



**2017 OFFICIAL WAKESURF RULES**

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## **Rule 1      GENERAL**

- a) **Applicability of the Rules:** The rules set forth here govern wakesurf competitions organised or sanctioned by the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (SWWF). Whenever the masculine is used, the same shall be construed as meaning the feminine where the context so requires.
- b) **Exceptions to the Rules:** Where compliance with the rules is not feasible, the Chief Judge shall, with the approval of the majority of the Judges, make the necessary changes. Such changes will be announced at a riders' or team captains' meeting, and by posting.
- c) **No alcohol is to be consumed by riders prior to or during the day's event.** The day's event is deemed as starting 1 (one) hour prior to the first rider starting his run and finished when the final scores have been posted and the official protest time has elapsed. Once a rider's results are posted, it is deemed that the rider's day is finished.
- d) **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Any rider (or his representative) or official whose conduct is deemed unsportsmanlike or whose conduct may cause discredit to the SWWF and sponsors, either on or off the competition site, before during, or after the competition, may be disqualified from all or part of the competition including completed events, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Judges. Any and all infractions can also be punishable by disqualification of the whole team, if any.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to: use of vulgar language in public, public tantrums, not riding to fullest potential, failure to attend designated functions or events, consuming alcoholic beverages during or before the competition, use of prohibited substances, competing under false pretences, concealing significant injuries or health problems.

This also includes but is not limited to riders and individuals who choose to vandalise or misrepresent wakesurfing at official event functions.

## **Rule 2      SAFETY**

**Unsafe Rider Disqualification:** No rider shall be allowed to compete or to continue to compete if, in the opinion of the Chief Judge and a majority of the Boat Judges, his competing would be a danger to himself or other riders in the competition. During the competition, the Chief Judge may halt the event for a poll of the Boat Judges in regard to a rider's actions or conditions. Whenever practical, the advice of a trained medical personnel should be obtained.

A rider under normal conditions will be disqualified for intentional contact with the boat once underway. An exception to this is if the boat abruptly slows down or the wake abruptly changes and the rider is thrust towards the boat; the judges may determine to not disqualify the rider.

Swim platform starts and exits shall not be permitted. Riders are required to throw the rope to the far side of the wake and have the boat crew recover the rope.

### **Rule 3          DIVISIONS**

- a) There will be a minimum of 3 riders required to open a division. The Chief Judge will inform all participants as soon as feasibly possible if there are insufficient riders within a division.
- b) Divisions with less than 3 riders may be cancelled or merged with other divisions at the discretion of the organizers.
- c) Divisions

#### *Men & Women*

### **Rule 4          HEAT SYSTEM**

Wakesurf competitions will use a heat system. The running order for the first round of competition will be determined by a random draw or past performance.

The number of riders in each heat is dependent on the total number of riders entered. There will be a maximum of 6 riders in each heat. A percentage of the riders from each heat will then advance to the semi-finals and finals. The starting order for the LCQ, Semi Finals and Finals will be selected from placement and NOT scores.

The Last Chance Qualification round may or may not be used within the competition, dependent on time and numbers.

### **Rule 5          RIDER PREPAREDNESS**

A rider must have his life vest on and board in hand when the boat returns to the dock/start area. Any rider who fails to be on immediate hand & in condition to ride when it is his turn in the running order as stated above will be deemed to be wasting time to gain an unfair advantage and **will be disqualified. It is the rider's sole responsibility to be ready to ride.**

### **Rule 6          DISQUALIFICATION**

Should a rider be disqualified for any reason, he will not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the competition, ie. If he misses his turn in the qualifying rounds, he will not be permitted to compete in the last chance qualifiers.

