



## CONTEST RULES

### 1. Rules of Competition

The rules of competition as set out in the rulebook must be applied by each FSPR Contest event.

This is particularly relevant to those events of the National Circuit and other FSPR sanctioned events.

Amendments to these rules are the prerogative of the FSPR Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will advise all member once any amendments have been made and approved by the Executive Committee.

These amendments, once approved, will be applied to the FSPR National Circuit and other sanctioned contests and events. Any proposals for changes to the Rule Book must be submitted in writing, with reasons for requesting the change, to the Executive Committee at least 90 days before an Annual Meeting General

\*Stand-Up Paddle Surf events will be conducted under the ISA rulebook and all contest rules, except those referring to "criteria" will be applied, as they are in any other sanctioned surfing event.

### 2. Timing and Wave Counts

a. Recommended heat times and wave counts: Heats and Finals will be best 2 waves from a minimum of up to 10 waves or a maximum of up to 15 waves ridden by each surfer and be nominated by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge. Heats and Finals will be a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of up to 30 minutes and be nominated by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge.

b. Variations to heat times may be made in cases where there may be insufficient time to finish an Event. FSPR Technical Director, FSPR Contest Director and FSPR Head Judge will decide this at the relevant time.

c. The Contest Director will consult with the Head Judge for a recommendation on heat times and wave counts. Any alteration during an event must be made known to the competitors before entering the water.

d. Official timing of all heats will be done by the Commentator, or in the absence of a Commentator, by the Head Judge.

e. A five minute visual and PA warning will be given when 5 minutes remain in a heat.

f. Siren or horn blasts must be used to start and finish heats. One blast to start and two blasts to finish. The Head Judge will indicate when a heat is to commence.

g. A large disc system at least 1 Square meter must also be used. Green to start and yellow for the last 5 minutes.

h. The commentator must give a five second countdown at the beginning and end of each heat, and when he reaches zero the heat must start or end immediately.

i. The first of the two sirens must blow immediately when the commentator reaches zero. The official end of the heat is when the siren is first audible to the Head Judge, who will indicate to the judges that no more rides are to be scored for that heat. The siren takes precedence over the disc.

j. The colored disc must be in the neutral position with no color showing when the commentator reaches zero in the countdown. The disc must remain in the neutral position between heats.

- k. In the event of siren failure the colored disc will be the indicator for heat timing.
- l. During and at the end of any heat the surfer must be clearly in possession of the wave on the wave face, making a movement to stand, his hands having left the rails (rail grabs excluded) for the wave to be scored.
- m. If the Contest Director wishes to use the minimum time delay between heats (of 10 seconds) he must provide a marshalling area in the water outside of the lineup.
- n. In the case of a water start the maximum time between heats shall be 5 minutes, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.
- o. Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has entered the water. If a heat is interrupted for any reason it will be stopped by the Head Judge and will be resumed at the time it was stopped, and will run for its original period.
- iii. The only exception will be if the Head Judge, in consultation with other qualified officials, feels that the entire heat should be rerun because no surfer had a clear advantage at the time of cancellation, or if altered conditions make it impossible for judges to keep to the same scale.
- iv. Also, if the halfway mark of any heat is reached and no one has caught a wave then the heat may be cancelled and re-run. The Head Judge must decide on this at the time.
- v. If the Beach Marshall tells Surfers in a heat the wrong heat time then the following shall occur:
1. If actual heat time is shorter then a restart at a later time for the remaining time period as told by the Beach Marshall will occur with all Surfers starting from the line-up.
  2. If actual heat time is longer than told by the Beach Marshall the heat will run through to the end of the actual set time by the judging panel.
  3. It is a competitor's responsibility to monitor the number of waves he has ridden. An attempt will be made to inform a competitor who has caught the maximum number of waves. Surfers must monitor their wave count. Protests will NOT be accepted. If more than the maximum number of waves is ridden, within the time limit, the surfer shall be penalized for each extra wave caught. In addition the surfer who remains in the water after catching the wave maximum will be penalized with a fine or interference if:
    - a. He/she rides an extra wave that clearly deprives another competitor of an available ride
    - b. He/she interferes with any other competitor by paddling, positioning or blocking causing loss of scoring potential.
    - c. This penalty might be a fine OR disqualification (OR both) for unsportsmanlike conduct. In this case, the surfers' team points will be scrapped.
  4. All heats are started from either a marshalling area in the line-up, or from the beach, under the Contest Director's direction. The marshalling area in the line-up must be clear of the take-off area, and the Contest Director must demarcate the marshalling area by means of a buoy or other suitable method.
  5. Where water starts are being used, competitors will be permitted to paddle out within a time limit set by the contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge, and will congregate in the marshalling area, well clear of competitors in the heat in progress. Surfers may only paddle towards the line-up ONLY when the previous heat has ended. Any surfer entering the take-off area during the preceding heat may be penalized. In extreme conditions the Contest Director may allow extra paddle time.

If a surfer enters the water and paddles out before the designated paddle out time, the surfer will be subject to a listed fine. In addition, if the surfer reaches the takeoff position before the other competitors, this surfer is banned from taking a wave until after the first wave of the heat has been caught by any other competitor. If the surfer paddles out before the designated time and proceeds to ride the first heat wave(s), before any other surfer in the heat, then this wave(s) will be scored as zero(s).

6. The Contest Director is the only person who can give an exact schedule of events. There will be no protest against incorrect information received from any other employee at the contest. If however the Contest Director gives incorrect information and a surfer subsequently misses a heat then a re-surf of that heat may take place.

7. The Contest Director must have an official notice board where the daily schedule and contest conditions are posted for all the competitors to see. This schedule must be posted by midday, at the latest, of each day and once posted it cannot be extended.

8. While the contest is in progress any unauthorized surfer in the competition area may be penalized. This ruling also applies to clearing the water before the start of the day's events.

