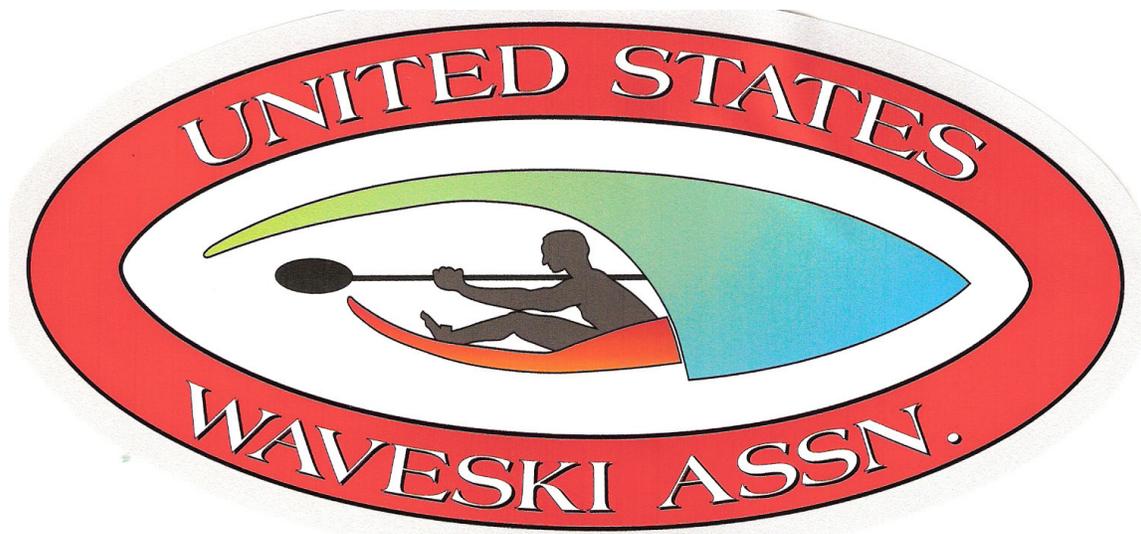


USWA

UNITED STATES WAVESKI SURFING ASSOCIATION
COMPETITION RULEBOOK

2007



The United States WaveSki Association has obtained permission from The World WaveSki Associations to use their International Surfing Association Rule Book and modify it for U.S. WaveSkiers. Thanks must also go to World WaveSki Association who gave freely of their time to originally compile this rule book so that the United States Waveski Association could adopt a similar format by using the WWA rulebook.

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SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATION WORLD WAVESKI SURFING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

World Waveski Surfing Championships

The National Championships will be held every year on **alternating coasts** for USWA riders who are members in good standing with the WWSA.

World Waveski Surfing Events and the World Championships include the following events:

- a) Cadet Championship 13-16 years both genders
- b) Junior Championship 17-20 years both genders
- c) New Age Championship 21-29 years both genders
- d) Senior Championship 30 – 39 years both genders
- e) Master Championship 40 – 49 years both genders
- f) **Grand Master Championship 50-54 years both genders**
- g) **Veteran Championship 55 years plus both genders**
- h) Women's Championship 13 years plus women only
- i) Open Championship 13 years plus, open to both genders
- j) Tag Team Championship
- k) Core Board - at least three entrants – 13 years plus both genders

**Note - Also refer to SECTION 11 of these rules for more detailed information regarding Age Divisions*

DEFINITION OF A WAVESKI

No longer than 12 feet / 3.657metres (feet to metres feet x 0.3048). Competitor must sit on top with bottom flush on seat. Feet must be in front of body in foot wells with foot straps. Must have fin(s). Must have seat belt /quad belt to secure rider to seat. Propelled by use of paddle.

Sit on Top - Sit on Top is included as an official USWA event.

Kayaks- Can be included in USWA contests by the promoters providing there is time and space for all Waveski & Sit on Top competitors.

Registration

No rider will be permitted to enter the water without completing registration. An original copy of the signed off form must be posted for the duration of contest. USWA contest director /assistant director will carry out random checks on this form as he sees fit.

Award of USWA Contests.

Applications to host World a USWA Contest shall be made in writing and be submitted to the USWA via mail or email.

Rule Changes

The rules of competition as set out in the rule book must be applied by all competitors competing at the USWA Contests. In addition, proposes for changes to the rule book must be submitted in writing to the USWA, a minimum of 90 days before a contest.

Seeding and Draw (*To be read in conjunction with the WWSA “Seeding Policy”*)

Seeding is based on results from the previous USWA contests up to two (2) previous contests. If necessary, placings in national titles can be used to assist with the seeding. The object of seeding is to separate the top riders to achieve a more even and competitive contest. **If a competitor has moved from one age division to another since the last USWA contests their Open Division placing will be used as a guide for the new division. For example Johnny Hotski will be turning 40 in February; he last competed in the USWA contest whereupon he finished 2nd in the Seniors and in the top 10 in the Open. At a national level he won the Open division . The Contest committee will therefore use all of this information to ascertain his seeding for the masters division.**

No competitor is seeded beyond the first round. Delegates from each country are invited to attend the draw of which at least two independent countries must be in attendance plus two members of the executive one of whom must be the International Technical Contest Director (ITCD) or nominated deputy.

Format for USWA contests and National Championships.

The contest will run on the double elimination format. The competition and the Grand Final may be held at different venues, or at the same venue. The final will be run on the Four-waveski surfer heat system. A minimum of the best two waves, or a maximum of either the best three or four waves for each waveski surfer to count.

Where for any reason it is not possible to hold or complete the Final the USWA committee members may determine division winners from the accumulated places of the contest if required.

Team Points

Points are awarded for final places in all divisions excluding the Tag Team. The winning nation will be the team who has the highest number of points.

Points to be allocated are as follows 1st – 4 points, 2nd – 3 points, 3rd – 2 points and fourth – 1 point.

Meetings

The USWA and Contest Directors, together with the Head Judge, will hold meetings for competitors and for officials prior to the commencement of the contest.

Attendance at meetings is compulsory, and suitable prior notice of such meetings will be given. The purpose of such meetings is to acquaint participants with the arrangements for the competition procedures during the event and judging standards and requirements.

Team Entry Fees

Entry fees which may be required by shall be paid to the Contest Director (or representative) of the USWA prior to the contest. In the event of a dispute arising between member and the Host with regard to entry fee, WWSA shall act as mediator in such a dispute.

