

REVISED IWWF BAREFOOT SLALOM TRIAL

(Revised October 3, 2023)

*July 17, 2023 – April 2024**

ABOUT THE SLALOM TRIAL

The IWWF and World Barefoot Council continually strive to learn from and enhance the experience of skiers, officials, and spectators of barefoot waterskiing to improve our events, promote camaraderie, and grow the sport. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the sport's integrity and ensure consistency in judging, we are excited to announce the implementation of a trial period to test a potential rule change in the Slalom event.

The Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change pertains to the one-foot crossing, specifically, the early down downgrade. The rule change eliminates the early down downgrade.

Current Rule	New Proposed Rule
A perfect one-foot crossing shall be credited when the skier has crossed the entire wake with the lifted foot/leg completely clear of the water before the lift-off point of the first wake wave and remaining clear until the skiing foot has completely passed the lift-off point of the second wake.	A perfect one-foot crossing shall be credited when the skier's supporting foot has crossed the entire wake while remaining in contact with the water. The skier's lifted foot shall be completely clear of the water from before the lift-off point of the first wake and remain clear until past the lift-off point of the second wake crest.

Reason for the Rule Change

We have a persistent challenge accurately judging slalom in the boat, particularly at the highest levels of skiing. This is neither fair to the skiers nor good for the sport of barefoot waterskiing. Early downs are the main area of difficulty. The virtual impossibility of observing what occurs with each of the skier's feet simultaneously through the spray makes it challenging to judge early downs accurately and consistently. These inconsistencies could adversely impact skiers during competition and outside of competition with world rankings and record review. The new revisions consider information the Rules Committee has learned during the trial.

Purpose of a Trial Period

We believe this rule change has the potential to create a more consistent and objective judging process. However, we also recognize that there may be unforeseen and unintended challenges or issues that arise as a result of the rule change. To mitigate the risk of unforeseen/unintended consequences that a permanent rule change could create, we are going to test the effectiveness of the new rule during a trial period, starting July 17, 2023. Upon completion of the trial period, we will evaluate the feedback received as well as data produced at tournaments during this timeframe and determine next steps. Next steps may include: 1) Extending the trial; 2) Abandoning the trial or 3) Making the rule change permanent.

Request from Skiers and Officials

Your active participation and honest feedback will play a crucial role in determining the rule change's success and its potential long-term implementation. Throughout the trial period, we kindly ask all participants to note any observations, concerns, or suggestions regarding the rule change. Your input will be vital in helping us make an informed decision about whether to adopt the proposed change permanently.

After the trial period concludes, we will gather all the feedback and analyze its impact on the Slalom event's fairness and overall experience. Following a thorough evaluation, we will communicate the outcomes and any potential adjustments to the rule. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the rule change during the trial period, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Rules Committee.

* Until Australia and New Zealand National Tournaments are completed.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What is the reason for the change?

We have a persistent problem accurately judging slalom in the boat, particularly at the highest levels of skiing. This is neither fair to the skiers nor good for the sport of barefoot skiing. Early downs are the main area of difficulty. The virtual impossibility of observing what occurs with each of the skier's feet simultaneously through the spray causes the problems of judging early downs accurately and consistently.

Question: What is the change?

Early down is eliminated from the Rules during this trial.

Question: What about late lift and touch?

They remain in the Rules. A touch occurs if the lifted foot touches the water between the two crests of the wake (lift-off points). A late lift occurs if the foot is lifted after the skier crosses the lift-off point.

Question: How does that change how we determine a successfully completed one-foot cross?

A completed cross occurs when the lifted foot remains clear of the water from one wake crest until past the lifted point of the second wake crest while the supporting foot maintains contact with the water throughout the entire cross. If the lifted foot touches the water in Zone 4 while the supporting foot is still between the lift-off points, it shall have no effect on scoring. Neither shall a loss of contact of the supporting foot with the water if caused by conditions/wake chop.

Question: What about the supporting foot?

The supporting foot must cross from one wake crest to past the other wake crest. The revised Rule makes clear the supporting foot must ski through the wake crest.

Question: What happens if the skier turns back in the other direction before the supporting foot crosses the wake?

If the skier changes direction without the supporting foot completing the crossing or touching in zone 4 and the skier skis out of the wake on the return, neither crossing shall score. Scoring may recommence from outside the wake. If the skier changes direction before completing the crossing (due to getting stuck or losing momentum) and reattempts the crossing without the supporting foot first having exited the wake, that skier may be awarded a full or partial credit for that crossing if all other rules that apply have been met.

Question: What happens if skier's lifted foot fails to ski through this wake crest and subsequently touches the water in Zone 4?

It is scored as a two-foot cross.

Question: How does this affect the Rankings List and records:

Scores achieved during this trial period will be used for determining Rankings List. Record review will be postponed until after the trial period is completed and a final decision has been made on the rule change.

Question: How long will this trial last?

From July 17, 2023 until completion of the Australian and New Zealand National Tournaments. Then, the Rules Committee and the WBC Council will assess whether the trial should be extended, abandoned, or whether the rule change should be made permanent.

Question: How will you determine whether the trial rule should become permanent?

The WBC Rules Committee will be collecting feedback from stakeholders during the time of the trial and will use that information to decide whether to make it permanent. Please contact Mark Shank, the Chair of the Rules Committee, at markshank34@gmail.com or Geoff Blaauw, WBC Chair geoff.blaauw@icloud.com, with your feedback or comments.

IWWF BAREFOOT SLALOM TRIAL

Tournament Feedback: July 17, 2023 – April 2024

ABOUT THE FORM

The WBC Rules Committee will be collecting feedback from stakeholders throughout the duration of the Slalom Trial and will use that information to decide whether to make it permanent.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Following all tournaments during the month of August that you participated as either a Chief Judge, Chief Scorer, or Tournament Director, we ask that you please complete the below form in its entirety.
- Upon completion of the form, please return to Mark Shank and Geoff Blaauw of the World Barefoot Counsel at:
 - > geoff.blaauw@icloud.com
 - > markshank34@gmail.com

Tournament Name

Tournament Date

Location of Tournament

Name of individual completing form

Were skiers happy with their score? Did the score received reflect their performance?

Did the judges feel the results accurately reflected each skier's performance?

Did this slalom judging provide instant scoring or enhance the efficiency of instant scoring from the boat?

Was there an improved consensus from the boat judges on the results?

Is there any other feedback you wish to provide? Please use the space below.

Please assist us with sending any scoresheets and videos that are noteworthy for further review and discussion.