### **Rule 8          EQUIPMENT**

- a) General: All personal equipment is subject to the approval of the Chief Judge and Safety Director
- b) Life Vest: **All riders must wear a life vest.** It is the responsibility of each rider to ensure their life vest meets the following specifications:
  - i. It must float the rider.
  - ii. It must be constructed so as to provide adequate protection from impact damage to the ribs and internal organs.
- c) Rope: A wakesurf specific rope will be provided by the Organier
- e) Boats: The total additional weight in the boat will be determined by the Chief Judge. All riders must ride behind the same boat.
- f) Damaged Equipment: A rider is fully responsible for his personal equipment and should have **a spare board, fully assembled**, at his disposal should any damage occur. In the event that a rider realises his equipment has been damaged, he may throw the handle to indicate that he wishes to repair his equipment. This will,

however, constitute one fall if it occurs in the wakesurf course. If a rider falls in the wakesurf course due to his equipment being damaged, it will also constitute one fall. If a rider needs to stop his ride in the wakesurf course or before the start of his second pass to repair his equipment, it will also constitute one in-course fall. The Chief Judge will have the final say as to whether the equipment has failed. If a rider has damaged his equipment, he will have **four minutes** to repair the equipment. The damaged equipment must be repaired at the starting dock. The time begins when the rider gets onto the starting dock. The rider must be ready to ride before the four minutes elapses or his routine is over. The boat will then bring the rider from the starting dock to the location of the fall or handle-throw, come to a complete stop and then resume the routine.

## **Rule 9 RE-RIDES**

**It is the sole responsibility of a rider to request for a re-ride.**

When unfair conditions occurs, which, in the opinion of a majority of the Judges, adversely affects a rider, he shall be granted the option of a re-ride only on the passes affected. Re-rides will not be granted if a rider's personal equipment fails.

Re-rides must be taken immediately. If a rider is given a second re-ride, he may elect to take a five-minute rest, during which the next rider in order will perform his routine. The re-ride shall be taken at the conclusion of the rider's routine during which the five-minute rest period expires.

Requests for re-rides may be initiated by a Boat Judge for the event before the next rider starts or may be initiated, as soon as possible, by the rider or his team representative and shall be decided as soon as practicable thereafter. If, in the opinion of the Boat Judges for the event, the request was not initiated as soon as possible after the rider has ridden, the request shall be denied. Re-ride requests will not be permitted if they are based on variations in weather or water conditions.

## **Rule 10 PROTESTS**

Protests shall be made to the Chief Judge only by the rider himself. Protest must be made **in writing**, must state the reason(s) for the protest, and must be filed as soon as possible, but no later than **20** minutes after the occurrence or after the results of the event are announced.

The rider will come to the Chief Judge's station and get an Official Protest Form to make the protest. The rider or team representative will then bring the Official Protest form back to the Chief Judge for review. After the Chief Judge has reviewed the protest and score sheets, he will meet with the Boat Judges to discuss the protest if he deems necessary. The Boat Judges will meet with rider to discuss the protest if the Chief Judge deems necessary. Actions may then be taken by the Chief Judge to address the protest.

Protests must be accompanied by a protest fee of SGD50.00 (Singapore Dollars Fifty Only). This amount will be refunded if the protest is considered reasonable or upheld by the Judges.

**A request for judges to review judging sheets will be deemed to be a protest.**

If a rider wishes to make a protest while on the water, the protest needs to come by radio to Chief Judge's station. The Chief Judge will be on hand to hear the protest. The Chief Judge will record the protest on the Official Protest form until the rider is able to sign and complete the form. Chief Judge will take the proper steps to solve the protest.

Protests will be handled by the Chief Judge and the 3 judges involved in the respective event. In the case of other protests, ie. heat protests, timing, etc, such protests shall be handled by the majority of judges.

A correction of an error in the computation of scores shall not be considered a protest and the correction shall be made on the approval of the Chief Judge and Calculator within 20 minutes after the results are announced, and Boat Judges' scoring sheets have been made available for inspection. The inspection of scoring sheets will be done only in the presence of the Judges scoring that particular event.

## **Rule 11 USE OF VIDEO**

Due to the subjective scoring nature & spirit of wakesurfing, video footage of any kind will not be used by Judges, riders or representatives to resolve any disputes. Judges will not view or comment on any video footage during the event.

## **Rule 12 COMPETITION FORMAT**

- a) General: Each rider shall be allowed two passes through the wakesurf course during which time he may perform any routine he chooses. He will be judged on subjective style categories, to arrive at a single combined score.
- b) **Judging of the routine begins when the rider enters the course or drops the rope, whichever occurs later.** Any trick started outside of the course or while holding the rope will not be scored. A trick started inside the wakesurf course but finished in control outside the wakesurf course will be scored. Riders are encouraged to perform a smooth flowing routine with a wide variety of tricks. Each trick should be executed as cleanly as possible and taken to its limit. Judges will provide subjective scoring of each rider based on their overall opinion of how well the rider performed his routine in relation to each of the established subjective scoring criteria, in comparison to other riders within the same heat.

