



2007  
**WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA  
OFFICIAL RULES**

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WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA EVENTS/CHAMPIONSHIPS

## **Rule 1 GENERAL**

- a) **Applicability of the Rules:** The rules set forth here govern wakeboard competitions sanctioned by the Wakeboard Australia. It is requested that States and divisions establish rules as close to these rules as possible. Whenever the masculine is used, the same shall be construed as meaning the feminine where the context so requires.
- b) **Exceptions to the Rules:** Where compliance with the rules is not feasible, the Chief Judge shall with the approval of the majority of the Judges, make the necessary changes. Such changes will be announced at a riders' or team captains' meeting, and by posting. Where the rules are definite and feasible, a vote of the Judges to decide whether to enforce any provision is prohibited.
- c) **Drug Testing:** All competitors must agree to be subject to doping control. Specific policies and procedures regarding doping control shall be detailed in the Medical Regulations of the International Water Ski Federation.
- d) **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Any rider (or his representative) or official whose conduct is deemed unsportsmanlike or whose conduct may cause discredit to Wakeboard Australia, AWWF, IWSF and sponsors, either on or off the competition site, before during, or after the competition, may be disqualified from all or part of the competition including completed events and/or be subject to a fine to be determined by the AWSF Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Judges. Any and all infractions can also be punishable by disqualification.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to: use of vulgar language in public, public tantrums, not riding to fullest potential, failure to attend designated functions or events, consuming alcoholic beverages during the competition, competing under false pretences, concealing significant injuries or health problems.

This includes but is not limited to riders and individuals who choose to vandalise or misrepresent wakeboarding at official hotels venues or functions during the event.

It is the responsibility of each competitor and official to make sure they do not consume alcohol at the event prior to competing or officiating. However, if in the opinion of the Chief Judge, Safety Officer or Dock Marshall a rider or official is under the influence of alcohol they will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

Each rider, prior to participating, will sign a code of conduct as a condition of entry.

## **Rule 2 COMPETITION SITE DURING WAKEBOARD EVENTS**

- a) There will not be any official familiarisation during the State or National Wakeboard Championships.
- b) No unofficial or official practice will take place on the event site with the official towboat one (1) week prior to the event. However the event organisers may choose an alternate site for practice.
- c) The organizers of the event will hand the site over to the Chief Judge one full day prior to the first day of the event for inspection.
- d) Use of the site is under the authority of the Chief Judge until the completion of the competition.

At the discretion of the Chief Judge and Event organiser, riders may be selected to ride or partake in a course testing, obstacle testing and/or media, promotional or sponsorship obligations.

## **Rule 3 SAFETY DURING WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- a) Safety Director: At least one month before the Wakeboard Event, the host State/Division/Organisers shall appoint a Safety Director, who will appoint such assistants as appear necessary and inform the Wakeboard Australia President and Chief Judge. The Safety Director shall be responsible for the safe conditions of all equipment, facilities and operation of the event; but this shall not prevent him from delegating specific responsibilities to his assistants as approved by the Chief Judge. He shall have the authority to take whatever action is necessary, including stopping the event, whenever he observes a condition he believes unsafe. The Chief Judge may overrule any contemplated action or decision of the Safety Director on his own responsibility.
- b) Unsafe Rider Disqualification: No rider shall be allowed to compete or to continue to compete if, in the opinion of the Safety Director and a majority of the Boat Judges, his competing would be a danger to himself or other riders in the competition. During the competition, the Safety Director may, at any time, request the Chief Judge to halt the event for a poll of the Boat Judges in regard to a rider's actions or conditions. Whenever practical, the advice of a doctor should be obtained.
- c) Safety Boats: A minimum of one safety boat(s) shall be used during the event. The suggested positioning of the safety boat(s) is operating outside the wakeboard course buoys facing a rider during his pass.
- d) Safety Boat Personnel: Each safety boat will be manned by:
  - i. An experienced driver who is familiar with the conduct of all practice and competitive events.
  - ii. Wakeboard recommends that a swimmer, who is fully trained in First

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Aid, Emergency Resuscitation and Water Rescue Techniques. The swimmer will wear a life jacket at all times and, in the event of a serious fall, will jump into the water to assist the rider. If the injured rider is unable to climb into the safety boat with little or no assistance, the rider will be floated to shore and lifted from the water on a suitable board or stretcher. Under no circumstances will an injured rider be lifted passively over the side of the safety boat.