Entry Fees are to be paid in advance.

Entry Fees

Entry fees to USWA contests as laid out by contest promoter to be approved by the USWA.

Funds collected

Funds collected on behalf USWA must be paid over to the USWA no later than 30 days after collection.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION RULES

At times competitors have been confused with the number of waves that count towards final tally, whether it is left or right peak etc., heat length, draw, start time of events etc. The Contest Director and Committee determines at the start of the day the program of events. At all material times the program remains unchanged unless conditions change and/or there are other mitigating reasons. Information about the above will be placed on a notice board. It is the responsibility of competitors to familiarize themselves with this information.

Scoreboard

To ensure high standards the USWA has set out strict guide lines to be adhered to with regard Scoreboard. The Scoreboard is the connection between the Officials, Competitor, Media, and Public to the event.

1. Min board size.
2. Signage specs, lettering.
3. Heat on board min sizes signed.
4. Heat colour indication /order.
5. Flow and progression.
6. Contest director's notice board.

Computerized Judging System

United States WaveSki Surfing Association sanctioned contest should be run on computerised system where possible. To regulate a judging system the USWA will appoint a system that it feels meets the standards of the USWA which will be outlined in the contest promoters contract to run the contest. The cost of the system will be born by the contest promoter.

Timing and Wave Counts:

a) Minimum Heat Times 15; 20 or 25 minutes. **Finals** 20; 25 or 30 minutes. Wave Counts - best 2 ; 3 or 4 waves with a maximum of 10 for heats and finals.

Heats of 5 competitors; for sub 20 minute heats; or extreme conditions, best 2 waves may prevail in lieu of best 3 or 4 waves (if results were originally intended to be based on best 3 or 4 waves)

b) A competitor must register direct with the Beach Marshall to collect competition rash singlet and must return the competition singlet direct to the Beach Marshall at the end of their heat. Failure to comply unless there are extenuating circumstances is 'elimination from that division'.

Competitors must put on their competition singlet and go to the water's edge to continue on in the competition (repechage). Penalty for not turning up for a heat unless there are extenuating circumstance is 'elimination from that division'.

Competitors faced with back to back heats must let the contest director know as soon as possible so that same coloured competition singlets are worn for both heats or a delay for the start of the next heat is organized. **Generally, the contest format and flow of heats shall not be altered.**

c) Official timing of all heats will be done by the Head Judge.

d) All heats are started from in the line-up under the Contest Directors direction. A five minute visual and PA warning is to be given prior to the finish of any heat.

e) Siren or horn blasts must be used to start and finish heats. One blast to start two blasts to finish. The Head Judge will indicate when a heat is to commence.

f) A large disc system or flag or light must also be used, green to start and yellow for the last five minutes.

g) The first of two sirens must blow immediately when the commentator reaches zero. The official end of the heat is when the siren is first audible to the Head Judge.

h) The disc or flag or light must be in the neutral position with no colour showing, once the commentator reaches zero

on his countdown.

i) The commentator must give a five-second countdown at the end of the heat and when reaching zero, the heat must end immediately. The Head Judge and Spotter will determine if a wave has been caught within the final seconds before the heat concludes. Waves caught upon “Zero seconds” remaining in the countdown or upon the final siren shall not be scored. i.e Once the siren sounds, zero seconds remain and the heat has concluded.

j) Any waveski surfer intentionally manoeuvring and riding during the progress of the next heat will be scored interference. Waveski surfers must not ride a wave in the contest area prior to the start of their heat or the wave will not be scored. **Surfing a wave after the heat has finished.** Once the siren has sounded to indicate that the heat has finished, competitors must not surf a wave into the beach unless they are up and riding before the end of the heat. The penalty for surfing a wave after the heat has finished is the loss of half of the second scoring wave (in a two wave format) or the total loss of the third wave (in a three wave format).

k) At the end of and during the heat, the waveski rider must be clearly in possession of the wave face, making a manoeuvre for the wave to be scored. It will be at the sole discretion of the spotter to call the waveski rider up and riding. (The waveski rider must be propelled by the wave).

l) No automatic starts will be allowed. If the Event Director wishes to use the minimum time between heats (of 10 seconds) a marshalling area is to be provided in the water outside the line-up.

m) Time delay between heats once a heat has paddled out, in the case of a water start, no more than 2 minutes unless due to some unforeseen circumstance.

n) Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has started and if the heat is interrupted for any reason it will be stopped by the Head Judge. It will be resumed at the time it was stopped and will run for the originally set period. The Head Judge in consultation with the judging panel at the time of stopping /restarting must be aware of altered conditions making it possible for judges to keep the same scale.

o) Contest Director to check with USWA official and Head Judge for recommendation times.

p) The Contest Director is the only person who can give the exact schedule of events. If an employee of the event is asked and wrong information is received subsequently missing some other problem then they have no form of protest.

q) The Contest Director must have an official notice board where the daily schedule is posted for all the competitors to see.

r) Outside assistance – Competitors are able to receive assistance to run waveskis and paddles up the beach, repair damaged equipment, exchange waveskis and paddles as long as the person(s) who provides the assistance does not enter the water. Penalty for person(s) entering the water to provide assistance is loss of half of the second scoring wave (in two wave format) or total loss of the third scoring wave (in three wave format). This penalty is levied against the competitor(s).

Outside assistance where competitors are given an unfair advantage over other competitors. This may include waving of paddles, whistling by outsiders indicating sets of waves are coming – penalty for first offence; loss of half of second scoring wave (in a two wave format) or total loss of the third scoring wave (in three wave format). Second offence – elimination from competition.

s) **First Aid** - In the event that competitors require assistance because of an emergency including separation from paddle and/or waveski, injury in the surf or experiencing difficulties which could lead to drowning; the Head Judge will announce over the loud speaker that a competitor(s) is in trouble and all help is rendered. The heat is stopped and recommenced at a time to be advised. In this instance there is no penalty applied to the competitor(s).

t) **Unsportsmanlike behaviour and code of conduct**; This is a contentious issue and one that requires sensitive management by the contest committee and team managers/captains. Where it is demonstrated that the behaviour of a competitor(s) has brought the competition into disrepute then the Contest Committee has the right to impose a penalty on the competitor(s). For ease of clarification this issue has been separated into two areas as follows.:-

Competition – If a competitor(s) deliberately encroaches on another competitor(s) performance on a wave(s) the penalty for the first offence is loss of half of second scoring wave (in a two wave heat) or total loss of the third scoring wave (in a three wave format), penalty for the second offence is elimination from the competition (the competitor(s) must leave the water immediately). Examples of intimidatory behaviour or conduct unbecoming to the competition

include – restricting a competitor in a position where they can neither surf left or right without causing an interference, using a paddle or Waveski or other items of equipment to ‘balk’ a competitor, abusive language with intimidatory gesticulation.

