



**ISA RULEBOOK**  
& CONTEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL

November 4, 2025

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<b>CHAPTER 1: ISA Introduction and Operations.....</b>	<b>3</b>
I. About the ISA and this Rulebook.....	3
II. ISA Membership Categories.....	3
III. ISA Participating vs. Non-Participating Members.....	4
IV. ISA Membership Sub Categories.....	4
V. ISA Recognized Continental Associations.....	5
VI. ISA Recognized Organizations.....	5
VII. Application for ISA Membership.....	5
VIII. ISA Members (119).....	5
IX. ISA Associate Members (4).....	6
X. ISA Recognized Continental Associations.....	6
XI. ISA Recognized Surfing Organizations.....	6
XII. ISA Member Obligations.....	7
XIII. Suspended and Inactive ISA Members.....	7
XIV. ISA Recognized Continental Association Obligations.....	7
XV. ISA Championships or Sanctioned Events and Frequency.....	8
XVI. Bids to host ISA events.....	8
<b>CHAPTER 2: : ISA EVENT ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
I. Section 1: Eligibility.....	8
A. International Age Categories for Events - Applies to all ISA Disciplines.....	8
B. Olympic Games.....	9
C. Representation.....	9
II. Section 2: Event Registration Policy and Procedures.....	10
A. Fee Structure.....	10
B. Registration / Entry Process & Team Lists.....	11
C. Official ISA Event Protocol.....	12
i. Participating Persons.....	12
ii. Official Identification [wristbands / accreditations].....	13
D. Official Language and Translators.....	13
III. Section 3: Contest Rules and Procedures.....	13
A. General.....	13
i. Rules of Competition: Coverage and Authority.....	13
ii. Format of Events.....	13
iii. ISA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.....	15
iv. ISA Code of Ethics.....	16
v. ISA Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.....	16
vi. ISA Concussion Protocol.....	16
vii. ISA Discipline Policy.....	16

a. Misbehavior.....	16
b. Judging Discipline.....	17
c. ISA Penalties & Infringements.....	17
d. Disqualification.....	19
e. Anti-Doping.....	20
d. ISA Dispute Settlement.....	20
B. Event Officials: Job Description and Selection.....	22
C. ISA Championship [& sanctioned] Event Administration.....	25
i. Team Composition Changes.....	25
ii. Medal Allocations.....	26
iii. ISA WSG.....	26
iv. ISA WJSC.....	26
v. ISA WMSC.....	26
vi. ISA WSUPPC (World StandUp Paddle and Paddleboard Championship).....	26
vii. ISA WLSC.....	28
viii. ISA World Para Surfing Championship (Please reference ISA Para Surfing Rulebook).....	28
ix. ISA Aloha Cup [Teams Championship].....	28
x. ISA WORLD BODYBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP.....	30
xi. ISA WORLD TANDEM CHAMPIONSHIP.....	30
xii. ISA WORLD KNEEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP.....	30
D. Competition Rules.....	30
i. Competition Clothing and Equipment.....	30
ii. Equipment specifications.....	31
iii. Heat Interruption and Suspension.....	32
iv. Timing & Wavecounts.....	32
v. Contestable Surf Conditions.....	34
vi. Start of Heat.....	34
vii. Unauthorised Surfers in Contest Area.....	34
viii. Buffer.....	35
ix. Caddies for Competitors.....	35
x. Protest.....	36
xi. Water Photographers.....	37
xii. Announcements.....	37
xiii. Competition Facilities.....	37
xiv. Event Formats.....	38
xv. Beach Announcer Protocol.....	39
xvi. Contest Singlet/Vest.....	40
xvii. Leash / Legrope Policy.....	40
xviii. Mechanical / Electronic Communication Devices.....	40
xix. Personal Personal Watercraft (PWC) Guidelines.....	40
xx. Judging.....	42
a. Introduction: Judging panel protocols and Rosters.....	42
b. Judging Criteria.....	43
c. Interference Rules and Priority.....	46
xxi. Resurfing Heats.....	54
xxii. SUP Surfing Rules.....	56
<b>CHAPTER 3: ISA CONSTITUTION.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4: WORLD TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS.....</b>	<b>61</b>

<b>CHAPTER 5: ISA LIFE MEMBERS AND MEMBER EMERITUS.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Appendix 1 (Available Upon Request):.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Appendix 2 (Available Upon Request):.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Olympic Eligibility and Nomination Requirements.....</b>	<b>62</b>

## **CHAPTER 1: ISA Introduction and Operations**

### **I. About the ISA and this Rulebook**

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Surfing Association (ISA) is the World Governing Body for Surfing and all related activities, as defined by the ISA Constitution. It was originally founded as the International Surfing Federation on May 17, 1964 and has been running Open Division World Championships since 1964 (World Surfing Games), Junior World Championships since 1980, Masters World Championships since 2007, World Bodyboard Championships since 2011, World StandUp Paddle (SUP) and Paddleboard Championships since 2012 and World Para Surfing Championships since 2015. The ISA also sanctions the World Kneeboard Titles and the Tandem Surfing World Title.

Under the ISA's leadership and authority, surfing was first included in the Olympic Program for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in August 2016. Surfing has subsequently been confirmed in the Program for Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

ISA membership includes the surfing National Federations of 119 countries and territories on five continents. Its headquarters are located in San Diego, California. It is presided over by Fernando Aguerre (ARG), first elected President in 1994 in Rio de Janeiro and re-elected every four years ever since. The ISA Executive Committee includes four Vice-Presidents; Barbara Kendall (NZL), Karín Sierralta (PER), Jean Luc Arassus (FRA), and Sally Fitzgibbons (AUS), Athletes' Commission Chair Justine Dupont (FRA), Regular Members Kimifumi Imoto (JPN) and Jakob Færch (DEN) and ISA Executive Director Robert Fasulo as Ex-officio Member.

The ISA is a full member of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

The ISA is also a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency Code, as listed here: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/the-code/code-signatories>.

This Rulebook has been issued by the ISA Executive Committee on November 3, 2025, based on Art. 6 of the ISA Constitution, with immediate effect. This version replaces any prior versions. In case of any inconsistency between any rule of this Rulebook and the ISA Constitution, the rule in the ISA Constitution prevails.

### **II. ISA Membership Categories**

- 1. APPLYING MEMBER** - An Applying Member has submitted all required application material to the ISA and has had their application approved by the ISA Administration and, upon submission, by the ISA Executive Committee (EC). In taking their decisions, both the ISA Administration and the ISA Executive Committee have free discretion. All Applying Members are subject to ratification as such at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). An Applying Member may be granted from the ISA Executive Committee the right to participate in ISA events, receive ISA communications, have access to ISA programs, and may attend ISA meetings but shall not have the right to vote. An Applying Member will remain as such until all requirements of a Provisional Member are met. If all requirements have been completed and submitted to the ISA 30 days

prior to an AGM, the Applying Member may be included in the meeting's agenda for vote to upgrade to Provisional Member status.

2. **PROVISIONAL MEMBER** - An approved Provisional Member may have the right to vote at ISA meetings, may participate in ISA events, receive ISA communications and have access to ISA programs. A Provisional Member will remain as such until all requirements of a Full Member are met. If all requirements have been completed and submitted to the ISA 30 days prior to an ISA AGM, the Provisional Member may be included in the meeting's agenda for vote to upgrade to Full Member status.

3. **FULL MEMBER** - Full Members of the ISA shall be from countries or territories with representation of a National Olympic Committee (NOC) in accordance with those NOCs recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Full Members shall be entitled to vote and shall consist of NFs which have been recognized and accepted by the ISA Annual General Meeting of the General Assembly, upon proposal of the Executive Committee, the names of which appear in a registry maintained by the Secretary of the ISA (the "Register of Members"- see Article VIII below). Once voted at an ISA AGM, a Full Member receives full recognition by the ISA. A Full Member shall continue to pay its annual fees, submit yearly activity reports, maintain communication with the ISA and abide by the ISA Constitution and Rulebook in order to maintain its status.

### III. ISA Participating vs. Non-Participating Members

A new member shall elect to begin its ISA membership as a Participating or Non-Participating Member. If choosing to begin membership as a Non-Participating Member, a member may remain this way as long as it so desires, but cannot go back to being a Non-Participating Member once having been upgraded to the Participating Member status. Once an ISA member elects to be a Participating Member, its membership remains unchanged.

- A. **DEFINITION OF A PARTICIPATING MEMBER** - A Participating Member will have the opportunity to participate in any ISA event, be listed as the ISA member for its country, be included in all ISA communications and have access to ISA programs. The Participating Member annual fee is \$500 (USD) or \$1000 (USD) dependent upon its overall ranking of all ISA World Championships participated in from the prior year. Participating Members ranked #17 and below in overall ranking pay the annual fee of \$500 (USD), as do Participating Members who have not participated during the previous year
- B. **DEFINITION OF A NON-PARTICIPATING MEMBER** - A Non-Participating Member will be listed as the ISA member for its country, be included in all ISA communications, and have access to ISA programs. Non-Participating Membership status does not grant the ISA member the right to participate in any ISA Event. The Non-Participating Member fee is \$50 (USD) per year.

### IV. ISA Membership Sub Categories

- A. **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - The ISA may provide at its own discretion Associate Membership to national organizations seeking membership from the ISA for territories without representation of a National Olympic Committee (NOC) so long as the territory has national teams participating in other IF events recognized by the IOC. Other IF events mean that a national federation is regularly participating in multiple events, organized by several IFs recognized by the IOC. Should a proposed Associate Member come from within the territory of an existing Full ISA Member, the application for Associate Membership must also be approved by said existing ISA Member. An Associate Member qualifies for Applying, Provisional and Full Membership status under the same application requirements as an ISA Member as per the ISA Constitution. Hence, it will be listed as the ISA member for its territory, have the right to participate in ISA events, be included in all ISA communications, have access to ISA programs but it may not vote on ISA matters at ISA Annual General Meetings (AGM).

- I. Hawaii and Tahiti, who represent territories without NOCs, have been accepted at the AGM as Full Voting Members of the ISA. Both members are subject to Chapter 2, section C, point E for participation in ISA Events serving as official Qualifying Events for the Olympic Games

## **V. ISA Recognized Continental Associations**

The ISA may recognize one Continental Surfing Association for each of the following five areas: Africa, The Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. The Constitution and By-Laws of a Recognized Continental Association must, as a requirement for recognition, fully comply with the ISA Constitution and Rulebook. ISA Continental Associations may organize competitions in accordance with ISA Rules and shall have as one of their main objectives to collaborate with the ISA for the development of surfing and related activities in their region. Such Continental Associations may only include as full voting members, ISA Member Federations in good standing within the region. Non-ISA Member Federations can be affiliated to a Continental Association but may not be considered as a full voting member until they are recognized and in good standing with ISA. The process and complete criteria for recognition of Continental

Associations shall be determined by the ISA Executive Committee.

## **VI. ISA Recognized Organizations**

The ISA may formally recognize certain surfing-related Organizations seeking affiliation from the ISA. An ISA Recognized Organization has the right to publicize its status and has access to ISA communications and programs. An ISA Recognized Organization may attend ISA Annual General Meetings or events and shall be entitled to speak, but shall not be entitled to vote. An ISA Recognized Organization may be required to pay an annual fee, the amount of which shall be established by the ISA Executive Committee.

## **VII. Application for ISA Membership**

The ISA Management shall define the technical process for application for ISA Membership with the approval of the ISA President and Executive Committee. Such process may be updated from time to time. The current application process can be found on <http://www.isasurf.org/membership/become-a-member/>.

