



## 2008 APBA ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The 2008 APBA Annual Meeting took place on January 31 and February 1 in Detroit, Michigan. The APBA would like to thank all the people that took the time and spent the money to attend the annual meeting. The APBA would also like to thank all the APBA Committee members, that were not able to attend, that provided valuable input and data to prepare for the annual meeting. And finally the APBA would like to thank all the APBA members that took the time to fill out the APBA Racer Survey as it greatly impacted the decisions that were made during the meeting. We feel strongly that the decisions that were made were made in the best interest of the sport and the APBA membership as a whole.

### Attendance at Meeting

Patrick Mell	Carson Bachelder	Mike Follmer	Ross Wallach
Brian Smith	Jennifer Jeter	Riff Delpardo	Jodie Bachelder
AJ Handler	Shelly McKloskey	Dave Zier	Jeff Hedges
John Block	Amy Green	Kenny Sims	Angela Sprinkle
Dennis Liggett	Lisa Piccone		

### THURSDAY'S MEETING TOPICS

#### 1) INSURANCE PROGRAM

- Announced Insurance Program.
- Rates same as last 2 years.
- Announced New Drag Racing Program and Insurance Rates for Stand-Alone Drag Racing Events. Rates should make it affordable to run a stand-alone drag racing event.
- Discussed safety issues and answered insurance questions.
- K&K Insurance representatives answered insurance questions.

#### 2) APBA PAPERWORK & REQUIREMENTS

- **New Rule** - If the promoter does not return the Waiver & Release forms and memberships collected he/she will not get his sanction and insurance approved for his/her next race until we receive them. We will be lenient if a promoter has back-to-back races.
- **New Rule** – The APBA will require that a promoter has some type of rescue board at an event for 2008.

#### 3) PROMOTER SUPPORT

- **New Event Guidebook** – The new APBA PWR Event Guidebook was completed in 2007 and is available online on the promoter website or by request. The book will help new promoters with organizing races and is a great tool for current promoters as well.
- **APBA/Promoter Website** – This APBA website continues to be improved and updated. The promoter website ([www.apbaracing.com/promoterinfo.htm](http://www.apbaracing.com/promoterinfo.htm)) has sample budgets, important permit information, event checklists, editable entry forms, sound level info, important forms needed to run a race and much more. The APBA will update the promoter site with the 2008 forms after the meeting.
- **Riders Meeting Notes** – the APBA has developed a detailed Riders Meeting Notes for promoters to use and follow. It is posted on the promoter's page. These notes are important so that all promoters inform riders of similar important race and insurance information. Please use them as a guide for giving your Rider's Meeting. The notes will be updated after the 2008 meeting.

- **Online Registration** – Online Registration is a very important benefit to the APBA racers. The APBA currently sets up online registration for the majority of its promoters. The APBA will provide this service (as long as there is one online form for all events) to promoters for no cost in 2008. The APBA will provide a master link to all promoters' online registration forms from the APBA mainpage. We hope ALL promoters will use online registration in 2008. This provides an opportunity for promoters to take credit cards without having to purchase a credit card machine or pay monthly credit card fees.

#### **4) CHANGING REGIONAL BOUNDARIES**

The following changes will be made to the regional boundaries to better suit the different racing markets. The regional promoters where there will be changes have discussed this and have agreed the changes to be good for the sport. These boundaries make more sense for the racers and location of regional races and allow regional championships to be awarded in the newly created Region 4. Please note that racers can choose whatever races they would like to attend no matter what region they live in. Regional boundaries only relate to determining Regional Championships.

1. Regions 2 and 10 will be combined into Region 2.
2. Part of Region 6 (Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri) and part of Region 9 (Minnesota) will be combined to create a new Region to be called Region 4.
3. Remaining parts of Region 9 and Region 4 to be combined into Region 9 with the exception of New Mexico that will be added to Region 5.

