



IWWF Europe & Africa Wakeboard Boat Council Meeting

7th and 8th November 2015, Zaandam, Netherlands

Present: Florian Butty, Colin Hart, Maria Bulgakova, Franck Chocun, Linda Johnston, Stefano Duranti

Apologies: Nuno Almeida D'Eca,

Florian welcomed the EA Wakeboard Boat Council to the meeting in Zaandam.

1. March 2015 Minutes were reviewed and agreed

2. 2016 EA Additional Wakeboard Boat Rules

- Unofficial training -Training remains completely unofficial and separate from the competition. We agreed that the organiser should have the opportunity to make some income from the training. We agreed that clear guidelines and recommendations must be issued to the organiser to ensure that all teams and riders have equal access to training. We will add further clarification to the rules at 9.5 General Recommendations to ensure that both riders and organisers are aware of the conditions for practice.

- Safety Director – The wording of World rules 3.1 states that a Safety Director must be appointed, however the Chief Judge may override any decision. We agreed this wording is sufficient. However, Florian will clarify with Admincom whether there are any legal responsibilities in undertaking the task of the Safety Director?

- Seeding – We discussed feedback from the World Championships about the seeding and the software. The system described by the World rules is evolving seeding. The system according to the world rules is to use pre-seeding to do the running order for the first round of the competition and LCQ, then move on to make the running orders from the placement in the heats. It was clarified that the seeding introduced in the software had been made following the World Wakeboard Championships in Busan in 2013, based on guidance to Florian from Paul Fong. Council agreed that the software would require changes made to adopt the evolving seeding model, as described in the World rules and confirmed in Mexico by Paul Fong.

We agreed on the principle that the competition should use initial seeding for the first round but from then on performances carrying through the entire competition. We agreed to support the view that the seeding should be based on the previous performance round – so

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Initial seeding for the qualification round

Qualification round to quarterfinal

Quarter final to semi final

Semi final to Final

The rules for seeding will be further discussed at the World Council meeting, and at our future Council meeting in January. Following a decision being taken by the WWC and amendment to the World rules 2016, Florian requested the WWC to provide an official written request to clearly state the requirements for amendments to the calculation software. Florian advised that this would be an easy adjustment in the calculation software.

To date the Event Management System has not been developed any further and therefore as yet the ranking list is not directly created. Florian will contact Manu before the end of 2015 to cost and to introduce the same kind of ranking system as Cable ski, in order to produce the ranking from the calculation software after each competition.

All Federations will be required to use the calculation software for 2016.

All calculators will need to attend the seminar to have access to and to complete the exam in the use of the calculation software.

- Registration – rule10.3. We agreed wording amendments to make it clear that it is the responsibility of the team captain /rider to present him or herself at registration to ensure that the Chief Calculator has all of the necessary documents in respect of both team and independent riders before the close of registration. Registration will close 18 hours before the start of the competition.

- Top riders straight to quarterfinals – this proposal was not supported by the EA Council.

- Re-ride procedure – there were some issues highlighted at the world championships, and there will be further discussion about a proposed procedure for re-rides to come from the World Council.

- Preparation – Riders should be at the dock prepared with the rope at the correct length and ready to throw to the rope monkey, without the need to adjust length of the line. We did not accept this proposal, as there may be circumstances where riders need to make changes to rope length.

- The weight in the boat should be the same throughout the competition for all rounds of the same division. We agreed that the Chief Judge has the responsibility to liaise with the Chief Driver to achieve this as far as is possible.

At the end of 2015, following receipt of the World Rules, a final check will be done to the EA Additional Rules. Following the Congress meeting in January the following documents for 2016 will be published -

- 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Additional Rules, with Appendices: ie: the Pre event and Post event Homologation forms, Rules for Officials, the Heat system, Ranking rules.

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- Guidelines on the use of the judging platform

3. EA Wakeboard Boat Ranking list

For **2014** Stefano was unable to complete the ranking list, as he is waiting for an access code from Nuno for the account.

For **2015** Stefano will continue to work to establish a ranking list. Nuno will be asked to provide the password and access to the website.

For **2016** Florian will consult Manu to assist us to progress to generating the ranking list directly through the calculation software. This will be done using the same system and format as is currently used in Cableski. Florian undertook to discuss this system with Marian and Manu.

In **2016** all Federations **must** use the calculation software and submit the file for ranking.