- e) On Site Medical Facilities: The Safety Director will appoint a Competition Medical Officer who will undertake to provide the following services:
- i. A suitably qualified medical officer will be in attendance during throughout the event.
  - ii. A suitably equipped medical station prepared to deal with any sort of medical emergency will be conveniently located at the competition site.
  - iii. Suitable transportation facilities that will allow an injured rider to be moved safely and promptly to the best local medical unit for further care.
  - iv. A working relationship will be established between the local hospital or medical unit and the Competition Medical Officer, such that casualties will get prompt and expert treatment when required.

**Rule 4 CATEGORIES AT WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA STATE & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a) Competition entry at Wakeboard Australia sanctioned events will be strictly by age with the exception of the Open/Pro category
- b) There will be a minimum of 5 riders required to open a category. The Chief Judge will inform all participating States as soon as feasibly possible if there are insufficient riders within a category.
- c) A rider will only be allowed to enter one category.
- d) The Chief Judge and/or Chief Calculator will ensure that all riders' birth dates are checked for verification of age.

- e) A rider's age as of 1<sup>st</sup>. July 2007 will be used to determine age bracket. For the 2007/2008 Summer Period

9 Years and Under

Both Girls and Boys or combined classes where necessary.

Boys 10-14

14 years old and under.

Girls 10-14

14 years old and under.

Junior Men 15-19

15 to 19 years old.

Junior Ladies 15-19

15 to 19 years old.

Mens 20-29

Men 20-29 years old.

Women 20-29

Women 20-29 Years old

Masters Men

30- 40 years of age.

Masters Ladies

30 plus Ladies

Veterans

40 and over

Open Division - Men

No age restriction.

Open Division – Ladies

No age restriction.

## **Rule 5 HEAT SYSTEMS**

Wakeboard competitions will use a heat system. The running order will be randomly selected by either computer or drawn from a ballot in order to compete in individual heats. The number of riders in each heat is dependent on the total number of riders entered.

No heat shall exceed 6 riders. Where possible heats of 4 or 5 are preferred. An equal amount of the riders from each heat will then advance to the next round or LCQ.

The LCQ, Semi Finals and Finals will be selected from placement NOT scores. This will be done by 2-1-1-2 or for 3 heats 3-2-1-1-2-3 heat selection system. This allows for heats to be mixed throughout the event.

The LCQ round may or may not be used within the competition depending on time and numbers.

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Where possible finals will comprise of 6 riders, in the event of a withdrawal, disqualification or injury the rider will not be replaced or substituted. The heats will proceed with fewer riders. Due to event time restraints this may have to be varied.

#### **Rule 6    RUNNING ORDER**

A rider will be disqualified if he fails to be on hand and ready to ride when the boat returns to the dock / start area.

In the case where a rider has been disqualified or has been scratched, a one-minute delay shall be granted to the next rider in the starting order if he was not on the starting dock at the time of disqualification. If more than one rider has been disqualified or has scratched, the time allotted to the next rider shall be one minute for each rider disqualified or scratched.

Riders are expected to be onsite at least 1 hour prior to their scheduled start time.

#### **Rule 7    DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Should a rider be disqualified for any reason, he will not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the competition, i.e. if he misses his turn in the qualifying rounds, he will not be permitted to compete in the last chance qualifiers.

#### **Rule 8    ADVANCEMENT**

A rider must score (more than 0) in the qualifying round to advance to the next round of competition.

#### **Rule 9    ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a) Rider Eligibility: Each rider must be a full financial member of the Australian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation.
- b) A rider must compete in a minimum of one state sanctioned event to be eligible for entry to state championships, and then a rider must enter and ride at a state championships to be eligible to enter the National Championships.
- c) Riders must ride in the National championships in the age division in which they competed at their State Championships.
- d) A rider may advance to Open / Pro at national Level if they choose
- e) Each state may select a team of 8 riders to represent in a state team challenge.

- f) State Team selection:
- i. Team Entry: A team will comprise of a maximum of 8 riders, with a maximum of 2 riders in the same category. Although it is encouraged to have a mixed participation with men and women riders within a team, it is not compulsory. States must nominate their team riders by 8:00 pm, one day prior to the first day of the event, after which all riders will be considered individual entries. In the event of an injured rider, the Team Captain can replace a rider but only within the same category. Replacements are not permitted once the event begins.
  - ii. Individual Entries: Riders who are not part of a team may compete as individuals. An individual rider's entry can be submitted to the Chief calculator 2 weeks prior to the event.
  - iii. Reigning National Champions: Riders may compete in the Wakeboard Australia National Championships as individuals if they are the reigning National Champion in any event from the previously held Wakeboard Australia Championships. The rider must be a full financial member.
  - iv. At the discretion of the President of wakeboard Australia, elite riders participating in IWSF World Cup events may be invited to participate in the Australian National Championships.

