



**U.S. Nationals Chief Judge's Report  
Dickerson, MD  
October 07, 2017**

Report Prepared by; Brian Fike

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**Report Preamble**

*The U.S. Nationals represents a single day race to select National Champions for the US under each category raced. The race ran relative smoothly in spite of the reduced number of volunteers that were able to attend the pre-race training. The radios used to communicate between the volunteers on the course and the scoring office should be considered for an upgrade in the future. Too often the communications were difficult at best. Both teams did a great job working around those issues. The race volunteers and organizers were outstanding when it came to hospitality. Volunteers (and racers) that came in from out of town were offered home stays to help defray personal costs.*

Comment here on any innovation or issues

<b>Event website</b>	Used to communicate information to the competitors and posted the results after the race. <a href="http://www.potomacwhitewater.org/us-slalom-national-championships/">http://www.potomacwhitewater.org/us-slalom-national-championships/</a>
<b>Chief Official</b>	Brian Fike worked as chief official and there were no issues.
<b>Jury</b>	No issues were brought to the Jury.
<b>Chief Judge</b>	Brian Fike worked as chief judge and generally helped out where ever possible.
<b>Technical Officials</b> <i>(see Appendix 1 for full Officials list)</i>	The technical officials had a variety of slalom judging experience, but overall, they did a great job of judging the race and recording what they saw.
<b>Technical Organisation</b>	The Potomac Whitewater Racing Center hosted the 2017 US Nationals in Dickerson, MD. This organization is rich with experienced racers (past and present) and talented young paddlers. This allows for the volunteer pool to be experienced in terms of organizing and executing a national level race. It

	represents challenges when this same group tries to interpret the rules.
<b>Start / Finish</b>	No issues.
<b>Equipment Control</b>	Volunteers from the LOC manned the equipment control and there were no issues.
<b>Course Designers</b>	No issues with the course designs.
<p><b>Number of Gates:</b> <i>(see Appendix 2 for course maps)</i></p> <p><b>Day 1 (10/07/2017) – 22 gates, 6 upstream gates, 0 “one pole” gates, no other issues</b></p> <p><b>Gate Changes at Course Approval – no changes</b></p>	
<b>Course Construction / Equipment</b>	No issues with any of the course construction or equipment.
<b>Event Schedule</b> <i>(see Appendix 3)</i>	The race ran on schedule. Official electronic results were slow to be output and published because the results were manually entered after the race had completed.
<b>Results System</b>	Results system manually generated during the race and manually entered into an electronic system after the race.
<b>Scoring Issues</b>	Scoring issues were discovered within the electronic version of the results which was manually entered post-race. The score issues were noted and corrected prior to posting.
<b>Timing Issues</b>	There were no timing issues during this race.
<b>Comparison to Paper</b>	The scoring office double checked the scores prior to posting. The score strips posted were generated manually. After the race, the organization worked feverishly to manually enter the scores and times into an electronic format. In the future, resources should be assigned to accomplish this during the race and reduce the stress and resulting human errors of accomplishing this post-race.
<b>Video Judging</b>	Venue video was not available and, therefore, not used during this race.



Enquiry / Protest / Issues;



