and towboats (including applicable safety boats) for class F tournaments. These items are required for Class X tournaments.

C) SAFETY

1. The Safety Director may at any time take whatever actions necessary to correct an unsafe condition, including temporarily stopping the tournament. The Chief Judge may overrule the Safety Director's actions or decisions, but only on his/her responsibility.
2. Either a neoprene wet suit with an incorporated PFD or neoprene wet suit pants and a Coast Guard approved PFD must be worn during the Event. A dry suit that depends on contained air for flotation or any inflatable device does not comply. The Safety Director shall have the final decision, ordering a practical test in the water if necessary.
3. Failure of a skier to comply with tournament rules and safety requirements may result in immediate disqualification from the Event. At any time during the competition the Safety Director may request the Chief Judge to stop the Event for safety reasons. The Safety Director and the Chief Judge may disqualify a skier if they determine that the skier's competing would be a danger to him/herself or to other skiers.
4. The Safety Director, in consultation with the Chief Driver and Chief Judge will determine the process for picking up fallen skiers and start devices.
5. Tournament Organizers, in conjunction with the Chief Judge and the Safety Director, may limit the top speed for the competition.



Official Protest Form

TO: The Competitor

FROM: The Chief Judge of the Tournament

Instructions: Please read the appropriate section of the rule book before completing this form. Be sure you are filing a protest and not requesting a re-ride. Note that a protest is never allowed in a judgment decision and that you must identify the rule or rules that were violated. Once completed and signed, return this form to the Chief Judge for action **with \$10.00.**

Tournament Name _____ Sanction Number _____

Tournament Location _____ Tournament Date(s) _____

Contestant's Name _____

Event _____ Division _____

Rule Number(s) Affected _____

Reason _____

Contestant's Printed Name: _____

Contestant's Signature _____

Date Filed _____ Time Filed _____ Time Results Posted _____



National Record Dossier

Tournament: _____ Sanction# _____
Competitor: _____ Division _____

Score: _____
Previous Record: _____

Lead Officials

Chief Judge X _____
Chief Scorer X _____
Homologator X _____

To file a record, a copy of the following must be submitted to the ABC Records Committee within 14 days and attached to this dossier:

- **Pylon Height in Meters** _____ **1st pass** _____ **2nd pass**
- **Video of performance**
- **Signed score sheets from the boat crew**
- **Actual date/time of performance** _____
- **Skier's birth year** _____

Reviewed by: X _____

Reviewed by: X _____

Reviewed by: X _____

For corrections or omissions contact:

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