As the penalty for the above offences are very serious, the Head Judge will need to ensure that they are vigilant in their observation of competitors in the heats. There is a very fine line between competitive strategies and unsportsmanlike behaviour. At all times the Contest Director, Team Managers, Head Judge and Competitors will need to be aware of the parameters which apply to both.

The Competition Venue and Site – Abusive behaviour towards other competitors and/or contest committee which brings the sport into disrepute will result in the offending competitors being fined (amount to be agreed to) and/or sanctions being placed on them.

u) Where water starts are being used, competitors in the next heat will be permitted to paddle out on the flats (i.e. with five minutes to go) and will congregate out of the line up outside the take-off area. Surfers may paddle towards the line-up once the signal that the previous heat has finished.

The **Contest Director** and Head Judge will decide on heat times. Any alteration will be announced before a heat commences.

Heats are not stopped unless there is an injury to a competitor(s). However a particular division may be stopped if the surf conditions change to such an extent that compromises the competitors. In the event that conditions deteriorate, the Contest Director and Committee will meet with Team Managers as soon as possible to discuss postponement of competition or relocation to another venue.

– In heats with five competitors and for sub-20 minute heats, a rider’s best two (2) waves may be counted in lieu of best 3 or 4 waves to determine results (*if results were originally intended to be based on best 3 or 4 waves*).

Generally, each competitor’s top two, three or four waves will determine results in all other heats in the finals to be run on the four man system.

\ Note - *The contest director is able to use their discretion to determine the number of waves to reach a result i.e. 2, 3 or 4 waves (if results were originally intended to be based on best 3 or 4 waves).*

There is a 10 wave limit to the number of waves that can be caught in heats and a 10 wave maximum in all finals.

When heats are in progress any unauthorised waveski competitor in the competition area will be penalised. The penalty will be laid down by host country and approved by WWSA representatives. This ruling also applies to clearing the water before the start of day’s events.

Judging statistics will be compiled daily. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel, and designated to other duties (e.g. spotter). This can take place at any time and be enforced by the Competition Director on a recommendation of the Head Judge and Technical Director.

Judges score sheet and the tabulators sheet will be available for scrutiny by Competitors in the presence of their Team Manager and/or Coach.

The composition of heats will be determined in terms of the provisions of SECTION 1 –
FORMAT FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Heats will be made up of a maximum of four surfers provided that in the first round of any contest, five man heats will be permitted if the circumstances so dictate. The **Contest** Director will decide the composition of heats after entries have closed. A

minimum of 50% of the waveski surfers in a heat will advance.
Attendance at all meetings is compulsory for the appropriate persons.

General Contest Aspects

- a) There has to be a minimum of 18 inches of wave height before surf can be deemed contestable.
- b) Maximum of two photographers in the line-up during a heat with no more than one to a camera and the other the event video. These photographers must have a minimum size mm, cannot use hard boards for flotation and be WWSA approved. After checking in with the event director and signing a waiver, if required, they can enter the water only during assigned heats and after obtaining an WWSA supplied helmet, if available, to wear in the water. The Contest Director and Head Judge can remove the photographer or photographers from the water if they deem fit.

Protests

- a) Any competitor has the right to protest on a result of a heat. All protests must be in writing and be submitted on behalf of the Rider by their Manager or Coach to the Contest Director. The merits of each protest will be considered by the Contest Director, the Head Judge and by the Technical Director, where after the Contest Director will rule on the protest.
- b) In the case of an interference call, the Team Manager or the Coach of the offending rider will be notified of the interference call, by the Contest Director at the end of the heat. Any protest that is lodged in respect of the interference must be submitted in writing within ten minutes of the notification of being given.
- c) Video tape can be used for evidence in the event of a protest providing it is viewed by contest director/protest panel within 10 minutes of the protest being lodged.
- d) The Contest Director will convey the result of the appeal to the Team Manager, and his decision will be final.
- e) **The Contest Director is able to impose a monetary levy to accompany a protest. Protests contested that are successful will result in full refund of monetary levy.**

Wave Maximums

- a) There will be a ten-wave maximum. An attempt will be made to inform the competitor at the completion of their ten rides, if more than ten waves are ridden within this time limit, the waveski rider shall be penalised by having 5 points deducted from their total score for every extra wave on each judges sheet, in addition a waveski rider who remains in the water after their tenth wave will be penalised for interference if:
 - i) They ride any extra wave that obviously deprives another competitor of an available ride.
 - ii) They interfere with any other competitor by paddling, positioning or some other reason.

Wave Tabulation

- a) Trials or 4 man heats - to decide a winner in 4 man heats, the best 2, 3 or 4 waves on each Judge Sheet, which must be in duplicate if not using the computer are tabulated and placed then each judges sheet. The results are then transposed to a Master Sheet with all five Judges results. The high and low Judge for each waveski surfer is crossed off and the three remaining added. The lowest total first, next lowest second, etc. (REFER SECTION 7 – DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR).
- b) The best two waves will prevail in most contest conditions in lieu of the best three or four waves. The Head Judge and Contest Director will decide by consensus at the time.
- c) In the case of computer judging, the waveski riders wave score will be the average of remaining judges wave scores after high and low judges are cut out.

Ties

- a) In a four-man heat, a general judging consensus using plus/minus system on the judging master sheet must break ties. In the case of a 3 way tie, then the plus and minus system is used to decide the best two waveski surfers, then used again to split those two waveski surfers. If the tie still cannot be broken the tabulator goes back to the best 3 waves on the tied sheet only.
- b) Count backs on tied sheets are to go to the best 3 waves then the best 2 waves, then 1 wave until the tie is broken. In the event that the tie cannot be broken in this manner, the tabulator would then count the best 5 waves, the best 6 waves and up until the tie is broken on the tied sheet only. Only unbreakable ties will be resurfed.