### Summary

Day	Enquiries	Protest	Appeal
Day 1 – 10/07/2017	1	0	0

### Other Technical or Officiating Issues:

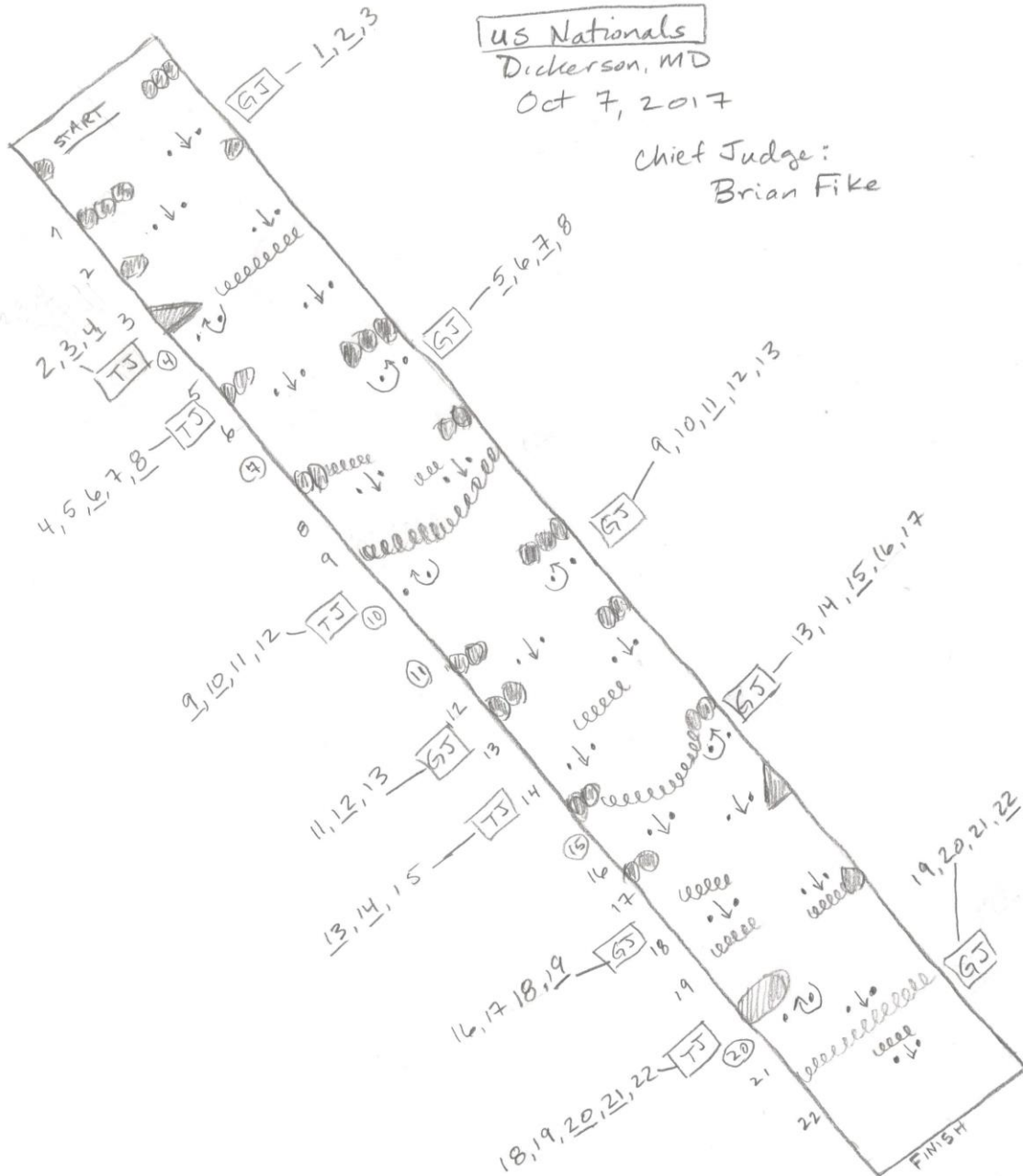
Day 1 – Nathaniel Francis inquired about the 50 second penalty on Gate #5. The paddler inquired about why he was penalized, later both his coach indicated that they both saw the paddler successfully negotiate the gate. His father and coach both claimed to have photographic evidence that the paddler successfully negotiated the gate (chief judge did not make use of the photos because it is not allowed in the rules). The coach also attempted to argue that the judge watching that gate was unqualified and out of position (summarily dismissed by the chief judge based on previous experience with this judge and the fact that the chief judge carefully positioned the judges based on years of experience). An hour after all of the official race results were posted, the chief judge did look at the photographs which did NOT support the claims of either the father or coach. Using an experienced chief judge for a race of this nature is paramount to insuring fair and consistent results.

Paddlers, officials, volunteers, and spectators must all be registered at the power plant gate and sign a release form. In addition, everyone must be escorted (in a line of vehicles) from the front gate to the venue at the start of the day and back at the end of the day. This seems normal to the paddlers who train at this facility, but it does represent a minor restriction (inconvenience) to those who are not accustomed to it. It also limits the amount of exposure to the race venue for the officials to prepare for the race which must be planned ahead of time. This should not prevent this venue/organization from hosting national level races in the future.

## Appendix 1

### List of Technical Officials

Technical Officials	NF	Qualification		Role
		V – Volunteer NJ – National Judge IJCSL – International Judge ICF JCSL – ICF Judge		
Silvan Poberaj	USA	IJCSL		Competition Committee
Dana Chladek	USA	V		Competition Committee
Renata Altman	USA	IJCSL		Competition Committee
Brian Fike	USA	ICF JCSL		Chief Official
Brian Fike	USA	ICF JCSL		Chief Judge
Jonathan Altman	USA	V		Chief of Scoring
Dana Chladek	USA	V		Technical Organiser
Silvan Poberaj	USA	IJCSL		Course Designer
Lee Leibfarth	USA	V		Course Designer
Jeanine Hagan	USA	V		Equipment Control
Unknown - locals	USA	V		Finish Judge
Unknown - locals	USA	V		Start Judge
Jean Folger	USA	V		Gate Judge 1
Mary McCurry	USA	NJ		Gate Judge 2
Carlos Ifarraguerri	USA	IJCSL (NJ)		Gate Judge 3
Todd Bolyard	USA	V		Gate Judge 4
Roger Nott	USA	IJCSL		Gate Judge 5
Howard Morland	USA	V		Gate Judge 6
Cheryl Smith	USA	NJ		Gate Judge 7
Megan O'Reilly	USA	V		Gate Judge 8
Richard Smith	USA	V		Gate Judge 9
Eric Friedenson	USA	V		Gate Judge 10
Nancy Templeton	USA	IJCSL (NJ)		Gate Judge 11
James Wilson	USA	V		Gate Judge 12
Tyra Wolfsberg	USA	V		Gate Judge 13





### Appendix 3

<b>2017 US Nationals Official Event Schedule</b>		
Fri, Oct 06	4-6p	Final registration, bib pickup, competitor meeting
	5p	Demonstration runs and course approval
Sat, Oct 07	7:30a	Venue opens
	8a	Water on
	8:30a	Officials meeting
	9:30a	Boat self-inspection available
	9:45a	Judges and officials on station
	10a-2p	Race runs including fore-runners
	4p	Awards ceremony

1. Entrance to Gated Race Venue



2. Storage trailer above the course



3. Water way fenced – top of course



4. Second part of course



5. Third part of course



6. Fourth part of course



7. Fifth part of course



8. Bottom of course