9. If a surfer in the heat rides a wave out of the competition area, the judges may score that ride. If the judges do not score the wave, or score only score part of it, the surfer does not have the right of protest.

10. Any surfer standing up and riding during the preceding heat may be penalized. Waves caught during the dead time between heats will not be scored. No penalty or fine is applicable during "dead time"

11. Any surfer standing up after his heat and riding during the next heat may be fined, disqualified (or both) depending on the severity of the interference.

12. Anyone who is guilty of unsporting conduct or bringing an FSPR event or the FSPR itself into disrepute may be liable to a fine or disqualification at the discretion of the Executive Committee, after an emergency meeting on the recommendation of the Contest Director.

13. Heats will be made up of a maximum of 4 surfers except in the first round and recharge rounds of any contest where heats of five (5) may be surfed if circumstances so dictate. A minimum of 50% of the surfers in a round will advance to the following round.

14. The composition of the heats will be decided by the Contest Director after entries have closed. Composition of heats will be based on the seedings of entries, but if no seedings are available then known ratings or a random draw may be used. (If a random draw is used, it is recommended that a recharge round is held after the first round).

15. The judges score sheets and the tabulator sheet may be scrutinized by competitors in the presence of their manager or coach after the conclusion of their heat and once the heat result has been published by the Contest Director.

16. Competitors must wear the competition singlet/vest provided by the sponsors from time of issue until returned to the beach marshal at the completion of the heat, and if appropriate, during the awards presentation or a penalty may be imposed.

17. Competitors are responsible for ensuring they wear the correct colored contest singlet for all heats. A surfer in an incorrect color singlet/contest vest shall have no right to protest if the judges were unable to distinguish his/her rides from the other surfers in the heat.

18. There must be a minimum of 18 inches (0,5m) of wave height before surf can be deemed contestable. A special allowance may be made on the final scheduled day of an event, if the surf is rideable. This will be determined by the Contest Director and Head Judge.

19. In extreme conditions water caddies may be allowed to assist surfers at the discretion of the Contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge. Water caddies may only enter the water in a defined marshalling area determined by the Contest Director and the Head Judge. Surfers may only use equipment carried by their own caddy once the heat has started. If the caddy rides a wave the surfer he/she is caddying for may be penalized. If the caddy interferes with any of the other surfers in any way, interference will be imposed on the surfer for whom he/she is caddying.

20. Unless the event is of such nature that motorized craft may be used to assist surfers to reach the backline and this has been approved by the Executive Committee and Contest Director prior to the start of an event, any use of outside craft (jet ski, rubber-duck, water patrol board, photographer's boards, etc) will be deemed an interference if a surfer, after using one of them, reenters the competition zone and rides a wave or interferes with any other competitor in any way.

The only exception to this will be if the water patrol feels that the surfer is in a life-threatening situation, and in this case the surfer may be removed from the danger zone and placed in a safe area, no closer to the line-up, from which the surfer may continue the heat.

#### 21. Protests

At times errors of a special nature may occur with respect to the running of the contest. This includes but is not limited to: heat timing, interference, adding errors, etc. Any competitor, manager or team coach has the right to protest the result of a heat due to any of the above. Protests must be in writing and must be submitted to the Contest Director by the Team Manager or Team Coach within 15 minutes of the heat results being posted.

The merits of each protest will be considered by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge. Qualified observers (off-duty judges, spotter, and senior officials) may be asked for their advice. The Contest Director will rule on the incident and inform the surfer's manager of the decision in writing. The Competitors Course will be scheduled before, during and at the end of the National Circuit, and is mandatory to all competitors; No Protest will be allowed if the participant did not take the course before the event.

NOTE: No protest will be considered against a judging (scoring) decision that is irrevocable no matter what proof is submitted. No judges are to be approached over a call or results or a penalty may be imposed on the individual concerned.

#### 22. Water Photographers

Water photographers will only be allowed into the contest area after checking in with the Contest Director and signing a waiver. Only two photographers will be allowed in the line-up at a time and the minimum lens allowed is 135mm. They may not use hard boards for floatation and must wear helmets if available. The Contest Director and Head Judge may remove the photographers from the water if they deem fit.

Only sanctioned water photographers will be allowed in the water at FSPR events. This access is to be approved and controlled by the Head Judge and the Contest Director.

#### 23. General

- a. Under no circumstances may an event sponsor force contestants to wear any particular brand of trunks or wetsuits as a condition of their entry into any FSPR sanctioned event.
- b. All beach marshals must be English and Spanish speaking.
- c. All official meetings are compulsory for the appropriate persons.

#### 24. Announcements

- a. During the heat the announcer should not announce the computer scores or heat situations between paddling for a ride and locking in scores into the system.
- b. All announcements of interference must be conveyed to the announcer by the Head Judge or Contest Director before they can be announced publicly.
- c. In all heats and finals computer scores must be given throughout the whole heat (when applicable).
- d. If the commentator gives a score and it is wrong due to judges putting in the incorrect scores, the commentator giving the wrong score, or for any other reason, then the surfers will have no form of protest.(when applicable)
- e. The announcer may not make any announcement or call on any wave conditions (i.e. approaching outside sets, etc) that may benefit one contestant over another.
- f. If any surfer requires information from the water during a heat they must use hand signals as described below:
  - i. Time remaining is one hand touching another above the head
  - ii. Wave count is one arm outwards horizontal to the water.
  - iii. Scores, last scores, total, needed to win, etc is both arms out horizontal to the water.
  - iv. If contestants hear and understand the above they must acknowledge by waving one arm.
- g. All results/scores provided by Announcers/Officials at the end of each heat are “provisional/unofficial” until all transcription of the scores from judges have been checked to identify possible input errors.

When applicable,If computer input errors are detected and corrected and this process causes a change in the “unofficial” result of the heat, there is no form of protest by affected competitors.

Competitors are advised to stay on site to witness the posting of the “official” result of the heat.

