



## **WWAG SAFE SPORT POLICY**

*Safeguarding Athletes and Participants from Harassment and Abuse  
Approved by the Executive Board February 2019*

**Dec: 2019**

## A. General Rules

### **PURPOSE (Act 1)**

- The purpose of this Code of Conduct and Safety policy is to ensure a safe and positive environment within **WWAG** programs, activities and events, by making all Individuals aware that there is an expectation of appropriate behavior, consistent with the values of **WWAG**, at all times.
- **WWAG** is committed to providing an environment in which all Individuals are treated with respect. Further, **WWAG** supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. Members of **WWAG** and participants in **WWAG's** programs and activities are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of **WWAG** that include fairness, integrity, open communication and mutual respect.
- Conduct that violates this Code of Conduct and Ethics may be subject to sanctions pursuant to **WWAG** policies related to discipline and complaints.

### **DEFINITIONS (Act 2)**

- The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
- "Individuals" – **WWAG** staff, volunteers, organizers, coaches, officials, athletes, managers, members, parents/guardians of **WWAG** members and spectators at **WWAG** events.  
Application of this Policy
- This policy applies to Individuals relating to conduct that that may arise during the course of **WWAG's** business, activities and events, including but not limited to, office environment, competitions, practices, training camps, Tournaments, travel, and any meetings of **WWAG** committees or the Board of Directors.
- This policy applies to conduct that may occur outside of **WWAG's** business and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within **WWAG's** work and sport environment and is detrimental to the image and reputation of the **WWAG**.

### **PERSONAL DATA (Act 3)**

- All competitors must have comprehended and signed the Information Policy / Personal Data Treatment before taking part at any **WWAG** event. This information complies with international laws regarding individual data protection.

### **ALCOHOL (Act 4)**

- No alcohol is to be consumed by Athletes prior to or during the day's event. The day's event is deemed as starting 1 hour prior to the first rider starting their run and finished when the final scores for have been posted and the official protest time has elapsed. Once an athlete's heat and results are posted it is deemed that the athlete's day is finished.

## **B. Technical Rules**

### **Safety (Act 5)**

1. A Safety Technical/Director or Event Director who is responsible also for safety during Events should always be appointed to any Wakeboard or Waterski event to assure all safety aspects are in order. The Technical /Safety Director shall be responsible for the safe conditions of all equipment, facilities and operation of the event; but this shall not prevent him from delegating specific responsibilities to his assistants as approved by the Executive Board. He or she shall have the authority to take whatever action is necessary, including stopping the event, whenever he/she observes a condition he/she believes unsafe.

### **UNSAFE RIDER REFUSAL OF PARTICIPATION (Act 6)**

2. No rider shall be allowed to compete or to continue to compete if, in the opinion of the Technical /Safety Director and a majority of the Boat or Cable Judges, his/her competing would be a danger to himself/herself or other riders in the competition. During the competition, the Technical /Safety Director may, at any time, request the Chief Judge to 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 doctor should be obtained.

### **SAFETY BOATS / PICK UP JET SKIS (Act 7)**

3. One safety boat or one pick up Jet Ski shall be used during the event. The suggested positioning of the safety boat is operating outside the wakeboard course buoys facing a rider during his pass. If possible, the pickup Jet Ski should have a rescue board attached to it so it's easier for the rider to climb on board. The Chief Judge will determine the safety boat and pick up Jet Ski final positions on course.

### **TRAINER (Act 8)**

4. The role of a **trainer** is to develop a competency and skill sets in an individual to perform his/her effectively and efficiently in the work place. The **trainer** should communicate to the trainees about what is expected out of **training** in a simple and professional way.

#### **Including the following:**

- Ability levels to improve their technique,
- Fitness and performance in the water using a range of exercises, and fitness and dietary programmers.
- Involves a range of activities. Advising on diet and fitness. Attending competitive functions with athletes.