SECTION 3: JUDGING

Judging panels: Panels for each heat will consist of five judges who will rotate from the judging panel. A panel of seven judges is the minimum necessary to conduct an event on a full-time basis. Sponsors, spouses, relatives or any person(s) that may potentially have a conflict of interest are not to judge. Each judging panel will officiate under the control and discretion of a Head Judge, whose duties are more fully described in Section 6.

Check-In: Judges must check in to the Head Judge at least 15 minutes prior to heat starting time allowing time to get a realistic view of the waves, and the surfing standard.

Judge Details: The name of the judge and the scribe together with the division event and heat number, must be entered in the appropriate sections of the judging sheet before the next heat starts.

Sheets: Judges sheets must be handed in promptly at the end of the heat. Judges must not tally the sheet or alter scores. If a score is unclear or must be changed, blank out the square and use the next one. All alterations must be signed by the Head Judge.

Quality Judging: Each judge must give 100% effort, maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.

Scribes may be used to avoid any possibility of missing waves.

Judges are to score every ride by each competitor.

The Judges to be used in the finals will be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency over the contest.

Judging statistics and their calculation are detailed in SECTION 8 – STATISTICALLY EVALUATING JUDGING PERFORMANCE.

Judges are responsible for ruling interference situations described in Section 5.

Judges finishing their rostered events should remain on hand in the administration area until the last event has been tallied. Judges must be available until protests can no longer be lodged.

Scoring: The wave scoring will be done from zero to ten. Broken into one tenth decimal increments, e.g. 5.2, 7.3, 8.1

CRITERIA TO BE USED IN JUDGING:

A surfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvres in the critical section of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (manoeuvres) will be taken into consideration when rewarding points for waves ridden.

The surfer who executes the criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the better waves shall be rewarded with the higher scores.

Separation: Judges should be visually separated and it is the responsibility of the Head Judge to see that the judges do not discuss scores or interference calls. (Unable to see each others score sheets).

Corrections/Alterations: Judges may not change their scores or interference calls either on the computer terminal or the manual judging sheets. In the event that a mistake has been made the judge should have the Head Judge make the correction for them.

Missed Waves: If a judge misses a wave or part of a wave, they should place an “ M ” in the square of the manual Judges Sheet, contact the Head Judge immediately and have the

wave included into his sheet by the Head Judge on the basis of comparison to the previous rides on the other Judges sheets.

Other Errors: At times, errors of a special or unique nature occur with respect to judging, this includes timing and scores. The Technical Director, along with the Head Judge, will rule of these special circumstances case by case. At their own discretion, the Technical Director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as off-duty judges, spotters or other officials) who may have witnessed the incident in question.

Verification: Judges must wait until the completion of the tabulator's work before checking the completed sheets.

Ethics /Integrity: No judge may pass comment on a waveski rider's chances in any event, to the public, media, contestants or that judge may be dismissed from the panel and other action will be taken by the Technical Director.

SECTION 4 : JUDGING CRITERIA AND HINTS

The standard of the judging panel is based solely on the individual's qualifications. Politics and judges representing a country become irrelevant if the judge does his/her job properly.

Before Judging

Make sure you take part in the pre-event meeting to establish the criteria and rules that will be used. You must be at the judges' tower punctually. This means one heat before your first heat, so that you can check conditions and be available in case a judge does not show up. Be prepared for all conditions and if necessary bring sweaters, towels, pants and a coat in case of rain. The judges must know the rules and be able to implement them in any situation. Study the breakdown of the criteria mentioned below and in SECTION 3 - JUDGING

Waveski Criteria

The criteria have purposely been broken into two sentences. The first sentence being the major emphasis of the criteria, concerns the manoeuvres, how radical and controlled they are and the section of the wave they are performed on. The criteria can be graded into four main sections:

a) Radical Controlled Manoeuvres:

This is by far the most important part of the criteria. Modern day manoeuvres basically constitute change of direction of the board on the wave (not the waveski surfer on the board). Such manoeuvres would include re-entries, cutbacks, floaters, aerials, tube rides etc. How radical they are, followed by the amount of control and commitment put into each of them will score.

Power, Commitment, Control :*It is important to note that even if a surfer has completed 90% of the manoeuvre it WILL NOT score if they lose control and fall off.*

b) Most Critical Section:

This part of the criteria describes where on the wave manoeuvres should be performed to score the maximum points. The critical section of the wave is the pocket closest to the curl. The degree of commitment and the risk involved in performing close to the curl is the reason that it scores higher. The degree of difficulty and the risk taken should be rewarded accordingly.

c) With Speed, Power and Flow

Speed and Power become more apparent when performed in the critical section of the wave. Generally, the greater the speed the more powerful the manoeuvre will be when performed in the critical section of the wave. Flow relates to how the surfer links their turns together on the wave and how manoeuvres are functional in regards to where they are performed. A surfer that is flowing with the wave generally will look as though he/she is reading the wave well and performing the manoeuvres that are suitable to the sections being surfed.

d) Innovative and progressive surfing

Innovation is a critical element that top surfers must employ in order to distinguish themselves from fellow competitors. Innovative manoeuvres by definition require by definition require commitment and hence when executed require

significant and reward.

e) **Maximum degree of difficulty and commitment**

Difficulty relates to commitment and control reflects skill that may be masked by flow thus this last sentence is a simplistic overview.

Wave selection is the single most important factor for a waveski surfer in their heat. The selected waves dictate the manoeuvres they are able to perform. The best wave may not necessarily be the biggest. The waveski surfer does not automatically score high because of wave size or quality. They must comply with the criteria in order to unlock the potential of the wave.

Judging Scale -The zero to ten point scoring system used by the WWSA is broken into the following categories:

0.1 – 1.9 Bad (*no manoeuvres or minor manoeuvre with little or no control*)

2.0 – 3.9 Poor (*minor manoeuvre or basic manoeuvre with control*)

4.0 - 5.9 Average (*basic manoeuvres 1 major and minors with control*)

6.0 - 7.9 Good (*radical major manoeuvres, speed, control and power*)

8.0 – 10.0 Excellent (*radical major manoeuvres with speed, control, power with elements of progressive committed surfing*)

NOTE: Refer to this judging scale to establish first wave exchanges. Use whole points and half points as much as possible during the heat e.g. 3.5,4.0, 6.5. Resort to decimal places only when necessary, e.g. at the end of a heat use full scale decimals e.g. **.1, .4, .0 and .3.**

During the course of a heat, try to use the whole of your scale from 0 - 10 regardless of surf conditions. Score the good waves up and the bad waves down.