#### 24. Contest Facilities

- a. All events must have a well-secured sizeable Judging panel area that is clearly designated as a “Non-smoking” area.
- b. The area will be available for FSPR officials only.
- f. Adequate supplies of drinking water must be available at the contest site.
- g. Where possible, a masseur/chiropractor should be made available each day of the event.
- i. Specific Board Sizes
  - a. BODYBOARDS Board Requirements:
    - i. Will be flexible and shall include some portion of soft exterior skin.
    - ii. Shall not exceed 5 feet in length.
    - iii. The use of fins is optional.
  - b. LONGBOARDS Board Requirements:
    - i. Length is a minimum of 9 feet from the tip of the board in a straight line along its length. Width dimensions to be a minimum aggregate of 47 inches. That is the total of the widest point, plus the width 12 inches up from the tail and the width 12 inches back from the nose.

## 26. Double Elimination

In a double elimination contest, if the original schedule is not possible to complete, the rules are as follows:

- a. If an interruption is not definite but makes it impossible to follow the original schedule, even if the heat times are reduced to the minimum as stipulated in the Rules, the repecharges will run until all competitors in this situation are in the same round. After that the winners will be brought back to the principal bracket, which will continue without repecharges.
- b. If it is impossible to continue with the competition, the points still to be decided will be divided among the competitors who are still in the competition. The surfers who are in the recharge will be allocated half points.

Postponement of the competition beyond its original schedule will only be possible with the approval of the organizers and sponsors

## 27. RANKINGS POINTS ALLOCATION

PLACE	POINTS	PLACE	POINTS
1	1000	46	255
2	860	47	250
3	730	48	245
4	670	49	240
5	610	50	235
6	563	51	230
7	555	52	225
8	528	53	220
9	500	54	215
10	488	55	210
11	475	56	205
12	462	57	200
13	450	58	195
14	438	59	190
15	425	60	185
16	413	61	180
17	400	62	175
18	395	63	170
19	390	64	165
20	385	65	160
21	380	66	158
22	375	67	156
23	370	68	154
24	365	69	152
25	360	70	150
26	355	71	148
27	350	72	146
28	345	73	144
29	340	74	142
30	335	75	140
31	330	76	138
32	325	77	136
33	320	78	134
34	315	79	132
35	310	80	130
36	305	81	128
37	300	82	126
38	295	83	124
39	290	84	122
40	285	85	120
41	280	86	118
42	275	87	116
43	270	88	114
44	265	89	112
45	260	90	110

**a. Double Elimination Process**

**DOUBLE ELIMINATION SYSTEM FOR 96 AND 128**

**Q1** R1

**1st and 2nd**

**Q2** R2

R3

**Q3** R4 **3rd and 4th**

R5

**Q4** R6

R7

**Q5** R8

R9

**Q6** R10

**Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Surfing Event Rules:**

i. Introduction: SUP surfing is unique and can be done many ways but for competition it is important to set criteria's that set it apart from just long boarding. Only a single blade paddle is to be used in SUP. The paddle is a tool and a big part of the sport therefore it is not just used to help catch a wave, but is necessary as a tool [aid] for riding the waves [similar to a Ski pole when skiing].

Too many times we see great longboarders just catching the wave using the paddle, then ripping into their maneuvers without using the paddle any further in any practical [beneficial to performance] way. Often it is just "held".

ii. Judging Criteria: A surfer must demonstrate board handling skills in the transition phase [description below] and the surfing phase [description below] of their performance, for it to be considered complete.

A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers, using the paddle as a key tool, in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative / progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire [maneuvers], wave negotiation and use of the paddle to increase the intensity of the maneuvers, will all be taken into account when awarding points for SUP surfing.

The SUP surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores. For StandUp Paddle Surfing [SUP] a wave is deemed to be begun, when in the opinion of the judges, the rider is no longer solely under paddle power but rather has harnessed and begun to be carried along by the power of the wave.

iii. SUP Scoring Considerations:

1. The judging scale will be 10 points with normal ISA contest rules applying.

2. The aggregate of the best rides will decide the final score for each surfer and interferences adjudicated according to the ISA Surfing Rulebook.

3. Good SUP transition time [end of one wave to paddle-in to next one] should be spent standing and paddling with good technique and stable wave negotiation. Kneeling, lying or sitting whilst paddling, unless necessary for safety is regarded as bad SUP form. Note the critical

element: ***To the best of a rider's ability he / she are expected to stand up on the board at all times throughout the heat, unless the situation of safety dictates otherwise.***

4. Entry into the wave should be by paddling in the standing position to enable the maximum score.

5. Surfing - average scores for all maneuvers will be allocated unless the paddle is used as a pivot or tool in maneuvers, then power, radical moves, critical sections and degree of difficulty are the deciding factors.

ii. Competitors will start from the beach unless instructed otherwise by the Contest Director.

iii. *"Using the paddle"*: The paddle is correctly used in SUP surfing to do three main things: it is used in turns as a brace, a pivot, and a force multiplier. A surfer will be scored higher when he uses the paddle in some or all of these three ways to achieve sharper or more powerful turns. Tricks such as twirling or otherwise using the paddle in a non-functional manner will earn little or no extra score for the surfer.

iv. *Traditional long board surfing compared to progressive SUP surfing techniques*: Because the paddle allows large SUP boards to be turned with high rates of speed and power, stand-up paddle surfing is deemed to be, at the competition level, a performancecentered branch of surfing, much like conventional shortboarding. Footwork, nose riding and style points will be scored, but this will be done in their relationship to the criteria of degree of difficulty and critical nature of wave positioning.