## **VIII. ISA Members (119)**

Afghanistan	Bahamas	Cape Verde Islands	Czech Republic
Algeria	Bangladesh	Cayman Islands	Denmark
American Samoa	Barbados	Chile	Dominican Republic
Angola	Belgium	China	Dubai (UAE)
Argentina	Brazil	Chinese Taipei/Taiwan	Ecuador
Aruba	British Virgin Islands	Colombia	Egypt
Australia	Bulgaria	Cook Islands	El Salvador
Austria	Canada	Costa Rica	Fiji

Finland	Kuwait	Nicaragua	Somalia
France	Korea	Nigeria	South Africa
Germany	Latvia	Norway	Spain
Ghana	Mauritius	Oman	Sri Lanka
Great Britain	Mozambique	Panama	Sweden
Greece	Lebanon	Papua New Guinea	Switzerland
Guam	Liberia	Peru	Tahiti
Guatemala	Lithuania	Philippines	Thailand
Haiti	Madagascar	Poland	The Gambia
Hawaii	Malaysia	Portugal	Togo
Hong Kong	Maldives	Puerto Rico	Trinidad & Tobago
Hungary	Mauritius	Romania	Turkey
India	Mexico	Russia	Ukraine
Indonesia	Mongolia	Samoa	United States of America
Iran	Morocco	Saint Lucia	U.S. Virgin Islands
Ireland	Mozambique	São Tomé e Príncipe	Uruguay
Israel	Myanmar	Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan
Italy	Namibia	Senegal	Vanuatu
Ivory Coast	Nauru	Sierra Leone	Venezuela
Jamaica	Nepal	Singapore	
Japan	Netherlands	Slovakia	
Kiribati	New Zealand	Slovenia	

## **IX. ISA Associate Members (4)**

Channel Islands  
England  
Scotland  
Wales

## **X. ISA Recognized Continental Associations**

Africa – African Surfing Confederation, ASC  
America - Pan-American Surf Association, PASA  
Asia - Asian Surfing Federation, ASF  
Europe - European Surfing Federation, ESF  
Oceania – Oceanis Surfing Federation, OSF

## **XI. ISA Recognized Surfing Organizations**

World Surf League, WSL  
Association of Paddlesurf Professionals, APP  
ALAS Latin Tour

## **XII. ISA Member Obligations**

ISA Member Federations have the following obligations in order to remain in good standing.

1. Comply with the ISA Constitution, Rules and Code of Conduct in all activities and conduct.
2. Promote and encourage Surfing in their nation in line with the ISA's mission, principles, goals, and rules
3. Embrace all ISA disciplines within their operational activities.
4. Regularly report to the ISA on activities and development. ISA may require additional membership reporting, at its discretion, for NFs to remain in good standing.
5. Hold NF insurance for every activity.
6. Pay annual ISA Membership Fees no later than March 31 of each year.
7. Support and organize national surfing competitions and programs in line with their mission to develop and promote the sport in their nation. Collaborate with the ISA in promoting these within their nation.
8. Members are expected to support and promote ISA projects including but not limited to the ISA Scholarship Program, Coaching and Judging Programs, and other ISA programs.
9. Ensure fair, open and non-discriminatory participation of all surfers, including professionals.
10. Hold open and fair elections of their Executive Committee.

Any Member that is not compliant with the obligations, violates the ISA Constitution and/or ISA Rulebook, or has outstanding debt to the ISA is subject to disciplinary review and/or suspension, at the discretion of the ISA Executive Committee.

## **XIII. Suspended and Inactive ISA Members**

- i. In the case that an ISA Member does not fully comply with its obligations, fails to pay its membership fees, or no longer meets the requirements for ISA Membership, the ISA Executive Committee reserves the right to:
  - a. Suspend the membership of the ISA Member (totally or partially) for a set period of time or until a specified set of circumstances has changed or ceased to exist.
  - b. Suspend the ability for athletes to compete at ISA Events.
- ii. The Executive Committee may also take appropriate measures against an ISA Member associated with a national association that has been sanctioned by the IOC, IPC, WADA, or similar organizations.
- iii. ISA Members who wish to resign from membership may do so by notifying the ISA in writing. The ISA Member shall decide whether they wish for their membership to be deemed inactive or terminated.
  - a. In the case of resignation to an inactive membership status, the ISA Member will no longer be considered as an ISA Member will be ineligible for all benefits of ISA Membership but will remain in an inactive status until the organization meets the requirements of ISA Membership and re-applies.
  - b. In the case of terminated membership status, the ISA Member will be removed from the list of ISA Members immediately and the ISA will notify its Members accordingly. Membership will only be reconsidered upon the submission of a complete, new membership application.
- iv. The ISA Executive Committee may waive outstanding ISA Membership Fees for suspended or inactive members, upon reinstatement, and if an official debt relief agreement is signed and agreed upon in accordance with policies defined by the EC.

## **XIV. ISA Recognized Continental Association Obligations**

- i. Comply with ISA Rules for all activities and conduct. The ISA Executive Committee reserves the right from time to time to review this compliance
- ii. Promote and encourage Surfing throughout the region in conformity with the ISA's principles, goals, and rules

- iii. Respect the autonomy of each ISA Member Federation to govern the sport of Surfing within their nation
- iv. Annual Reporting to the ISA on activities and meetings
- v. Recognized Continental Association or ISA insurance should be held for EVERY ACTIVITY
- vi. Recognized Continental Associations should embrace all ISA disciplines in their operational activities.
- vii. Responsibility to report to and seek approval from the ISA on all technical matters related to the staging of surfing or related activity competitions at Regional Multi-Sport Games under the authority of the Olympic Movement.
- viii. Continental Associations should work with the ISA to support and promote key development initiatives in the region, including but not limited to: ISA Coaching and Judging Courses, Olympic Solidarity initiatives, Regional Development Conferences, Individual Scholarship Program, and ISA insurances

**XV. ISA Championships or Sanctioned Events and Frequency**

ISA WJSC	World Junior Surfing Championship	[Annual]
ISA WSG	World Surfing Games	[Annual]
ISA WMSC	World Masters Surfing Championship	[Annual]
ISA WSUPPC	World StandUp Paddle and Paddleboard Championship	[Annual]
ISA WLSC	World Longboard Surfing Championship	[Annual]
ISA WPSC	World Para Surfing Championship	[Annual]
ISA WBC	World Bodyboard Championship	[Annual]
ISA WKC	World Kneeboard Championship	[Annual]
ISA WTSC	World Tandem Surfing Championship	[Annual]
ISA AC	Aloha Cup	[Specialty]

*The Aloha Cup may run as an exhibition if time schedules permit within the above events.*

*For the purposes of these rules, Continental Championships organized by ISA-Recognized Continental Associations in accordance with ISA Rules shall also be considered ISA Events.*

ISA events are for surfers who are members of affiliated NFs, in good standing with the ISA.

**XVI. Bids to host ISA events**

Bids to host any ISA sanctioned event must be submitted in writing in accordance with the ISA Invitation to Host document on the official letterhead of the applicant organization or entity and addressed to the ISA President and/or Executive Director. Such bids must be signed by the authorized individual and will be evaluated by the ISA Management for submission to the ISA Executive Committee for final decision. In the event of more than one bid being received, the Executive Director shall present a comparative analysis to the ISA President for a final decision by the Executive Committee. The ISA Invitation to Host document, as well as hosting agreements and questionnaires, are subject to change and may be revised from time to time by the ISA Management with the approval of the ISA President.

**CHAPTER 2: : ISA EVENT ADMINISTRATION**

**I. Section 1: Eligibility**

**A. International Age Categories for Events - Applies to all ISA Disciplines**

- Open Men: Male of any age
- Open Women: Female of any age
- U18 Junior: Boy or Girl 18 years and younger
- U16 Junior: Boy or Girl 16 years and younger

Senior: Male or Female 28 years and older  
Master 40+ : Male or Female 40 years and older  
Grand Masters 50+ : Male or Female 50 years and older  
Kahunas 60+ : Male or Female 60 years and older

- Special note: For Masters, Grand Masters and Kahunas, Ages are taken from January 1st in the year of participation.
- Example: A Master surfer must be 40-49 years and older ON JANUARY 1ST IN THE YEAR OF COMPETITION.
- An Under 18 competitor may not turn 19 between January 1st and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this Division and an Under 16 surfer may not turn 17 between January 1st and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this Division. Proof of the age of Under 18 and Under 16 competitors must be submitted with team lists (a copy of passport or birth documentation is required). All under-aged surfers [Under 18] must have adult appointed NF team manager supervision. Where possible a female manager is recommended if females are on the team.
- Any surfer under the age of 12 years old must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- An Open Surfer is a surfer of any age.
- Passports or proof of citizenship will be verified by ISA officials prior to the start of all ISA Events.

## B. Olympic Games

- i. Eligibility for participation in the Olympic Games is in accordance with the rules and provisions of the Olympic Charter.
- ii. In addition, and in agreement with the IOC, the ISA will establish Eligibility and Nomination Requirements ("The Requirements") for each Olympic Games which will be enclosed in Appendix 3 and shall form an integral part of this Rulebook.

## C. Representation

- i. A competitor may only represent a country if he/she holds a passport or national identification card or citizenship certification issued by the national government of that country. A national identification card must clearly show nationality or citizenship of the country. A competitor who is a national of more than one country at the same time may represent any of them, as he/she may elect.
- ii. Once a competitor has represented one country in any Olympic Games or any ISA World Championship, ISA-recognized continental championship, Olympic Qualification Event(s) or ISA- sanctioned event (together: "ISA Events"), he/she generally may not compete for another country at future Olympic Games or ISA Events. If, however, a competitor is granted the right by special exemption to this rule to represent a second country based on the conditions set forth in *the By- Laws to rule* outlined below, this competitor may not change back to representing his/her original country.

### **By-Laws to rule:**

#### Change of Nationality for ISA Events

Special exemptions may be considered by the ISA Executive Committee provided the petitioning NF submit a formal request to the ISA Executive Committee at least three (3) months prior to the start of any ISA Events. Requests for exemption will only be considered if the formal request is received via the ISA Headquarters, with certified copies of all relevant documentation included. Required documentation shall include, but not be limited to passport copies, request form from petitioning NF and athlete, release letter from current NF, etc. A special exemption may only be considered in the following cases (a - c):

- a. A competitor who has represented one country at the Olympic Games (including the Youth Olympic Games) or in an ISA Event and who changes or who has changed nationality, according to ISA Rules, or acquired a new nationality, may participate in

ISA Events to represent his/her new country provided at least 18 months have passed since the competitor last represented his/her former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the ISA Executive Committee, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

- b. If an associated State, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, if a country merges with another country, or if a new NF is recognized by the ISA, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he/she belongs or belonged. However, he/she may, if he/she prefers, elect to represent and compete for his/her new country in ISA Events if the competitor gets selected by his/her new NF if one exists. This particular choice of change of nationality may be made only once by a competitor.
- c. For ISA Events serving as official Qualifying Events for the Olympic Games competitors may only represent an ISA Member from territories with representation of a National Olympic Committee (NOC). If a competitor has only represented an ISA Member without NOC representation at previous ISA Events, the competitor may return to represent that ISA Member without NOC representation at other ISA Events following the Olympic qualification. Notwithstanding the above, the ISA Executive Committee may allow competitors of territories without representation of a NOC to participate in ISA Events serving as official Qualifying Events for the Olympic Games for humanitarian or other exceptional reasons.]