Avoid scoring higher as the heat continues. Bear in mind, the previous scoring waves. The last wave exchange should be in context to the first waves scored in the heat. It's important that a judge concentrate on the scoring of individual waves and ignores the final outcome of the heat. No riders are identical. So try to differentiate between all scoring waves. Do not deliberate on your scores - put pen to paper.

Judges may not change their score or interference scores. In the event that a mistake has been made, the judge should have the Head Judge make the correction for them.

During the heat, call wave counts as frequently as possible while the contestants are not riding. Repeat wave counts. Avoid being influenced by the spectators, commentators or friendships and other outside influences. Have the confidence to stand by your own decisions. During the heat, do not express your opinions to other judges.

Judging Method

It is important to score the first wave exchanges in the heat correctly, that will set the scale for the rest of the heat. Try to make at least one point spread between your first two scoring rides. Then, if your next wave falls in between your first two you still have a good spread comparison between the scores is imperative between a heats. Try to see the waves in terms of point potential. While the competitor is riding a wave, manoeuvring you are allocating points that will be added automatically in your mind. Thus, at the end of the wave or in case of a fall, you immediately have the score. Do not compare this score with previous score and remember, never deduct points because a waveski surfer fell.

Important: Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and your contribution to the panel is significant.

Judging in Bad Conditions

A lot of events are held in marginal conditions. All places can suffer from poor quality surf so you have to be able to adjust to the conditions. In poor surf concentrate on waveski surfers who are utilising mini power-pockets on the wave with explosive moves that are normally timed to occur at these spots on the wave.

Observe if each manoeuvre is being linked directly to another, without groveling (rail to rail turns through the flat sections should be distinguished from hopping all the way to the next section). Establish if the surfer is generating/creating enough speed out of turns because the wave will certainly not be co-operating. Also notice which waveski surfers are completing each wave flawlessly with major, perfectly executed manoeuvres

NOTE: *In poor conditions there are normally few waves. Watch low scores as they will be counted in the final tabulation.*

Judging Heavy Heats

Difficult heats should be accepted by a judge as a challenge. This means judging methodically, being extremely critical, watching details, picturing the whole wave in your mind. In every contest there will always be some heats that are more difficult than others either because they are the first heats of the day, due to worsening conditions or because it is a close heat due to the level of surfing that is taking place, good or bad. This is when the top judges come to the forefront. The following factors should be considered when analysing each wave in such heats:

- a) Where was the first manoeuvre executed?
- b) How well was it executed?
- c) How well were the manoeuvres connected together?
- d) Did the waveski surfer execute rail to rail turns through the flat sections or did they just hop all the way through to the next section?
- e) Compare the outside manoeuvres to the inside manoeuvres.
- f) Compare take-off areas and how deep the waveski surfer was at the initial point of take-off.
- g) Consider how the waveski surfer utilised the wave.
- h) The ability of the waveski surfer to make sections and whether the manoeuvres were functional in doing so.
- i) Did the waveski surfer actually complete the manoeuvre and with control?
- j) What did the waveski surfer complete *before* failing?
- k) Comparison between first scoring wave and last scoring wave is extremely important. Inexperienced judges tend to over score last waves as they forget or totally ignore what has taken place during a heat and this often affects a result. This is an area where you can learn a lot from an experienced judge. They have the ability to concentrate on the broad picture of what is happening in the heats as well as minor details such as a paddling interference.

Judging 4, and 5 Man Heats

100% concentration is the key. Not just to have each score down correctly but also to assist the Head Judge with wave and interference calls, in such heats, the ability to score the wave instinctively in your mind, and to allocate the score automatically at the end of the ride is of utmost importance.

When several competitors are riding at the same time, it's important to watch everyone. However, it is essential that you focus on the more critical areas. For example, take off point, the first manoeuvre and other outside manoeuvres because this is where the riders' greatest scoring potential will occur. The beginning of a wave is far more important and therefore when waveski surfers are riding, concentration should be apportioned according to each rider's scoring potential on their waves. The waveski rider's scoring potential at the end of a wave is obviously much lower. It is important to get your scores down on your sheet as quickly as possible. Continuously call wave score counts. If unsure about a score never ask a fellow judge because they might have missed or be on a different scale to you. Always ask the Head Judge for assistance because that is what he is there for.

SECTION 5 : INTERFERENCE CALLS

Basic Rule

- a) The waveski surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride, interference will be called if during that ride a majority of Judges feel that a fellow competitor has

possibly hindered the scoring potential of the waveski surfer deemed to have right of way for the wave.

b) Anyone who takes off in front of a waveski surfer with right-of-way in 4-man heats has the chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the waveski surfer with right of way by any means including excessive hassling or breaking down a section.

c) Wave possession or right of way in these situations will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue but basically it is the responsibility of the judge to determine which waveski surfer has the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left. If at the initial point of take-off neither the right nor left can be deemed superior, then the right of way will go to the first waveski surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction.

Point Break:

When there is only one available direction on any given wave. The waveski surfer on the inside shall have unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that wave.

One Peak Break (Reef or Beach):

If there is a single well defined peak with both a left and a right available, at the initial point of take-off and neither the right or left can be deemed superior then the right of way will go to the first waveski surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn). A second waveski surfer may go in the opposite direction on the same wave without incurring a penalty, providing they do not interfere with the first waveski surfer who has established right of way (i.e. the 2nd rider may not cross the path of the first waveski surfer in order to gain the opposite side of the peak unless doing so without possibly hindering, in the majority of Judges opinion, the inside waveski surfer.

Beach Break:

With multiple random peaks. In these conditions wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:

a) With Two Peaks, there will be cases where one swell will have two separate defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two waveski surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the waveski surfer who first manoeuvres shall be deemed to have wave possession and the second waveski surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the scoring potential of the waveski surfer in possession of the wave.

b) If two waveski surfers take off at the same time on two separate peaks that eventually meet, then:

1. If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty.
2. If they cross paths and collide or hinder one another, the judges will penalise the waveski surfer who has been the aggressor at the point of contact.
3. If neither waveski surfer gives way by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility the confrontation, then a double interference will be called.

