

APBA Inspection Policy and Guidelines

Overview

The purpose of safety and technical rules are to provide a uniform set of standards and procedures to establish the legality of equipment used in sanctioned events. While these rules are intended to be a guide for tech inspectors, it will also provide assistance to the general member in preparing legal equipment.

The APBA allows each category to define its own rules and approve individuals to monitor and enforce these rules at sanctioned events. Overall, this approach has been successful. In order to continue to improve the quality of the inspections, and to apply the category rules more uniformly, the APBA has decided to implement several new guidelines.

These guidelines are intended to give direction to all categories for improving inspector competence, and to raise the level of integrity of the inspection process.

It is the intent that each category set their specific rules, and define the requirements for their inspectors. What is presented here are additional guidelines and the minimum set of requirements for individuals to qualify as inspectors.

APBA Chief Inspector Responsibilities

The APBA Chief Inspector is appointed by the APBA President with approval of the APBA Board of Directors. He shall have the responsibility to define the overall inspection policies for all categories. However, final approval of these policies shall be made by the APBA BOD.

The APBA Chief Inspector (and / or his committee) responsibilities include:

- Defining the APBA inspection policies and guidelines
- Working with the APBA BOD to amend existing guidelines, and to approve new ones.
- Help to resolve issues within a category surrounding inspection problems, rules, etc.
- Work with the Category Chief Inspectors to: a) bring uniformity to the inspection process; b) Define inspector requirements
- To help insure that safety and technical rules are applied in a fair and unbiased manor
- Act as a consultant to the APBA BOD on technical questions or issues
- Review category rules to insure they are in compliance with the APBA safety and technical rules. Recommend changes or additions.
- Be the technical liaison with the UIM for aligning technical rules

Inspection Process

There are two parts to the inspection process:

1. The first, and most important, is safety inspections. This involves both pre and post race inspection of the race boat and related safety equipment (i.e. lifejacket, helmet, cut resistant clothing, etc.). This inspection is critical to ensure that each and every competitor is using

equipment that meets the minimum safety standards for APBA and for that particular category. This process is also important to teach competitors about the general safety rules.

2. The second type is the technical inspection. This involves post race inspection of the boat and engine. The specific technical rules are defined by each category. This process is critical to ensure that each competitor is using equipment that meets the technical rules.

Category Chief Inspector

Each Category of racing shall appoint a Chief Inspector for their category. The inspector is appointed by the Category Chairman or Commission. Individual Categories may set criteria to become an inspector for their category.

The responsibilities for Category Chief Inspectors are:

- Define and implement additional requirements for category National inspectors such as written tests.
- Provide a list of approved inspectors for their category to the Category Chairman. (The Chairman must then submit this list to the APBA office).
- Define technical rules for the category

APBA General Inspection Policies

For all National events, each category must follow the minimum set of guidelines defined below. However, it will always be noted that the APBA Policy is that:

‘All competitors are assumed legal unless a specific rule violation has been determined.’

1) Procedure for implementation of new rules

To be defined by each category.

2) Rule Changes

To be defined by each category.

3) Policy Changes

The APBA can make policy changes in Inspection procedures as long as the changes shall not make anyone non-competitive or require a competitor to change their equipment substantially to race legally.

4) Rule Change Enactment

There will be a page in Propeller Magazine that will list rule clarifications, corrections, or changes. This will be one place for all categories to place their technical changes.

5) Other

- The technical inspector shall be the official(s) having charge of the post race inspection. The Inspector shall designate an area where boats and drivers will be checked.
- The APBA BOD implores all Inspectors that it is their responsibility to check the equipment for legality in respect to the technical rules for their respective category. The Inspector may not add or delete from the category technical rules.
- The APBA takes pride in its long record of achievement as a governing body for the sport of powerboat racing. In recognition of the need for controls over the sport, each APBA category has published rules for competition. The objectives of APBA remain the same: To foster strong and fair competition; to provide reasonable rules for the various

types of competition; to administer the competition program with impartiality, and to reduce the hazards associated with this sport.

- Drivers, owners, and crew, are required to be fully conversant with these regulations and any supplementary rules or instructions governing an event, and are bound by such regulations, supplementary rules, or instructions.
- The purpose of the rule book is to provide a common denominator of standards which will benefit all those concerned. For this reason, adherence to the rules and regulations is fundamental to the welfare of everyone in the sport.

Technical Inspection

1) Scope of Tech Inspection

To be determined by each category

2) Pre Race Inspection

All competitors shall submit their equipment to the Inspector of the day for a safety inspection prior to competition. The Inspector shall insure that all entrants are legal for the class (s) entered. Pre-Race Technical Inspection is for the purpose of checking for safety aspects of the equipment and approval at Pre-Race inspection shall not guarantee legality at Post-Race Inspection. When the equipment passes all requirements, it shall be allowed to participate in the event.

The Pre-Race inspection shall include the following at a minimum:

- a) Suitability for competition
- b) Appearance
- c) Hull condition
- d) Steering
- e) Throttle
- f) Safety switch (as required)
- g) Safety Equipment (Helmet, lifejacket, etc.)

3) Post Race Inspection

Following the end of competition, all equipment and drivers as specified by the Inspector, shall proceed to the designated Post race inspection area.

Equipment legality shall be determined according to the requirements in the category technical rules. All engine components should be checked at ambient temperature, not "hot".