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h. Officials Responsibility: As SUP is a new discipline of surfing in terms of competition, it is the responsibility of every Contest Director and Judge to promote the above ideas and criteria, to ensure all competitors develop a standard approach and understanding of what is expected from an elite performer in SUP.

i. Stand-UP Paddle (SUP) Racing Regulations

i. Race schedule (Organizer's responsibility):

A race briefing for competitors is mandatory prior to each race. Within this briefing, course layout / description, event rules, safety issues and competitor questions will be covered.

ii. Race Age / Group Categories: These are flexible according to the event.

iii. Race Craft & Specifications:

1. 12'6" Class Board - Maximum length – maximum length 12'6" measured along deck. Fixed Fin, no rudder

2. Unlimited Class Board Length-Over 14 feet measured along deck.

3. Open Class Board. Minimum length – 14 feet, 1 inch. Design specifications-unlimited.

iv. General Race Rules (All classes):

1. Single blade paddle to be used.

2. Rider must be standing at all times while paddling

3. Competitors must follow the designated set course, to be manned by water marshals and rescue staff.

4. The nose of the craft is the designated point for crossing the finish line when determining relative placing.

5. The finish and start lines must be designated by two buoys and legal competitors must have not crossed this line when the starter begins the race.

6. No extraneous aids are allowed. This includes, but is not limited to swim fins, engines, wind catching devices [i.e.: sails, baggy clothing, etc] and personal support teams. No twin hulls allowed (i.e.: catamarans).



7. Wetsuits and hats (sun protection) are permissible.
  8. Competitors may be required to have an official mark / race vest and / or race number on their arm, which must remain on the individual throughout the event. No competitor shall be recorded as a finisher unless carrying the official mark / wearing the official vest and number on their arm.
  9. Organizers reserve the right to accept, reject and cancel entries.
  10. Protests must be made in writing and given to the Race Director within fifteen minutes of the announcement of the provisional results. All decisions of the Contest Director will be final.
  11. Race officials shall have the ultimate and final authority to remove a competitor from the race if the competitor is judged to be physically incapable of continuing the race without the risk of injury.
  12. Each entrant must sign the indemnity declaration on the Entry Form before the event. If under 18, the parent or guardian must sign.
  13. The organizers reserve the right to reject or cancel any entry.
- j. Race Types: Four types of events are common in SUP.
- i. Surfing performance events will be run according to ISA rules.
  - ii. Point to point racing – short and marathon. Ocean and inland waters or a combination of both.
  - iii. Combination events – Usually held on one day with a surfing event in the morning and then a paddle [usually around 2KM] in the early afternoon. Places in each discipline are allocated points and winners are declared in both individual disciplines and overall. These combination events may require riders to use the same board in both disciplines. If so, boards are initialed by the Contest / Race Director.

## **INTERFERENCE**

### **1. Basic Rules**

- a. The surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride. Interference will be called if during a ride a majority of judges feel that a fellow competitor has hindered the scoring potential of that surfer deemed to have right of way on the wave.
- b. Anyone who stands up in front of a surfer with right of way has the chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the surfer with right of way by any means. This includes excessive hassling, leash pulling or breaking down a wave section.

### **2. Right of Way**

Wave possession or right of way will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue. It is the responsibility of the judge to determine which surfer has the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left but never on which surfer is first to their feet. (Exception): If at the initial point of take-off neither the right nor left can be deemed superior, then the right of way will go to the first surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn).

#### **a. Point Break**

When there is only one available direction on any given wave, the surfer on the inside shall have unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that wave.

#### **b. One Peak Break (Reef or Beach)**

If there is a single well defined peak with both a left and a right available, at the initial

point of take-off and neither the right nor left can be deemed superior then the right of

way will go to the first surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn). A second surfer may go in the opposite direction on the same wave without incurring a penalty, providing they do not interfere with the first surfer who has established right of way (i.e. they may not cross the path of the first surfer in order to gain the opposite side of the peak unless they do so without hindering, in the majority of judges opinion, the inside surfer).

#### c. Multiple Peak Situation

With multiple random peaks. In these conditions, wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:

- i. With two Peaks, there will be cases where one swell will have two separate, defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the surfer who is first to their feet shall be deemed to have wave possession and the second surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way surfer.
- ii. If two surfers stand at the same time on two separate peaks that eventually meet, then:
  1. If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty.
  2. If they cross paths and collide or hinder one another, the judges will penalize the surfer who has been the aggressor at the point of contact.
  3. If neither surfer gives way, by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility for the confrontation, then a double interference will be called.

#### 3. The Right of Way Criteria

The choice of right of way criteria for each of the above possible situations is the responsibility of the Head Judge or the available Senior Judge in that order.

#### 4. Snaking

- a. The surfer who is furthest inside at the initial point of take-off and has established wave possession is entitled to that wave for the duration of their ride, even though another surfer may subsequently take off behind them. The judges will not penalize the surfer because they have right of way, even though they are in front.
- b. If the second surfer has not hindered the original surfer with right of way, then the judges may choose not to penalize them and will score both surfers' rides.
- c. A surfer may not take off on the opposite side of a broken wave peak to gain possession of the opposite wave face, when a surfer has already established possession on the inside of the peak. An interference will be called if the majority of the judges feel that the surfer surfing/riding from behind the broken peak has hindered the scoring potential of the surfer who has established possession of the inside of the broken peak.
- d. If in the opinion of the judges, the second surfer has interfered with (snaked) the original surfer with right of way, by causing them to pull out or lose the wave, then interference may be called on the second surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty was called.

## 5. Paddling Interference

In four person heats, another surfer who has inside position should not be excessively hindered by another surfer paddling for the same wave. Paddling interference may be called if:

- a. The offending surfer makes contact with or forces the inside surfer to change their line while paddling to catch the wave causing loss of scoring potential.
- b. The offending surfer obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside surfer which would not normally have done so and thereby causing loss of scoring potential.
- c. When a surfer is put in a position while paddling out that they cannot get out of the way and a collision happens due to this, it is up to a majority of the judges to call an interference based on whether it is felt to be accidental or not.
- d. When paddling out or in the line up if two surfers make aggressive contact the judges will penalise the surfer or surfers deemed to be the aggressor/s.