### **SAFETY BOAT PERSONNEL (Act 9)**

5. The safety boat will be manned by: - an experienced driver who is familiar with the conduct of all practice and competitive wakeboard events. - A swimmer who has been fully trained in First Aid, Emergency Resuscitation and Water Rescue Techniques. The swimmer will wear a life jacket at all times and, in the event of a serious fall, will jump into the water to assist the rider. If the injured rider is unable to climb into the safety boat with little or no assistance, the rider will be floated to shore and lifted from the water on a suitable board or stretcher. Under no circumstances will an injured rider be lifted passively over the side of the safety boat. It is emphasized that, in international competitions, language difficulties may interfere with communication; and, for this reason, the swimmer **MUST GET IN THE WATER** to assist the injured rider.

## **C. SWIMMING**

6. The basic qualification for any rider who is joining the Organization as a wakeboard rider must first have swimming background.

### **ON SITE MEDICAL FACILITIES / AMBULANCE (Act 10)**

7. There will be a suitably equipped medical station located at the competition site. A suitably qualified Medical Officer will be in attendance throughout the event at the competition site. An ambulance can serve as medical office but the event needs to be halted if that ambulance leaves the site for any reason. In cases when the ambulance serves as medical office, a working relationship will be established with the local hospital and the competition Medical Officer, such that casualties will get prompt and expert treatment and emergency response ambulances should be called for transportation of injured riders to the local hospital. Where the ambulance serves as the medical station on site, suitable transportation vehicles may be used to transport.

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES (Act 11)**

8. 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' or team captains' meeting, and by posting on the official notice board.

**All riders must be on-site one hour before their scheduled event time.**

**The official notice board will be the only certified source of updated information about schedules and results.**

## D. CATEGORIES

### MINIMUM NUMBER OF RIDERS (Act 12)

- There will be a minimum of 3 riders required to open a category. The categories to be opened will be determined after the end of the registration. Once a category is open then the scores and the placement of riders in that category will contribute to scores (for ranking purposes) and to a title. The trainer will inform all participating riders as soon as feasibly possible if there are insufficient riders within a category. In the event of a category not opening then merging will take effect.
- A rider will only be allowed to enter one category, either the appropriate age-group category or a higher level of difficulty category than his/her own age-group category.

### Date of Birth (Act 13)

- For any competition - a rider's age as of 31st December of the current year the event takes place will be used to determine age bracket.

### Cancellation / Merging Classes (Act 14)

BOYS/GIRLS => JUNIOR => OPEN <= MASTERS <= VETERANS

- Categories with less than three (3) riders will be cancelled or merged with other categories to a > division at the discretion of Technical Director. The cancelled category will not have recognized placement or champions.

### Categories (International Titled Events) (Act 15)

- **U18 - 18 years and Under (Junior Men)**  
18 years and under – if you are 18 years or under on December 31st in the current year the event is held
- **U18 - 18 years and Under (Junior Women)**  
18 years and under – if you are 18 years or under on December 31st in the current year the event is held
- **25 - 30 Years and Over (Master Men)**  
30 years or older on December 31st in the current year the event is held
- **25 - 30 Years and Over (Master Women)**  
30 years or older on December 31st in the current year the event is held

## E. Buoys



Buoys to be used for the wakeboard course must be of the following specifications:

- a) Only inflatable buoys may be used, and they should be made of a lightweight, pliable material with smooth exposed surface.
- b) Color of buoys shall be selected for maximum visibility. A fluorescent orange, pink or red tone is recommended for the start buoys and fluorescent green, yellow or white tone is recommended for the cut-off buoys.
- c) Start buoys shall not stand more than 50 cm high above the waterline.
- d) Each buoy shall have a strong loop for attaching anchor lines. The buoys must be attached to the anchor line by the use of a system that will tighten the buoy in such a way as to ensure that it does not move around from its position.

