

## Midwest Barefooters compete at 2008 World Championships

Contributed by Paul Adams  
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The 2008 World Barefoot Water Ski Championships will be held in Otaki, New Zealand January 25th - February 1st 2009.

Midwest Barefooters selected to compete in the 2008 Barefoot World Championships. Selected to the Junior Team are Jacklyn Kumlien, Jamie Kumlien, Shannon Heller and AJ Porreca. Also selected to the Junior Team is Lisa Pressendo. Midwest Barefooters selected to the Elite Team are Elaine Heller and Laura Szwed. Filling out the Elite team is Ryan Boyd, William (Billy) Brzoza, William Farrell and Keith St. Onge. Selected to the Senior Team are Kevin Towers, Heather Towers, Andrea Eggert, Adin Daneker and Mike Salber. The Team Selection Committee began last spring by reviewing the Worlds Standing List and selecting approximately 12 candidates for each team. Those individuals were then notified that they were being considered (so they could dial it up a notch) and also asked to sign a "Letter of Intent" so the selection committee knew well in advance if they would ski if selected. Selection Committee then monitored the candidates progress over the summer. At Nationals we met several times and looking at past skiing performances, consistency, how they skied at Nationals and how many team points they could potentially bring us at Worlds (considering what other teams could potentially score), made our selection of the team members. Simply put, the teams were selected choosing the individuals that would give the United States the best chance to bring home the team gold medals. Individual medals do not go into the equation. Thank you to Doug Koch for his help with this article.