## 6. Interference Penalty

a. **Riding Interference** If a majority of judges call a riding interference, that wave will count in the surfers' score as a zero, and then the lowest scoring wave will count in the final tally as a 50% score for the offending surfer, (surfer will achieve half the wave score). Three of the five judges must call interference to be considered a majority. Interference will be shown on each judge's scoreboard, as a triangle placed around the score with an arrow drawn to the rider's score who was interfered on. In the case of a second interference from the same surfer, his better wave will be 50% and the surfer must leave the water immediately.

b. **Paddling Interference** If a majority of judges call a paddling interference, then that surfer will lose 50% of the score for the lowest of his/her scoring waves (i.e. surfer will achieve half the wave score). If a surfer has less than the required minimum scoring rides and receives an interference then they will be scored on 50% of the wave, i.e. if they have caught only one wave and the best two count then only 50% of the wave will be scored. Three of the five judges must call interference to be considered a majority. Interference will be shown on each judge's scoreboard as a triangle placed above their score if they ride a wave but cause interference while paddling for that wave ridden, or between scores if caused by paddling but not riding, with an arrow drawn to the rider's score who was interfered on.

c. **Additional wave interference** Any surfer who has caught their wave maximum, and remains in the contest area, and in any way prevents a competitor still competing from catching a wave, or hinders the scoring potential of a competitor riding a wave may be fined or disqualified or both depending on the severity of the interference.

d. A Head Judge or Contest Director may be included, and in this case, an interference would be determined on three of six judging sheets.

e. Any interfering surfer must be penalized and an interference decision once made is irrevocable, with the judges not entering into any discussion over the interference call. All discussions must be directly with the Head Judge.

f. The surfer, who is interfered with, will be allowed an additional wave, beyond their original wave maximum, set within the prescribed time limit. Exception to this is a double interference where neither surfer gets an extra wave. An extra wave or heat delay as decided by the Head Judge at the time will also apply to interference from water photographers, water security personnel or other outside interferences.

g. Where any surfer incurs two or more interference penalties they must immediately leave the competition area. Failure to do so may result in a fine and/or disqualification. In the case of a disqualification, team points will be affected.

h. An interference call will be announced only once approval has been received from the

Head Judge or Contest Director.

i. The Contest Director will also notify Team Officials of the interference over the PA at the end of the heat.

#### **E. DUTIES OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR**

1. To work with the Head Judge in all aspects of the running of the National Circuit or other sanctioned events.
2. To apply the Rules of Competition.
3. To seed the surfers competing in the event in accordance with these Rules.
4. To apply the Contest Format, as determined by the Executive Committee.
5. To convene officials and judges and managers meetings when necessary.
6. To apply the penalties as laid out in the FSPR Disciplinary Code and to impose the appropriate penalties as indicated in this code.

### **SECTION 3: JUDGING ADMINISTRATION AND SCORING**

#### **A. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. Criteria to be used in judging: "The surfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvres in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow. Innovative/Progressive surfing as well as the Combination and Variety of Repertoire (of MAJOR manoeuvres) will also be taken into consideration when rewarding points for a surfers performance. The surfer who performs to the criteria above, exhibiting the maximum Degree of Difficulty and Commitment on the waves shall maximize his/her scoring potential." (*amended July 2010*)
2. Judging panels for each heat will consist of five judges who will rotate from a larger judging panel. A panel of seven judges is the minimum necessary to conduct an event on a full-time basis. The judging panel roster should not require any judge to judge for more than 3 heats without a break. Each judging panel will officiate under the control and discretion of a Head Judge whose duties are more fully described in Section 6.
3. Judges must check in with the Head Judge at least 15 minutes prior to the heat starting times. This allows time to get a realistic view of the waves, and the surfing standard.
4. The number of the Judge and heat number must be clearly entered on the judging sheet.  
ISA Rulebook 28
5. If a score is not clear or is incorrect and is authorized be changed, it must be lined through and the correct score inserted in the next block. All alterations must be initialized by the Judge concerned.
6. Judges must not tally the sheet and must hand in the sheet promptly at the end of the heat.
7. Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.
8. Judges must score every wave ridden by every competitor.
9. Wave scoring will be done from 0.1 to ten (10) broken into one-tenth increments.
10. Judges are responsible for ruling on interference situations as described in Section 4.
11. Judges should be visually separated and it is the responsibility of the Head Judge to ensure that judges do not discuss wave scores or interference calls.
12. Judges may not change their scores or interference calls either on the computer terminal or on manual sheets. In the event that a mistake has been made, the judge must inform the Head Judge who will authorize the amendment. The Judge must initial any changes/alterations. In the case of the computer judging system only the HJ can change a score in the system.
13. If a judge misses a wave or part of a wave he must place an "M" in the block on the sheet, and inform the Head Judge, who will give a score based on a comparison of previous rides and other judge's sheets. The score must be initialed by the Head judge.
14. The judges used in the finals will be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency over the contest.
15. Judges who have finished their duty roster are to remain on hand in the contest area until their last heat has been tallied and until protests can no longer be lodged.

16. Judges must wait for the completion of the tabulators work before checking the completed Tally Sheets.

17. No judge may pass comment on a surfer's chances in any event, to the public, media, or contestants, or that judge may be dismissed from the panel and other action may be taken by the Head Judge in consultation with the Contest Director.

18. Judging statistics will be compiled daily. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and assigned to other contest duties (i.e.:spotter). This can take place at any time and be enforced by the Contest Director on the recommendation of the Head Judge.

19. At times, errors of a special nature occur with respect to judging. This includes timing and judges scores. At his discretion the Contest Director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as head judge, judges, off-duty judges, spotters, or other officials) who may have witnessed the incident in question, and who will rule on these special circumstances case by case.

20. Stand Up Paddle Surf: SUP performance uses the normal judging criteria of the FSPR and the ISA rulebook. Judges however will reward as higher level manoeuvres, those that are done with the obvious use of the paddle to give greater degrees of leverage and thus the creation of increasingly radical moves.

