



U.S. Nationals Chief Judge's Report Dickerson, MD October 06, 2018

Report Prepared by: Brian Fike

On 22Oct2018

Contact email address: brian.o.fike@comcast.net

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 amount of pre-race practice for the volunteers. The radios used to communicate between the volunteers on the course and the scoring office were upgraded from the previous year as was the software system used for timing and scoring. The LOC worked to provide enough volunteers to properly run this race. The race volunteers and organizers continue to be 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

Event website	Used to communicate information to the competitors and posted the results after the race. http://potomacwhitewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/results/US_Nationals_2018.pdf
Chief Official	Silvan Poberaj worked as chief official and there were no issues.
Jury	No issues were brought to the Jury.
Chief Judge	Brian Fike worked as chief judge and generally helped out where ever possible.
Technical Officials (see Appendix 1 for full Officials list)	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.
Technical Organisation	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.



Start / Finish	No issues.
Equipment Control	Volunteers from the LOC manned the equipment control and there were no issues.
Course Designers	No issues with the course designs.
<p>Number of Gates: <i>(see Appendix 2 for course maps)</i></p> <p>Day 1 (10/06/2018) – 21 gates, 6 upstream gates, 0 “one pole” gates, no other issues</p> <p>Gate Changes at Course Approval – no changes</p>	
Course Construction / Equipment	No issues with any of the course construction or equipment.
Event Schedule <i>(see Appendix 3)</i>	The race ran on schedule.
Results System	There were no issues with the results system during this race.
Scoring Issues	There were no issues with the scoring during this race. The initial results were slow to be posted due to the initial learning curve of the score checkers.
Timing Issues	There were no timing issues during this race.
Comparison to Paper	The scoring office double checked the scores prior to posting. The team checking the score strips, albeit thorough, were slow to accomplish their tasks. There were limited runners to collect judging sheets and the runners would occasionally miss a judge or two during the collection process. Between the missed judge and slow processing of sheet checking, the scores took longer that needed to be posted. Too many transmission errors were found early in the competition, but the number of transmission errors significantly decreased during the second runs.
Video Judging	Venue video was not available and, therefore, not used during this race.



Enquiry / Protest / Issues;

Summary

Day	Enquiries	Protest	Appeal
Day 1 – 10/06/2018	2	0	0

Other Technical or Officiating Issues:

Run 1 – Ryan Carroll (bib# 136) inquired about the 50 second penalty on Gate #1. The paddler inquired about why he was penalized. The chief judge checked all of the judging sheets to see that all judges had marked that the paddler did not have his entire head inside of the gate line, so the penalty was upheld.

Run 2 – Benjamin Southworth (bib# 137) inquired about the 50 second penalty on Gate #5. The paddler inquired about why he was penalized. The chief judge checked all of the judging sheets to see that all judges had marked that the paddler did not have his entire head inside of the gate line, so the penalty was upheld.

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.



