



2026 Aquanut Junior Team Membership Guide

2026 Junior Show Director

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Team Overview

Welcome to the 2026 Aquanut Water Shows Ski Team!

The Junior Team is open to members aged 14 and under. To be eligible to join the Junior Team your child must be a strong slalom skier to try out. Junior Team membership requires at least one parent to be a member, although both are welcome. The Junior Team practices from late June until early/mid-August each summer. Practices are pre-scheduled on weekday mornings during that time.

The Junior program is structured to teach team show skiing skills. Outside of practice, individual junior skiers are encouraged to learn and become proficient in individual skills. These skills are not taught during Junior Team practice time. There may be times during the season when individual skills and practice time are available or offered.

Show skiing skills, including showmanship, dock starts, shore landings, skiing in groups, pyramid climbing/basing, conventional doubles, ballet, plus more advanced show ski skills which would include strap trios/doubles and jumping.

Individual skiing skills include Barefooting, Trick Skiing, Wakeboarding, Ballet, Swivel Skiing, Shoe Skiing, and for a select few, Jumping. Becoming proficient in any sport is a very important and fun component, but takes a significant amount of water, time, and instruction. Several Junior Team members play and practice together and several Senior Team members are available for private instruction sessions.

Families are encouraged to pursue skill development in these individual disciplines. Once a skier has practiced any of the more individual type skills and has reached a level of consistency, the opportunity exists for these acts to be added to the show and therefore be on the water at practice.

Proficient Junior skiers may be asked to perform in Senior Team shows during the season. In addition, it is commonplace for the Senior Team and Junior Team to have a joint performance show. Junior members are encouraged to also learn and be part of the Senior Team for rope and dock needs.

The Junior Team is not a drop-off program. Every skier needs an adult parent/guardian to stay on-site during practice time. This supervising adult is responsible for making decisions that may include any medical situation.

Membership & Admin Contacts

- Sandy Boerman: Email: sandyboerman@yahoo.com
- Heather Cognac: Email: heathercognac@gmail.com
- Team Communication tool: TeamSnap
- Website: <https://aquanutwatershows.com/>
- General Number: 866-754-7465: Admin@AquanutWaterShows.com
- Mailing Address: Aquanut Water Shows Inc, PO Box 118, Twin Lakes, WI 53181



Membership Costs

Membership Dues & Financial Information

1. All Juniors must have at least one parent who signs up as a paid non-skiing or skiing team member. Each skiing and non-skiing member must pay annual dues. (See rates below.)
2. Each Junior skiing team member and at least one parent/guardian must sign up for USA membership. USA membership is required to participate in any dryland practice.
3. As a USA membership requirement, at least one parent/guardian of every Junior skier must have passed the Safe Sport certification for their child to be eligible to participate in any team activities, including dryland practices.
4. Membership in WWSF is only required IF a skier is participating in the Wisconsin State Tournament in July.
5. Selling of raffle tickets (see Raffle Tickets below)

Dates	Skiing Member	Non-Skiing
Early Bird - Registered and paid by April 15, 2026	\$100.00	\$40.00
Regular Dues - Registered and paid after April 15, 2026	\$150.00	\$75.00
New Members	\$100.00	\$40.00

Dues and Registration can be done by paper or online @

<https://aquanutwatershows.com/membership-requirements/>

Raffle Tickets

Each junior skiing team member is required to sell 15 raffle tickets (\$20 each). Each non-skiing parent is required to sell an additional 5 tickets, up to a maximum of 35 tickets per family.

All ticket stubs and related money are due on or before the Junior picnic. Sold ticket stubs and money should be turned in to Heather Cognac, Sandy Boerman, or Mark Gurda (Team Treasurer).

- Selling raffle tickets is our primary team fundraiser and is crucial to our team's operation and success. They provide capital funding to maintain our equipment--skis, ropes, costumes, jump, pier, boats, and motors.
- Selling raffle tickets is a part of your dues for being on the team; therefore, you are required to turn in this money for allotted tickets. If you do not sell all your tickets, you will be responsible for turning in unsold tickets along with their monetary value. The Aquanuts print up to 2,000 tickets each year. Total prizes are \$6,500. The winning prizes are tax-free to the recipient. The winning tickets are drawn at the last senior show on Labor Day weekend.
- **Additional tickets:** If you sell an additional 15 tickets beyond your responsibility, you will receive a sponsorship that covers your team dues for the following year. Membership sponsorship is non-transferable. (You are still responsible for the USA and WWSF.)