21. Judging Tower/Area: The Contest Director and Head Judge will be responsible for the application of this rule.

a. The Judges, spotter, announcer and Head Judge must have unrestricted view of the full width of the wave being surfed by the competitor at all times.

b. Side on view or a view that does not give the judges an accurate or appropriate perspective of the wave is not acceptable.

c. If a fixed structure (podium) is in place, this podium (or podiums) must be erected in consultation with the Contest Director and Head Judge.

d. If a contest is moved the judges must be positioned at the vantage point that allows them best viewing of the wave being surfed – even if this requires temporary structures to be positioned on the beach.

e. The judges must be provided with a suitable weatherproof protective shelter and reasonably sound proofed from outside noise such as PA sound systems and back ground noise, when possible.

f. If possible, judges must be visually separated from each other.

## **B. EVALUATION OF JUDGES**

### **1. Method (Manual)**

This only applies to contests where there is no computer system supplied. The ISA computer system generates statistical analysis of judging performance based on average scores and not on placing given by a judge. With either manual or computer averages, the complete judging analysis sheet is based on the manual or computer averages, as well as, the Head Judges evaluation of the individual judge. Half of the evaluation is based on the averages achieved on their error rate and the other half is based on the complete Head Judge evaluation out of 100 points. Both Averages and evaluations are added together then halved. The resulting average is out of 100% and is a true analysis of the judges' ability.

a. The level of accuracy of judge is measured by comparing the placing given by a judge in a particular heat against the actual placing in the heat.

b. The evaluation is made on all the competitors in the heat from first place to last place.

c. A perfect score is a zero and is awarded to a judge who has correctly placed all the competitors in the heat.

d. One point is added to a Judge's score for each place error he has made.

In other words, if the judge's placing is subtracted from the actual placing – or vice versa as the case may be – the difference is the Judge's degree of error.

e. The judge's score is then entered in the appropriate column on the Tabulation Sheet and then recorded on the Judge's Record Sheet. A Judge's accuracy is then calculated by dividing his score by the number of heats that he has judged. This result

gives the average number of place errors per heat judged. In making this evaluation, the number of heats judged by each judge should not vary by more than 10%.

f. Judging Record Sheet:

i) Maximum possible errors (MPE)

ii) 3 man heat = 4 possible errors

iii) 4 man heat = 8 possible errors

g. Judging statistics must be compiled daily. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and designated other duties (i.e. Beach marshal, spotter). This can take place at any time and will be enforced by the Contest Director on the recommendation of the Head Judge.

2. Record keeping (judging record and analysis sheet)

a. The judging analysis sheet is compiled from the statistics on the judging record sheet. By using the maximum possible errors (MPE) within the calculations the statistics are weighted with the heat sizes judged which in theory allows greater opportunity of error.

b. Formula for evaluating judging performance

Average = Errors

Heats

% Errors = Errors \* 100%

MP

c. Judge's Performance Assessment Sheet

## **DUTIES OF THE HEAD JUDGE**

1. To set up a meeting of the Judges before the event begins. This should be done in consultation with the Contest Director. Such meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, standardization of procedures and methods.

The Head Judge is empowered to convene a meeting of all Judges at any time of the contest.

The purpose of these meetings will be to update Judges on any changes, and to point out any recurring errors so as to improve performance. It is normal to hold a meeting at the day's start for the judging panel and then conclude the day with a review meeting immediately after the final heat. s.

2. Judges whose ability is found to be sub-standard in the opinion of the Head Judge and Contest Director will be removed from the Judging panel and will not be permitted to judge during the event.

3. The Head Judge will organize the remaining Judges into Judging Panels so that Judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.

4. The Head Judge will frequently scrutinize the Judges' sheets and will identify those Judges who do not maintain an acceptable judging standard including of the evaluation of interference's. He will report these Judges to the Contest Director and a decision will be taken whether to drop the Judge or not.

5. While heats are in progress the Head Judge will scrutinize Judges' score sheets to ensure the maintenance of uniform standards between one heat and the next and the use by the Judges of the full range of scoring options. In addition, although the Head Judge will ensure that the interference rule is fairly and consistently applied, the Head Judge will not interfere with any judges' independent decision in this regard. If the need should arise to inform a Judge that his standards are not compatible with the other of Judges, such action would only be taken by the Head Judge between the end of one heat and the commencement of the next heat or at the end of the day.

6. The Head Judge may not give guidelines on what points or scores judges should allocate to waves ridden by any surfer and may not influence any judge on the panel to alter a score or change a decision. There will be instances during a heat where a judge or judges will not see all or any of a surfers ride. In this case an M must be inserted and the Head judge will nominate an

average score for that ride based on previous scoring rides and correct scores from other judges. The Head Judge's role is not to influence the scoring by judges, but rather to coach, mentor, supervise, control and coordinate. The Head Judge is there to ensure the smooth running of each heat.

7. The Head Judge will be responsible for maintaining a wave count record for each heat and ensuring that colors are adequately identified for the judges.

8. The wave count may be done by the spotter.

9. It is the Head Judges' responsibility to attempt to notify any surfer who has been interfered with, that he/she has an extra wave. Notification will be made on the public address (PA) system. The onus is on the surfer to monitor his/her own wave count.

#### **D. DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR**

1. On receipt of the completed Judges' sheet at the end of a heat, the Tabulators will immediately check to see if:

a. All the Judges' sheets have been handed in and completed legibly on paper.

b. That the correct number of waves has been scored on each sheet for each surfer.

c. That any/all interference calls have been recorded.

2. In the event that an interference call is recorded by the majority of Judges, the Tabulator will notify the Contest Director of this fact in terms of the protest rule. No tabulation of the results of the heat will take place until approval is given by the Contest Director.

3. If the ride has been missed an attempt will be made to identify the missing ride by referring to other Judges sheets, under the direction of the Head Judge.