The Right-of-Way Criteria

The choice of right-of-way criteria for each of the above possible situations is the responsibility of the WWSA Head Judge.

Snaking

a) The waveski surfer who is farthest inside at the initial point of take-off and has established wave possession is entitled to that wave for the duration of their ride, even though another surfer subsequently take off in the white water behind them. The Judges will not penalise the waveski surfer because they have 'right-of-way' even though they are in front.

b) If the second waveski surfer has not hindered the original waveski surfer with

right-of-way, then the judges may choose not to impose a penalty and will score both waveski surfers rides.

c) If, in the opinion of the judges, the second waveski surfer has interfered with (snaked) the original waveski surfer with right-of-way by causing them to pull out or lose the wave, then interference may be called on the second waveski surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty is called.

Paddling Interference

In two, three or four man heats, a waveski surfer who has inside position should not be excessively hindered by another waveski surfer paddling for the same wave. Paddling interference may be called if:

- i) The offending waveski surfer makes contact with or forces the inside waveski surfer to change their line whilst paddling to catch the wave causing possible loss of scoring potential.
- ii) The offending waveski surfer obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside which would not normally have done so and by causing loss of scoring potential.
- iii) When a waveski surfer is put in a position while paddling out that they cannot get out of the way and a collision happens due to this, it is up to a majority of the judges to call interference on whether it is felt to be accidental or not.

Interference Penalty

Three of the five Judges must call interference to be considered a majority. If a majority of Judges call interference, then in the final tally, the following penalties will apply –

In best two waves - the second wave will be scored half of its potential points ;

In best three waves - loss of third scoring wave; and

In best four waves - loss of fourth wave

This applies to a riding or a paddling interference, where the waveski surfer catches that particular wave.

A loss of one scoring ride applies for a straight paddling interference in best 3 or 4 wave scenarios. If a waveski surfer has less than the required minimum scoring rides and receives an interference then they will be scored on one less wave (i.e. if they have only caught only three waves and the best four count then the best two will be scored and the third wave will be zero).

Interference will be shown as a triangle “ Δ “on each judges scorecard.

The triangle is placed around their score if caused by riding; above their score if in riding a wave and causing interference while paddling for that wave ridden; or between scores if caused by paddling for that ride) with an arrow drawn to the riders score who was interfered on.

b) A Head Judge may be included and in this case an interference would be determined on three of six Judging sheets.

c) Any interfering waveski surfer must be penalised and a drop-in decision can only be disputed by making an official protest.

d) The rider who is interfered with, will be allowed an additional wave, beyond their ten wave maximum, within the prescribed time limit. Exception to this is a double interference where neither waveski surfer gets an extra wave.

SECTION 6 : DUTIES OF THE HEAD JUDGE

Convening a meeting of Official Judges Seminar on day 1 of the event. Such meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, standardisation of procedures and methods and setting up a series of Judging trials during which the Judges ability will be tested and evaluated. The Head Judge will also convene a meeting of all judges each morning of the contest before the contestants enter the water. The purpose of this meeting will be to update Judges on any change, and to point out any recurring errors from the previous day.

Judges whose ability is found to be substandard in the opinion of the Head Judge and Technical Director, will be removed from the Judging Panel and will not be permitted to judge during the event.

The Head Judge will organise the remaining judges into Judging Panels so that Judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.

The Head Judge will frequently scrutinise the judges evaluation sheet and will identify Judge/s who do not maintain an acceptable judging standard. These judge/s will be reported to the Technical Director and a decision will be taken to drop the judge or not.

While heats are in progress the Head Judge will scrutinise judges score sheets to ensure maintenance of uniform standards between one heat and the next and the use by the judges of the full range of scoring options. In addition, the Head Judge will ensure that interference rule is fairly and consistently applied. If the need should arise to inform a judge that his standards or proceedings are not compatible with the other officiating judges, action would only be taken by the Head Judge between the end of one heat and the commencement of the next heat.

The Head Judge will be responsible for maintaining a wave count record for each heat ensuring that colours are adequately identified for the judges.

The Head Judge is responsible for the wave count which can be done by the spotter.

The Head Judge must adjudicate on the missed waves and determine the appropriate score.

To attempt to notify any waveski surfer who has been interfered with or that has an extra wave. Notification over the public address (PA) system. The onus is generally on the waveski surfer to monitor their own wave count.

Head judge must check and sign tabulated sheets. These results may then be posted after the 10minute protest period. Once posted, results can not be changed.

SECTION 7 : DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR

On the receipt of the completed Judges sheets at the end of a heat the Tabulators will immediately check to see if:

- a) All the Judges sheets have been handed in
- b) That the correct number of waves have been scored on each sheet, and
- c) That any interference calls have been recorded.

In the event that an interference call is recorded by the majority of Judges, the Tabulator will notify the Technical Director of this fact in terms of the protest rule at Section 2 – COMPETITION RULES .

No tabulation of the results of the heat will take place until the OK. is given by the Technical Director.

If a ride has been missed, an attempt will be made to identify the missing ride by referring to other Judges sheets, under the direction of the Head Judge.

If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge, then a score is given to the ride by:

- a) Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride.
- b) Taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary, to bring it into line with the scoring level that the Judges use.

The Head Judge, when satisfied that the best attempt has been made to establish the correct value of the missed ride, will ensure that this value is written on the Judging Sheet.

Where an interference is ruled and the waveski surfers appeal is dismissed then an Interference penalty is tabulated by applying the provisions of SECTION 5.

INTERFERENCE CALLS

On completion of these formalities, the Judges sheets may be totalled. The two, three, or four best scoring waves, as the case may be, will be circled and the total entered in the section for top waves. These scores are totalled, any interference penalties deducted and a total entered in the total column. The heat places are then calculated and entered on the Judges sheet.

The waveski surfer with the highest score will receive 1st place, the second highest score 2nd place and so on, if a Judge ties two or more surfers, the places awarded to each of the tied waveski surfers will be the average of the affected placing points added together (e.g. if 3rd, 4th and 6th are tied: $3+4+5=12$. Divide by 3 places gives an average (placing of 4th).

When no further calculations are required on the Judges sheets the results are transcribed onto a Tally Sheet, which is completed in the following way:

- a) The Competitors names are entered on the tally sheet.
- b) The Judges names are entered across the page at the top of each column.
- c) Placing are copied down beneath each judge.
- d) The highest and lowest placing are crossed off for each waveski surfer.
- e) Total the placings that remain and enter the total in the total point's column, then complete the competitor's heat places.
- f) Complete the competitors heat places.