#### **5) AWARDING FUTURE NATIONAL TOUR EVENTS**

The APBA feels that all promoters should have an equal opportunity to hold a National Tour event. Beginning in 2009, the APBA will require promoters to submit a proposal/bid to host a National Tour event. Proposals to host a 2009 National Tour event must be submitted by September 15, 2008. The APBA will form a National Tour Committee to choose the best proposals and sites. A conference call to take place on or before the end of September to choose sites and dates. The goal is to be able to announce the 2009 schedule at the World Finals. All agreed of the importance of setting up this committee. The committee will consist of sponsors, OEMs, racers, and APBA representatives. A rating program will be established for grading the events based on the following criteria in no particular order of importance:

- Previous history of events at the site
- Spectators
- Cash purse
- Run in conjunction with festival
- Marketing and advertising for event
- Equipment and staff
- Extra activities for participants
- Local sponsorship and support for event
- TV requirements
- Spectators
- Affordability to the participants
- Parking
- Camping on-site
- Distance to lodging/hotels
- Cost of lodging/hotels
- Cost to park and camp
- Beach area
- Flat vs. surf water conditions
- Current rider base in region

## 6) 2008 APBA COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following individuals have been appointed by the APBA to the Executive Committee by the PWR Chairman. Their role will be to provide guidance to the APBA in the advancement of the sport. The term will begin on February 1, 2008 and end at the 2009 APBA Annual meeting.

#### 2008 Executive Committee

PWR Chairman – Patrick Mell	OEM Representative – Tim McKercher	Promoter Rep – AJ Handler
Promoter Rep – Jacque Bryant	Promoter Rep – Ross Wallach	Racer Rep – Riff Delpardo
Racer Rep – Mike Follmer	Industry Rep – Dave Bamdas	

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The following individuals have been appointed by the APBA to the 2008 Technical Committee. Their role will be to provide guidance to the APBA in developing rules and policy. Others interested please contact Patrick.

#### 2008 Technical Committee

Jim Martino	Jacque Bryant	Tim Bushman	Dave Bamdas	Louis Milone
Carson Bachelder	Tim Judge	Harry Klemm	Jerry Schmidt	Dean Charrier
Andy Tinsley	Kenny Sims	Gus Andros	Riff Delpardo	Chris Hagest
Brian Smith				

## 7) 2008 APBA NATIONAL TOUR

### 2008 APBA NATIONAL TOUR SCHEDULE

<u>ROUND</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Round 1 & 2	May 3-4	Parker, Arizona
Round 3 & 4	June 7-8	Myrtle Beach, S. Carolina
Round 5 & 6	July 5-6	Rochester, New York
Round 7 & 8	July 12-13	Harbor Beach, Michigan
Round 9	Aug 30- Sept 1	Nashville, Tennessee

It was requested by several racers in attendance that an event be added in early August to close the gap between Harbor Beach and Nashville. The option of adding an additional event is being explored.

### 2008 APBA National Tour Classes

Below is a list of the 2008 National Tour classes that competed for National Tour Championships.

#### 2008 National Tour Classes

Pro-Am Ski Open	Pro-Am Ski Stock	Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Open
Pro-Am Runabout 800 Open	Pro-Am Women Ski Limited	Women Runabout
Expert Ski Limited	Expert Runabout 1200 Limited	Expert Runabout 1200 Open
Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Stock	Freestyle	

#### Other Tour Topics Discussed

It was discussed that the award ceremonies for the National Tour events need to be better organized and more professional. APBA to inform promoters of the racers concern and ask the promoters to step up the professionalism of the award ceremonies.

## 8) GENERAL RULE CLARIFICATIONS

**Utilizing Special Missed Buoy (Black Buoy) to pick up a missed buoy** – It was decided that the Black Buoy rule would not be added to the APBA rulebook and promoters would not be required to run this option. The importance of promoters explaining to racers in the riders meeting the proper way to pick up a missed buoy was discussed. This information will be in the riders meeting notes on the APBA promoter website.

**Handling of Points When Somebody is Disqualified in a Two-Moto System** – This was discussed in detail and it was determined how points will be handled when there is a technical disqualification in a first moto and/or a technical disqualification in a second moto and how to score the race. What to do if a person is

disqualified from a behavioral violation was also discussed and would be treated differently. This information will be added to the rulebook and the Promoter manual.

