

Silver Sheep Figure-8 Challenge Official Rules

Tournament Structure

Barefooters compete head to head on opposite sides of the wake over a figure eight course.

The competition is double elimination. When a competitor has two losses, he or she is eliminated.

There is no distinction between professional and amateur skiers.

There are two divisions of skiers.

Open: Open to all skiers, age, sex or ability. Speed will be between 40-42 mph.

Novice: Open to all skiers who have never participated in a barefoot water ski tournament of any kind. Speed will be between 36-42 mph.

A skier may only compete in one division.

Location of tournament is subject to change.

The tournament is a one-day event and there will be no make-up date in case of cancellation due to weather.

Should the tournament be delayed long enough that the Tournament Director and Chief Judge determine there is not enough time to complete a double elimination tournament before dark, the format will be changed to single elimination.

There is no refund for weather cancellation

Boat/Course

Up to three tow boats may be used to pull the tournament.

Only tournament provided ropes and handles are allowed.

The step-off area will be marked by a set of buoys. Skiers must be in barefoot skiing position before passing the step-off buoys.

While pulling skiers, boats won't deviate from course to avoid rough water.

Tow boats will pick up their own skiers.

No skier is allowed to sit on the sides of the boat or stand while the boat is in motion. Upon being picked up immediately sit down on the floor or seat at the rear of the boat. Anyone caught violating this rule is subject to disqualification.

A pick-up boat or jet ski will be supplied for ski pick up.

After one pair falls, next pair of skiers should immediately enter the water and the next docked tow boat will leave the dock.

Should a run stop because of a boat malfunction, or because a driver had to stop or turn to avoid an obstacle or downed skier, an automatic re-run will be granted.

Competition Rules

All skiers will be paired by “draw of the hat.” There will be no “seeding” of skiers.

Choice of sides will be determined by “flip of the coin” prior to going on to the dock. The higher bracketed skier calls the toss.

All skiers must be on deck and ready to go when called. Typically ten minutes before their respective run.

Starting area is the dock.

Each skier must use either the single or two ski step-off method.

No backward barefooting or tumbleturns will be allowed under any circumstances.

Each skier must be on their respective side of the wake and out of their ski or skis before the designated step-off buoys for their to be a legal run started

The official step-off area is located before the step-off buoys.

A legal step-off can be made without having both feet on the water, as long as both feet are out of their skis before the step-off marker.

A skier may ride their butt after a step-off, as long as they are up and riding on their feet through the final red step-off buoy. Butt riding through and past the red set-off buoy is considered a fall.

Once either skier falls past the step-off buoy the run is stopped. The skier who falls first gets the loss.

If one skier falls in the step-off area, and the second barefoots legally past the red step-off buoy, the second skier advances.

A skier gets two chances to get up on their skis. After that they are given a loss. Two skis are recommended for anyone who has trouble skiing on one.

While barefoot, the skiers may not cross the center of the wake (bubbles) with both feet. On turns, one foot may enter the bubbles. Once the boat is straight, both skiers must immediately return to their respective sides of the wake.

If both feet cross into the bubbles the boat will be stopped and it is considered a fall for the skier.

Butt-riding after the step-off buoys is not allowed. Butt-riding is defined as more than one incidental butt contact with the water per figure eight.

Should it become obvious that a skier is butt riding or using a three-point stance to gain an advantage through boat waves over his competitor, the run shall be stopped and that competitor given a loss.

The boat judge is the sole determinant of whether a skier is guilty of butt-riding.

Skiers must hold on to the handle with one or both hands at all times.

Fallen skiers must raise their hands if they are okay after they fall.

Replays will not be accepted to overturn a ruling.

Re-Runs

Should both skiers fall at exactly the same time, they will be granted a re-run.

If both skiers fall attempting step-offs in the step-off area, they will be granted a re-run.

If a skier falls upon take-off or any time before the official step-off area, a re-run will be granted. (After three consecutive falls, a skier will be given a loss)

If there is a tournament sponsored equipment failure (i.e. rope breaks or boat malfunctions) both skiers will be granted a re-run.

If neither skier can make a step-off in three chances, a coin-flip will be determined to see who receives a win and who receives a loss.

When a re-run is granted, skiers must remain on their original sides for the re-run.

Only the Chief Judge can approve a re-run.

Judges

There are two boat judges per tow boat. One for each skier.

There is a dock manager who confirms the skier pairings and sides on the dock. That person is also the step-off judge.

There is a Chief Judge. The Chief Judge oversees all the judges, their rotating schedules and makes all final decisions on appeals and disputes.

Disqualification/Appeals

Gloves that utilize palm straps (clincher-style) are not allowed. Anyone caught violating this rule is subject to disqualification.

Skiers must wear approved flotation wetsuits or vests at all times. Anyone caught violating this rule is subject to disqualification.

Under no circumstance may a competitor wrap his or her arm through the handle either before or during the run. This may result in disqualification.

The use of duct tape, medical tape or any other artificial coverings on the bottom of one's foot is not allowed.

Anyone verbally or physically abusing a referee or tournament official will be subject to immediate disqualification.

Anyone competing intoxicated/under the influence of drugs will be disqualified.

Any complaints or appeals must be taken up with the chief judge immediately following the run in question.

The chief judge's decision in all matters is FINAL.

All contestants must have valid insurance and must accurately and truthfully fill out an entry form for each division they compete in as well as sign a waiver before competing.