Furthermore, in all cases in which a competitor would be eligible to participate in ISA Events, either by representing another country than his/her or by having the choice as to the country which such competitor intends to represent, the ISA Executive Committee may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period.

If a decision by the ISA concerning the nationality of a competitor turns out to be inaccurate and/or to be based on wrong factual elements or evidence, the ISA Executive Committee can take in its best discretion all decisions of a general or individual nature to cure the matter, including a revision of the prior decision, the annulment of any team or individual results and/or qualifications.

#### Change of Nationality for Olympic Games

As the International Federation (IF) selected by the IOC to govern all surfing sports, the rules regarding national representation at ISA Events, as stated above, do also apply to the Olympic Games, in addition to the applicable rules of the IOC. Therefore, change of nationality of a competitor in the Olympic Games is governed by both the ISA's rules and the Olympic Charter (Rule 41), which states:

*"A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant IF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Olympic Games to represent his new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NOCs and IF concerned, by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case."* (to view the Olympic Charter that further expands upon change of nationality ruling, please visit: <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-charter>)

## **II. Section 2: Event Registration Policy and Procedures.**

### **A. Fee Structure**

- i. The registration fee shall be decided by the ISA Executive Committee and is applicable to all participating members of the team excluding judges. The registration fee is to be paid to the ISA by each Member Nation as and when directed by the ISA Executive Committee. A surfer

competing in more than one division is required to pay the registration fee for each division entered. Late submission of registration fees may attract a penalty to be decided upon by the ISA Executive Committee.

- ii. The current ISA fee is as follows:  
USD \$275: From the opening of registration, typically three (3) months from the start of the World Championship until the closing of registration, typically two (2) weeks prior to the start of the ISA World Championship, unless otherwise announced by the ISA.

## B. Registration / Entry Process & Team Lists

- i. Placements are not guaranteed until ALL documentation has been received (payment and registration forms) by set deadlines. Partial registration does not guarantee your spot (for example, payment received but teams have not submitted competitor lists or required registration forms).
- ii. If/when registration entries are limited, participation will be guaranteed on a first-come-first-serve basis only to teams and competitors that have completed all registration requirements (submitted payment and online registration).
- iii. All non-NOC territories, including Hawaii, Tahiti, Channel Islands, England, Scotland, and Wales, will not be permitted to register as separate teams for the ISA World Surfing Games
- iv. Changes to seeding order and athlete alternates for confirmed registered teams will be permitted up to 12:00pm local time 2 days prior to the start of the ISA World Championship (i.e. 12:00pm on May 25 for an event starting May 27). Those competitors who have been nominated to compete at this point are the final starters for the event and any no-show competitor for the first Main round will forfeit their right to compete in that round. **Once the initial draw has been made no redraws will be made to account for no-show competitors.** When Double Elimination format is being used, competitors who are no shows in first Main round (or qualifying) may compete in the first repechage round. A reserve may only be substituted at the beginning of the division or discipline if there is a medically documented illness or injury, in which case a direct substitution will be made with no reseeding. The reserve must be eligible and registered on the team list before the close of registration. Once a substitution has been made the original competitor cannot re-enter the competition. After a competitor has competed in the contest a reserve may not be substituted for him/her.
- v. Reserves may compete in the ISA Aloha Cup Exhibition (refer to Chapter 1, Section 2.C. ISA Aloha Cup for contest rules), as long as the reserve competitor completed online registration prior to the closing of registration. The top eight (8) to sixteen (16) teams from the results of the previous World Team Championships (not the previous Aloha Cup result) will compete in the ISA Aloha Cup Exhibition.
  - i. When a competitor is a no-show for their heat, they will receive a zero point total and DNS (Did Not Start) as their placing. If it is the first main round when using Double Elimination, they will be able to compete in the first repechage round, but if they continue as a no-show they will receive last place at the event marked as DNS and unable to acquire Team Points.
  - ii. No-Show Due to Injury
    - 1. When a competitor is a no-show for their heat due to injury, they will receive a zero-point total and be marked as INJ (Injury) for their placing.
    - 2. If it is the first main round in a Double Elimination format, they will still be eligible to compete in the first repechage round. However, if they continue as a no-show, they will receive last place in the event but may still acquire Team points if they were present in the competition area or have medically documented proof of injury.
    - 3. If they are injured and unable to compete in later main rounds, they will be allowed to enter the respective repechage round. However, if they continue as a no-show, they will receive last place points for the round in which they were eliminated from the event.
  - iii. Heat Adjustments Due to Absences
    - 1. If a heat originally scheduled for three or four surfers (with two advancing) has only two surfers ready to paddle out, the following rules apply:
      - a. If the absent competitor(s) have been officially confirmed as not competing by their Teams, the heat will not be run, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places will be determined based on:
        - i. Seeding, in the case of Main Round #1
        - ii. Previous round scores
      - b. If there is no official communication regarding the absent competitor(s):

- i. The heat will proceed as scheduled for the full heat time.
- ii. The absent competitor(s) may enter the heat at any moment before the heat ends

## C. Official ISA Event Protocol

### i. Participating Persons

- a. Official Participating persons must be approved by the corresponding National Federation and shall be considered Team Members. Team Members include, but not be limited to:
  - i. All Athletes participating in the event, whether surfing or serving as a team alternate
  - ii. Team Manager and supporting persons, whether staff or volunteer
  - iii. Team Coach(es) and supporting persons, whether staff or volunteer
  - iv. Persons providing services to Team Members and their assistants, such as physiotherapists, masseuse, medical persons, chaperones
  - v. Team Media specialists accompanying teams to provide services
  - vi. Officially recognized “associated” persons accompanying teams [negotiable with ISA].
- b. An integral part of the Host Nation’s responsibilities, which are audited by the ISA, is to provide various services to the ISA and its member national teams during these events. These services are set out in the official hosting agreement and include, but are not limited to, discounted and special accommodation and meals; facilities for teams on the beach; provision of opening and closing ceremonies which provide team participation in various ways; communication access during the event and provision of various meetings and special event activities.
- c. For persons accompanying teams to avail themselves of these special services and opportunities of involvement in official activities, they must be identified as an Official Participating person and are required to be registered by the National Federation in order to receive event benefits.
- d. Official Protocol for Participating Persons.
  - i. Only paid Team Members can wear Official Team Uniform during any official event activity.
  - ii. Only paid Team Members can participate in the Opening Ceremony / Parade of Nations / Official ISA Meetings.
  - iii. Only paid Team Members can use free or paid services provided by Organizers, including but not limited to ground transportation, special hotel team rates, etc.
  - iv. Only paid Team Members are to be allocated official Wristbands and have the right to enter “designated areas” at the event site and other associated activities.
  - v. **NOTE:** Payment of registration fees for this event, official participating status, identification and security are linked together in these ISA international events. Infringing the intention and effectiveness of these protocols is regarded as demanding a severe disciplinary action. Teams found to be fraudulently attempting to avoid payment of registration fee, or abusing/sharing wristbands without authorization, will receive the minimum penalty of paying triple in registration fees. Higher fines may be imposed at the discretion of the ISA.
  - vi. Associated Persons may include, but not limited to: Supporter Groups, family of team members, friends, etc.
  - vii. On a case by case basis, official dispensation may be given by the ISA President or Executive Director to other associated persons to participate in official event activities, provided application is made in writing to the ISA Contest Director and sufficiently in advance of the activity, so the ISA may properly assess the situation and plan for the change. This decision is at the discretion of the ISA Contest Director upon consultation with the ISA

Executive Director.

- viii. Associated persons are not to be issued with any items of “official team uniform” or accessories to indicate the appearance of a current official team member. ISA recommends any promotional items and clothing provided to supporter’s groups by national member teams, be clearly labeled as such.

ii. **Official Identification [wristbands / accreditations]**

- a. These are issued to athletes and team officials on-site during an arranged time by the ISA. Teams are to receive one (1) accreditation per individual. These are “non-transferable”, accountable items and must remain on EACH team member’s wrist and/or around their neck for the duration of the event. They are a critical security device and will identify team members from the public at all times in all locations. Accreditation will also indicate to event security the status and rights of the wearer to enter various parts of the event facilities and functions. Accreditation is the responsibility of the Team Manager and must not be exchanged or temporarily distributed to other persons. If Wristbands are in poor condition and need to be exchanged for new ones, the old one must be given to an ISA Employee at the ISA office at time of exchange in order for a new Wristband to be issued. A Wristband replacement, without the original returned, is required to be purchased from the ISA, unless special circumstances to be decided upon by the ISA Executive Committee exist.

**D. Official Language and Translators.**

- i. The ISA official language is English with official and event announcements also to be made equally in Spanish whenever possible. Event announcements in other languages besides English and Spanish are not mandatory.
- ii. Where the official language of the host nation (or a team) is not English, a translator may be included in the team and he/she will be afforded the same privileges as a competitor by the host nation.

**III. Section 3: Contest Rules and Procedures**

**A. General**

**i. Rules of Competition: Coverage and Authority.**

- a. The rules of competition as set out in the ISA rulebook must be applied by each national team. This is particularly relevant to those nations that are hosting ISA sanctioned events.
- b. Amendments to these rules are the prerogative of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will advise all member nations once any amendments have been made and approved by the Executive Committee.
- c. These amendments, once approved, will be applied to ISA contests as long as they are circulated to member nations 30 days prior to the start of the specific event.
- d. In case of an international or national health crisis, global pandemic or other force majeure event, the ISA may adopt special competition regulations and specific emergency countermeasures aimed at protecting the health and safety of all athletes and participants. Every effort will be made to communicate these special regulations in a timely manner prior to the start of the Event.
- e. 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 General Meeting.

**ii. Format of Events**

- a. The contest will consist of a format decided by the ISA Executive Committee. The competition and the Finals may be held at different venues or at the same venue.
- b. Where, for any reason it is not possible to hold or complete the Finals, the ISA

Contest Director may determine division winners from the accumulated places of the contest. If required by the Host Nation, the last competition day will be set-aside for the Finals.

- c. In extraordinary circumstances where registrations for ISA events may fall below 6 and the application of the 8 surfer double elimination format is unfair, the Technical Director, in association with the Contest Director, may customize an alternative draw for that specific situation that incorporates multiple rounds and points for places, with the object of giving the competitors more than one opportunity to surf.
- d. Seedings
  - i. In ISA events, the seeding order in each division will be based on the complete sequence of the surfers of each participating NF, as submitted to the Contest Director, following the rankings of each member Nation at the previous matching event [ie. WSG 2010 for WSG 2011].
  - ii. Occasionally heats will contain athletes from the same NF due to the sequencing of all surfers in each division with their respective seed or due to their position in the previous heat. These heats will not be reseeded or altered, and the heat draw is final.
  - iii. Where a nation did not compete in the previous matching event, the surfers of this nation will be seeded at the end of the team list, in the chronological order that the official team entry was received.
  - iv. The first round seeding will follow the seeding order as specified in paragraph one above. The contest first seed will be the first seed of the first rated team; the contest second seed will be the second seed of the first rated team, and so on.
  - iv. Within the competition, participants who progress through the heats will be seeded into each successive heat according to the position that they obtained in the previous heat.
  - v. The event should be designed to accommodate a minimum progression rate of 50% advancement to the next round.
  - vi. In the event of there being only two surfers in a heat that was seeded for three or four surfers, the heat will not be surfed and the surfers will be given positions based on their points scored in the previous round or according to their seedings in the case of a first round heat.

e. Team Points

- i. In applicable ISA events, each competitor will accumulate team points according to the place he/she finishes in the contest. **The ISA Team Points Allocation Table will be used, beginning with 1000 points for each division winner (please refer to the ISA Official Team Points Allocation Table for subsequent placing-point ratios).** The total points will be distributed amongst the available places. The winning team will be that team with the highest sum of points (Note: ISA Aloha Cup Exhibition event excluded). **Where division places are equal, then the highest of the possible points for those places will be allocated to each competitor.**
- ii. In the WSG, individual points for all surfers, per nation, in each division, will count towards the ISA Team Results. The winning Team will be named World Surfing Games Champions and will be awarded the Fernando Aguerre Perpetual Trophy.
- iii. In the WJSC, individual points for all surfers, per nation, in each division will count towards the ISA Team results. The winning Team will be named World Junior Surfing Champions and will be awarded the ISA World Junior Championship Trophy.
- iv. In the WMSC, individual points for all surfers, per nation, in each division will count towards the ISA Team results. The winning Team will be named the World Masters Surfing Champions and will be awarded the Eduardo Arena Trophy.
- v. In the WLSC, individual points for all surfers, per nation, in each division will count towards the ISA Team results. The winning Team will be named the World Longboard Surfing Champions and will be awarded

the ISA World Longboard Surfing Championship Trophy.