### Course Dimensions (Act 16)

- e) Where feasible, in order to ensure a constant path consistently throughout the event, a pair of start buoys 5 to 10 meters apart shall mark the beginning of the wakeboard course from each direction. Another pair of buoys 5 to 10 meters apart shall signify the end of the course. The distance from the start to the end buoys should range from 370 to 400 metres (36-39 seconds at 37 km/hour or 23 miles/hour).
- f) A rider's first and second pass will begin after he or she rides around or between the start buoys, as long as the first trick is initiated after those buoys.
- g) Where 2 buoys on each side are not possible, only one start buoy shall establish the approximate area of the beginning of the wakeboard course from each direction. An end buoy shall signify the end of the pass. In this case, it will be up to the judges in the boat to deem any trick as in or out of course, and therefore, counted or not towards the final score.
- h) A pair of cut-off buoys, set approximately 50 metres apart, will be placed where it indicates 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 cut-off buoys will not be used in finals where there is a double-up or a wild card. Cut-off buoys may be substituted by clearly visible points on shore that will act as cut-off buoys.

## **PROCEEDING THROUGH THE WAKEBOARD PASSES (Act 17)**

- The boat shall follow as closely as possible the path specified by the trainer 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.
- When a rider falls and the boat has to pick up that rider, the driver in the boat will do the best effort possible to start again following the exact same path as before the fall.

## **Start and End of the Routine (Act 18)**

- A rider's routine will start when he/she performs his/her first trick after the line of the start buoys.
- A rider's first trick will be scored if he/she leaves the crest of the wake after passing the line of the end buoys (Defined by the front foot leaving the wake)
- A rider's routine will end: when he/she falls for a second time or when he/she passes the end buoys. A rider's last trick will be scored if he/she leaves the crest of the wake before passing the line of the end buoys (Defined by the front foot leaving the wake)

## **Speed (Act 19)**

- Each rider shall receive his choice of a constant speed through the course. The boat speed, assuming it is held constant before entering the course, is the rider's responsibility. The rider is allowed to adjust the speed of the boat during the routine. The driver shall adjust the speed as quickly as possible after getting notice of the rider's sign.

## **Signals (Act 20)**

- a) The rider shall use the standardized signals and not cause the boat to stop, if possible. Deliberate use of delaying tactics will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will subject the rider to penalty or disqualification. The following signals apply in addition to well-known riding signals.
  - Use in combination as applicable.
  - Thumb(s) up means go faster
  - Thumb(s) down means go slower
  - Pointing at an item of equipment means a problem with it
  - Pointing back toward object means debris in water
  - Raising hand overhead means request for re-ride
  - Fallen rider must signal to tow boat and safety boat that he/she is OK and/or injured.

## F. EQUIPMENT

### Life Vest (Act 21)

- All riders must wear a life vest. It is the responsibility of each rider to ensure their life vest meets the following specifications:
  - ❖ Floats the rider.
  - ❖ Is constructed as to provide adequate protection from impact damage to the ribs and internal organs.

### Damaged Equipment (Act 22)

- A rider is fully responsible for his/her personal equipment and should have a spare board, fully assembled with bindings and fins at disposal, should any damage occur. In the event that a rider realises his/her equipment has been damaged, he/she may throw the handle to indicate the wish to repair the equipment. This will, however, constitute one fall if it occurs in the wakeboard course. If a rider falls in the wakeboard course due to his/her equipment being damaged, it will also constitute one fall. If a rider needs to stop his/her ride in the wakeboard course or before the start of his/her second pass to repair his/her equipment, it will also constitute one in-course fall. The Rainer will have the final say as to whether the equipment has failed. If a rider has damaged his/her equipment, he/she 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 have both feet back in his/her bindings before the four minutes elapses or his/her routine is over. The boat will then tow 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.