Team Communication

- Each team member must provide an email, address, birth date, and cell phone number on their membership form for important team communications.
- The team uses TeamSnap to communicate with members. The show director will send messages to communicate last-minute changes to practice times or show instructions.
- Contact the Junior Show Director, Brian Mueller, or Caitlin Thorsen, at bmueller31@gmail.com or caitlinthorsen@gmail.com. For urgent matters, call or text Brian at 847-226-3852 or Caitlin at 708-426-4348.

USA Waterski Membership

USA membership must be active for both skiing and non-skiing members for the entire ski season. **If your USA membership expires anytime during the 2026 season, complete your renewals by May 1, 2026**, to ensure that your memberships are active for the entire ski season.

For liability reasons, all members on the water or helping on land must have an ACTIVE and current USA membership.

USA membership can be completed online at <http://www.usawaterski.org/pages/Join.html>. **To be added to our team roster, be sure to choose "Aquanut Water Shows" as your team affiliation.**

Safe Sport

Who needs to do Safe Sport:

- USA Waterski requires any team member who is 18 years or older, or who will turn 18 during our ski season, to pass the Safe Sport certification class to be eligible to participate in any team activities – this includes: skiing, riding, driving, announcing, helping on the dock, and participating in dryland practices.
- You do NOT have to complete Safe Sport to volunteer at the concessions stand or T-shirt stand.

About the Safe Sport class:

- This is an online course, and the first time will take approximately 1.5 – 2 hrs.. You can start and stop if necessary.
- For the next 3 years you will need to do a refresher course each year that takes approximately 15-20 minutes. You will be sent an email 6 weeks prior to expiration, then 4 weeks, and 2 weeks.
- If you take the refresher course sooner than the renewal date (prior to notices), this will now be your new expiration date.
- In your 4th year, you will be required to retake the Safe Sport course in its entirety.

Safe Sport Training Process

FREE to USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Members

- Log in to your [Members Only page](#) using your membership number and password.
- Select **SafeSport Training/Background Screening** from the menu.
- Follow the applicable instructions for either first-time training or training renewal for those who have taken the course previously.

- Once you have completed the course, it will automatically be reflected in your USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Member Dashboard within 24 hours.
- For any questions or help on Safe Sport, please call USA Waterski at 863-324-4341 or visit their website for more info: USAwaterski.org

Please save a copy of your certificate on your phone. Please send a copy of your completed certificate to Admin@aquanutwatershows.com

Wisconsin Water Ski Federation Membership (WWSF)

Any Junior team member who is brought up to ski with the Senior team in the State competition will also be required to become a WWSF member (at that time) to be tournament eligible.

WWSF membership is required annually for any junior team member or parent who will be competing or participating in stage, rope, dock, or safety at the WI State competition in July. To complete your membership application, where required, go online at <http://www.joinit.org/o/wwsf>.

When signing up for a Family membership, count the primary member in your total number of members.

If you have any questions about these memberships or forms, please contact Sandy Boerman (sandyboerman@yahoo.com) or Heather Cognac (heathercognac@gmail.com) for assistance.

Other Member Information

Code Of Conduct

Members are expected to treat others with respect and kindness. Safe Sport and general codes of conduct apply to all members. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated. If you are a witness to or a victim of bullying from a team member, you are responsible for communicating your concern to your show director or any board member. Bullying can be in the form of in-person, physical, emotional, or online.

Those reporting any bullying will remain anonymous. The process for discipline may be private or public depending on the situation. Any incident of bullying will be considered by the Team President, the Show director, and at least two other board members. Any intrateam-disciplinary action will not be posted on social media and should not be discussed online.

Costumes

Costume information will be sent out by email.

Wetsuits

Where applicable, Team wetsuits could be purchased and are yours to keep. Contact Bob Koehler (koehler.aquanuts@gmail.com) to purchase one—the cost is TBD. If you have outgrown yours, feel free to sell it to a teammate.

Practice & Show Schedules

DRYLAND PRACTICE: This occurs during the winter months. The Junior Show Director will communicate with the Junior Team about these dates (if any).

JUNIOR PRACTICES: Most Thursdays from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm and Fridays from 8:30 am - noon from mid-June until mid-August. The Junior Show Director will communicate schedule details prior to the season.

JUNIOR SHOWS: The Junior Team will perform 2-3 shows throughout the summer. The Junior Show Director will communicate schedule details prior to the season.

Privacy and Security

Security cameras are installed in the Nut Hut, Concessions, and both Equipment Sheds. Please be aware of the location of the cameras for your privacy concerns.

Sponsor Support

Please try to utilize the services our sponsors provide. Twin Lakes Marine, Inc. currently provides our outboard motors and service. Other Sponsors are displayed in our program and on our docks and the jump.

Contact the Program/Ad Sales Committee at AquanutAdBook@gmail.com for further information to become a team sponsor or to place an ad in our program by April 1st.