If at this point a tie situation occurs, the Tabulator will proceed to break the tie as follows (see SECTION 2 – COMPETITION RULES).

SECTION 8 : STATISTICALLY EVALUATING JUDGING PERFORMANCE

The level of accuracy of a judge is measured by comparing the placing given by a judge in a particular heat against the actual placing in that heat, provided that, where a judge has failed to call an interference that has been ruled by a majority of judges, the level of accuracy of such judge, shall be measured by comparing placings given by such judge, exclusive of the interference penalty, against the actual heat placing.

The evaluation is made on all the competitors in the heat from first place to last place. A perfect score is a zero and is awarded to a Judge who has correctly placed all the competitors in the heat.

One point is added to a Judges score for each place error made. In other words if

the Judges placing is subtracted from the actual placing - or vice versa as the case may be - the difference is the Judges degree of error.

The Judges score is then entered in the appropriate column on the Tabulation Sheet and then recorded on the Judges record sheet. A Judges accuracy is then calculated by dividing their score by the number of heats judged. In making this evaluation the number of heats judged by each Judge should not vary by more than 10%.

The following table illustrates this set of rules showing a typical tabulator sheet:

	James	Smut	Mann	Sassed	Cole
	0	0	2	5	0
	4	2	3	0	10
Total	4	2	5	5	10
Heats Judged	2	2	2	2	2
Average	2.0	1.0	2.5	2.5	5.0

A practical evaluation should also be made and weighed against the statistics when deciding the competence of a judge. This should include such things as the ability to discern between interference situations.

SECTION 9 : WWSA ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible to surf in the World Waveski Championships a waveski surfer must comply with all the following requirements:

Must be a current registered member of a Waveski club or association which is affiliated with its national body.

Must be a permanent resident of a country which is affiliated to the WWSA, and which body is in good standing with the WWSA.

SECTION 10 : OBLIGATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRY

The contest promoter will be responsible for providing:

- a) During the contest, officials and judges will be fed by the Host .
- b) Opening and closing functions/prize giving and conference facilities:
- c) The contest promoter must provide a suitable venue with snacks and refreshments and closing function/prize giving.
- d) Suitable venues must be provided for:
 - * Competitors Meeting
 - * Judges meeting / Seminar

e) Contest site requirements: At each contest site the contest promoter will provide the following:

- i) A Judges tower if possible which must have sufficient height to give all Judges an uninterrupted view of the entire contest area. The tower must be large enough to hold the Judges and for their Scribes. The tower should also be enclosed so as to afford protection from the elements. Chairs for the Judges and Scribes must be provided.
- ii) Suitable facilities for the Tabulators in the form of a caravan or similar structure must be located in close proximity to the Judges tower, with the entire area being roped off. All stationary necessary during the contest must also be provided, public address facilities must also be provided, and must be located near the tabulator.
- iii) A notice board must be provided for the posting of information for the contestants and officials as well as posting

heat information and results.

iv) Vest Marshals and Time Keepers must be located near the Tabulator, and a table and chairs must be provided. Heat time will be recorded by an electronic timing device if possible, with a suitable back-up.

v) Timing discs must be erected next to the Vest Marshall. In addition an air horn or siren must be provided.

vi) A Head Judge must be appointed by the contest promoter and must comply with the following requirements: must have had considerable experience as a Surf contest Head Judge and must judge regularly at national or state level contests.

vii) A souvenir program should be printed for distribution to competitors, officials and the public.

ix) The following trophies should be provided:

Open Division : from 1st to 8th place trophies

Cadets Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Juniors Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

New Age Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Seniors Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Masters Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Grand Masters Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Veterans Division : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Women's Division: from 1st to 4th place trophies

Core Board : from 1st to 4th place trophies

Tag Team Event : 1st to 4th place trophies

Personnel for National and International Events

Conflict of Interest – In the event that a competitor carries an official portfolio they are to remove themselves from a situation where the official role or competitive role comprises their ability to make an independent decision. This will be determined on a case by case basis.

Event Promotions Officer

To create and control the event mood as decided on by the event sponsors. To liaise with both the event Sponsors and the Contest Director. To use the information collected locally along with the information provided by the USWA and respective team managers (i.e. biographical information). Works to create as much local media interest as possible. Reports to the Contest Director.

Contest Director

Prepare the event format and schedules and ensure that everyone is contributing towards the event and are doing their assigned tasks.

To ensure the surfing aspect of the event runs on schedule and according to the rules and that the staff are not making any errors. Reports to the WWSA Technical Director and works with the Head Judge.

USWA Technical Director

To aid the Contest Director in rules definition, to provide the correct seeding for each round of competition, arbitrate any major problems between the waveski surfers/team management and the event. Works closely with the Contest Director and the Head Judge.

Announcer

Primary job is to bring the event concept to the spectators in an entertaining and instructive fashion and to lead the Assistant Announcer in getting the surfing information from the Bio Sheets and the scoring Tabulators to the spectators and waveski surfers. Reports to the Contest Director and works closely with the Event Promotions Officer.

Assistant Director

Works on the USWA Computer and keeps the scoring and Biographical information coming to the Announcer.

USWA Head Judge

Assembles the group of USWA judges for training at the Judging Seminar in conjunction with the Technical Director, selects the final Judging panels to be used at the event, including any Surf Judges. Cannot overrule the judging Panel concerning interference and priority, unless the majority of the judges did not see the incident. Reports to the Contest Director and works with the USWA judges and USWA Technical Director.

Computer Operator

If a computer system is available the operator will be appointed by USWA with positioning and onsite expenses paid for by the Host province provides computer scoring system which is designed for the USWA judging panel. All hardware and software supplied by the computer operator except the TV monitors.

Timers, Disc Operators and Spotter

Work on a rotation basis calling colours, operating priority and timing discs. Report to the Contest Director but gets directions from the USWA Head Judge.

Beach Marshall

Ensures that all competitors are checked-in for their heats, have their colours and are briefed with event rules. USWA will provide a list of such rules as well as a rule book for the Beach Marshall detailing the following information that he then uses in his briefings: Heat Time, Number of Scoring Waves, maximum number of waves. Describe disc colours and horn blasts (Green till 5 minutes remaining. Yellow till end one horn to start, and two horns for end of heat), give disc location, prone in after heat. When to paddle out and where to wait for start of heat. The Marshall reports to the Contest Director and receives instructions on the judging criteria and rules from the USWA Head Judge and the USWA Technical Director.