4. If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge then a score is given to the ride:

a. Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride.

b. Taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary to bring it into line with the Scoring Spread that the errant Judges used.

5. When the Head Judge is satisfied that the best attempt has been made to establish correct value of the missed ride, this value will be written on the Judging Sheet and signed by the Head Judge.

6. Where interference is ruled and the surfer's appeal is not upheld, then the interference is tabulated by applying the provisions of the applicable Rule.

7. On completion of these formalities, the Judges' sheets may be totaled. The TWO best scoring waves will be circled and the total entered in the total column. The heat places are then calculated and entered on the Judges' sheet. The surfer with the highest score will receive 1st place, the second highest score 2nd place, and so on. If a Judge ties two or more surfers, the places awarded to each of the tied surfers will be the average of the affected placing points added together (e.g. If 3rd, 4th and 5th are tied:  $3+4+5=12$ . Divided by 3 placed giving and average placing of 4).

8. When no further calculations are required on the Judges' sheets the results are transcribed onto a Tally Sheet, which is completed in the following way:

a. The Competitor's names are entered on tally sheet.

b. The Judges' numbers are entered across the page at the top of each column.

c. Positions are copied down beneath each Judge.

d. The highest and lowest positions are crossed off for each surfer.

e. The positions that remain are added and entered into the total in the total points column, then;

f. Complete the competitors' heat places.

9. If at this point a tie situation occurs, the Tabulator will proceed to break the tie as indicated in the Tie Break Rule.

a. In a four-person heat, ties must be broken by a general judging consensus using the plus/minus system on the judging master sheet; i.e., the two tied surfers five places are

compared and marked "+" for the highest and "-" for the lowest.

i. Most "+" marks wins.

ii. In the case of a three-way tie, the plus/minus system is used to find the top two surfers, then used again to split these surfers.

iii. If the tie cannot be broken by using the above system the next process is to go back to the BEST WAVE; i.e., drop the lowest wave score on the tied judges sheets only and recalculate.

b. Count backs on tied judging sheets go to the best wave, then 3 waves, then best four waves and so on until the tie is broken.

c. Only completely unbreakable ties will be re surfed. Only the tied surfers will be involved in the re surf and the heat will be no longer than 15 minutes.

**NOTE:** Section 3.D is applicable if an officially endorsed contest computer system is not used. If the computer system is used and breaks down, the Head Judge may choose to switch to the manual tabulations described here (Section 3.D). This will be adopted at the point designated by the Head Judge and Contest Director.

10. The procedure for calculation of the final surfer wave scores using the contest computer system is as follows:

a. The judge with the higher score and the judge with the lower score for each wave will be deleted. The average of the other three judge's scores (in a 5 judge panel) will be the "wave score average".

b. The sum of the wave score average for the two best scoring waves of each surfer will decide the heat places.

c. In the case of a Tie for a place(s): In the case of ties in the sum of the best two waves the tie will be broken as follows (applied only to the surfers directly involved in the tie):

i. Consider just "the wave score average" for the ONE best wave. If the tie persists,

ii. Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the THREE best waves.

If the tie persists,

iii. Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the FOUR best waves, and continue this procedure until the tie is broken.

**NOTE :** In the case of ties and interferences where the computer has corrected down to TWO decimal points in numbers with more than TWO decimals (i.e. : 3,335 = 3,34 , or 3,666666666 = 3,67) and this arrangement results in potentially different places to that using extended decimal calculations, the computer correction to two decimal places will be taken as the official score.

## **E. JUDGING HINTS**

The standard of the judging panel is based solely on the individuals' qualifications. Politics, country of origin and personal likes or dislikes should become irrelevant if the Judge does his/her job properly.

### **1. Before Judging**

Judges must make sure to take part in the pre-event meeting to establish the criteria and rules that will be used. Judges must be at the Judges' tower punctually. This means 30 minutes before the first heat, so that conditions can be checked. All judges must be available at all times, be prepared for all conditions and if necessary bring sweaters, towels, pants and a coat in case of rain. The judges must know the rules and be able to implement them in any situation. Judges should study the Judging criteria and make sure they understand and can interpret the criteria accurately.



## 2. Judging

a. The zero to ten point scoring system used by the ISA is broken up into the following categories:

0.1- 1.9 Poor

2.0 - 3.9 Fair

4.0 - 5.9 Average

6.0 - 7.9 Good

8.0 - 10 Excellent

b. Judges should refer to this to establish accurate scores for the first wave exchanges.

c. Wave scoring is broken into one tenth increments i.e.: 0.1 – 10 (ten)

d. Judges should try to remember all scoring waves so as to avoid judging higher as the heat continues.

e. The last wave exchanges should be judged based on the same criteria as the first wave exchanges. The first wave scored, sets the scale for the heat and should remain in the judge's mind as the benchmark for that level of performance and wave comparisons.

f. Individual wave scores are what the judge should concentrate on and the final outcome of the heat should be based on scoring waves.

g. As no surfer rides any wave in the same way, judges should try hard to differentiate between all scoring waves.

h. Judges should not deliberate but should put a score down after the ride is completed.

i. During the heat, wave counts should be called as frequently as possible while the contestants are NOT riding. Repeat wave counts regularly.

j. Judges must avoid being influenced by the spectators, commentators or by friendships and other outside influences and should have the confidence to stand by their decisions.

k. During the heat, opinions should not be shared with other judges.

## 3. Judging in Bad Conditions

Many events are held in marginal conditions. All events can suffer from poor conditions or surf, so judges must be able to adjust. In poor surf they should concentrate on surfers who are utilizing the power on the wave. Judges should observe how each maneuver is being linked directly to another (rail to rail turns through the flat sections should be distinguished from hopping all the way to the next section). Establish if the surfer is generating/creating enough speed out of turns.

