

THE NATIONAL
SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPETITION
RULES AND GUIDELINES

EFFECTIVE
August 2008

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The following rules and guidelines are to be followed during the annual National Search and Rescue Competition:

1. **GENERAL:** There shall be a National SAR Competition (NSAR) held among District teams from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary involving events containing common SAR tasks to determine a National Championship Team.

2. **SELECTION OF THE ANNUAL SITE AND DATES:**

a. **SITE:** The site of the NSAR Competition shall be determined by the National Commodore in consultation with members of NEXCOM.

b. **DATES:** The date of NSAR will normally be during the period of: 1 July thru August 15th.

c. **UTILIZATION OF CONFERENCE HOTEL:** In order to take advantage of the discounts negotiated through contracts with the selected NSAR hotel and to ensure these contracts are not breached, all participants living outside the NSAR host city, including judges and event coordinators for the NSAR Competition will be required to stay at the hotel(s) that is (are) designated as “Official” or “Overflow” hotel by the organizers. In addition, all USCGA and USCG personnel on approved travel orders must stay at the “Official” or “Overflow” hotel to be reimbursed for hotel accommodations. Team members will be billeted on station, during competition.

3. **NSAR NATIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:**

a. **TEAM SELECTION:**

1.) One team from each Auxiliary District may participate in the NSAR competition.

2.) Each team shall consist of three members, one of which shall be designated as Team Captain. The minimum qualification for each team member must be currently crew qualified.

3.) For the NSAR Championship Events, each team shall compete with three team members. Alternates will not participate in events.

4.) Each team must submit a team roster no later than 15 June. Information including the identification of the Team Captain and full contact information for

each member, including full names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. This information shall be provided to the Event Chairman and Chief, Competition Events. Team member substitutions shall be allowed after that date, but they should be held to a minimum and timely notice given to the Event Chairman and Chief, Competition Events. .

5.) Final team rosters shall be provided to the Chief, Competition Events, prior to the start of the Team Briefing. This roster shall serve as the official listing of who is competing and shall be utilized for determination of eligibility for future NSAR Competition (See Two Year Rule below).

b. ELIGIBILITY FOR TEAM MEMBERS:

1.) All team members shall meet any and all Boat crew requirements established by the Auxiliary to be **currently qualified in the Boat Crew Program**.

2.) A team member who is a current member in good standing of the USCGAUX and who is also a member/employee of the Coast Guard, Active Duty or Reserve, or who is a member of the armed forces shall be able to compete as long as he/she meets all other NSAR requirements. A maximum of one member/employee of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces can be on any team.

3.) Two Year Rule has been suspended for NSAR 2008.

c. TEAMS REQUIRING REPLACEMENT/ALTERNATE

1.) In the event of injury or illness of an NSAR district team member competing in the NSAR Championship, a replacement/alternate may be chosen.

2.) Once the competition begins, any team member may only be replaced due to injury or illness at the discretion of the Chief, Competition Events.

d. NSAR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS:

1.) The NSAR Championship competition shall consist of six to nine separate events. These events, except for the Mystery Event, shall be selected from SAR related tasks found in the USCG Auxiliary Seamanship Manual.

2.) Emphasis shall be placed to avoid unique procedures, terms or tasks in any event that are common to only one district. To achieve this, the procedures, terms, and scenarios used for each event shall be coordinated and agreed upon well in advance of the competition by the Chief, Competition Events.

3.) In cases where equipment to be used is not common to all organizations, i.e., SAR pump, operating instructions shall be disseminated well in advance and an opportunity, if feasible, be available to allow the equipment to be operated the day prior to the competition by any teams upon request.

4.) At least one event will be selected as “The Mystery Event” and held in secrecy by the National Commodore, NSAR Event Chairman, and Chief, Competition Events until the Team Briefing at the NSAR Competition each year.

