

**BWSW Waterski Committee**

**Guidance for Parents of Squad Skiers – Autumn 2022**

In an effort to bring together information that parents might find useful we will be sending out regular bulletins. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have, or to ask for a topic to be included in one of the letters.

**Europeans**

The bulletins are forwarded to squad members within days of them being published. If you wish to keep an eye out yourself, check here for information:

<https://www.waterskieurope.com/>

This is also the site where the list of Individual Qualified Skiers is published each June. BWSW cannot announce individual qualified skiers prior to the European Waterski Council announcement- we have to work under their guidelines. In 2022 there were wild cards for U14 and U17 but that was due to Belarus being banned from competition, and may revert for next season. As soon as we know, parents will be informed.

Each year, the E&A and World Rules are updated and published. It’s useful for Squad members and their parents to get in the habit of reviewing the rule changes so you’re aware of changes to the rules as soon as possible.

Updated World, E&A and British Additional Rulebooks are also published on our own Tournament Waterskiing in the UK website in the Resources section. Here is the link: <http://www.tournamentwaterskiing.org.uk/resources/>

If you think your child may make the team you can consider:

Booking cancellable accommodation (I mainly use Booking.com but A8irbnb or Vrbo also do late cancellations). The official hotel is also on the bulletin, if that’s where you want to stay you can contact them direct and clarify their cancellation policy prior to booking. Most are also on Booking.com etc. if their direct cancellation policy doesn’t suit. It’s generally more fun to all be together at the official hotel.

If you want more practice than team familiarisation (familiarisation is one short set) then book the practice slots direct with the organisers. Their details will be on the bulletin. Most offer a decent returns policy if you don’t need the sets.

Have a look at the location of the lake, and check out flights and car rental options. We’ve found we can cancel car rental fairly close to the date of the competition. Frankly it’s easier having everything pencilled in, and then only the flights to worry about after the announcement.

The Waterski Committee will enter the skiers into the competition, and ask parents to pay the associated fees up front.

**Team Announcements**

Announcements are made once the Selection Committee feels they have enough scores to make the right selection. Where there are a lot of skiers with GCSE or A level exams, this may mean a later call than those outside exam years would like. The aim of the committee is to ensure all skiers have a chance to show what they can do prior to selection.

Team selection is based on the best combination of scores to get the highest ranking for the team. That means that sometimes the best skier from any of the events may not be included in the team. It’s not personal, it’s all about the numbers. It’s natural that there is a lot of chatter about team selection, try to ignore it, as nobody knows for sure what’s going to happen until it’s announced.

**Squad Contracts**

Each year we issue new Squad contracts. We’ve a couple of requests:

1. Please keep us informed of the best email address to send these to.

2. Please notify the Committee if you don’t wish to be considered for the Squad by the end of March. That will allow us to look at other skiers to take the place prior to announcements.

3. If you don’t intend to put yourself/your child forward for Europeans’ again please inform us at the beginning of the season.

4. Do read the contract – it is updated regularly. We are particularly asking for everyone to take note of the requirements around notifying injuries.

5. Please return the contact in good time.

**Fundraising**

Take a look at your local council to see if there are grants for sports people. In Wandsworth, Enable have been known to offer grants up to £1000 per year so it’s worth finding out if your council does something similar. You’ll need to complete a report when applying, so you’ll need your coaches’ support, and also complete a report at the end of the season, and provide receipts to support expenditure. The grants may be for travel, or equipment – they can be very specific.

Contact the manufacturer of the ski brand you child skis on. They won’t offer money, but we’ve experience with both Radar and D3 offering considerable discounts on skis. Make sure you include a brief CV for your child – rankings, PB’s, records and pictures of them with their skis. There are no discounts for Jump skis as there are so few jumpers about.

Join <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> . This platform generates donations from retailers when you shop on line. You set your child up as the project. When you shop on line, a tab will open up and ask if you want to generate a donation, you click yes, and a small…sometimes very small…percentage of your purchase goes to your project. There is a wide range of retailers in the scheme - Amazon, H&M, John Lewis, Hotels.com, Rentalcars.com etc. You can ask family to become supporters so every time they shop on line it raises money. Depending on the year, and how much travel or big purchases you make – we find it a painless way to raise £500-£600 per year.