## 9) OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED ON THURSDAY

- a) APBA needs to add to rulebook what color background a Junior riders must run. They are required to run the same background color as a Novice rider (Orange).
- b) The importance of racers running the correct color background and earned number was discussed. It was determined that APBA and its promoters need to better enforce riders running the correct background and earned numbers.
- c) Protest Fee for 4-Strokes – The protest fee for teardown of a four-stroke is \$300 and must be added to the rulebook.
- d) AJ Handler presented information on a new event that he will be running in Syracuse New York. He gave background information on the event and the history of past water quality problems of the lake and the current conditions. In addition to national status he requested additional National Highpoints be added for his event. It was discussed and voted down to award additional points as there is currently more higher weighted events (Tour stops) on the East coast and awarding points would give an unfair advantage to racers on the East coast.

## FRIDAY'S MEETING TOPICS

### 1) TECHNICAL RULE ISSUES

#### Print Own Rulebook

The APBA will continue to produce their own rulebook to allow us to develop rules that are in the best interest of the racers in the United States and provides us the opportunity to spell out our policy and the insurance company's requirements that was not getting done in the IJSBA book. Important U.S. promoter contact information, K&K insurance regulations, official's duties, information on Supercourse and Endurance racing, National Tour, Regional Championships and National High Points systems, membership, Junior racing and other important issues related to U.S. racing are not covered in the IJSBA book.

#### Homologation

The APBA has raised the homologation to compete in Stock and Limited classes to 300 units for both Ski and Runabout. To compete in Open class the manufacturer must produce a minimum of 100 units. The Hydrospace S4 will be grandfathered in and continue to be allowed to compete in all classes. Please note that a manufacturer need not produce 300 units each year for the unit to be homologated (i.e.: if a manufacturer produces 300 units one year they are not required to produce an additional 300 unit of the same model the next year for those watercraft to be eligible to race).

#### Stock Ski Class

- a) It was discussed that the goal for these classes is to create parity between the different brands and models competing in this class so that the best rider wins and not a certain brand. To create parity different modifications are allowed to the different brands. The class has been renamed "**Stock Spec Ski**" to better explain the class.
- b) Boost Valve – For the 2008 season the APBA will mandate that a boost valve be required to run on all turbo charged boats (currently only the Hydrospace S4) in Stock and Limited Ski class and all promoters purchase the testing gauge (less than \$20).
- c) Allowing Aftermarket Nozzle – It was discussed and agreed that all watercraft will be allowed to bore their nozzle or run an aftermarket nozzle in stock class. This is nozzle only and not aftermarket trim systems. Steering angle may be modified as long as it is adjusting the fixed position only. No lever activated aftermarket drop nozzles allowed.
- d) Allowing Ballast Weight – It was discussed and agreed that ballast weight may be added to a boat in Stock class. The weight must be secured and not create a safety hazard.
- e) 2008 Yamaha SuperJet – The 2008 Yamaha SuperJet will be allowed to run any brand wet pipe in stock class. Older model SuperJets (2007 and earlier) will be allowed to run by the same rules as 2007.

- f) Rule Clarification – Is it legal to remove the plastic plugs from the end of the cover on a Stock SXR flame arrestor? It was discussed and clarified that the plastic plugs were part of the coast guard approved OEM flame arrestor therefore must be on the cover for the flame arrestor to be legal.
- g) Aftermarket ECU's are NOT allowed on four-stroke watercraft in Stock class. The Powershot produced by R&D Performance will be allowed on four-stroke watercraft to manage fuel.
- h) The APBA will continue testing on the Stock Speck Ski class watercraft and review the class at the first National event at the beginning of May in Parker, Arizona. Adjustments to the class may be made if the Technical committee feels one particular brand/model is dominating the class.

### **Limited Ski Class**

It was discussed and determined that stock hoods are allowed to be modified to fit an exhaust pipe only provided that no additional airflow is created. No changes to the class regarding hoods.