When this process has been established and finalised, a letter will be issued to all Federations informing them that only competitions using the calculation software will link to the ranking list from 2016.

4. 2016 Judges and Calculators Seminar

The seminar will be held in Zaandam on 22nd to 24th April 2016, if it is possible to make bookings with the hotel. It will be preceded by the Council meeting at 9.00am Thursday 21st April, all day and Friday 22nd morning. Maria Bulgakova is already in contact with the hotel and Dominique Lakens Douwe will assist her with the contract and all the agreements with the hotel. Florian has met Piet Jongepier, Chairman of the Dutch Federation and he has approved that the wakeboard boat seminar will take place in the Netherlands.

The Bulletin will be prepared by Maria Bulgakova and ready for January 2016 Congress.

5. 2016 Boat Driving Seminar

The Council would like to run the driving seminar during 2016. We intend to invite potential drivers to attend the Official's seminar to complete the rules course and examinations pertinent to driving. Following the seminar, the top 2 or 3 in examinations will be invited to complete the practical driving exam in conjunction with the practice for the EA Championships in Coleraine, Ireland.

The Seminar Bulletin will contain information about the Drivers examinations.

6. 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Championships

The 2016 Championships will be held in Coleraine, Ireland, from 8th to 13th August, with the Superfinal on Friday 12th August 2016.

The Hotels are booked and the funding applications are in progress. The organising committee has been established. Florian will meet the organising committee during December/ January.

The 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Championships Bulletin will be ready for the January Congress, to be published immediately after Congress.

Last year we faced a shortage of officials for the EA Wakeboard Boat Championships. Should this happen again in the future, there was discussion regarding options for us to include International 2 qualified judges on the panel. We will always attempt to have the panel of International 1, however in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to appoint an International 2 judges. However, where this is the case, only those who have attended the seminar preceding the Championships to sit the International 1 examination will be eligible for selection.

7. 2015 EA Wakeboard Boat Championships and Superfinal

The 2015 EA Wakeboard Boat Championships held in Maurik, the Netherlands from 3 – 8th August. The Championship was attended by 121 riders from 15 countries. The organisers worked well with officials, the site was very good and feedback was very positive.

The Superfinal was greatly appreciated by the riders, and the qualifier was a really good test run for the 2016 EA Championships. It was agreed that this model provides a good test for the sites and following the qualifier in Latvia; the intention will be to run the 2017 EA Championships in Latvia.

These one day competitions with cash prizes are appreciated by the riders, and

Following a few issues with Mastercraft, and some communication issues on their part, the contract transfer of \$30,000 US was made on Wednesday 4th November 2015. This was significantly delayed, as it was due at the beginning of July as per the agreement. It was therefore not possible to make the cash prize payments. However all cash prizes to all riders have now been paid, or are in process where there are complicating factors.

8. 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Superfinal

Waterways Ireland has agreed to provide financial support for one event in each of the next 5 years. The Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation will host these events. In 2016 this will be the Superfinal, and in the following years Pro Tour qualifier stops.

The Superfinal will follow the same format as in 2014 and 2015.

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9. 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Pro Tour

2016 proposed qualifier stops are Riga, Latvia in early July and Neuchatel, Switzerland in mid July. Followed by the Superfinal in Coleraine, Ireland on 12th August 2016.

We achieved 1 qualifier stop last year in Ireland. The aim is for 2 stops in 2016 and we will hope to achieve 3 stops in 2017.

Florian confirmed that the Mastercraft contract remains in place to support the Pro Tour over the next 4 years. Florian requested the support of Council to proceed with the development of the Pro tour. This will be done in conjunction with Linda and Martin James.

Communication was late for the qualifier in 2015, and this was acknowledged, however we needed confirmation of the cash prize before publishing the event and this delayed the information. The organiser must be in a position to cover the cash prize. The EA Council will only cover the officials for the event.

Qualification for the Pro Tour will be as follows -

- Top 6 of the Pro Tour ranking in the year of the Championships.
- Final / Semi-final at EA Championships (numbers may vary)
- Participation in the qualifier stops, producing a ranking from qualifier stops
- Participation at the EA Wakeboard Boat Championships.

The one day format will be as established in 2014 and 2015.

10. 2016 Team scoring

It was agreed that this would need to be discussed and agreed first at World Wakeboard Council level, before we could implement any changes in the mechanics of team scoring. This was raised at the World Council meeting by Colin, but will require to be re-visited by the World Council.