**NOTE:** In poor conditions there are normally fewer waves. Low scores may be counted in the final tabulation.

## 4. Judging Heavy Heats

a. Difficult heats should be accepted by a judge as a challenge. This means judging methodically, being extremely critical, watching details and mentally picturing the whole wave. In every contest there will always be some heats that are more difficult than others either because they are the first heat of the day, due to deteriorating conditions or a close heat. This is when the top Judges come to the forefront.

The following factors should be considered when analyzing each wave in such heats:

i. Where was the first maneuver executed?

ii. How well was it executed?

iii. How well were the maneuvers connected together?

iv. Did the surfer execute rail-to-rail turns through the flat sections or hop through the flat sections or through to the next section?

v. How did the outside maneuvers compare to the inside maneuvers?

- vi. How deep was the surfer at the initial point of take-off?
- vii. How did the surfer utilize/flow on the wave?
- viii. Did the surfer make sections and were the maneuvers functional?
- ix. Was the maneuver completed with control?

b. A comparison between the first scoring wave and the last scoring wave in a heat is extremely important. Inexperienced judges tend to over score last waves as they forget or ignore what has taken place during a heat and this can affect the result. This is an area where less experienced judges can learn from more experienced judges.

#### 5. General

a. 100% Concentration is the key. It is not good enough to put each score down correctly but judges should also assist the Head Judge with wave and interference calls. In such heats, the ability to score the wave instinctively and to allocate the score automatically at the end of the ride is of utmost importance.

b. When several competitors are riding at the same time, it is important to watch everyone. However, it is essential that focus be on more critical areas such as the take-off point, the first maneuvers and other outside maneuvers. This is where the surfer's greatest scoring potential will occur. The beginning of a wave is far more important therefore when at least two surfers are riding concentration should be allocated according to each surfer's scoring potential. The surfer's scoring potential at the end of the wave is obviously much lower. It is important to put scores down as quickly as possible and recall the rides in order. Place the best score down first and then worst score and deliberate on the middle scores.

c. Continuous wave counts should be called and if unsure about a score only the Head Judge should be asked for assistance NOT a fellow panel judge

### **FSPR DISCIPLINE**

Several areas for disciplinary action have been decided on, and other areas not as yet defined will be adjudicated by the Executive as special cases arise.

#### 1. Surfer Misbehavior

The FSPR Executive Committee does not wish to become the overall watch dog of competitions, but it has been agreed that, "a surfer who causes willful destruction or damage to property, or damage to the image of surfing at an FSPR event will be subject to disciplinary action and a possible immediate fine or other appropriate penalties imposed by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge and Contest Director."

Fines imposed will be between \$25 - \$1000 with possible disqualification and/or suspension. Fines will be doubled each time another fine is imposed on that individual.

#### 2. Drug Testing

a. Any surfer found to have taken or used any banned substances as outlined by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency), including Cannaboids, or to have participated in other related doping practices prohibited by WADA will face the appropriate sanction as laid down by WADA; and the competitor will lose his/her ranking points.

c. Any coach, trainer, medical practitioner, sports scientist or psychologist who aids, abets, counsels or is knowingly involved in an athlete's breach of doping regulations will face sanction.

d. A sample taken by WADA appointed agency shall be analyzed by a laboratory accredited by WADA in accordance with WADA Regulations.

**NOTE:** All finalist and Ranking leaders of the National Circuit will be given anti-doping tests as per ISA and WADA rules, after the final of the last event on each Circuit Championships. All results should be reported to the ISA as a prerequisite to participation in all future FSPR National Championship and ISA World Championships events.

### 3. Judging Discipline

Judges, once selected, must remain on the panel for the duration of the event. If a judge forfeits his/her position on the panel, he/she will be suspended for a period determined by the FSPR Judging Director, and may incur other penalties.

### 4. FSPR Penalties

Penalties for infractions, other than those associated with the use of banned substances, will be determined on the spot by the Contest Director based on the attached scale. The competitor has the right to appeal the decision at a meeting of the Executive Board.

All fines will be billed to the NGB and are considered the NGB'S sole responsibility. These fines must be paid by the end of the day on which the fine was imposed or the surfer in question will lose the points that would accrue to the team score.

Any disqualified surfer, by definition, is not recognized by the event. Therefore any points accumulated by the surfer to the time of disqualification are forfeit by the team he/she represents.

### 5. Infractions

#### Penalties

Assaulting (judge, official, event staff, other competitors, media, public) \$1000 and suspension

Derogatory or rude gestures or comments to judges, team officials,

event staff, media, and public

\$50

Destruction or abuse of judging sheets or heat sheets

\$25

Abuse of contest equipment or event property

\$125 plus costs

Abuse of own equipment during event or in contest area

\$125

Damage to property in event locality

\$500 plus costs and suspension

Damage to the sport of surfing due to misbehavior

\$25 to \$1000 and suspension

Unsporting conduct

Fine of \$100 to \$1000 (disqualification or both)

Unsporting conduct on ISA World Championships events and FSPR Team Puerto Rico includes, but not limited to: failing to attend the mandatory ceremonies, not supporting the team mates and FSPR Officials and overall misconduct and unprofessional behavior that jeopardize the good name, standing and well being of the Team Puerto Rico. A 2 years suspension from the FSPR Puerto Rico National Team.

### **Technical Infractions Penalties**

Catching a wave in excess of wave count \$25 per wave

Knowingly wearing contest vest incorrectly \$125

Failure to wear vest until the return to beach

marshal area after heats \$50

Surfing in contest area during heats Fine of \$25 to \$1000,

disqualification or both

Surfing during prior (i.e. entering water early \$25 per wave, disqualification

without permission), or following heats or both depending on severity

Surfers caddie rides a wave \$25 per wave

The penalties attached to the infractions are the maximum applicable. The Contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge and other officials may decide to impose a suspended penalty ("yellow card") based on the severity of the infraction.

This would be a first warning. Subsequent infractions would attract the maximum penalty.

Other infractions not specified above may attract a warning, a fine, disqualification and/or suspension. In the case of disqualification, the ranking points allocated by the surfer will be ZERO.