Show Site and Work Days

Pre-season – End of April 2026 (exact date TBD), team members will gather to clean the show site to put the pier and stage sections into the water. Junior parents are encouraged and openly invited to help with this process.

Post-season - On the Sunday morning of Labor Day weekend, the team gathers at the show site to take out the piers and stage sections and clean the Scout house and show site. Junior parents are encouraged and openly invited to help with this process.

Team Celebration - The Team banquet will be held on Sunday, September 6th, Labor Day weekend.

Tournaments (by Invitation only)

Junior members may be invited to participate in Senior Team tournaments. The Team may have reserved a block of rooms at preferred rates. Contact your show director for more information.

Wisconsin State Competition: July 16-19, 2026 - Lake Wazeecha, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The Aquanuts compete in Division I against several other Wisconsin show teams. Team members stay at Hotel Mead & Conference Center, 451 East Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids. We have a block of rooms reserved under Aquanuts. *Phone: 800-843-6323* *Reservations: reservations@hotelmead.com - Website: www.hotelmead.com.* Please book your rooms ASAP and no later than June 1, 2026. After June 1, 2026, the Aquanut room block will be released.

Division 1 National Competition: August 7-9, 2026- Evansdale, Iowa.

The top teams from the State competition are invited to compete at the National level. Each team presents a one-hour show and is judged by a panel of experts in such areas as Doubles, Barefoot, Ballet Line, Swivel, Big Act, and Pyramids.

It is a fun weekend of camaraderie among show teams from other towns. If you are unable to attend one of these tournaments, you should communicate this to the show director(s) ASAP. It is very important to attend all the practices and shows the week prior to a tournament.

*Competitions for individuals in swivel, doubles, and jump are held two days before the Wisconsin State tournament and one day before the National tournament. **(It is the responsibility of the individual or group to sign up for this themselves.)**

Recruitment

Formal tryouts will be held in August for the following year. If you are unable to make this tryout, please contact the Junior Show Director. At the tryout, the skier seeking membership will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to slalom ski. If they are successful, they will be considered for membership. Please let interested friends know that the Junior Team is not a drop-off program, and every skier needs a parent/adult to supervise during practice time.



Also, inform them that parent involvement is a necessary component to the team's ability to function, and opportunities to get involved will be available and encouraged. Skiers under 14 are eligible for the Junior Team. Once on the Junior Team, skiers move up to the Senior Team the summer when they turn 14 before June 1st. During the summer, a skier is 14, and there may be some exceptions made when it appears a skier would benefit from one more season with the Junior Team.

Once a skier is 15 or older, they are Senior Team members. Kids 15+ are encouraged to return as non-skiing helpers but may no longer ski with the junior team. All recruitment decisions and exceptions will be discussed by the Recruitment and Skier Development Committee.

Show Site Team Member Upkeep Responsibilities

Using our show site is a privilege, and we are expected to take care of it. The Village has given us guidelines that we must follow. Every Team member is responsible for picking up trash around the show site, keeping all bathrooms clean, and bringing full garbage cans to the parking lot.

Team members are also expected to keep the Scout House, Nut Hut, and Equipment Sheds tidy and clean. We do not want the town of Twin Lakes to revoke our privileges. Please review the expectations from the Village on the corkboard in the Scout House.

Volunteerism and Other Team Information

All Junior parents are asked to participate in at least one Senior show per season as a Volunteer at the concession stand. The time requested is 1 hour before the show for setup, during the show for orders, and 30-45 minutes after the Show.

Non-Skiing Members are always welcome and encouraged to assist the Team in many areas such as running sound, concessions, pin pullers (we can train you), riders in safety boats, rope and dock, after-show clean up, collections help, etc. Everyone has a talent--let us know what yours is!

Adaptive Water Ski Clinics: The Aquanut Water Shows organization is committed to providing a positive and safe learning environment for individuals with physical and mental disabilities and their families.

We try to host several clinic dates per summer. All Aquanuts and their parents are encouraged to participate. Volunteer training is provided. This is a great opportunity for students/interns to obtain service hours. Go to www.aquanutwatershows.com for the schedule.

Learn to Ski Clinics: Each summer, the Aquanut team members volunteer to teach anyone who would like to learn to waterski. The dates will be listed on our website and in our program. Learn to Ski clinics are a great opportunity for the Aquanut organization to give back to the community.

2026 Board Members and Committees

Elections for Board members occur each August, and the terms of office run from Labor Day to Labor Day.

Executive Board Member positions are selected for two-year terms, while show directors are elected for one-year terms. The Elected Board members convene after their election to select 5 board members at large, as well as possible alternate members or apprentice members. Each non-exec board position is selected for a one-year term.

