

Part 5 Rider Classifications And Competition Categories

5.1 RIDER CLASSIFICATIONS

5.1.1 The International Jet Sports Boating Association does not test the skill of individual participants in IJSBA-sanctioned events, nor does the Association judge each competitor's competence. Participants are solely responsible for their safety.

5.1.2 As a general policy, the IJSBA requires that riders be 16 years old or older for all competition classes except Junior 10-12 year old Ski and Junior 13-15 year old Ski, and other categories specifically mentioned for under 16 years of age. Boating laws in some countries require higher age minimums or allow lower age limits. IJSBA may allow competitors as young as 8 years of age in 10-12. Refer to Section 23 and/or contact the local IJSBA International Affiliate for information about specific age requirements in each country. A birth certificate and/or passport shall be presented to substantiate age.

5.1.3 The IJSBA and most IJSBA International Affiliates require that waiver of liability be signed by a parent or legal guardian if the competitor is under 18 years old. A birth certificate and/or drivers license may be required to substantiate age. A Rider will represent his/her country of citizenship at the World Finals. In case of multiple citizenships, the country of residence will apply.

5.1.4 Riders may have different skill classifications for Runabout/Sport and Ski divisions (i.e., an Expert Runabout racer may also be a Novice Ski racer).

5.2 BEGINNER

5.2.1 The Beginner class is provided as an entry-level class for new riders who wish to experience the fun of racing. It is open to all Novice competitors (see Section 10.3) who have competed in three or fewer races. In the case of a series, riders may compete in the entire series prior to moving to the Novice class. Otherwise, in a rider's fourth race, he/she must compete in the Novice class. Beginner-class competitors may race Stock or Limited watercraft.

5.3 NOVICE

5.3.1 Novice competitors are those with minimal racing experience. First-time competitors must participate in the Novice or Beginner class. **NOVICES MAY NOT COMPETE IN OPEN/MODIFIED/GP CLASSES WHERE SUPERCHARGED OR TURBOCHARGED RUNABOUTS ARE ALLOWED.**

5.3.2 Novice-class riders may reclassify themselves as Expert at their own discretion. Novice-class riders may also be reclassified as Expert-class riders at the discretion of the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate.

5.4 EXPERT

5.4.1 Expert-class riders are those who demonstrate a skill level that has exceeded beyond that of a Novice-class rider.

5.4.2 An Expert competitor may request to be reclassified as a Pro by submitting a Change of Classification Form to the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate. The IJSBA and IJSBA International Affiliates have the authority to move an Expert competitor to Pro if he/she displays skills that are superior to others in that class.

5.4.3 An Expert competitor may request to be reclassified as an Novice by submitting a Change of Classification to the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate.

5.4.4 An Expert competitor may be moved back to Novice if it is determined by the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate that his/her riding skill is not Expert-class level.

5.5 AMATEUR

5.5.1 The Amateur class is comprised of Novice- and Expert-level riders.

5.6 PRO

5.6.1 Pro riders are those who have substantial racing experience and have advanced competition skills.

5.6.2 A Pro competitor may request to be reclassified as an Expert by submitting a Change of Classification Form to the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate.

5.6.3 A Pro rider may be moved back to Expert if it is determined by the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate that his/her riding skill is not Pro-class level.

5.7 PRO-AM

5.7.1 The Pro-Am class is comprised of Expert- and Pro-level riders.

5.8 VETERANS

5.8.1 The Veterans Ski class is open to a riders who are 35 years of age or older. The Veterans Sport and Runabout classes are open to riders 35 years of age or older.

5.9 MASTERS

5.9.1 The Masters Ski class is open to riders who are 45 years of age or older. The Masters Sport and Runabout classes are open to riders 45 years of age or older.

5.9.2 Closed-course Masters-class competitors may race Stock, Limited or Superstock watercraft.

5.10 WOMEN

5.10.1 Women's classes in Novice, Expert and Pro categories are for naturally born female riders who elect to compete in them, generally for separate points, awards and/or purse.

5.10.2 Closed-course Women-class competitors may race Stock or Limited watercraft.

5.11 CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

5.11.1 Rider classification changes not described in Sections 10.2 through 10.10 must be submitted to the IJSBA or IJSBA International Affiliate on a Change of Classification Form for consideration.

5.11.2 The IJSBA and IJSBA International Affiliates reserve the right to reclassify any rider as deemed appropriate in the best interest of safety, competition and/or sportsmanship.

5.11.3 A Rider may not be reclassified during the World Finals, except where specifically noted by the IJSBA.

5.11.4 Any Novice classified rider that wins a title during the World Finals will automatically be classified as an Expert rider as of January 1st the following year. Reclassification may be appealed in writing within 30 days following the last day of World Finals competition.

5.11.15 Irrespective of classification, no competitor who has won three World Titles may compete in any Amateur Class or Expert Class. Such competitors will be limited to Pro/Am or Pro classes only. This prohibition may be appealed to IJSBA.

5.12 SAFETY

5.12.1 The International Jet Sports Boating Association does not inspect courses used in IJSBA-sanctioned events. Participants are solely responsible for their safety at IJSBA-sanctioned races and should assess their own ability to negotiate each individual course. Participants who doubt the competence of course officials, have concerns about the safety of the course, or their own ability to negotiate the course, or are uncertain about the condition of their watercraft, or doubt the competence of fellow competitors, should not participate and should request the return of their entry fee before competitive activity begins.

5.12.2 It is the sole responsibility of the promoter to ensure compliance with all rules relating or directed to safety and to otherwise act to promote the safety of the competition. The IJSBA does not attend or in any way supervise every competition and cannot undertake to determine safety aspects. It is the sole responsibility of the promoter to purchase the required liability insurance.

5.12.3 IJSBA-sanctioned events may use routes traversing public waterways, and the promoter is not responsible for their condition or for the actions of other individuals using the public waterway.

5.12 CLOSED-COURSE EVENT

5.12.1 A closed-course event is a contest of speed and riding ability featuring multiple competitors negotiating multiple laps of a course consisting of left and/or right-hand turns. Obstacles (e.g., log jumps and/or ramps) may be present. Competing watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications. For specific closed-course event rules, refer to Section 12, pgs. 54-57.

5.13 SLALOM EVENT

5.13.1 A slalom event is a timed event requiring a competitor to negotiate zig-zag right and left-hand turns around stationary markers. Competing watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications. For specific slalom event rules, refer to Section 13, pg. 58.

5.14 FREESTYLE EVENT

5.14.1 Freestyle events are intended to show a rider's skill and expertise in executing difficult, challenging and creative maneuvers within a set period of time and scored by a panel of judges. Competing watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications. For specific freestyle event rules, refer to Section 14, pg. 59.

5.15 ENDURANCE EVENT

5.15.1 Endurance events are long-distance races which may or may not include required turns and be of more than one lap. Competing watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications. For specific endurance event rules, refer to Section 15, pgs. 60-63. 11.6 DRAG-RACING EVENT

5.16.1 Drag-racing events can be either timed/single-elimination contests or bracket elimination-type events over a predetermined distance. Competing watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications.

5.17 SPECIAL EVENT

5.17.1 "Special events" are any type of watercraft event meeting IJSBA technical requirements that are not hazardous to participants. Examples: obstacle race, relay races, Australian Pursuit, or other fun-type event that encourages participation by riders and tests skills and performance of rider and machine. These events may be determined by the promoter, but prior approval from the IJSBA is required (see Section 3.2, page 5). Watercraft must meet IJSBA class specifications. For specific special event rules, refer to Section 16, pg. 64.