**Rule 10 TEAM SCORING and SERIES SCORING AT WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA EVENTS**

1 The best 6 scores will be used to compute an overall team score. Each team rider will be awarded the following points depending on his final placement in his respective category:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	100 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	80 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	65 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	55 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	45 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place	35 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place	30 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place	25 points
=9 <sup>th</sup> place	20 points
=11 <sup>th</sup> place	14 points
=13 <sup>th</sup> place	8 points
=15 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points
=17 <sup>th</sup> place	3 points
=19 <sup>th</sup> place	1 points
20 <sup>th</sup> place and all subsequent riders	receive 1 point each

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With the use of the heat system, there will be instances where riders have finished in a joint position with a rider in a different heat. Relevant placing points will therefore be given to each individual, for example:-

#### SEMI-FINALS – HEAT 1

1 <sup>st</sup> place	
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	
4 <sup>th</sup> place	
5 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 9 <sup>th</sup> place)	20 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 11 <sup>th</sup> place)	14 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 13 <sup>th</sup> place)	8 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 15 <sup>th</sup> place)	5 points

#### FINALS

1 <sup>st</sup> place	100 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	80 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	65 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	55 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	45 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place	35 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place	30 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place	25 points

#### SEMI-FINALS – HEAT 2

1 <sup>st</sup> place	
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	
4 <sup>th</sup> place	
5 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 9 <sup>th</sup> place)	20 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 11 <sup>th</sup> place)	14 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 13 <sup>th</sup> place)	8 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place (equal 15 <sup>th</sup> place)	5 points

In the event of a tie, final team placement will be determined by the 7<sup>th</sup>. Team score.

### **Rule 11 EQUIPMENT**

- a) General: All personal equipment is subject to the approval of the Chief Judge and Safety Director
- b) Life Vest: All competitors must wear a life vest. It is the responsibility of each rider to ensure their life vest meets the following specifications:
  - i. It must float the rider.
  - ii. It must be constructed so as to provide adequate protection from impact damage to the ribs and internal organs.
  - iii. The vest must be Australian Standards Approved PFD2 or PFD3.
- c) Towlines: Riders must provide their own handles and ropes, which must be of a non-stretch material.
- d) Helmets: Riders must wear a suitable helmet if they choose to hit any of the

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obstacles in the wakeboard course. If a rider hits an obstacle without a helmet, he will be disqualified from the competition. If a rider wishes to hit any obstacles, he must start and complete his routine with a helmet on. This includes double ups. There are currently no ASA helmets, therefore all helmets used should have a break away strap.

- e) Boats: The total additional weight in the boat will be determined by the Chief Judge and a representative from the Wakeboard Australia's technical committee. If a representative from the technical committee is not present, then the decision will be at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
- f) Damaged Equipment: A rider is fully responsible for his personal equipment and should have a spare board, fully assembled with bindings and fins, at his disposal should any damage occur. In the event that a rider realises his equipment has been damaged, he may throw the handle to indicate that he wishes to repair his equipment. This will, however, constitute one fall if it occurs in the wakeboard course. If a rider falls in the wakeboard course due to his equipment being damaged, it will also constitute one fall. The Chief Judge will have the final say as to whether the equipment has failed. If a rider has damaged his equipment, he will have Four minutes to repair the equipment. The damaged equipment must be repaired at the starting dock. The time begins when the rider gets onto the starting dock. The rider must have both feet back in his bindings before the four minutes elapses or his routine is over. The boat will then tow the rider from the starting dock to the location of the fall or handle-throw, come to a complete stop and then resume the routine.

## **Rule 12 RE-RIDES**

It is the sole responsibility of a rider to request for a re-ride.

When unfair conditions occurs, which, in the opinion of a majority of the Judges, adversely affects a rider, he shall be granted the option of a re-ride only on the passes affected. Re-rides will not be granted if a rider's personal equipment fails.

Re-rides must be taken immediately. If a rider is given a second re-ride, he may elect to take a five-minute rest, during which the next rider in order will perform his routine. The re-ride shall be taken at the conclusion of the rider's routine during which the five- minute rest period expires.

Requests for re-rides may be initiated by a Boat Judge for the event before the next rider starts or may be initiated, as soon as possible, by the rider or his team representative and shall be decided as soon as practicable thereafter. If, in the opinion of the Boat Judges for the event, the request was not initiated as soon as possible after the rider has ridden, the request shall be denied.

Re-ride requests will not be permitted if they are based on variations in weather or water conditions.