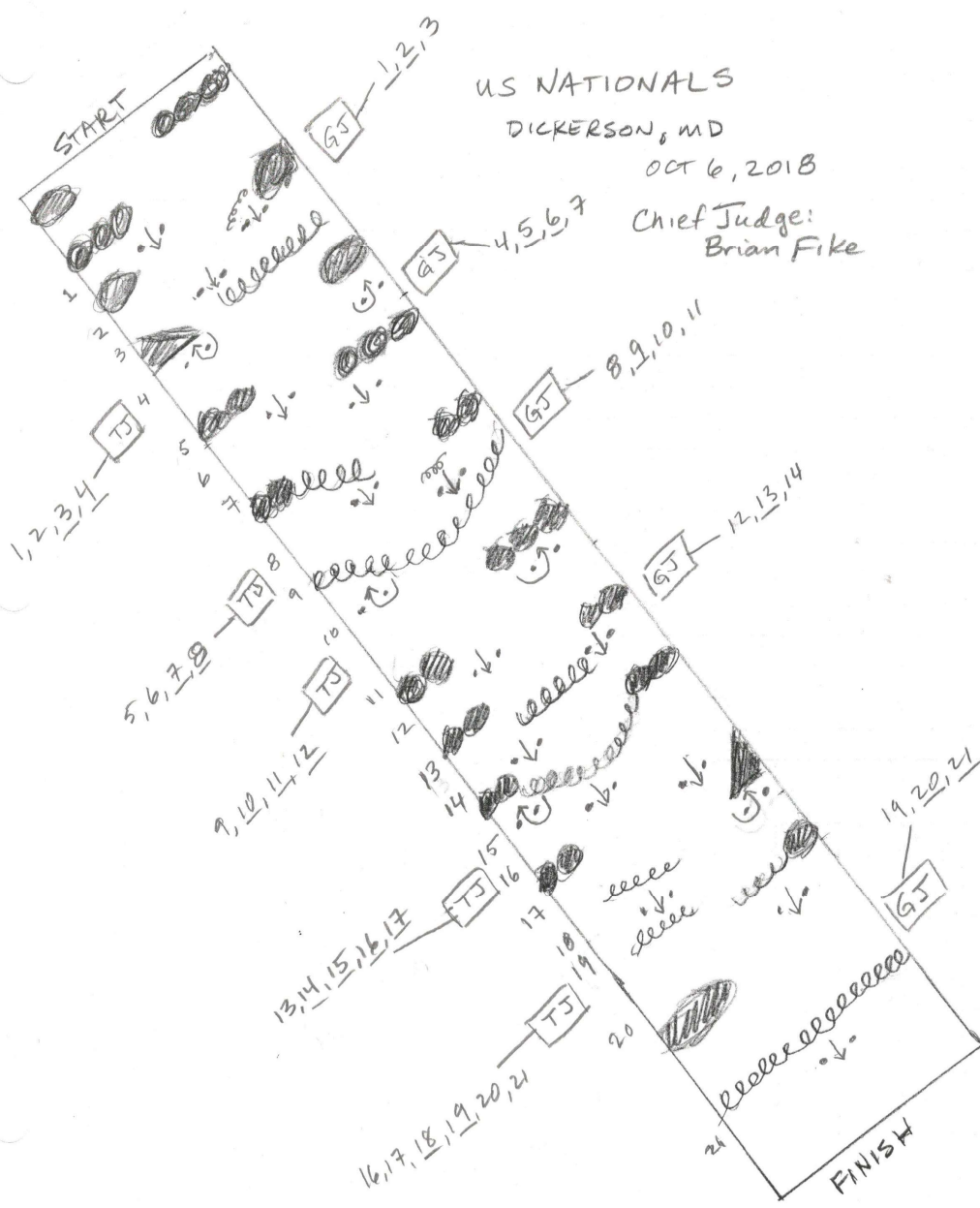
Appendix 1

List of Technical Officials

Technical Officials	NF	Qualification		Role
		V – Volunteer NJ – National Judge IJCSL – International Judge ICF JCSL – ICF Judge		
Silvan Poberaj	USA	ICF IJCSL		Competition Committee
Rafal Smolen	USA	NJ		Competition Committee
Lee Leibfarth	USA	V		Competition Committee
Silvan Poberaj	USA	ICF JCSL		Chief Official
Brian Fike	USA	ICF JCSL		Chief Judge
Carlos Ifarraguerri	USA	ICF JCSL		Assistant Chief Judge
Andrew Saunder	USA	V		Chief of Scoring
Andrew Saunder	USA	V		Technical Organiser
Silvan Poberaj	USA	ICF IJCSL		Course Designer
Aaron Mann	USA	V		Course Designer
Dave Williams	USA	V		Finish Judge
George Missios	USA	V		Start Judge
Michele Barbin	USA	V		Gate Judge 1
Jonathan Altman	USA	V		Gate Judge 2
Reese Aarthun	USA	ICF IJCSL		Gate Judge 3
Todd Bolyard	USA	V		Gate Judge 4
Roger Nott	USA	ICF IJCSL		Gate Judge 5
Suzy Sanders	USA	V		Gate Judge 6
Keith Kimmel	USA	V		Gate Judge 7
Dana Mermelstein	USA	V		Gate Judge 8
Jim Southworth	USA	V		Gate Judge 9
Nancy Templeton	USA	ICF IJCSL		Gate Judge 10



Appendix 2





Appendix 3

2018 US Nationals Official Event Schedule		
Fri, Oct 05	2:25p	Gate time (then shuttle every 20-30 mins)
	3:00p-5:00p	Slalom practice
	5:00p-6:00p	Course construction and plastic boat proactice
	5:20p	Athlete meeting, bib distribution, and final fee collection
	6:15p	Demonstration runs and course approval
Sat, Oct 06	8:00a	Gate time (then shuttle every 20-30 mins)
	8:00a	Water on
	8:25a	Officials meeting
	9:45a	Judges and officials on station
	10:00a	1 st Runs
	12:00p	2 nd Runs
	2:00p	Awards ceremony for US National Championships
	2:00-5:00p	BBQ Banquet & DJ



Appendix 4

1. Entrance to Gated Race Venue





2. Storage trailer above the course





3. View from the Top of the Race Course





4. Water way fenced – top of course





5. Second part of course





6. Third part of course





7. Fourth part of course





8. Fifth part of course





9. Bottom of course