Boat (Scoring) Judges: The Chief Judge will designate three Boat Judges, to be seated in the tow boat, to score each rider's routine.

- b) Scoring: Each judge will award a maximum of 40 points to each rider based on their overall impressions of the routine performed. Each individual heat per division will be judged independently from the other heats on the day. The judges will score the first rider of the heat subjectively and each subsequent riders performance after that rider is judged higher or lower dependant upon their ride. Judges are required to both score and placement a rider in within each heat.

The judges will score each rider in each of the following categories:-

\*Execution – 1 to 10 Points (scoring can be in increments of .10)

This reflects how well the tricks are performed and the level of control/fluidity maintained throughout each trick and the entire run.

Intensity – 1 to 10 Points (scoring can be in increments of .10)

This reflects how aggressive and powerful a rider is performing his tricks

Difficulty – 1 to 10 Points (scoring can be in increments of .10)

This reflects how difficult each trick is based on any number of variables.

Variety – 1 to 10 Points (scoring can be in increments of .10)

This reflects the variety of tricks performed

*\* riders will not be penalised for falls*

- c) Calculated scores will be cross-referenced to the judge's placement of the rider. The judges' placement of the rider will always override the total score of the rider.

### **Rule 13 WAKESURF COURSE**

- c) Course Dimensions: A start buoy shall establish the approximate area of the beginning of the wakesurf course from each direction. The end of the pass shall be signified by an end buoy. The distance from the start and end buoys will be minimum 45 seconds long at a boat speed of 17 kph. These course dimensions will be used where practical.
- d) Cut-Off buoy: A cut off buoy will indicate the point after which the tow boat will not be able to get up to speed for a rider to continue his run in the second pass. The position of the cut off buoy will be determined by the Chief Judge and Chief Boat Driver.
- e) Proceeding through the two wakesurf passes: The boat shall follow as closely as possible the path specified by the Chief Judge for the event, such path to include the preparation time before each pass. The second pass shall be in the opposite direction from the first pass.
- f) A rider's routine will begin when when he enters the course or drops the rope, whichever occurs later.
- g) A rider's routine will end: when he falls for a third time or when he passes the end buoy.
- h) A rider may only swim to his board after a fall. Any rider who swims down the course to gain advantage over a fellow competitor will not be picked up. This will be the end of his routine.**
- i) The judges will signal to the rider to edge away from the boat's wake at the end of the first pass of the wakesurf course and the tow boat shall come to a stop, instead of turning around. The tow boat will then bring the tow rope to the rider to restart and proceed through the second pass. **This will not count as a fall.**

### **Rule 16 BOAT SPEED & WAKE**

- a) Each rider shall receive his choice of a constant speed through the course for each pass,. The boat speed, assuming it is held constant before entering the course, is the rider's responsibility. A rider may change speed of the boat at any time during the competition run. There will be no re-rides granted once a rider decides to change his boat speed.
- b) Riders have the option to select whether they wish to start on the port or starboard side of the boat to begin their runs and must clearly indicate their preference to the boat driver before the beginning of their runs. The ability to transfer sides is at the Chief Judge's discretion and will be communicated to riders before the event begins. Riders may request for a steeper or flatter wake at any time during the competition run.

### **RULE 17 FALLS**

- a) Three Falls: A rider may have a maximum of three falls during a routine. Should a fall occur, the boat will pick up the rider to proceed with the routine. The rider will not be picked up after a third fall, or after a fall that occurs beyond the cut-off buoy in the second pass.
- b) Out-Of-Course Falls: Any fall outside the wakesurf course will count as a fall

- c) Handle-Throw: A handle-throw before the start of his first pass will also count as a fall
  
- d) The rider must be ready to ride immediately upon the boat's return after a fall or handle throw.

**RULE 18      SCHEDULE CHANGES & CANCELLATION OF EVENTS**

Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety, or a similar reason. Such changes will be announced at a riders' meeting, and by posting on the official notice board.

The finals of each category must be completed to determine a winner, even if the Judges are obliged to continue it at a different site or another day. If a final cannot be completed, all riders from the event will compete again where and when possible, until a winner is determined.