- vi. In the WSUPPC, individual points for **all** surfers and racers, per nation, in each division will count towards the ISA Team results. The Team Relay, which will include all eligible teams, is included in the Team Total Points with a first place value of **1000 points (please refer to the ISA Official Team Points Allocation Table for subsequent placing-point ratios)**. The winning Team will be named the World StandUp Paddle and Paddleboard Champions and will be awarded the Hector Velarde SUP and Paddleboard Perpetual Trophy.

f. Team Points – Tie-Breaking Procedure

- i. In the event of a tie in team points, the tie will be broken by progressively removing the lowest individual scores from each team's total, rather than reducing the number of counted athletes.
- ii. If six athletes contribute to the team total, the lowest score will be removed first.
- iii. If the tie remains, the next lowest score will be removed, continuing this process until the tie is broken.
- iv. For incomplete teams, scores of zero will be the first to be discarded.
- v. This adjusted total is used only to break the tie and does not alter the official team points ranking.
- vi. Ties will only be broken when a clear ranking distinction is necessary, such as for medal awards or qualification slots for future competitions. If a tie does not affect such outcomes, both teams will remain in the same ranking position, with seeding for future competitions determined by the chronological order of payment.

g. Official Meetings

- i. The ISA Technical Director and/or Contest Director, together with the ISA Head Judge, will hold Judge and Team Manager Meetings prior to the commencement of all ISA events. Attendance at these meetings is compulsory for ALL relevant participating persons. Suitable prior notice of these meetings must be given by the ISA in consultation with the Host Contest Coordinator.
- ii. The purpose of such meetings is to inform officials of the arrangements for the competition, clarify operational questions from teams, and manage the judging process and other event requirements.
- iii. All functions, meetings, etc. are to be held near the contest site and at a reasonable time.

### iii. ISA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy

- a. The ISA has established a Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy that is an integral part of this Rulebook and shall be updated by the ISA Executive Committee from time to time. The ISA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy is to be completed and signed by each participating official in any ISA Event. Failure to comply with the ISA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy may result in disciplinary action by the ISA in accordance with the ISA Discipline Policy contained herein.  
<https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy final.pdf>
- b. As an Olympic sport and International Federation, and in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the ISA prohibits any kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda at an ISA Event sites, venues or other areas.

#### iv. ISA Code of Ethics

- a. As part of its participation in and support of the Olympic Movement, and in the interest of disseminating a culture of ethics and integrity within its area of competence, the ISA has adopted its own Code of Ethics, which becomes an integral part of this Rulebook.  
[https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics\\_Oct\\_2025.pdf](https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA_Code_of_Ethics_Oct_2025.pdf)
- b. In addition, and as part of the ISA's own Code of Ethics, the ISA voluntarily and specifically complies with all provisions of the IOC's Code of Ethics. To view the IOC Code of Ethics, click here: <https://www.olympic.org/code-of-ethics>

#### v. ISA Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions

- a. As part of its participation in and support of the Olympic Movement, and in the interest of protecting the integrity of Events within ISA's area of competence, the ISA has adopted the ISA Rules on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.
- b. To view the ISA Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, click here:  
[https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA-Rules\\_Prevention-of-the-Manipulation-of-Competitions.pdf](https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA-Rules_Prevention-of-the-Manipulation-of-Competitions.pdf)
- c. These Rules notably prohibit the following conduct: betting on any ISA event in which he/she is directly participating, and on any surf event or any event of a multisport Competition in which he/she is a participant; competition manipulation; sharing of inside information; and failure to report any approaches or invitations received by the participant to engage in conduct or incidents that could amount to a violation of the ISA Rules on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

#### vi. ISA Concussion Protocol

- a. The ISA reserves the right to adopt a concussion protocol based on international standards in accordance with the SCAT5 or SCAT6 Sport Concussion Assessment Tool and, in the event of a trauma, and based on an assessment on site by the ISA Medical Officer or his/her representative, the athlete may be removed from the competition in the interests of his/her health and safety.

#### vii. ISA Discipline Policy

##### a. Misbehavior

- Several areas for disciplinary action follow and all other areas not as yet defined will be adjudicated by the Executive Committee as special cases arise.

##### **Team Competitor / Team Official or Participating Person - Official Misbehavior, Unsporting Conduct or bringing an ISA event or the ISA itself into Disrepute.**

The ISA Executive Committee has agreed that, "a surfer or team member that violates the Code of Conduct, causes willful destruction or damage to property, makes public displays of aggressive behaviour [ie. Loud aggressive comments or actions in public about judging decisions, refusal to leave the tower or other official area when first directed], or damage to the image of surfing directly at an ISA event or on social media will be subject to disciplinary action and a possible immediate fine and /or disqualification, suspension or other appropriate penalties imposed by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge and Technical Director."

The Executive Committee has the power to review any such decision. All fines under this category will be issued on the National Team that the individual represents.

Fines levels imposed will range from \$200 to \$10,000 with, in addition, a possible disqualification and/or suspension of the individual concerned for the event and/or future events, which will also affect Team points calculations. For multiple offenses over one or more events, fines will move to the higher level. These fines must be issued by the end of the day on which the fine was imposed and paid before the start of the event on the following day. If the fine is issued on the last day of the event and is not paid before the end of the event, the responsible National Federation may be subject to additional penalties. Penalties may be supplemented by the Executive Committee.

**b. 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 reviewed and may be suspended for a period determined by the ISA Technical

Director, and may also incur other penalties.

**c. ISA Penalties & Infringements**

- i. ISA Infringements are listed below, but are not limited to the list below.
- ii. 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 Jury of Appeal.
- iii. All fines will be billed to the NF and are considered the NF'S sole responsibility. These fines must be paid before the start of the event on the following day (or the next day of competition if applicable) or the surfer in question will lose the points that would accrue to the team score.

**INFRINGEMENTS**

Assaulting (a judge, event staff, other competitor, team official, media, or the public)

Derogatory, rude gestures or comments to judges, team officials, \$1000 event staff, media, and public

Entering the judging area to complain/protest without approval from the Technical Director or Head Judge

Destruction or abuse of judging sheets or heat sheets

Approaching any Judge (Head Judge, Scoring Judge, Priority Judge) at any time inside or outside the Event Area regarding scores, interference, priority, or results without approval from the Technical Director and/or Contest Director

Abuse of contest equipment or event property

Abuse of own equipment during event or in contest area

Damage to property in event locality

Damage to the sport of surfing due to misbehavior

**PENALTIES**

\$1,000 - \$5,000, disqualification, and/or suspension

\$1000 - \$5000

\$1000

\$250 - \$1000

\$1000

\$1000

\$1000 plus costs and/or suspension

\$1000 - \$5,000 and/or suspension

Unsporting conduct	\$500 - \$5,000 disqualification and/or suspension
Any finalist who fails to attend an Event awards presentation \$1000 without prior approval	
Violation of the ISA's or host country's Health and Safety Plan disqualification Using profanity, offensive commentary, and/or or public/political messaging whether on competition clothing and/or equipment on the broadcast or media interview of the Event, as per Competition Rules	\$1000 - \$10,000 and/or \$250 - \$5,000
Failure to comply and/or violation of the anti-doping process and testing	\$1000 - \$5000, disqualification, or both
Replacement of Team Registration Wristband/Accreditation without return of the old wristband/accreditation	\$275 (Cost of Entry Fee)
Illegal obtainment of Team Registration Accreditation	\$550 (Double the Cost of Entry Fee)

### **TECHNICAL INFRINGEMENTS**

Knowingly catching a wave in excess of wave count

Failure to have National Flag sticker on equipment

Failure to have ISA sticker on equipment

Knowingly wearing contest vest incorrectly

Removing the contest vest prior to returning it to the Beach Marshall

Surfing in contest area during heats

Surfing before or after the heat (i.e. entering water early without permission)

Surfers caddie rides a wave or hinders another competitor or caddie

Outside Assistance (third party helps competitor, ie. return board to  
disqualification lineup, unauthorized transportation assist, etc)

The penalties attached to the infringements are the maximum applicable. The Contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge and Technical Director may decide to impose a suspended penalty ("yellow card") based on the severity of the infringement. This would be a first warning. Subsequent infringements would attract the maximum penalty.

Behavioral infringements (such as Unsporting Conduct, Damage to the Sport, Assaulting an Official, etc) will be decided in consultation with the Technical Director, Contest Director, Head Judge (when applicable), and the Executive Director (and/or President if present).

Other infringements not specified above may attract a warning, a fine, disqualification and/or suspension.

### **PENALITIES**

\$200 per wave

\$250 / surfboard used in event or media area

\$250 / surfboard used in event or media area

\$500

\$500

Fine of \$250-\$2000, and/or disqualification

\$200 / wave, loss of priority, interference, or disqualification depending on the severity

\$200 / wave, possible interference, or disqualification of the connected athlete depending on the severity

\$200-\$1000 and/or from remainder of heat.

#### d. Disqualification

- In the case of disqualification (DSQ) during or after an event in the double elimination system, the surfer will lose ALL allocated Team points and the following process will be applied.

If the surfer is DSQ during the event, he/she will be immediately withdrawn from the remaining heat schedule. No points will be allocated against the surfer's name for the team points aggregate Award. The surfer's name will appear in the final event ratings list in last place and annotated "DSQ". The respective surfer will also be DSQ from ALL OTHER DIVISIONS in which he/she has entered at that contest.