### **Runabout Rule Changes and Clarifications**

Below is a brief summary of rule changes and clarifications regarding the Runabout Classes:

- a) OPAS block-offs. Both the Riva Performance OPAS block-offs and Pro Series block off have been approved for APBA racing in all classes. Other types of products by different aftermarket manufacturers will be approved on an individual basis.
- b) No nozzles will be allowed in Stock Runabout classes.
- c) A stainless steel pump/impeller wear ring will NOT be allowed on Sea-Doo RXP's in place of the OEM plastic one in Stock Runabout as it provides a competitive advantage. NO change.
- d) Removal of foam in engine compartment is not allowed in Stock Runabout. Removal of engine foam will be allowed for the installation of sponsons only. All other OEM foam must be in place.
- e) ECU's will NOT be allowed on four-stroke turbo/supercharged watercraft in the Stock Runabout classes. The Powershot produced by R&D Performance will be allowed on four-stroke watercraft to manage fuel.
- f) Four-stroke watercraft are allowed to run an aftermarket ECU in the Limited Runabout classes.

### **Other Clarifications**

- a) Trimming Rave Valves - It was discussed and agreed that trimming the rave valves should be allowed for the installation of oversized pistons in all Runabout classes. Rule to be added - "Rave Valves may be trimmed to allow for oversized pistons".
- b) Drilled Rave Valve Caps. A rule will be added allowing the drilling of the rave valve caps in all classes so that an inspection can be made to insure valves are functioning properly .
- c) Rule Clarification – Piston Coatings - Piston Coatings are NOT legal in Stock class.

### **Junior Racing**

**Birth Certificates** – A rule will be added to the APBA rulebook specifying that all Junior riders must present a birth certificate to verify proper age of the Junior participant.

**Early Advancement of Junior Male riders.** Male Junior riders may petition APBA to be able to compete in other skill level Ski classes provided they meet the criteria below.

- a) Male rider must be 15 years old and provide birth certificate proving proper age.
- b) Have a minimum of 2 years APBA racing experience.
- c) Submit the proper paperwork to APBA and parent minor release form.
- d) The highest skill level the rider is allowed to advance to is Expert. Note – An Expert rider is eligible to race in Pro-Am classes.
- e) Once a male Junior racer moves out of the Junior classes he is NOT eligible to continue to race in the Junior classes.
- f) Once the rider moves out of Junior he can not go back.

**Early Advancement of Junior Female riders** – Female Junior riders may petition APBA to be able to compete in other skill level Ski classes (Novice Women's Ski or Pro-Am Women Ski only) provided they meet the criteria below.

- a) Female rider must be 14 years old and provide birth certificate proving proper age.

- b) Have a minimum of 2 years APBA racing experience.
- c) Submit the proper paperwork to APBA and parent minor release form.
- d) The highest skill level the rider is allowed to advance to is Expert. Note – An Expert rider is eligible to race in Pro-Am classes.
- e) A female Junior rider that petitions APBA to race in other skill levels is eligible to continue to race in the Junior classes.

**Junior Runabout** – Junior Runabout will not be added as an APBA class. The minimum age to race in the Runabout class is 16 years old.

**Junior Freestyle** – A Junior Ski Freestyle 10-13 class will be created. It will be a regional class only. Specific safety rules related to participation in this class will be added to the APBA rulebook. Junior racers can participate in Amateur Freestyle at 14 years of age. Riders must be 16 years old to compete in Pro Freestyle.

### **Supercourse and Endurance Racing**

There were no rule change requests concerning Supercourse and Endurance racing.

### **Drag Racing**

General Rules regarding Drag Racing will be added to the 2008 APBA Rulebook.

### **Fuel Rule**

The Fuel rule will remain unchanged as printed in the APBA rulebook. A line stating that use of illegal fuel will be changed from a disqualification offense to a fine at the discretion of the Race Director will be added.

## **2) IJSBA RULE CHANGES**

### **a) Should Four Stroke Ski PWC be allowed to utilize aftermarket intercoolers in the Limited Class subject to size and boost restrictions?**

It was discussed and agreed that this rule will NOT be added to the APBA rulebook as an aftermarket intercooler is not needed at 7.7 lbs of boost. Hydrospace owners will be allowed to reinforce their stock Intercooler or update to the updated Intercooler available from Hydrospace or Weber that is being installed on current S4 models.

