

O'BRIEN BIG DAWG SERIES PRESENTED BY NAUTIQUE RULES

January 21, 2010

General:

All events will be USA Water Ski Sanctioned and will follow USA Water Ski regulations and protocol. All Qualifiers and event finals will adhere to the rules as outlined by USA Water Ski and this document. See Regional Guide for more specifics

Who is eligible / Entry information:

Skiers 35 and older who have not placed in the top 10 in a Pro Slalom Tournament in the past 3 years or any skier over the age of 50. All skiers meeting the eligibility criteria above, and submit to the tournament registrar an (a) entry form, (b) proof of membership in USA Water Ski and (c) advertised entry fee. Entries are limited to 50, and will be accepted on a first come, first-serve basis. Although Skiers will be competing against other Mens Divisions in this format, participation in the Big Dawg does not constitute MM qualifications.

How to qualify for Finals:

The sweet 16 from any SNBD Qualifier are automatically invited to the Finals. The balance of skiers will be invited based on placement at SNBD Qualifier's (Maximum of 50 skiers at Finals). Any ties will be broken by backup score from another SNBDQ.

Preliminary Rounds (Qualifiers & Finals):

- Tournament Delays: If for some reason, (weather, Tech, or other), it is not possible to complete the second preliminary round on Sat. the Sweet 16 will be based upon the best single score from the first Preliminary round.
- Qualification Round 1 Seeding (Saturday): If less than 30 skiers, all skiers will ski in two groups. Running order will be determined by USA Water Ski Ranking list. If more than 30 skiers, skiers will be divided into three groups, running order in each group will be seeded based upon USA Water Ski Ranking list. International ranking list will be used to accommodate foreign skiers.
- Qualification Round 2 Seeding: Round 2 will be same running order as round 1.
- Minimum Starting Rope Length for Qualifiers and Finals Preliminary Rounds. (Sat): Minimum Starting rope length will be 14.25 m (28 off). In the case of delays, (weather or other), the minimum starting rope length for round 2 may be changed to 13 m (32 off) at the discretion of the tournament officials.

Head to Head Competition Rules and Pairings:

- Skier seeds 1 - 8 will be based upon best single score from one of the qualifying rounds. Any ties will be broken using back-up-score from the qualifying rounds. If ties still exist, ties will be broken based upon USA Water Ski ranking list.
- Seeds 9-16 will be based upon cumulative score of both qualifying rounds. In the case of a tie on cumulative score, ties will be broken using the skier's best score from the qualifying rounds. If ties still exist, ties will be broken based on USA Water Ski ranking list.
- Officials & Boat Order: Officiating crews will be split into two boats (Boat 1 & Boat 2). Designation of boat 1 and boat 2 will be based upon a coin flip by the drivers at the start of the Head to Head, and will not change during the event (i.e. same two drivers will pull

the Head to Head). The boats will rotate which crew takes the first skier off the dock in the Head to head pairing in accordance with the following:

	Skier 1	Skier 2
Sweet 16	Boat 1	Boat 2
Elite 8	Boat 2	Boat 1
Final 4 / Championship	Boat 1	Boat 2

- Skier pairings and selection of ski order: Higher seed in each pairing selects which skier in pairing will ski first. The second skier's score must beat the first skier's score to advance.
- Starting Rope Lengths
Sweet 16: 13.0m (32' off)
Elite 8: 13.0m (32' off)
Final 4 / Championship: 12.0m (35' off)
- In the Sweet 16 Head to Head; opting up is not an option.
- A skier may, with notification to the boat judge; continue to ski in an effort to break a record.
- The 3rd and 4th place will be determined by the best score (of the two losing skiers) in the Final 4.
- The 5th through 8th place will be determined by best single score on Sunday.
- Any tie, will be broken using back-up score from qualifying rounds.
- All skiers' attendance at banquets is highly recommended.

Head to Head running Order:

See attached chart

Schedule & Skier Clock, Elite 8, final 4, and Championship:

- Immediately upon completion of the Sweet 16 (upon completion of the 8th pairing in the sweet 16), both skiers associated with ski order 1 of the Elite 8, should be prepared and ready for boat deployment.
- The Elite 8 pairings will ski as per schedule below. After the fourth and final pairing of the Elite 8 and once both boats have returned to the dock, a 3-minute clock will start. At the end of the 3 minutes, the skiers associated with the ski order 1 of the Final 4 must be ready and in the water for immediate start to the Final 4. Skiers not in the water at the end of the 3-minute clock will be disqualified.
- The Final 4 will ski as per the schedule below. After the second and final pairing, (of the final 4), and once both boats have returned to the dock, a 3 minute clock will start. At the end of the 3 minutes, the two skiers competing for the Championship must be ready and in the water for an immediate start. A skier, not in the water, at the end of the clock will be disqualified.

Injury Protocol

During the head to head competition, if one of the skiers cannot continue due to injury, the next highest scoring non-winner in that bracket will move into the next bracket to take his place.

Example: if seed #3 wins his pairing in the Elite 8, but is hurt in the process and cannot continue the next non-winning skier with the highest score in the Elite 8, will take the injured skiers place and move into the next bracket (Final 4).

Contingency Plans (Finals) Associated with Tournament Delays:

- 1 Hour Delay = Minimum rope length will be shortened to 35 off/12 m

- 2-Hour Delay =
 - Top 16 skiers will ski in seeded order (not head-2-head)
 - Top 4 scores will advance to head-2-head finals
 - If a tie exists in places 4-16, refer to best score in qualifying rounds
 - If a tie still exists in cash payout positions, skiers will share the payout

- 3-Hour Delay =
 - Top 8 skiers will ski in seeded order (not head-2-head)
 - Top 4 scores will advance to head-2-head finals
 - If a tie exists in places 4-16, refer to qualifying round best score
 - If a tie still exists in cash payout positions, skiers will share the payout

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINGENCY PLANS WILL BE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND CHIEF JUDGE.

Note: These rules pertain to 2010 only. A skier who is 35 years old, and is eligible to ski in the 2010 Big Dawg however is not officially in a 34 MPH USA Water Ski Division, until after the last Day of the Nationals. If this skier would set a 34 mph National Record, that record would not stand.