### Bibs (Act 23)

- Riders are required to wear an official bib during media riding, actual competition, and interviews. If a rider is not wearing a bib that is assigned to him/her while competing, he will be disqualified from the tournament. No modifications of bibs or addition or deletion of lettering or logos on bibs are permitted.



## **G. COMPETITION FORMAT**

### **General (Act 24)**

- Each rider shall be allowed two passes through the wakeboard course during which time he/she may perform any routine he/she chooses. He/she will be judged on subjective style categories, to arrive at a single combined score.
- Judging of the routine begins when the rider enters the wakeboard course and ends when the rider exits the wakeboard course, falls for a second time, or completes his/her double up or wild card (finals only).
- Riders are encouraged to perform a smooth flowing routine with a wide variety of tricks. Each manoeuvre should be different, adding its unique style, should display a high technical level and should be executed as cleanly as possible and taken to its limit.

### **RIDER PREPAREDNESS (Act 25)**

- A rider must be in his/her bindings, with his/her life vest and assigned bib on, and with a rope that will not interfere with him/her being ready to ride when the boat returns to the dock/start area. Any rider who fails to be on immediate hand and in condition to ride when it is his/her turn in the running order as stated above will be deemed to be wasting time to gain an unfair advantage and will be disqualified. (Configuring a DNS – Did Not Start situation, where although he/she will not be allowed to keep on competing, his/her points already achieved are guaranteed) In case the rider is not available or has been disqualified, a one-minute delay shall be granted to the next rider in the starting order. If more than one rider has been disqualified, the time allotted to the next rider shall be one minute for each rider disqualified.

### **Falls (Act 26)**

#### **Out Of Course Falls / Handle Throw**

A rider may have one out-of-course fall only before the start of his/her first pass.

- An out-of-course fall or handle throw before the start of the second pass will count as one out-of-course fall. In case of an out-of-course fall or handle throw before the start of a rider's first pass due to an incorrect speed or an incorrect rope length, the boat will start again from the jetty.
- The rider may also have one handle-throw before the start of his/her first pass, which will also count as one out-of-course fall. If a rider throws the handle prior to the start of his/her first pass to indicate that the rope was incorrectly put on the wrong loop by the officials or Judges in the boat, this will not count as an out-of-course fall and the boat will re-start from the Jetty.

## Rider Readiness (Act 27)

- The rider must be ready to ride immediately upon the boat's return after a fall, an out-of-course fall, or handle-throw. Any delaying tactics will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

## Re-Rides

- Responsibility

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

**NOTE: A request for a re-ride comes at a risk of being denied.**

## Procedure

If a rider decides to request a re-ride they must:

- Cease executing tricks immediately.
- Move to the middle of the wake, holding his/her hand in the air and only then dropping the handle (If the re-ride is denied it will be counted as a fall).
- Once the boat gets back the rider may request a re-ride to the boat judges.

**Judges must agree by majority to grant riders request for re-ride.**  
**Chief Judge may overrule pending time constraints etc.**

## H. DOUBLE UP / WILDCARD

### CATEGORIES (Act 28)

Only Open Ladies, Junior Men and Open Men who qualify for the finals may be given a double up.

### PROCEDURE (ACT 29)

It is the sole responsibility of each rider to communicate to the driver before leaving the dock whether he/she would like a left or right double up. Re-rides will not be granted due to any miscommunication between the rider and driver. In the event that the boat provides a double up in an incorrect direction, the rider must wave off the double up and not attempt any maneuver. If any manoeuvre is attempted, which includes cutting at the wake, the rider will be deemed to have accepted his/her double-up. If a rider waves off the double up, the boat will then turn around, and proceed with a double-up in the correct direction. Re-rides will not be granted for turbulent water in this instance. However, if through driver error, then a 3 minutes' delay will be granted to the rider, to allow the water to calm back to suitable conditions.

In the final, if a rider's first fall occurs beyond the cut-off buoys, the rider will still have the right to have a double-up or wild card.