Tabulator

In all manually judged heats the Tabulator receives the score sheets from the judging panel and tabulates them in accordance with the USWA rules. In computer scored heats the tabulator collects the manual heat sheets from the judges, but the results are then used only as a check against the official computer results. Reports to the Contest Director and is assisted by the Head Judge.

Tabulators must do their job in the following order:

- a) in heats that the computer is used. They must check that the judges scores have been entered correctly.
- b) in non-computer judged heats they must do the following:
 1. Check wave-count
 2. Check for any missed waves i.e. _Ms and if either of the two above occur, call the Head Judge or Contest Director for assistance.
 3. Check for interference, if there is a majority, then it counts and any judges sheet which does not have it marked must have a Triangle placed on that wave.
 4. Circle or highlight scoring waves.
 5. Tally scoring waves.
 6. Give placings.
 7. Transpose placings onto master sheets. Lowest place-points equalling the top placed competitor (if there is a tied situation see ties in Competition Rules No. 20). Always try to use different colour ink to the judges if possible.

Assistant Tabulator

Works with the Tabulator to speed manual calculation of results and the checking of the computer results. Reports to the Tabulator, must check tabulation in the same order with emphasis on No. 4. Most mistakes occur because one of the waveski riders best waves are missed. Whenever a mistake is found and the adjustment is made, make sure that the placing (No. 6 above) are changed if necessary. Always try to use different coloured in to the judges if possible.

Work Force

Used to set-up and tear-down the event site and the event promotional banners etc. Reports to the Contest Director for set-up and the Event Promotion Co-ordinator for the promotional.

Security

To keep the competition and official areas free from unauthorised entry by non-competitors and spectators and to keep the site secure overnight. Reports to the Contest Director.

Equipment and Services

Outlined below is a list of the event equipment that if possible is needed to run a successful USWA event:

- a) **Judging Scaffolding If possible** Must be waterproof (construction sheds preferable) and needs walkway behind judges for Head Judge. Must have partitions between judges and minimum of six bays with desks or tables and comfortable chairs. Area also needs to be allocated for the timing and priority discs. Timing disc to be near announcers and Head Judge.
- b) **Team Enclosure / Stand** – if possible separate stands for use by waveski riders, media, VIPs and spectators.
- c) **Electricity / Generator if possible** Electricity connection where available or large commercial size generator. Separate lines for PA and computer.
- d) **PA System** To announce to contestants and public commentators to be situated with earshot of Head Judge booth preferably with a partition between the announcers and Judges.
- e) **Telephones and Fax Machines if possible** Media area needs at least 2 telephone lines and 1 fax with extra paper on hand.
- f) **Tables** - Placed in media, competitors, VIPs and staff areas as required.
- g) **Chairs** -As many as possible, all will be used.
- h) **Score, Progress and Notice Boards** - To graphically illustrate the progress of the event a post heat results. One score board for each event needed i.e. women's, men's.
- i) **Canopy & Umbrella** For use by officials, media, VIPs and contestants areas.
- j) **Portable Toilets** If insufficient at site then extra for use by public. Also others for use by event only.
- k) **First Aid Kit** and access for ambulance if required.
- l) **Time Disc / Flag** Need to be minimum 1 metre square being green and yellow in colour and placed on judging tower. Lighting system may be used provided it is clearly visible at all time's green and yellow.
- m) **Competition Vests** Minimum of 3 sets, although 4 is recommended (1 kept aside for presentation) of four colours red (orange to pink or fluorescent), white, yellow (fluorescent), black (dark blue or purple). Must be made out of flexible lycra nylon fabric. Try not to use draw strings as waveski riders catch them in the belts.
- n) **Area for Computer** and operator on judging tower with own power supply. This must be waterproof but airy.
- o) **Clipboards** Approximately 12 - 15 for use by judges plus staff.
- p) Area for WWSA Technical Director in or near media/judging area.
- q) **Heat & Master Sheet** A standard copy of which is supplied by the WWSA and must be run off as specified. For use by Judges and Tabulators in manual tabulation.
- r) **Food and Drinks** Please do not forget to feed your judges and officials regularly! Have food ready at specific times and coolers full of drinks in judges tower, staff and media areas. If possible competitor and VIP areas also to have drinks but suggest large 5 - 10 gallon water coolers with paper cups.
- s) **Stationary** Miscellaneous pens, pencils, staplers, staple guns, etc. to be provided.
- t) **Power Supply** 240 Volt. Uninterrupted electric power for all needs including WWSA Computer. If using generators make sure they are big enough to handle all needs. Separate lines to be run to individual areas.
- u) **Copy Machine** Must be at the event site and working the day before the event if you want the event to run trouble free. Suggested that a smaller back-up machine is available. This can be used by staff other than media where the large one is situated.
- v) **Copy Paper and Toner** Events always run out on the weekend when most needed. Have plenty on hand as it can always be used later. Usually 2-3 reams used per day.

SECTION 11 : WORLD WAVESKI AGE DIVISIONS

Age Divisions

- a) Open All ages and genders from 13 years and upwards
- b) Cadets All genders 13-16 years
- b) Juniors All genders 17-20 years
- c) New Age All genders 21-29 years
- d) Seniors All genders 30-39 years
- e) Masters All genders 40-49 years
- f) **Grand Masters All genders 50-54 years**
- g) **Veterans All genders 55 years and up**
- h) Women's : Woman 13 years and upwards
- i) Coreboard: Minimum of 3 competitors
- j) Tag Team – see separate rules

Ages taken from the day the event is advertised to start. Competitors younger than 13 years will be considered on an individual basis and approval to compete will be determined by the WWSA executive.

Each division must contain at least 2 competitors to run a division at the World Championships.

In the event that only one competitor enters his/her respective division, then he /she is to be included in the next division closest to his/her age i.e. one junior moves into the New Age Division, one Veteran moves into the Grand Masters Division. This however does not apply to the women's division.

This rule book is regularly reviewed and evaluated to ensure consistency, currency and accuracy. Any errors or omissions of fact must be brought to the attention of the USWA who will seek to rectify same.