- i. If the surfer is **DSQ after the event and occupies individual places 1 - 8:**
  - Then he/she will be required to return any medals received for reallocation to upgraded placegetters.
  - The surfer's name will appear in the final event ratings list in last place and annotated "DSQ".
  - Points allocated to the DSQ surfer will be deducted from his/her Team aggregate Award score.
  - Points for the upgraded top seven surfers will be reallocated and eighth place points will be deleted from the points allocation.
  - If the 8th place surfer is DSQ, there will be no change of positions for the top seven surfers, and the 8th place position will be unallocated.
  - This process will be applied irrespective of the number of DSQ surfers affected.
    - The Team points aggregate Award rating will then be re-calculated. This process may result in a change in the team rated order and if so, team medals must be returned and reallocated.
- ii. If surfer is DSQ after the event and occupies an equal place 9 onwards:
  - The surfer's name will appear in the final event ratings list in last place and annotated "DSQ".
  - Points allocated to the DSQ surfer will be deducted from his/her Team aggregate Award score.
  - No points or places will be reallocated in this situation.
  - This process will be applied irrespective of the number of DSQ surfers affected.
    - The Team points aggregate Award rating will then be re-calculated. This process may result in a change in the team rated order and if so, team medals must be returned and reallocated.
- iii. Where the **DSQ is after the event** then the surfer will additionally be **DSQ from ALL ENTERED DIVISIONS AT THAT EVENT, including the ALOHA CUP.**
  - All medals / awards received by the DSQ surfer for any division must be returned to the ISA, irrespective of any changes of team standings.
  - If the DSQ surfer was part of an Aloha Cup Team in the top four places, then the Team will be subsequently DSQ and must return their medals which will be reallocated if places 1 to 3 are affected. Fourth place in the Aloha Cup final will remain unallocated in this case.
- iv. Appealing a DSQ:
  - DSQ as a result of a positive drug test: The appeal process is identified in the ISA Anti-Doping Code Article 13.
  - DSQ for any other event related infringement: The appeal process is identified in the ISA Rulebook Section 3. A.v. e, ISA Penalties and Infringements.

#### e. Anti-Doping

– The ISA is unequivocally opposed, on ethical and medical grounds, to doping in sport and fully supports the Olympic Movement and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in the fight against the use of banned substances and methods.

As a signatory to the WADA Code, the ISA implements a strict adherence to the Code as a way to ensure a clean, healthy and fair sporting atmosphere for all athletes. By conducting both in-competition and out-of-competition testing, the ISA confirms proper testing and results management methods are administered throughout the sport.

- i. ISA Members should carefully review both the ISA Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Code including the WADA Prohibited Substance list on the ISA Website for current regulations and policies regarding the ISA's anti-doping practices: <http://www.isasurf.org/development-programs/anti-doping/>
- ii. All athletes competing in ISA Events shall be subject to In-Competition Testing at any time, subject to the limitations established in the Code and International Standards.. "In-Competition" refers to the period commencing at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to participate through the end of such competition. An athlete is subject for In-Competition testing during that window as per the Code and the relevant International Standards.
- iii. In-Competition testing shall be conducted at all ISA World Championships. All athletes in every division are subject to testing.
- iv. Out-of-Competition testing shall be conducted by the selection of a Registered Testing Pool (RTP), as per the ISA program requirements.
- v. Any Adverse Analytical Finding resulting from an athlete's sample will undergo the Results Management Process as outlined in the ISA Anti-Doping Code.
- vi. 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.
- vii. All ISA sample collection and analytical testing activities shall be conducted in alignment with the Code and the relevant International Standards.
- viii. **All ISA Members should ensure that their policies, rules and programs are in compliance with the Code and the International Standards, and that testing activities in national competition are conducted under the documented authority of their National Anti-Doping Organization . Contact the ISA for additional information.**

#### d. ISA Dispute Settlement

##### **- Court of Arbitration for Sport**

- i. Any dispute, any controversy or claim arising under, out of, or relating to the ISA

constitution, bylaws or agreements or any subsequent amendments of or in relation to the ISA constitution, bylaws or agreements including but not limited to, its formation, validity and binding effect, interpretation, performance, breach or termination, as well as non-contractual claims, shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Arbitration Rules. The language to be used in the arbitration shall be English.

- ii. Where a settlement of the dispute is not reached within 90 days of the commencement of the arbitration, or if, before the expiration of the said period either party fails to participate in the arbitration, the dispute shall, upon the filing of a request of Arbitration by either party, be referred to and finally settled by CAS arbitration pursuant to the Code of Sports related Arbitration. When the circumstances so require, the arbitrator may, at his own discretion or at the request of a party, seek an extension of the time limit from the CAS President.
  - A member, National Federation (NF) in violation of the ISA By-Law, Constitution or agreement and / or its policies will be penalized according to the gravity of the violation. An NF loses all rights during the period of suspension, i.e., the right to submit resolutions, to take part in meetings and to enter competitors in ISA competitions, and competitions organized by member National Federations, unless otherwise decided by the ISA Executive Committee.
  - An NF in violation of the constitution and / or policies which continues to do so after having been previously warned or suspended may be expelled from ISA.
  - Disputes between ISA and one or several of its members which are not settled by a decision of ISA, may be submitted for arbitration by either of the parties to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), to the exclusion of any other domestic tribunal. Any decision taken by the said court shall be without appeal or recourse to ordinary courts, and is binding on the parties concerned.
  - The ISA Executive Committee shall have the following powers:
    - to suspend NFs or to modify its membership to provisional status until the next meeting of Congress
    - to suspend NFs from International events; until the next meeting of Congress
    - to caution or censure an NF;
    - to reinstate an NF which was previously suspended
    - before the ISA Executive Committee may use its power of suspension, the NF must have been sent notice in writing of the alleged infringement, at least one month before the next ISA Executive Committee? meeting, at which the NF will be afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
  - The Congress shall have the following powers:
    - to suspend an NF from membership for a fixed period, or until a specified set of circumstances cease to exist;
    - to suspend an NF from any one or more types of International events for a fixed period or until a specified set of circumstances cease to exist;
    - to caution or censure an NF;
    - to reinstate an NF which has been suspended before the end of the period or before the set of circumstances specified have ceased to exist.
  - Unresolved disputes between an NF and the Board of directors [ISA Executive Committee or Congress howsoever arising, shall be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for final and binding determination, to the exclusion of any other domestic tribunal.
  - Each NF shall incorporate in its constitution a provision that all disputes between that NF and an athlete and ISA must be submitted to final arbitration before the Court of arbitration for Sport (CAS). In the case of a dispute between an NF and an athlete, this dispute must be submitted to an arbitration panel constituted by the NF. In the case of a dispute between an athlete and ISA, this dispute must be submitted directly to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

## B. Event Officials: Job Description and Selection

- i. **Technical Director** - To be appointed by the Technical Committee of the ISA to manage the beach presentation and other aspects of the event. TD reports to the ISA Executive Director. The TD is the highest event official. The TD may modify or define an unclear interpretation in the rulebook or situation at an ISA Event. The TD works closely with the Contest Director to manage the event delivery on a daily basis. The Contest Director and all other event officials, report to the Technical Director. The Technical Director and Contest Director positions may be combined at ISA events at the discretion of the ISA Technical Committee.
- ii. **Contest Director** - To be selected by the ISA Technical Committee based on Professional, International and National criteria.
  - i. To work with the Head Judge in all aspects of the running of the event (see duties of Head Judge and Contest Administration Rules).
  - ii. To apply the Rules of Competition as laid out in Sections 2 & 3.
  - iii. To seed the surfers competing in the event in accordance with these Rules.
  - iv. To apply the Contest Format, as determined by the Executive Committee.
  - v. To maintain a daily updated team points total and to distribute same to all team managers, ISA officials and media by 20h00 at the end of each day of competition.
  - vi. To convene officials, judges and managers meetings when necessary.
  - vii. To apply the penalties as laid out in the ISA Disciplinary Code (Section 11) and to impose the appropriate penalties as indicated in this code.
- iii. **Jury of Appeal** – the Jury of Appeal shall be composed of the ISA Technical Director, ISA Contest Director, ISA Executive Director and the ISA President, or his representative, and shall be convened upon request by one of its members. The ISA President shall have the right to appoint additional members to the Jury of Appeal on site, at his discretion. The Jury of Appeal may be called to hear questions of penalties, infringements of the rules, disqualifications or other non-Anti-doping related matters.
- iv. **Head Judge[s]** - Top ranking professional judges will be hired by the ISA and ratified by ISA Executive Committee as Head Judges after receiving recommendation from the ISA Technical Committee. Selection and the number of Head Judges is determined solely by the ISA Executive Committee. Head Judges will be paid a salary as outlined by the ISA.
- v. **Judges** - The Technical Committee recommends the Judging Panel based on Professional, International and National criteria.
  - i. Judges will be selected by the ISA Technical Committee (TC) using the comprehensive ISA Judges database to appoint the most appropriate International and/or National Judges. The TC's selection will be based on a Judge's ISA event experience, accreditation level, professional surfing judging experience and internal ISA rating. Nations may supply names and CV of Judges they consider appropriate for ISA level Judging duties. ISA TC will review. Upon the decision of the ISA TC, each Judge will be notified of their appointment directly. No additional judges can be added to or dismissed from the ISA selected panel by the ISA Head Judge unless specific agreement is received from the ISA Contest Director after consultation with the ISA Technical Committee [or representative present]. All Judges MUST have fundamental understanding of the English language.
  - ii. Selection of Judges for Single Podium Events (WSG/ WMSC / WSUPSC / WBC/ WLSC) is based on the following criteria:
    - Appointed Judges: A selection of seven (7) appointed paid Scoring Judges and one or two (1-2) appointed paid Priority Judges bringing the total number of judges to 10- 11 (including 2 Head Judges), will be approved by the ISA Technical Committee. Appointed Judges will be paid a salary as outlined by the ISA. ISA Appointed Judges will be regarded as having “no national affiliation” and will be appointed based on their demonstrated international judging qualities and experience.

- iii. Selection of Judges for Two Podium Events (WSG/WJSC) is based on the following criteria:
  - Appointed Judges: A selection of fourteen (14) appointed paid Scoring Judges and three (3) appointed paid Priority Judges bringing the total number of judges to 20 (including 3 Head Judges), will be approved by the ISA Technical Committee. Appointed Judges will be paid a salary as outlined by the ISA. ISA Appointed Judges will be regarded as having “no national affiliation” and will be appointed based on their demonstrated international judging qualities and experience.
  - In two podium events, when/if the competition is reduced to one podium the HJs in consultation with the CD and/or TD will nominate the best judges based on the previous days’ performances to judge the remaining days with a corresponding roster in order to not have two judges from the same country judging the same heat.

**vi. Tabulator** - Duties vary according to the presence of a scoring computer. If a scoring computer is being used then the Tabulator will check the typing input from the judge's personal heat sheet to the computer printout immediately after the heat concludes. Any irregularities are brought to the attention of the Head Judge or Technical Director.