Support can also be discounted, or free, gym memberships or physio sessions. Create a CV for you child – a few good photos and top line key achievements – Records, National Podium’s, European Ranking, squad and team selection plus a short paragraph from the skier talking about what they hope to achieve. You can include videos as these can be impressive to watch. We’ve had luck on Gym and PT support, other have had luck with Physio etc. In return you will probably need to post on social media. Your child’s ski CV can also be sent to any wealthy individuals you may know or have come across in your community. If you do this, it’s often best to ask for a specific sum, for a specific reason e.g. equipment or travel. Personally I’ve not had any luck with wealthy individuals but others have.

If your child is under 16, take a look at <https://www.gllsportfoundation.org/terms-conditions/>. GLL have a range of awards that are worth looking at.

The cost of entry and travel for Titled (European and World) events falls on the parents. Friends of Tournament, the fund raising committee of the Waterski committee will support skiers attending Titled (European and World) events by way of a grant, the amount of which will be determined each year for each event. The amount will depend on the level, World or European, and the estimated cost to attend the event (e.g. the grant for a Worlds in Chile will be more than for a Europeans in France). It will also depend on the amount of funds raised by FOT, please be sure support the fund raising whenever possible.

**Injuries**

Please notify waterski@bwsf.co.uk cc’d to Steve Sopp and Mark Beard of any injuries that affect ability to compete (with details of the injury). This is particularly important if your child is selected for the team. We currently work on an honour system, and it’s our preference to continue to do so. Also currently there are no conditions attached to the travel grant FOT provide, again it is our wish to continue working this way but that will only work if skiers communicate about their fitness. If you are unsure about your child’s fitness to ski, then contact Tom Williams at <https://activ8rehab.co.uk/> to book an assessment and communicate back to Steve and Mark.

**European Performance**

As a rule, don’t expect your child to match, or set a PB at Euro’s. Look to the most common score as a good indicator of maximum performance. Pressure at international competitions is immense, and it can take its toll. Reduce the pressure by having realistic expectations. If your child ski’s anything close to their PB that’s a great performance, if they score their most common score that’s also a fabulous performance.

In order to help parents understand the standards at Europeans, we’ve created a spreadsheet with historical scores. Each tab is a summary sheet showing medal scores for each age group, by sex, for all three disciples, across the last six years. There is also a note of the cut off point for finals inclusion. Naturally, scores may vary going forward. This is available on the Tournament Waterskiing website here:

**Guidance**

The cut off score is typically quite a bit lower than the bottom half of the other final scores, in most cases it’s really the ‘squeaked in’ score. If a skiers most frequent score is close to the cut off score, you shouldn’t expect them to make the final, you can hope, but don’t expect! The skiers PB should be ignored, look at the most common score achieved to assess likely performance. Check the skiers score achieved in round 1 of competitions, this is the most accurate predictor of a performance at Euro’s where first round performance is key. For example, if a slalom skier is getting into 13 in each comp, but never running 14.25 in the opening round, that pattern is unlikely to change at Europeans. The same is true for Trick and Jump, if round two is consistently better than round one, then the round 1 score is the most likely performance at Euro’s. We were once told – any slalom score within 6 buoys of their practice best is a good score.

**Individual Skiers and Wildcards**

As said earlier, the issuing of Wildcards for U14/U17 is at the discretion of the competition holder and can vary each year.

The European Council publishes a list of skiers that qualify as individuals each June. The BWSW cannot confirm qualification until that time, as we operate under the guidelines of the E&A. It isn’t the case that if a skier finishes in the top x ranking that they will automatically qualify as an individual. Within the age category that is possible, however when a skier is changing categorises, last year of U14 for example, they will only qualify as an individual if they are ranked in the top X number of skiers for U17. For Slalom that means they must ski at the higher speed to qualify in the next age category.

**Finally**

Any questions, please do get in touch. If you’re wondering about something, probably there are others who are too.

**Contact Details**

**Prepared by Ali White, if anyone has any suggestions or updates please contact me at** **ali.white@hotmail.co.uk****.**