11. 2016 Judging Program

The program has been further developed, the platform and the system is completed and is almost ready to launch. All users will get a user name to gain access and the administrators will be able to track activity and exams completed. The system will therefore enable monitoring of those using the program and completing exams.

The platform will be for new and improving judges in order to commence their development prior to attending the International Seminar. This will mean they will have the opportunity to practice and develop before attending the seminar and therefore be better prepared to achieve the International level judging level. All International Judges will be required to attend the seminar to achieve their qualification.

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The system will be ready to launch by the end of 2015. There will be an initial cost of €2,500 to the French Federation for development and then a maintenance contract of €15 per name per year. The cost of €15 per name per year was felt to be too high. Further discussion will be required with the French Federation in respect of this cost.

There is already a server available that allows us access to deposit our material and Council information. Franck / Florian will contact Candido to discuss whether this would be of assistance to us.

12. 2016 EA Wakeboard Boat Athletes of the Year

Male – David O’Caoimh, Ireland

Female – Alice Virag, Italy

13. WWA in Europe

The WWA held an event in Europe, in Portugal. We note the event, but make no comment in respect of it.

14. Council Budget / Funding

€2500 will be used to cover the judging platform

If any of the officials who travelled to represent the EA as officials at the World Championships have outstanding expenses, invoices should be provided to Florian.

15. 2016 Congress in Barcelona

The documents required are: –

The Annual Report 2015 – Florian and Linda

Voting Powers – Florian

Athletes of the Year – Linda

Honorary Members – Claes Scheffer and Remi Breivik – Florian

If Florian is unable to attend the Congress meeting, Colin was nominated to Chair the Council meeting and will represent Florian at the Admincom meeting.

16. A.O.B

- Seminar in Russia - a request was received from the Russian judges to run a judging seminar in Russia prior to the Nationals. It was clarified that this is not possible, as all officials seminars must be established and delivered through the EA

Council. All International 2 and International 1 judges must attend the international seminar.

- Requests had previously been received via Johan Callebert for the delivery of judging and coaching seminars. Also a further request had been received via Johan to support the Greek Federation with the provision of officials for competitions. The EA Council has made it clear in writing to both Johan and the Greek officials that it is not possible to run seminars outside those run by the EA Council. If given notice for the Nationals we would attempt to assist – however this was a last minute request.

More recently, in November 2015, a formal request has been received via Johan, from the Greek Federation to the EA Council to facilitate a development seminar in Greece during 2016.

- Certificates will be prepared for those who have attended the seminar and for Giuseppe Caimi and Cyril Cornaro as International Drivers. Maria and Florian.

- Discussion about the establishment of an U12 division. It was proposed that rather than creating another division, it would be preferable to change the age category from U9 to U10 or U11. There was general agreement among Council members to provide more encouragement for youngsters as a promotional division at National level – and that the gap between U9 and U14 is big in terms of performance levels.

- Discussion about the option for organisers to remove the LCQ from one day competitions. The EA Council did not support this proposal.

- The Mediterranean Games took place in August 2015, in the city of Pescara (Italy) with the Wakeboard Boat competition from 28th to 31st of August. Six countries attended: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy and the Lebanon (no riders from Croatia participated in the event). There were 25 riders (18 pro men and 5 pro women). Giovanni Bellini and Davide Beretta from Italy and Stefano Duranti from the Principality of Monaco were selected as wakeboard boat judges, and the wakeboard officials elected Stefano Duranti as Chief Judge.

In general the organization on site was good. There was an office and one calculator for both disciplines, waterski and wakeboard, running on the same days. Two main issues arose during the competition. Firstly, the boat - the Mastercraft X series boat developed an engine problem and in the circumstances the officials had no option but to use the official water ski boat for the lq and the semi final round of the pro men division. Secondly, the rules - the rules created for the Mediterranean Beach Games did not work with the official EA wakeboard boat calculation program. When the issue was identified it was necessary to restart following the EA rules, and the calculation program worked well.

The two Italian riders Giorgia Gregorio and Nicolo' Caimi won their respective divisions.

In pro men division the technical riding level was high for the top riders.

In pro women division Giorgia Gregorio was outstanding in comparison to the other competitors. The standard of riding was lacking for an International event at the level of the Mediterranean Games. This was disappointing given that there were a huge number of spectators during the weekend and a huge promotional opportunity for our sport.

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