If a manual system is being used then the process is as follows:

- i. On receipt of the completed Judges’ sheet at the end of a heat, the Tabulators will immediately check to see if:
  - All the Judges’ sheets have been handed in and completed legibly on paper.
  - That the correct number of waves has been scored on each sheet for each surfer.
  - That any interference calls have been recorded.
- ii. 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.
- iii. If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge, then a score is given to the missing ride:
  - Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride.
  - Taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary to bring it into line with the scoring scale that the errant Judge used.
- iv. 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.
- v. Where interference is called by the majority of the judges, then the interference is tabulated by applying the provisions of the applicable Rule.
- vi. 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 1<sup>st</sup> place, the second highest score 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are tied:  $3+4+5=12$ . Divided by 3 placed giving and average placing of 4).
- vii. When no further calculations are required on the Judges’ sheets the results are transcribed onto the Master Tabulator Sheet, which is completed in the following way:
  - The Competitor’s names are entered on tally sheet.
  - The Judges’ numbers are entered across the page at the top of each column.
  - Heat placings are copied down beneath each individual Judge.
  - The highest and lowest placings are crossed off for each surfer (when applicable).
  - The placings that remain are added and entered into the total in the total points column, then;

- The competitor with the lowest total points wins the heat (second lowest is second, etc).
- viii. If at this point a tie situation occurs on the Master Tabulator Sheet, the Tabulator will proceed to break the tie as indicated in the Tie Break Rule.
- Ties must be broken by a general judging consensus using the plus/minus system on the judging master sheet. All places (from the five judges) of the two tied surfers are compared and marked "+" for the highest and "-" for the lowest.
  - Most "+" marks wins the tie.
  - 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.
  - If the tie cannot be broken by using the above system, the next process is to go back and recalculate the total and placing on the tied judge's sheet ONLY based on the ONE BEST WAVE
  - 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.
- ix. **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 Technical/Contest Director
- x. The procedure for calculation of the surfer's final wave scores using the contest computer system is as follows:
- i. 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".
  - ii. The Heat Total of the wave score average on the two best scoring waves of each surfer will decide the heat places. Highest Heat Total is first place, second highest Heat Total is second place, and so on.
  - iii. 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):
    - Consider just "the wave score average" for the ONE Best Wave. If the tie persists, then;
    - Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the THREE Best Waves. If the tie persists, then;
    - Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the FOUR Best Waves, and continue this procedure until the tie is broken.
  - iv. If the tie still remains after averaging all of their waves, the result will be decided by:
    - Consider the wave average with all Five Judges for the TWO Best Waves.
    - Consider the wave average with all Five Judges for the ONE Best Wave.
    - Consider the wave average with all Five Judges for the THREE Best Waves.
    - Consider the wave average with all Five Judges 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

**vii. Media Director** - Is responsible to the Contest Director / Event Co-ordinator for the preparation and implementation of a media plan for the event, which will consist of pre, during and post event elements, together aimed at maximizing interest in the event, promoting the participation of all stakeholders [generally in order of importance] and the distribution of factual information and results to targeted and general audiences.

**viii. Beach Announcer[s]** - Primary responsibility is to present the event to the spectators and

competitors in an entertaining and instructive fashion and to lead the Assistant Announcer in bringing the surfing information from the bio sheets and scoring computer to the audience and surfers. The Head Announcer must provide consistent live scoring updates to the surfers at appropriate times and situations. The Head Announcer reports to the Contest Director / Event Co-Ordinator.

The Assistant Announcer manages the flow of information from the computer and bios to the Head Announcer and directly reports to him.

- ix. Beach Marshal[s]** - All beach marshals must be English speaking. They will ensure that all competitors are checked in for their heat, that they have the correct lycra contest vest color and that they have been personally informed of the heat rules [maximum number of waves that can be ridden by each competitor, number of waves to be included in the score, duration of heat, timing disc colors, horn blasts [one blast to start and two to finish heat], paddle out time and starting point. Competitors must be requested to wear their contest vest from collection at the Beach Marshall before their heat to the return of it after their heat.
- x. Scoring Computer Operator** - The scoring computer will provide real time results after calculating the wave scores punched in by the individual judges. This information is used by the Announcer to inform competitors in the current heat. Scores allocated and scores needed to progress are available. The Operator will provide terminals for each judge and Head Judge, a central scoring management computer, and TV monitors for the Head Judge, Technical Director, Announcer, media and VIP areas as required.
- xi. Timers, Disk Operators, Spotters** - Work on a roster operating timing disk, priority / interference disk[s] and calling colors for the judge panel.
- xii. Security** - All official areas must be kept free from unauthorized entry. Personal safety of contestants as they move to and from the water for their heats is essential. The Judging Podium must be secure with access to event personnel only. Overnight security is necessary for events with facilities.
- xiii. Judges' Video Replay Operator** - The Judges' Video Replay Operator will provide real time video replays as requested by the Judging Panel, Head Judge, Contest Director, or Technical Director.
- xiv. Judges' Replay Camera Operators** - The Judges' Replay Camera Operators shall capture every wave surfed in any given heat, which will feed into the Judges' Video Replay Operator's system instantaneously. There should be at least one (1) Judges' Replay Camera Operator per surfer in the heat.

## **C. ISA Championship [& sanctioned] Event Administration**

### **i. Team Composition Changes**

The amendment of team sizes is the prerogative of the Executive Committee and these may be amended at any meeting of the Executive Committee provided that such a meeting takes place during the year preceding that in which the WSG are to be held, (or at any earlier meeting).

In ISA events, an eligible surfer may compete in multiple divisions if his / her team selects him/her to do so. Team managers must identify those surfers involved in this situation to the contest officials. The event organizers have no obligation to provide any special consideration for these surfers as this is a team decision. In back to back heats, time may be given to change contest vests if the contest format allows.

## ii. Medal Allocations

All finalists in individual divisions of ISA events will receive a gold / silver / bronze / copper medal according to final placing. In addition a team medal will be presented to each official team member of the top four [4] teams, gold / silver / bronze / copper medal according to final placing.

The ISA Aloha Cup Exhibition final team members will receive individual medals plus one trophy signifying team final placing.

**Specific reference to presentation items can be found in the ISA event contract, which is entered into by the organization hosting the specific event.**

## iii. ISA WSG

### a. Team Size

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| i. Men's Open Division    | 3 |
| ii. Women's Open Division | 3 |
| iii. ISA Aloha Cup        | 4 |

### b. Special rules and requirements

- i. The surfing competition is conducted as specified in the "Competition Rules" below.
- ii. Surfboard Design Specifications are unlimited.

## iv. ISA WJSC

### a. Team Size

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| i. U18 Boys      | 3 |
| ii. U16 Boys     | 3 |
| iii. U18 Girls   | 3 |
| iv. U16 Girls    | 3 |
| v. ISA Aloha Cup | 4 |

### b. special rules and requirements

- i. The surfing competition is conducted as specified in the "Competition Rules" below.
- ii. Surfboard Design Specifications are unlimited.

## v. ISA WMSC

### a. Team Size

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| i. MEN: Masters 40+ Division          | 1 |
| ii. WOMEN: Masters 40+ Division       | 1 |
| iii. MEN: Grand Masters 50+ Division  | 1 |
| iv. WOMEN: Grand Masters 50+ Division | 1 |
| v. WOMEN: Grand Masters 50+ Division  | 1 |
| vi. WOMEN: Kahunas 60+ Division       | 1 |
| vii. ISA Aloha Cup                    | 1 |

### b. special rules and requirements

- i. The surfing competition is conducted as specified in the "Competition Rules" below.
- ii. Surfboard Design Specifications are unlimited.
- iii. Aloha Cup Team will include at least one female.

## vi. ISA WSUPPC (World StandUp Paddle and Paddleboard Championship)

### a. Athlete Team Size

- i. Men 9, Women 9, Boys 1, Girls 1
- ii. Manager[s] / Coach[s] - no limit

**b. Competitors Per Category**

- i. SUP Surfing: Men (2), Women (2)
- ii. SUP Racing Technical: Men (2) Women (2)
- iii. SUP Racing Distance: Men (2) Women (2)
- iv. Paddleboard Racing Technical: Men (1), Women (1)
- v. Paddleboard Racing Distance: Men (1), Women (1)
- vi. SUP Sprint Racing: Men (1), Women (1)
- vii. Junior SUP Racing Technical: Boys (1), Girls (1)
- viii. Team Paddle Relay: SUP Racing: Men (1), Women (1), Paddleboard: Men (1), Women (1)

**c. Special Rules and Requirements**

- i. All Boards:
  - Single hull
  - Stationary/non-correctional fins
  - Fin box allowed
- ii. SUP Surfing
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Athletes must supply their own equipment
- iii. SUP Racing: 5-6 km Technical Race
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Junior Boys
  - Junior Girls
  - Equipment specification is "14" and under"
  - Athletes must supply their own equipment
- iv. SUP Racing: Distance Race
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Equipment specification is: "14" and under"
  - Athletes must supply their own equipment
- v. SUP Sprint: Sprint Race
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Equipment specification is: "14" and under"
  - Athletes must supply their own equipment
- i. Paddleboard Racing: Technical Race
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Equipment specification is "12' and under"
  - Athletes must supply their own equipment
- ii. Paddleboard Racing: Distance Race
  - Open Men
  - Open Women
  - Equipment specification is: "12' and under"
  - Athletes must supply their equipment
- iii. Paddle Team Relay
  - 2 Men, 2 Women for a total of 4 members.
  - Course Length will be between 400-1000m per relay leg.
  - Equipment specification is "SUP 14' and Under & Paddleboard 12' & under".

- d. **Equipment is the responsibility of the teams and must be officially checked at designated times prior to its use in competition. Each competitor will be required to have their board measured during scheduled hours before competition. The board will be measured from tip to tail on the top of the board in a straight line, not pressed against the deck of the board. Board extensions will be allowed but they must be permanent and follow the outline of the board.**

#### vii. ISA WLSC

##### a. Team Size

- i. Open Men 2
- ii. Open Women 2
- iii. ISA Aloha Cup 4

##### b. Special rules and requirements

- i. The surfing competition is conducted as specified in the “Competition Rules” below.
- ii. Traditional longboard shape must be used, but Surfboard Design Specifications are unlimited. Multiple fins may be used.
- iii. **LONGBOARD Design Specifications: Length is a minimum of 9 feet from the tip of the board in a straight line along its deck. 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.**

#### viii. ISA World Para Surfing Championship (Please reference ISA Para Surfing Rulebook)

#### ix. ISA Aloha Cup [Teams Championship]

##### a. Team Size

- i. The following team composition [confirmed by the Contest Director prior to event]:
- ii. Open Male Team Members 2
- iii. Open Female Team Member 2

##### b. Format and requirements

The Aloha Cup format may be used as the team exhibition in the WSG / WJSC / WMSC / WLSC, known as the ISA Team Cup Exhibition event.

- i. A match will consist of registered teams, with four (4) surfers per team. This number may be changed at the ISA discretion.
  - A four-surfer team will consist of: Two (2) Men and Two (2) Woman in each team. Surfers may be substituted in subsequent rounds. A team may start with an incomplete number of surfers, but once the heat is started, no one else can enter, unless with previous allowance of the Contest Director.
  - The top 7 teams from the results of the previous identical World Team Championship plus the Host Country will compete in the ISA Aloha Cup, if the host country is not in to the top 8 from the results of the previous World Team Championship. If the event is decided to include more teams, then these will be taken from the last ISA team ratings in the prior identical event.
  - The Technical Director, in association with the Contest Director, will determine how many teams compete in the event.
  - Substitute athletes may be used in each separate round.
  - A reserve from the National Team, not surfing in any individual division, may compete in the Aloha Cup, as long as the reserve competitor has completed payment and online registration by the registration deadline for the event.
  - Officially registered Team reserve athletes may compete in the Aloha Cup if nominated for their Team.
  - A Team Official may only compete if they are also registered as an athlete or a reserve athlete.