### **b) Should Open Class Rules allow Two Stroke Ski PWC to utilize aftermarket cylinders?**

The APBA will NOT allow aftermarket cylinders in Open class. Please note that this applies to only the two remaining APBA Open Ski classes (Veteran Ski Open and Amateur Ski Open). The Pro-Am Ski Open has been replaced with Pro-Am GP Ski and aftermarket cylinders are allowed in the Pro-Am GP Ski class.

### **c) Engine Displacement Limits Set for Ski PWC**

The following are the approved displacement limits for APBA events. Due to the fact tht the APBA limits the boost on the Hydrospace there is no need to increase the displacement limit for Ski classes as this is a very costly change. Runabout displacement limits have been changed to meet current displacement limits of the Stock watercraft available for purchase in 2008.

### **Ski Stock and Ski Limited**

Normally Aspirated Two Stroke: 803cc (Remain Unchanged)

Normally Aspirated Four Stroke: 1100cc

Super/Turbocharged Two or Four Stroke: 800cc (Remain Unchanged)

### **Ski Open**

Normally Aspirated Two Stroke: 850cc (Remain Unchanged)

Normally Aspirated Four Stroke: 1100cc

Super/Turbocharged Two or Four Stroke: 800cc (Remain Unchanged)

### **Runabout Stock, Limited and Open**

Normally Aspirated Two Stroke: 1300cc

Normally Aspirated and Super/Turbo Changed Four Stroke: 2000cc

### **3) HYDROSPACE RELIABILITY ISSUES**

The following items were discussed related to the reliability of the Hydrospace and have been approved. These items have been determined to not provide a competitive advantage for the Hydrospace owner but are important for the Hydrospace owner to be able to race and maintain the watercraft in a racing environment.

1. Reinforcing the hull so that it can hold up to a log jump.
2. Aftermarket Waste Gate Actuators Arm will be allowed.
3. Aftermarket pump and drive shaft bearings replacement. This will be added as a general maintenance item and allowed on all watercraft.
4. Gluing Intercooler Core – We are already allowed this – it will be added to the 2008 rulebook.

### **4) CLASS CHANGES**

#### **Four-Stroke in Runabout Limited Classes**

The Four Stroke Limited class will remain unchanged for 2008.

#### **Entry Level Ski Class**

An Amateur Box Stock class will be created for boats with a Stock Horsepower of 80hp or less. The following modifications will be allowed – ride plate, intake grate, impeller, finger throttle, mats, grips, paint and other general maintenance items listed in the rulebook. No additional modifications will be allowed.

#### **GP Ski and Runabout**

It was discussed and agreed that Pro-Am GP Ski will replace Pro-Am Ski Open. All other Open Ski classes (Amateur Ski Open, and Veteran Ski Open) will continue to be Open classes. Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Open will remain as an Open class. GP Ski will utilize rules similar to the European GP rules with a displacement limit of 1100cc. This will allow current IJSBA Open boats to race in the class.

### **5) 2008 REGIONAL AND WATERCROSS NATIONALS CLASSES**

**Below are the 2008 Regional and Watercross Nationals classes. A few new classes were created, and few classes were combined and one class deleted.**

- 1 Pro-Am GP Ski (NEW)
- 2 Pro-Am Ski Stock
- 3 Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Open \*
- 4 Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Stock
- 5 Pro-Am Women Ski Limited
- 6 Pro-Am Runabout 800 Open
- 7 Pro Freestyle
- 8 Expert Runabout 1200 Open
- 9 Expert Ski Limited
- 10 Veteran Ski Open
- 11 Expert Runabout 1200 Limited
- 12 Women Runabout 1200 Limited
- 13 Veteran Runabout 1200 Open
- 14 Sport Modified
- 15 Masters Ski Stock (Nationals Only)
- 16 Masters Ski Open (Nationals Only)
- 17 Junior 10-12 Stock
- 18 Junior 13-15 Stock
- 19 Junior 13-15 Limited
- 20 Amateur Ski Box Stock (NEW)
- 21 Amateur Ski Open
- 22 Amateur Runabout 800 Limited