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### **Rule 13 PROTESTS**

Protests shall be made to the Chief Judge only. Protest must be made in writing, must state the reason(s) for the protest, and must be filed as soon as possible, but no later than 30 minutes after the occurrence or after the results of the event are announced. Protests will be handled by the Chief Judge and the 3 judges involved in the respective event.

A protest can only be made by the athlete involved or his/her guardian. In the case of other protests, i.e. heat protests, timing, etc, such protests shall be handled by the majority of judges.

Due to subjective scoring nature and in the spirit of wakeboarding protests shall be allowed only for failure of the judges and calculators to comply with these rules and only if this non-compliance with rules has an adverse effect on a rider. No protest shall ever be permitted on a judgement decision by the Boat Judges.

A correction of an error in the computation of scores shall not be considered a protest and the correction shall be made on the approval of the Chief Judge and Calculator within 30 minutes after the results are announced, and Boat Judges' scoring sheets have been made available for inspection. The inspection of scoring sheets will be done only in the presence of the Judges scoring that particular event.

### **Rule 14 USE OF VIDEO**

Due to the subjective scoring nature & spirit of wakeboarding, video footage of any kind will not be used by Judges, riders or team representatives to resolve any disputes. Judges will not view or comment on any video footage during a protest or during the event.

### **Rule 15 COMPETITION FORMAT**

- a) General: Each rider shall be allowed two passes through the wakeboard course during which time he may perform any routine he chooses. He will be judged on subjective style categories, to arrive at a single combined score.

Judging of the routine begins when the rider enters the wakeboard course and ends when the rider exits the wakeboard course, falls for a second time, or completes his double up (finals only).

See Rule 20 regarding Falls.

Riders are encouraged to perform a smooth flowing routine with a wide variety of tricks. Each manoeuvre should be different and executed as cleanly as possible and taken to its limit. Riders should not repeat tricks (e.g. HS & TS Indy are judged the same, a Scarecrow and a Switch Scarecrow are the same)

Boat (Scoring) Judges: The Chief Judge will designate three Boat Judges, to be seated in the tow boat, to score each rider's routine.

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- b) Scoring: Judges will award a maximum of 100 points to each rider based on their overall impressions of the routine performed. The judges will score each rider in each of the following categories:-

Events With or Without Obstacles:

Execution - 33.3 Points

This reflects the level of perfection to which each manoeuvre was performed, as well as the successful completion of the routine with a minimum number of falls.

Intensity - 33.4 Points

This reflects how big the moves were performed, as well as the technical difficulty of the tricks executed.

Composition - 33.3 Points

This reflects the overall composition of the routine in terms of the rider's ability to perform a variety of manoeuvres in a flowing, creative sequence including the use of the obstacles

Each individual heat per division will be judged independently from the other heats on the day. The judges will score the first rider of the heat subjectively and each subsequent riders performance after that rider is judged higher or lower depending upon their ride.

Judges are required to both score and place a rider in a heat.

- c) Calculation of Scores: The Average method of calculating will be used. Each Judges score will be used in the entirety and then averaged. Scores from all categories of a rider's routine are added together to produce a judge's total score. All three judges' total scores are then averaged to produce a final score for a rider.
- d) Calculation scores will be cross-referenced to the judge's placement of the rider. A judge's placement will override the judge's score.

**Rule 16 WAKEBOARD COURSE**

- a) Course Buoys: Buoys to be used for the wakeboard course must be of the following specifications:-
1. Only inflatable buoys may be used, and they should be made of a lightweight, pliable material with smooth exposed surface.
  2. Colour of buoys shall be selected for maximum visibility. A fluorescent orange paint must used for the start buoys and fluorescent green paint is recommended for the cut-off buoys
  3. Start buoys shall not stand be more than 1 metre high above the waterline.
  4. Each buoy shall have a strong loop for attaching anchor lines. The buoys must be attached to the anchor line by the use of a system that will tighten the buoy

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in such a way as to ensure that it does not move around from its position.