The Technical Director and a trainer will decide whether to run a double up or a wild card for the finals, and for which categories this will apply. They will decide whether the double-up or wild card for one or more categories may be cancelled if this would jeopardize the safety or the efficient running of the event, and should advise the organizer and report to the President and Chairman of the **WWAG** as soon as feasibly possible.

An unsuccessful double-up /wild card will not affect the score of a rider's routine. But a successful double-up/ wild card will be counted as a bonus and will add to the rider's score. In the event of a wild card trick, it should be judged the same way as a double up.

## **NATIONAL EVENTS / NON TITLED EVENTS**

### **APPLICABILITY (Act 30)**

The following rules will apply to all non titled events or National Titled events. They are intended to give more flexibility in order to enable adaptation to National circumstances and to provide guidance for the running of smaller events.

Changes to the rules should be kept to a minimum in order that these standards are used all around the world and the events reflect the global consistency of our sport.

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES / CANCELLATION OF EVENTS (Act 31)**

#### **Event Cancellation**

If, for any exceptional reason, it is not possible to finish all the finals of the event, the joint winners will be determined by the round immediately previous to the finals run (i.e. results from semi-finals May be used to determine 2 joint winners and 2 joint 3rd places).

For placement purposes for the ranking, riders will be awarded the points of the completed rounds.

i.e. if the finals are not possible to finish, semi-finals winners will be all awarded 7th place and so on (no points for finals).

## I. Administration

### Organization and Individual Entry (Act 32)

- I. An individual rider's entry must be submitted through his organization/clubs representative. Any individual entry must be submitted through **WWAG** E-mail before 6.00 pm, 3 weeks prior to the first day of the event and training. **WWAG** will decide the criteria for an individual rider's entry. There is no restriction to the number of riders who enter International Titled Events as individual competitors.
- II. Any local organization/clubs who wish to join **WWAG** should visit the offices for inquiry about the registration procedure.
- III. Any organization/clubs joining this Federation must pay for their registration to **WWAG** to become a member and for every month those organization/clubs will be paying a minimum of Ghc300, this payment is non-refundable and this payment will ensure the number of organizations that are members of **(WATERSKI AND WAKEBOARD ASSOCIATION GHANA)** to run the activities internally.
- IV. **NOTE:** by doing so, **WWAG** will serve them as their international head quarters and governing body of water sports in the country.

### a. TREASURE (Act 33)

- 1) Treasure is also responsible for invoicing the Applicants for the payment to be paid into **WWAG** bank Account, the Applicants must present the payment receipt from bank before the Applicants receive (REGISTRATION FORM) at **GENERAL SECRETARY** Office.
- 2) There will be two Category of registration form:
  - Individual registration form
  - Organization/clubs form
- 3) The **REGISTRATION FORM** must be submitted not later than 40 days to **WWAG OFFICE** and a copy by email of the president of **WWAG** or in person from General Secretary.
- 4) Every procedure must first be passed by the president, at the upsets of the president then before vice act.
- 5) **Note:** The president or **WWAG** must receive every copy of the organization updates and documents relating to the activities of the Sports in his E-mail through the General Secretary of **WWAG**.
- 6) The office shall collect the team composition before the end of the registration, and shall post the team composition before the start of the training/events and competition. No protest concerning the team composition will be permitted after the start of the competition.

## **AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

Proposal for amendments to this constitution must be delivered to the secretary in writing. The secretary in conjunction with the president and The Chairman with other officers shall then decide on the date of a forum meeting to discuss such proposals, giving at least sixty days (60) clear notice before the meeting of the Congress.

Amendments to become valid and require the support of two thirds of the voting power represented at the Congress and come into effect immediately after the Congress.

If the Congress considers it necessary it may delegate its powers to the Board for the final wording of any articles of which it basically approves.

This constitution was adopted by the Executive Council of WWAG on December, 2018.

WAKEBOARD SAFETY POLICY