Water Ski Judging Guidelines – Use of Radios

Introduction and General Notes

Radios are an essential part of running any competition from League level up to World Championships. These are suggested guidelines to aid a smooth running competition.

There are a few general rules & notes regarding radio use:

- Make sure the PTT button is pressed a couple of seconds before speaking (There is a delay)
- Give important information twice
- Always make sure that you say something non-essential first to get people's attention, then give the essential information (e.g. "The next skier is….")
- Don't use unless necessary, batteries have a habit of running out at the wrong moment.
- Don't drop them in the lake or put them somewhere where they may fall in the lake!
- If you are a boat judge make sure there is already a radio in the boat or take one with you.
- During breaks, (e.g. for lunch or bad weather), it is advisable to place radios on charge wherever possible and to ensure that a fully charged radio is in the boat/taken to the boat after a crew change.
- A good idea for the Jetty radio is to hang it somewhere if possible. This avoids the risk of it ending up in the lake!
- Be careful not to say anything inappropriate in the boat or anywhere else where there is a recording camera (near the end course camera for example). Footage from the boat and end course cameras is submitted and so the sound may be heard!.

Radio Positions and Information to call

The following 3 sections describe the radios needed for each event and the information to call, along with the order of calling. What is described is the ideal, but it is possible to run a small competition with as little as 4 radios.

It may not be necessary for each position to have a dedicated radio. For instance, as long as the first aid personnel are reachable near the tower, they don't need a radio. Also if 2 positions are close to each other, they can share a radio.

It may also be useful for the Organiser, First Aid and Rescue boat to be on another channel, so they can be controlled without interfering with the Officials Radio traffic. Of course the Chief Judge will also need access to this channel.

Water Ski Judging Guidelines – Use of Radios

Slalom

The positions that need a radio are:
- Chief Judge
- Calculator
- Jetty Marshall
- Boat Judge
- Tower 1
- Tower 2 (if there is one)
- Gate Judges (if separate to Tower Judges).
- First Aid
- Organiser
- Rescue Boat (if one is used)

The order of calling is:

Jetty Marshall – "Next skier is skier name, start speed xx kph rope length nn metres". The name start speed and rope length should be repeated. It may also be necessary to announce the speed control settings required for the skier if they are not displayed at the jetty.

Boat Judge –
Before each pass: "Skier name @ xx, x,x " where xx is the speed and/or rope length. E.g "Fred Blogs forty-nine, four, nine and/or sixteen metres, one, six".

After each pass : after checking times with driver/speed control system – "Speed ok, x buoys, time nn, x buoys, time nn" where x is the number of buoys and nn is the last 2 digits of the time for the number of buoys scored.

Note, that it is recommended to call the speed/rope length before each pass rather than after calling the score of the previous pass as there is less chance of confusion. This is also an extra way of double checking that the driver has the correct speed set and the judge has the correct line length.

Tower 1 – "Tower 1 x buoys"

Tower 2 – "Tower 2 x buoys"

Note that Gate Judges should alert Tower Judges asap if they are reviewing a gate or calling zero gates to prevent the tower score being called on the radio until it has been agreed.

Calculator – will confirm number of buoys scored after each pass, (optional depending on level of competition), and final score. If it is agreed that the calculator is confirming the score after each pass, then the boat judge should not allow the next pass to commence without confirmation of the previous pass.

Water Ski Judging Guidelines – Use of Radios

Tricks

The positions that need a radio are:
- Chief Judge
- Calculator
- Jetty Marshall
- Boat Judge
- Judging Tower
- Rescue Boat (if one is used)
- First Aid
- Organiser

The order of calling is:

Jetty Marshall – "Next skier is skier name". If the skier is performing a positional trick at the start of either/both of his runs, this information should also be given eg. "Positional trick on first pass". It may also be necessary to announce the speed required for each pass and the position of the boat for the skier if this information is not otherwise communicated to the driver.

Boat Judge – On the skiers first pass, it is helpful if the Boat Judge also announces the skier name, but not essential, especially if the judge is the driver. Otherwise, the boat judge only needs to communicate if circumstances require it. If the boat judge or sometimes the video operator can advise on the radio and/or with a sign placed in front of the video camera, whether there is a positional trick on the following pass, this is also very helpful.

Judging Tower – usually the boat waits until given the go-ahead to take the next skier from the Tower

Calculator – will announce scores as and when they become available

Water Ski Judging Guidelines – Use of Radios

Jump

The positions that need a radio are:
- Chief Judge
- Calculator
- Jetty Marshall
- Boat Judge
- Tower (Computer Measurement)
- Event Judges
- Rescue (either on shore or in separate boat)
- First Aid
- Organiser

The order of calling is:

Jetty Marshall – "Next skier is skier name, speed xx, x,x kph , letter ?, boat path yyyy", where xx is the speed, ? is the letter setting and yyyy is the boat path required. This information should be repeated. It may also be necessary to announce the speed control settings required for the skier if they are not displayed at the jetty.

Boat Judge –
Before each jump: "Skier name , speed xx, x, x kph , jump number n". E.g "Fred Blogs forty-eight, four, eight, jump number 2". For the first jump it would be helpful to also repeat the letter and boat path. If any information changes, e.g. boat speed or letter, this should also be included before a jump.

After each jump : after checking times with driver/speed control system – "Jump ok/that was a fall/that was a pass, times are xx, yy & zz, xx, yy & zz", where xx, yy & zz are the last 2 digits of the 3 segment times (said twice).

Tower (Computer Measurement) – "Distance xx, x, x." e.g. "Distance twenty-three point two; two, three point two"

Calculator – will confirm the longest jump at the end of the skiers turn (optional depending on level of competition).