- b) **Course Dimensions:** A start buoy shall establish the approximate area of the beginning of the wakeboard course from each direction. The end of the pass shall be signified by an end buoy. The distance from the start and end buoys will be a minimum of 370 metres. These course dimensions will be used where practical. Bright orange buoys are recommended for the start and end buoys
- c) **Cut-Off buoy:** A cut off buoy will indicate the point after which the tow boat will not be able to get up to speed for a rider to continue his run in the second pass. Bright green buoys will be used for the cut-off buoy. The position of the cut off buoys will be determined by the Chief Judge and Chief Boat Driver. Obstacles may also be used instead of cut-off buoys at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The cut-off buoys will not be used in finals where there is a double up.
- d) Where possible the obstacles will be set at least one trick in from the start and finish buoys within the course. The obstacles will be placed in a location that suits both left and right foot riders. The obstacles will be placed in a manner to allow for a double up to be performed safely. The chief judge has final say as to the exact placement of the obstacles within these specifications.
- e) **Proceeding through the two wakeboard passes:** The boat shall follow as closely as possible the path specified by the Chief Judge for the event, such path to include the preparation time before each pass. The second pass shall be in the opposite direction from the first pass.
- f) A rider's routine will begin when he performs his first trick at, close to, or after the start buoy. Hitting an obstacle can/may also signify the beginning/end of the routine.
- g) A riders routine will end: when he falls for a second time or when he passes the pair of end buoys. A rider's last trick will be scored if he leaves the crest of the wake before passing the pair of end buoys.
- h) Any rider who swims down the course to gain advantage over a fellow competitor will not be picked up. This will be the end of his routine.

## **Rule 17 DOUBLE-UP**

Each rider who qualifies for the finals will be given a double-up. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to communicate to the driver before leaving the dock whether he would like a left or right double-up and where the double-up will occur in the course. Re-rides will not be granted due to any miscommunication between the rider and driver. In the event that the boat provides a double-up in an incorrect direction, the rider must wave off the double-up and not attempt any manoeuvre. If any manoeuvre is attempted, which includes cutting at the wake, the rider will be deemed to have accepted his double up. If a rider waves off the double-up, the boat will then turn around, and proceed with a double-up in the correct direction. Re-rides will not be granted for turbulent water in this instance. If a rider's first fall occurs beyond the cut-off buoys, the boat will then immediately proceed with a double up for the rider.

The trick performed on the double-up should not be a repeat of any other trick

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successfully performed during the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> pass This is a judging decision but if the riders double is better than the one performed in the pass the judges will then disregard the first trick performed.

## **Rule 18 OBSTACLES**

There may be up to four styles of obstacles in the wakeboard course at Wakeboard Australia National Championships:

The apparatus must not be gap or Ollie on style obstacles. There must be no hazardous gaps or protruding screws/ fittings on the obstacle. A safety check must be carried out prior to the event.

These may include but not limited to:

- 1 Flat Bar
- 2 Rainbow Slider Bar
- 3 A Frame
- 4 Kicker

Where specifications are given, the dimensional tolerances for obstacles will be plus or minus 200mm. This does not include barge boards or ramps, these have to be into the water.

The Chief Judge will make the decision where to place these obstacles in the wakeboard course. Riders are encouraged to hit these obstacles to add variation to their routines. Riders in all divisions other than Under 9's, Novice and Day Members are permitted to hit the obstacles.

The obstacles may also signify the beginning of each routine depending on where they are placed.

## **Rule 19 BOAT SPEED & ROPE LENGTH**

Each rider shall receive his choice of a constant speed through the course for each pass, and preferred rope length. The boat speed, assuming it is held constant before entering the course, is the rider's responsibility.

## **RULE 20 FALLS**

- a) Out-Of-Course fall: A rider may have one out-of-course fall only before the start of his first pass.
- b) Handle-Throw: The rider may also have one handle-throw before the start of his first pass, which will also count as one out-of-course fall.

If a rider throws the handle prior to the start of his first pass to indicate that his rope was incorrectly put on the wrong loop by the officials or Judges in the boat, it will not count as an out-of-course fall.

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- c) An out-of-course fall or handle throw before the start of the second pass will count as one in-course fall.
- d) Two Falls: A rider may have a maximum of two falls during a routine. Should a fall occur, the boat will pick up the rider to proceed with the routine. The rider will not be picked up after a second fall, or after a fall that occurs beyond the cut-off buoy in the second pass.
- e) Obstacles: When obstacles are used, each rider will receive one obstacle and one wake/water fall only.
- Example one: A rider falls on the slider, and then falls on his first manoeuvre off the wake, the rider will be picked up. But his pass will end if he falls on either an obstacle or water trick.
  - Example two: A rider falls off the rainbow slider, and then falls off the kicker but has no previous wake/water falls. His pass ends
- f) The rider must be ready to ride immediately upon the boat's return after the first fall, an out-of-course fall, or handle-throw.

## **RULE 21 SCHEDULE CHANGES & CANCELLATION OF EVENTS**

Changes in the schedule during the competition shall be made only for weather, water conditions, safety, or a similar reason. Such changes will be announced at a riders' or team captains' meeting, and by posting.

The finals of each category must be completed to determine a winner, even if the Judges are obliged to continue it at a different site. If a final cannot be completed, all riders from the event will compete again where and when possible, until a winner is determined.