



For Immediate Release
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**THE 53RD MASTERS TOURNAMENT® HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE OPERATION
GOLD EVENT BY THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

Orlando, FLA (April 18, 2012) – Nautique is proud to announce the 53rd Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament held May 25-27, 2012 at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia, has been selected by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as an Operation Gold event for Slalom, Trick and Jump.

This is a prominent honor for the 53rd Masters. Operation Gold is a USOC program that rewards athletes for earning medals at elite level events. Operation Gold allows U.S. water ski athletes to earn money by placing in the top-four in their division/event.

"Only one tournament per year can be selected as an Operation Gold event, and it must be agreed upon by USA Water Ski and the USOC," commented Bob Crowley, executive director of USA Water Ski, the national governing body of organized water skiing in the United States. "This is the first time any event other than the Water Ski World Championships, Pan American Games or Pan American Water Ski Championships has been selected as an Operation Gold event. Being selected as the Operation Gold event in 2012 is a testament to the prestige of the Masters." Crowley added.

"We are extremely honored for the 53rd Masters to be selected by the USOC as the Operation Gold event! The Masters is the world's premier annual tournament and the athletes invited are the best of the best," stated Nautique's President/CEO Bill Yeargin.

From now through May 16th purchase advance tickets [via on-line](#) for the Masters and save. Join us for the awards banquet on Sunday evening honoring the Masters champions. Banquet tickets are also available for purchase including new convenient packages.

An invitation to compete in the Masters is universally considered an acknowledgement of achievement for reaching the pinnacle in a given watersports discipline - only the world's most elite athletes compete at the Masters. To view the 2012 criteria please visit the Masters website. This tournament is sanctioned by IWWF/USA Water Ski and WWA. For more information on the most prestigious event in the world or to order tickets please visit www.masterswaterski.com.



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