- A team must have a full list of team members at registration to compete.
  - A team may compete with an incomplete roster if it's withdrawals are due to illness or injury after registration. Other possibilities for withdrawal must be approved by the Technical Director/Contest Director. The team will only receive points for the athletes that compete and the withdrawals will receive zero points as their scores.
- ii. Four surfers per team heat will compete in each heat.
  - iii. Each surfer must commence from behind a designated start line / area near the shoreline.
  - iv. The team order of surfing cannot be changed once submitted at check-in time. A surfer may only surf once.
  - v. Each surfer can catch a maximum of three (3) waves. The Technical Director / Contest Director will decide if the format used will be best one wave, best two waves, or all three waves to count towards the team total score. When a surfer has finished their wave(s), they return to the shore, make contact with the designated beach marker, and release the next surfer to enter the lineup.
  - vi. Surfers can only enter the water once to take their rides. If a surfer has a failure of equipment at any point in the match, they can return to the beach to secure new equipment and then continue the heat as long as they do not alter the original team order. Likewise they may also return to the beach and complete their turn by crossing into their team box. Any unridden waves will count as zero points (depending on the format of best one wave, best two waves, or all three waves).
  - vii. Team surfer must make physical contact with the beach marker to release the next team surfer.
  - viii. Heat length will be forty to sixty (40- 60) minutes. (This may be altered at the discretion of the Contest Director).
  - ix. The priority system and rules may be used and will be decided by the Technical Director.
  - x. Match final results will be calculated by the scoring computer.
  - xi. As per ISA Interference Rules (refer to Chapter 1, Section 2.D):  
In the event of a non-priority or priority interference, the interfered surfer will be allowed an extra wave within the heat time period. Only the surfer who has had their scoring potential hindered may ride the extra wave and it must not alter the original team order. In the case of a double interference neither surfer will receive an extra wave.
  - xii. Surfers may release their board above the water's edge when returning to the beach marker / finish line. The water's edge is an approximate line and the aim of this rule is to ensure surfers are not tripping over the surfboards going into and out of the box simultaneously, creating a risk management issue.
  - xiii. All team members are required to stay within the team box wearing the contest vest for the duration of each heat in which that team is surfing, unless under extreme conditions as decided by the Contest Director. Team boxes should be enlarged to accommodate all team members.
  - xiv. Penalties
    - Surfer leaves the box before the siren or during the heat. To be penalized under this rule a team member must be clearly outside the box with both feet on the sand. 5-point penalty
    - Surfer tags outside of the box. Exiting surfer must be grounded totally inside the box. 5-point penalty
    - Surfer tagging does not make contact with next surfer (or designated marker). 5-point penalty
    - Surfer competes out of nominated order. 5-point penalty
    - Team surfer surfs in his place and then substitutes for another team member (surfs twice) - TEAM DISQUALIFICATION
    - Surfer catches more than official wave limit - 5-point penalty for each extra wave and extra wave is not scored (excluding an interference where the interfered athlete is allowed an extra wave)

- Non-priority or Priority Interference, the interfered surfer will be allowed an extra wave within the heat time period. Only the surfer who has had their scoring potential hindered may ride the extra wave and it must not alter the original team order. In the case of a double interference neither surfer will receive an extra wave.
  - 5-point penalty and the wave ridden during interference is scored as zero points
  - Non completion (i.e. of required number of scoring waves) within time of heat. 5-point penalty
  - Surfer removes his official contest vest during event. 5-point penalty
- xv. If a majority of the Judges determine that an interference was intentional, the interfering Surfer and Team will be Disqualified from the Aloha Cup. In addition to disqualification and depending on Serious Unsportsmanlike Conduct, the athlete and team may be subject to further penalties as well as potential Disqualification from the Event and Suspension from future ISA events.

#### x. ISA WORLD BODYBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP

##### a. Team Size

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| i. Open Men         | 2 |
| ii. Open Women      | 2 |
| iii. U18 Junior Boy | 1 |
| iv. U18 Junior Girl | 1 |
| v. Drop Knee Open   | 1 |

##### b. Special rules and requirements

- i. Refer to the Official Event Information
- ii. Alternates, Team Officials and Team Supporters at the discretion of team management

#### xi. ISA WORLD TANDEM CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. **Team Size:** Refer to Official Event Information
- b. **Special rules and requirements:** Refer to Official Event Information.

#### xii. ISA WORLD KNEEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. **Team Size:** Individual entry through Official Entry Form.
- b. **Special rules and requirements:** Refer to Official Event Information

### D. Competition Rules

#### i. Competition Clothing and Equipment

During ISA Events all registered team members must wear a uniform that clearly identifies their national team representation. The National Federation (NF) is allowed to prescribe team uniforms which can include all items worn with the exception of specialized competition clothing and equipment.

The ISA acknowledges that items worn in the water have an impact on performance and therefore, deems the following items as forms of specialized competition clothing and equipment:

##### Specialized Competition Clothing:

- Bathing suit top
- Brief/bathing suit bottom
- Boardshort
- One-piece wetsuit
- Wetsuit top

Watch

**Specialized Competition Equipment:**

Surfboard  
Leash  
Deck Pad  
Fins  
Helmet  
Ear plugs  
Wax  
Sunscreen

**Athletes shall have the independent ability to select their specialized competition equipment. For specialized competition clothing, the NF shall work directly with the athletes to adopt solutions that are suitable for the best conditions and performance of the athletes.**

**No item of competition clothing or equipment may feature the wording or lyrics from national anthems, motivational words, public/ political messaging or slogans related to national identity.**

**ii. Equipment specifications**

- i. National Flag Stickers: Each competitor is required to have two National Flag stickers on the top 1/3 of their board at all times: one on the deck and one on the bottom. Each National Team is responsible for providing their own stickers, the ISA does not provide these.
- ii. ISA Competitor Stickers: Each competitor is required to have two ISA Competitor stickers on the top 1/3 of their board at all times: one on the deck and one on the bottom. The ISA Competitor Stickers will be provided at the Beach Marshall area prior to and during the event
- iii. Surfboard Design: **Unlimited.**
- iv. LONGBOARD Design: Length is a minimum of 9 feet from the tip of the **nose, to the end of the tail** in a straight horizontal line along its deck. The width dimensions to be a minimum aggregate of 47 inches. That is the total of the width at the widest point, plus the width 12 inches up from the tail and the width 12 inches back from the nose.
- v. SUP Design for Surfing: No length or aggregate dimensions apply. In the spirit of traditional surfing, no structural device to maintain foot contact with the board is allowed. **[SUP and Paddleboard Racing Rules below].**
- vi. SUP Race: 14' length maximum
- vii. SUP Paddleboard: 12' length maximum
- viii. Kneeboard Design: **Unspecified, but must be ridden on knees.**
- ix. Bodyboard Design: Boards will be flexible and shall include some portion of soft exterior skin, shall not exceed 5 feet in length and the use of fins is optional.
- x. **Method of measurement of straight-line length: Two methods may be applied.**
  1. Two blocks must be placed exactly 9, 12.5, or 14 feet apart on a flat surface. The craft is placed with deck down and must exceed the length between the blocks or exactly fit in contact with both blocks at either end of its length.
  2. A tape may be used by pulling it tight and stretching it between the nose and the tail on the deck. The curve of the rail at each end must be taken into account in the length. If a swallowtail board, then the mid-point between the two is used as the "notional end" of the board.

**At ISA events, measurement method 1 [above] will be used and all intending competitors are strongly advised to check their equipment by this method in advance.**

- xi. Any additions to the original equipment to meet specifications must completely follow the continuous contour of the adjacent rail and the craft itself must be of accepted

design shape for longboard, paddleboard, or SUP raceboard. Any increase must be made in rigid material and in harmony with the shape. Commercially available nose guards are considered in the measurement.

### **iii. Heat Interruption and Suspension**

- a. In the event of any heat having to be stopped due to the occurrence, or potential occurrence, of an extremely dangerous situation as decided by the ISA Head Judge and Technical Director (or their designated representative), the following procedures are to be adopted:
  - i. Head Judge to stop heat, announcer to communicate with surfers, start continuous horn blasts, and move timing disc system to off or neutral position.
  - ii. If available, communicate with jet skis drivers to remove Surfers from the Competition Area to safety.
  - iii. When it is determined by the same event official(s) who stopped the heat that conditions are again safe, the heat will restart with the time left from when the heat was stopped unless the Head Judge deems that conditions have changed or that fair competition between the Surfers would be compromised. In these situations, the heat will restart for the full time period.
- b. If a Surfer feels they are in danger due to unforeseen circumstances like extreme weather, lightning, shark or similar risk of animal attack and they leave the water, the Head Judge may stop the heat to warn fellow heat Surfers even if the Head Judge cannot see the danger.
- c. Where an incident occurs that deems a heat may be re-surfed in accordance with a Rule of this Rule Book, the heat will be called as "under review." The relevant Surfers (as determined by the Head Judge) will be notified immediately and should a re-surf be declared, the results earned in the heat that caused the re-surf will be substituted by the re-surf heat results for official purposes.
- d. Where unforeseen circumstances occur relating to a heat, the Technical Director will consult with the Head Judge and Contest Director to determine a resolution, which may include a re-surf of the heat.
- e. The Technical Director in consultation with the Head Judge can suspend a heat (indicated by a single horn blast) at any time to review an incident that may affect the current heat situation. Upon completion of the review and a decision being made, the heat can either:
  - i. Continue from the time it was suspended; or
  - ii. Restart if the incident was deemed to affect the current heat situation. The Head Judge will consult with the Technical Director or others deemed relevant by the Head Judge at the time, and Surfers will be notified of (i) or (ii) by beach commentators.
- f. In the event of a sound system failure, the heat can be placed on hold at the discretion of the Head Judge, who will communicate with the water safety team to inform Surfers of the situation. The Head Judge will decide in its discretion whether to restart or recommence a heat once a heat has been placed on hold

### **iv. Timing & Wavecounts**

- a. Recommended heat times and wave counts: All Heats including Finals will total the best 2 waves with a maximum of up to 25 waves ridden by each surfer being decided by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge. Heats and Finals will be a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of up to 45 minutes being decided 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. ISA Technical Director, ISA Contest Director and ISA 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 Team Managers before surfers enter the water.
- d. Official timing of all heats will be done by the official Timing System and managed 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 meter square must also be used. Green to start and yellow for the last 5 minutes. A countdown timing clock may also be used to replace, or used in conjunction with the timing disc.
- 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 timing 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 official timing clock will be the indicator for heat timing and will define the start and end of the heat. The colored disc or flag along with the beach announcer will attempt to communicate to the surfers the amount of time remaining in the heat. In the case of power and/or communication failure, the heat will end when the official timing clock defines the end of the heat, and then no more rides will be scored. 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.
- l. A ride is scored by the judges when the surfer is: 1) clearly in possession of the wave, 2) with forward energy in a position to catch the wave, 3) making an attempted movement to stand with both feet on the board, and 4) their hands leave the board or the rails (rail grab maneuvers excluded).
- m. When the siren blows to signal the start or end of the heat, a ride will only be scored based on the definition of a scoring ride and if it happened within the timeframe of the heat based on the official timer in conjunction with the start of the siren.
- n. If the Contest Director wishes to use the minimum gap time between heats of 10 seconds a marshalling area in the lineup outside of the takeoff zone must be provided.
- o. Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has begun. If a heat is interrupted for any reason, it will be stopped by the head judge and will be resumed when all surfers are in as near as possible the same position at the time when the heat was stopped and will run for the remainder of the original set period.
- p. 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.
- q. If no Surfers have had a Ride after ten (10) minutes have passed in any heat of thirty (30) minutes or less or Event finals, the Head Judge may: (a) continue, with the Priority situation maintained; (b) restart, with the Priority situation continuing if it had been established; or (c) postpone and re-run the heat in their sole discretion taking into account all circumstances.
- r. If no Surfers have had a Ride after fifteen (15) minutes have passed in any heat of thirty-five (35) minutes or more (except for Event finals), the Head Judge may: (a) continue with the Priority situation maintained; (b) restart, with the Priority situation continuing if it had been established; or (c) postpone and re-run the heat in their sole discretion taking into account all circumstances.
- s. The decision to restart a heat will be made with an analysis of the conditions by the Head Judge in consultation with the technical director it may be declared that there will be no heat restarts for an event prior to the start due to time restrictions.
- t. For heat restarts a five second countdown followed by the restarting of the timer will indicate the automatic restart of the heat. If a surfer is paddling for a wave and stands up during the countdown and their hands leave the rail before the restart of the heat the heat will continue to run from its original time and no restart will be given. Beach announcer will notify the surfers as soon as possible with the heat

time.