- 23 Amateur Runabout 800 Open
- 24 Amateur Runabout 4-Stroke Stock
- 25 Amateur Runabout N/A Stock (NEW)
- 26 Amateur Runabout N/A Limited (NEW)
- 27 Amateur Freestyle
- 28 Novice Ski Stock
- 29 Novice Ski Limited
- 30 Novice Runabout 1200 Limited
- 31 Novice Women Ski Limited
- 32 Beginner Ski Open
- 33 Beginner Runabout Limited

\* Please note that after reviewing member e-mails, review by Committee members, and phone calls from Pro-Am Runabout Stock class racers, it was determined that Pro-Am Runabout 1200 Stock should remain as an APBA class. Novice Runabout riders that have a Stock Turbo/Supercharged boats will be able to race in the Amateur 4-Stroke Stock class and Novice Runabout riders that have a Stock non-turbo/SC 4-stroke or a 2-stroke boat can race in the newly created Amateur Runabout N/A Stock. Splitting up the turbo/supercharged and non turbo/supercharged boats at the Novice level was one of the largest member requests which is the reason these "N/A" classes were created.

## **EXPLANATION OF NEW CLASSES**

### **Pro-Am GP Ski**

The Pro-Am Ski Open class will be replaced with Pro-Am GP Ski. The rules are based off of the European GP rules with one major difference -The APBA displacement limit for two-stroke has been set at 1100cc so that an IJSBA legal Open boat can compete in the class (The European rule is 900cc). Below are the general rules. Please consult the rulebook for final rules regarding the class.

### **2008 APBA RULES FOR GP SKI**

- The displacement limit for two and four-stroke watercraft that are non turbo/supercharged is 1100cc.
- The displacement limit for two-stroke and four-stroke watercraft that are turbo/supercharged is 900cc.
- Only one unit must be produced to receive the homologation.
- The hull, including upper and lower deck are free but must stay within the size dimensions of the APBA "Ski Division" rules.
- Sponsons must be APBA race legal.
- Ride plate and intake grate must be APBA Open class legal.
- You can use any kind of composite materials.
- You can use any kind of engine but it must be based on a homologated Ski or Runabout engine.
- Full modifications are allowed (crankshaft, cylinders, pistons, crankcases and more).
- Engine may be any number of cylinders.
- Minimum weight is 250 pounds.
- The watercraft must utilize an enclosed jet pump.
- The sound level must not exceed 95 decibels measured at a distance of 75 feet.

### **Amateur Ski Box Stock**

This is a class for boats that have a stock horsepower rating of 80 hp or less. The following modifications will be allowed in this class: Ride Plate, Intake Grate, Impeller, Grips, Mats, Paint, and Throttle. Cylinder will be allowed to be bored once over for general maintenance. A small list of general maintenance parts will also be allowed. If it is not on the previous allowed list it is NOT allowed.

### **Amateur Runabout N/A Stock and Amateur Runabout N/A Limited**

These are two new classes that are open to two and four-stroke runabouts that are not turbo/supercharged. The N/A stands for "Normally Aspirated". They will follow the normal class rules for Stock and Limited.

## **6) APBA NATIONAL HIGHPOINTS**

**National Tour** – It was discussed and agreed that all National Tour classes will receive full APBA National Highpoints from the National Tour points scale regardless of the number of riders at each event. All other points will remain the same.

**Awarding Number Ones and Championships** – It was discussed and determined that beginning in 2008 only one #1 will be awarded from APBA events. The APBA U.S. National Champion is the rider that scores the most points from the APBA National Highpoints system. The APBA will no longer allow riders to run a red #1 if they finish first in Nashville. Winning the APBA National Highpoints is the highest honor in APBA. The APBA will continue to award trophies to the top three riders from the National Tour, however, number are earned from APBA National Highpoints only.

## **7) 2009 APBA ANNUAL MEETING AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

APBA Region 7 will be hosting the 2009 APBA Annual meeting. The 2009 APBA Annual Meeting will take place in Raleigh, North Carolina on January 22-23, 2009.

It was discussed and agreed that waiting until the 2009 APBA Annual meeting is too late to begin working on rules for the future of our sport. The next scheduled meeting will take in Parker, Arizona at the first National Tour event at the beginning of May. Another meeting will be planned to take place during the World Finals in October. The APBA will work on setting up a technical forum and have periodic conference calls to work on technical rules for our sport.