2026 Board Members

- President – Bob Koehler
- Vice President – Andy Martin
- Secretary – Amber Tosi
- Treasurer – Mark Gurda
- Show Director – Will Bazeley
- Junior Show Directors – Brian Mueller and Caitlin Thorsen
- Board Members at Large – Heather Cognac, Mike Wolaver, Pat Kirchens, John Wichman, and Mike Walker
- Alternate – Andy Amore

Board Terms

- President and Secretary – Odd-numbered years.
- Treasurer and Vice President – Even-numbered years.

Committees

Volunteers are needed in each committee. Please bring your time, talent, and treasure to being a volunteer. Contact any board member to let them know you would like to work on a particular committee.

1. **Adaptive Aquatics:** Oversee and run all areas of the Adaptive Aquatics, its events, and equipment.
2. **Alumni:** Development of events and communications with our alumni.
3. **Boats, Barges and Trailer Maintenance Team:** Maintenance and upkeep of all boats, barges, and trailers owned by the team.
4. **Concession Stand:** Food/drink purchasing and selling.
5. **Costumes:** Purchasing and keeping inventory of team costumes.
6. **Finance Committee:** Oversee Team finances, develop a Team budget, and present financial recommendations to the Board of Directors.
7. **Infrastructure (Show site, Buildings, Signs, etc.):** Show site maintenance and building development.
8. **Learn to Ski:** Organize volunteers and supervise our Learn to Ski program.
9. **Marketing/Social Media:** Find creative ways to market and promote the Team via the team website, social media, and other avenues.
10. **Membership/Raffle:** Organize and record each member's Team, USA, WWSF, and Safe Sport memberships as well as distribute and manage raffle tickets.
11. **Program/Ad Sales:** Solicit advertisers, invoicing, layout and artwork, knowledge of Photoshop and/or Adobe Illustrator, the layout of logos, signs, and photography featured in the program and social media, and gather printing costs.
12. **Recruiting & Skier Development:** Recruit and develop the skills of new and existing skiing members.
13. **Safety:** Teach Team safety procedures and maintenance of Team safety equipment.
14. **Ski Equipment:** Maintenance and purchasing of all Team skis, ropes, and related equipment.
15. **Social Events:** Planning team social events.
16. **Sound and Sound Equipment:** Maintenance and purchasing of all Team sound equipment.
17. **Spirit Wear:** Team clothing design, purchasing, and selling.
18. **Team Photography:** Take Team photographs throughout the summer for social media posts and the program.
19. **Website:** Design and manage the Team website.

Aquanut FAQ's

New members might not be familiar with some of the lingo, so here are a few answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

- **Scout House:** Located at Lance Park Aquanut Show Site, where the team can have meetings, practice routines during bad weather, a changing area, and a team restroom.
- **Nut Hut:** Where we sell Aquanut apparel. Our sound crew uses the second level.
- **Concession Area:** Where we sell food and beverages.
- **Equipment Sheds:** Located down by the water. It is the skier's responsibility to keep equipment sheds clean and put things where they belong.

- **World Show Ski Team:** A team of 35 elite skiers is chosen from around the USA and brought together to compete against other countries every two years. The 2022 World Tournament was held in Winter Haven, Florida, and the Team took 1st Place. The next World Tournament will be in 2027.
- **Freezin' for a Reason: December 5, 2026** (first Saturday of December) *Gage Marine in Williams Bay, WI.* The Aquanuts support our sponsor, Gage Marine, with skiers, boat drivers, riders, and announcers. If you would like to volunteer for the day or give a donation or raffle prize, please contact Kami Koehler (Barefootingusa@gmail.com). *Freezin' for a Reason* benefits "Santa Cause." Read more at <http://santacauses.org>. We find it very rewarding to give back to the community. Many of us have been excited to say that we skied in December to help a great cause.

Think Tank – March 2026

Think Tank (Wisconsin Water Ski Convention & Expo) is the premier water skiing education experience offering training for nearly every water ski discipline as well as seminars and forums on a variety of other topics, including team management, show production, scoring, swivel/ballet/jump clinics, and insurance.

Many of the most knowledgeable and respected instructors from around the nation and the State of Wisconsin will be on hand to share their expertise to give you a jump-start on the upcoming water ski season. This is a great way to learn some new skills in the off-season or take your skiing to the next level.

The expo also allows the water ski industry and related businesses to showcase the latest in equipment, gear, boats, motors, and more. Think Tank 2026 will be held at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells from February 28 through March 2, 2026. Feel free to visit www.waterski.org

There is a lot of information here. If we have left something out, please let Heather Cognac, Sandy Boerman, Caitlin Thorsen or Brian Mueller know. This is a work-in-progress informational packet and is intended to be updated annually. Have a great Season!