- 5.) Written and verbal instructions used for each event shall be reviewed at the Team Briefing meeting the night prior to the competition.

e. **SCORING OF EVENTS:**

- 1.) Each of the NSAR Championship Events shall be scored using a 100-point system. All points scored by a team on the various events shall count toward selection of the National Champion.
- 2.) If an event is cancelled for any reason, the selection of the National Champion shall be made from the events completed.
- 3.) Individual team scores shall not be divulged or made public.

f. **SELECTION OF THE NSAR NATIONAL CHAMPION:**

- 1.) The National Champions shall be selected by totaling the scores achieved on the six to nine events by each teams.
- 2.) In the event of a tie for National Champion, the team with the highest score on the Mystery Event will be declared the National Champion.

g. **AWARDS:**

- 1.) Members of each team that achieve the highest score on each event shall each be awarded a trophy, plaque or other appropriate award.
- 2.) The team members declared the National Champion shall each be awarded a “keeper” trophy, plaque or other appropriate award.
- 3.) The District Team declared the National Champion should have its name inscribed on the perpetual trophy. The names of all three team members shall be inscribed on the trophy.

4. **EVENT JUDGES:**

- a. Each event of the NSAR Championship Competition shall be judged by predetermined standards and the use of one judge for each NSAR Competition Event. Emphasis shall be placed on obtaining qualified Coast Guard personnel to judge each event during the competition. Any individual who serves as a judge is under no circumstances eligible to serve as a participant during that year’s competition.
- b. Judges should be assigned to an event well ahead of the competition and provided a complete scenario along with any other pertinent information of the event they are to judge. This will allow the judges to become familiar with the event and develop how the event will be scored. The judge of each event will score the event.
- c. Emphasis should be placed on having the same judges to judge/score all teams in their assigned event. Substitutions of judging personnel should be done only when it is absolutely unavoidable.
- d. At the Judges Briefing prior to the competition, emphasis should be placed on the scoring procedures to be followed, to include whether or not partial credit is to be scored.

5. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS: All disputes or protests shall be made by the Team Captain to the judges either during or immediately following a competition event. If the event judges cannot resolve the protest or dispute, it shall be referred to the Chief , Competition Events with the event judge's recommendation. The Chief Competition Events assigned by the NSAR Committee and the , Competition Events shall have final authority where disputes and/or protests arise.

6. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION:

- a) All information regarding the conduct or procedures to be followed shall be expeditiously disseminated to all participating Districts, including team members. The NSAR Website shall be used to disseminate instructions, schedules or other information on a timely basis.
- b) The Participant's Handbook should be available on the NSAR website and should be disseminated to all participating teams no later than 30 days prior to the NSAR competition.

7. USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO MATERIAL

AUTHORIZATION

NSAR registered attendees and participants may be requested to take part in promotional activities. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary reserves the right to use the names of competitors, their photographs and audio or visual recordings of them for any publicity.

All NSAR registered attendees and participants permit the USCG Auxiliary to record, own and publish photos and videos of themselves for educational, marketing and publicity purposes utilizing any media. Pictures and recordings taken by the organizers during the Competition become the property of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Participants release the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary from any and all claims that might arise from use of the images and recordings. Participants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them when entering and/or participating in the NSAR Competition and events.

8. USE OF SAR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- a. Team members must use the Personal Protective Equipment and SAR equipment provided by the NSAR organizers. Team members are required to bring their own tools.

9. POST NSAR COMPETITION FEEDBACK

- a. A Post Competition Survey should be developed by that year's host organization and provided to all competitors and judges. The Survey should solicit input on the

viability of competition events and scenarios, judging, applicability of events to SAR training and the need for additional SAR task training, etc.

b. Results of the Post Competition Survey should be posted on the NSAR website so that they are available to all competitors, judges, and members of the Joint NSAR Committee from that year and the next year.

c. Instructions concerning the completion of the Post Competition Survey and where they are to be delivered should accompany the survey.

Commodore Budar
National Commodore
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary