

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament™

The tradition of an invitation-only tournament at Callaway Gardens began in 1959 with the Ida Callaway Invitational. It is estimated that the event attracted an incredible 13,000 spectators that first year. In 1960, with the permission of Augusta National, the name was officially changed to the Masters Water Ski Tournament. Traditionally held over the Memorial Day weekend, the Masters Water Ski Tournament has been held annually, with the exception of a single year, making this the longest-running water skiing competition in the world.

With strict and specific invitation criteria established each year by the Masters Committee (comprised of officials and athletes); only the best of the best are invited to compete on Robin Lake. Originally, the tournament was 3-event only with athletes competing in slalom, tricks and jump and the coveted overall title. As water sports have evolved, so has the competition. Wakeboarding was introduced as an official event in 1994 and Ski Fly was added in 1998. Masters athletes no longer compete for the Overall title, but rather for the championship of their individual disciplines. In 2000, the event name was changed once again, officially becoming the Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament™.

The governing bodies of water skiing and wakeboarding sanction the tournament. The IWSF/USAWS and USAWB are on site throughout the event to provide support and confirm performances. This elite invitation-only tournament hosts athletes from around the world and has been the site of spectacular action and world-record performances. In 1974, the Parade of Flags was started as a way to recognize the countries and athletes participating in the Masters. In 1985, the first cash prize was awarded at the Masters. Over the years, the prize purse has grown to more than \$135,000 in cash and prizes, making it one of the richest in water ski and wakeboard competition.

In 1993, the Junior Masters Tournament was introduced, providing young skiers and wakeboarders the opportunity to experience the thrill of competition on a global level. Junior Masters Athletes compete in slalom, tricks, jump, overall and wakeboard. This event offers the same elite and exclusive competition to the world's finest junior waterskiers and wakeboarders. In lieu of prize monies, junior competitors receive trophies or scholarship monies, when available.

With the prestige of a Masters title at stake, it is no wonder that this event has remained the ultimate challenge. No other water sports competition compares to the spectacle and level of competition found at the Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament™. The Robin Lake site in the heart of the spectacular setting of Callaway Gardens is like no other, from the first view of the lake from the hillside, the magic of the Masters can be felt by athletes and spectators alike. To truly understand this incredible event, you have to experience it for yourself.