- u. The Head Judge may declare that there will be no restart for a heat if in the Head Judge's opinion, and after consulting the Technical Director and/or judging panel, the Head Judge determines that the surfers in the heat have been missing waves, letting waves with scoring potential pass by, or putting themselves out of position in the lineup, therefore not catching waves that had scoring opportunity.

Wave maximum may be penalized with a fine, interference, and/or disqualification if:

1. He/she rides an extra wave that clearly deprives another competitor of an available ride
2. He/she interferes with any other competitor by paddling, positioning or blocking causing hindrance of scoring potential.
3. In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct, the surfer may be disqualified from the heat, or disqualified from the event in which the surfers' team points will be zero.

#### **v. Contestable Surf Conditions**

- i. 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 Technical Director / Contest Director and Head Judge.

#### **vi. Start of Heat**

- i. 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 of the current heat, and the Contest Director must demarcate the marshalling area by means of a buoy or other suitable method.
- ii. 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 communicated through the Beach Marshall, and will congregate in the marshalling area, well clear of competitors in the heat in progress. Surfers may 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 fined, and/or penalized with an interference or starting the heat with last priority especially if there is confusion with the current heat in the water or an unfair advantage is gained.
- iii. In extreme conditions the Contest Director may allow extra paddle time.
- iv. If a surfer enters the water and paddles out before the designated paddle out time, the surfer may begin the heat in last priority and the surfer may be subject to a listed fine, especially if an unfair advantage is gained. In addition, if the surfer reaches the takeoff position before the other competitors, and is considered to have an unfair advantage, this surfer will not be scored for any rides until at least one other competitor has had sufficient time to reach the same area of the take-off zone. If the surfer paddles out before the designated time and proceeds to ride the first wave(s) of the heat with last priority before another surfer reaches the take-off zone, then this wave(s) will be scored as zero points. In the case where more than one competitor paddles out before the designated time, they may be subject to a fine or penalty as previously mentioned and may be given priority based on the order in which they paddle out (ie first to paddle out early receives fourth priority, next to paddle out receives third priority, etc.).

#### **vii. Unauthorised Surfers in Contest Area**

- i. The competition area as the Field of Play is defined by the area in the ocean and the beach where the heats of the event are completed. There may be more than one competition area at an event venue. The area will usually be defined by flags on the beach, buoys in the ocean, or something visible that defines and marks the boundaries of the area.
- ii. If a surfer in a heat catches a wave in the area and rides the wave outside the competition area, or a surfer catches a wave outside the area, the judges may

- score the ride, but the surfer also risks the wave not being scored or not being scored properly as it may be deemed to be outside of the competition area."
- iii. 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.
  - iv. Any surfer standing up and riding during the preceding heat may be penalized. An interference penalty and/or fine may be applicable if surfing during the prior heat results in an interference. Any waves caught before the heat begins (prior heat or gap time between heats) will not be scored and will result in starting the heat in last priority.
  - v. At the end of the heat, surfers must return to the beach in a prone position. **Any surfer standing up after their heat and riding during the next heat may be fined, disqualified (or both) depending on the severity of the interference.**

#### viii. Buffer

- i. Buffer Zone: An area of "non-competition" space to separate two podiums and their respective fields of play (Double Banks). Judges decisions regarding admissible waves in and around the buffer zone are final and not subject to appeal.
- ii. The dynamics of an event venue or the ocean conditions may change the definition of the Buffer Zone, and this will be defined and updated by the Technical Director as needed. Recommended minimum of 100 metres wide and limited by "lines of sight" between a beach flag and/or a contest buoy set adjacent in the water.
- iii. Rules of the Buffer Zone [BZ]
  - I. A ride deemed to be caught in the buffer zone **MAY** not be scored
  - II. A surfer may only catch a wave in the direction of his/her podium from the vicinity of the BZ line or in the edge of the BZ.
  - III. Right of Way (ROW) in the BZ does not apply when considering rides from different areas.
  - IV. Right of Way (ROW) in the BZ may apply when considering rides from the same area.
  - V. Priority may be lost in the BZ under normal priority rules, but will not be allocated in the BZ as it is considered outside of the contest area.
  - VI. Any competitor crossing the BZ into the other contest area or field of play **MAY** not be scored as it is deemed to be outside the contest area. If a wave is caught completely in the wrong area then it will not be scored, and any surfing activity in the wrong area risks an interference penalty and/or a fine.
  - VII. A surfer may ride into the BZ but risks that portion of the ride not being scored properly as it is deemed to be outside of the contest area.

#### ix. Caddies for Competitors

- i. In extreme conditions water caddies may be allowed to assist surfers at the discretion of the Contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge.
- ii. A Surfer must check-in with their Caddy at the Beach Marshall prior to receiving their competition jersey and such Caddy must not be subject to any current discipline issue or order of ISA.
- iii. A Surfer's Caddy (one (1) per Surfer maximum) may only enter the water in a defined marshalling area determined by the Contest Director and the Head Judge.
- iv. If the Caddy (1) rides a wave or (2) interferes with the other Surfers in any way, in the opinion of the judging panel, the Surfer for whom they are caddying will be fined per wave. An interference penalty will also be levied on the Surfer for whom they are caddying.
- v. All Caddies are subject to this Rule Book just as the Surfer they represent is, which may be enforced on the Surfer if the Caddy fails to comply with this Rule Book.
- vi. Any use of any equipment other than a surfboard (e.g., inflatable boats, water patrols' boards or jet skis, photographers' craft or previous or current heat Surfers' or other Caddies' surfboards) will be deemed Outside Assistance and the Surfer will be disqualified from the remainder of the heat. If the surfer re-enters the Competition Area and Rides an extra wave, or interferes with any other Surfer by paddling or

positioning, a fine, interference and/or event disqualification may also be considered. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the water patrol determines that a Surfer is in a life threatening situation, the water patrol may remove the Surfer from the impact zone and place the Surfer in a safe place, no closer to the Primary Take-Off Zone, from where the Surfer may continue their heat.

- vii. During the heat if a surfer chooses to run up the beach or point to return to the lineup, they must do so without any outside assistance which includes carrying their own surfboard.
- viii. Caddies who have passed on their board to the Surfer they are caddying for can obtain use of the PWC, if being used and available, to transport them to a lost surfboard or the beach. If they are taken to the lost surfboard, they can transport it back to the caddy marshalling area; however, if they are transported to the beach, they must paddle back to the defined marshalling area for Caddies.
- ix. If a Surfer has elected to have no Caddy, they must return to the beach, boat, or buoy holding their extra surfboards to make the changeover. At the end of the heat, the surfer must remove their extra surfboards from the buoy or boat if applicable.
- x. If a surfer receives any unauthorized outside assistance prior to the start of the heat, the surfer may begin the heat with last priority and/or may not be scored if they ride the first wave of the heat, depending on the degree of advantage gained. The exact penalty shall be based on the circumstances of the situation.
- xi. Caddies and third party persons, such as coaches and team members, may:
  - 1. Recover a loose board from the edge of the field of play without entering the water. They may place the loose board, or another board, at a point on the tidal line of the beach or water's edge at any location for the surfer to collect it.
  - 2. Secure equipment on the beach such as a surfboard, fins, leash (or water) and help the competitor to change the equipment in order to continue the heat.
  - 3. Verbally communicate with their athlete(s) during the heat only from the marshalling buoy in the lineup or from the beach.
  - 4. NOT take any action that provides an advantage or potential advantage over another surfer in the heat.
- xii. Surfers must make their own way to the Primary Take-Off Zone under their own power before and during the heat, without assistance in any way other than as permitted for the event by a PWC or caddie in accordance with this Rule Book. Any unauthorized violation will be considered outside assistance, and will be penalized with a fine and/or disqualification from the remainder of the heat based on any unfair advantage that was created by the situation.
- xiii. The Head Judge may set special parameters during an Event for all Caddies to adhere to strictly in relation to the behavior of the venue and this Rule Book.
- xiv. Penalties:
  - 1. If a third party person gives equipment to a competitor within the field of play, and it is clear the surfer received NO advantage due to this action, then a fine may be applied.
- xv. If a third party person gives equipment to a competitor within the field of play, and the HJ decides the surfer had an advantage over another surfer in the heat, a fine and/or disqualification from the remainder of the heat may be issued , plus the possibility of an interference and/or disqualification from the event depending on the severity of the situation.

## **x. Protest**

- i. 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 directly attributable to an officiating error, tabulating errors, missed wave, 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 by the Team Manager, Team Coach, or Athlete and must be submitted to the Contest Director by the Team Manager or Team Coach within 30 minutes of the official heat results being released.
- ii. 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.

- iii. NOTE: No protest can be lodged against a judging (scoring) decision. Wave scores of the judges are irrevocable. No Head Judge, Scoring Judge, or Priority Judge is to be approached over a score, a decision or the results. If so, a penalty may be imposed by the Contest Director on the individual or team involved.
- iv. Post event, official written documentation on behalf of Team Management may be submitted by NFs to the ISA Technical Committee, explaining disagreement with particular scoring decisions. This will be reviewed for use in future judging training and a reply made to the NF within 21 days.
- v. No third party photos/videos shall be admissible for a protest. Only ISA Official photos/videos shall be admissible.

## **xi. Water Photographers**

- i. 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, preferably in different areas of the field of play, 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.
- ii. **Only sanctioned water photographers will be allowed in the water at ISA events. This access is to be approved and controlled by the Head Judge and the Contest Director.**

## **xii. Announcements**

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

## **xiii. Competition Facilities**

- a. All events must have a well-secured sizeable competitor's area that is clearly designated as a "Non-smoking" area.
- b. The area will be available for competitors and team officials only.
- c. It is recommended that the event supply a training area on the field of play for competing surfers one hour before the start of the day and after the day of competition for competitors only.
- d. Where applicable, parking passes should be made available to Team Management.
- e. Written information on accommodation and transport services relevant to the tournament

- should be provided.
- 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.
- h. A secured surfer's storage and preparation area should be provided. Only competitors are permitted in this area. No guests, media, etc.

**xiv. Event Formats**

- i. Heats will be made up of a maximum of 4 surfers except in the first round and repechage rounds of any contest where heats of five (5) surfers may be surfed if circumstances so dictate. A minimum of 50% of the surfers in a round will advance to the following round.
- ii. 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 repechage round is held after the first round).
- iii. Single Elimination format advances a minimum of 50% of the athletes in a heat to the next round. The winners of the heat advance, and the losers are eliminated from the competition.
- iv. Double Elimination format uses a Main (or Qualifying) Round and a Repechage Round.
  - I. A minimum of 50% of athletes in a heat will advance to the next round.
  - II. In the Main Round the surfers who advance in the top 2 places (first and second place) continue to the next Main Round, and the surfers who place in the bottom 2 places (third and fourth place) go to the Repechage Round.
  - III. In the Repechage Round the surfers who advance in the top 2 places (first and second place) continue to the next Repechage Round, and the surfers who place in the bottom 2 places (third and fourth place) are eliminated from the competition.
  - IV. In the final round of the event called The Grand Final, the overall top 2 surfers from the Main Rounds will compete against the overall top 2 surfers from the Repechage Round. This will determine the final result of the event.
- v. In a double elimination contest, if the original schedule is not possible to complete, the rules are as follows:
  - i. 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 repechage 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 repechage
  - ii. 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 repechage will be allocated half points.
  - iii. Postponement of the competition beyond its original schedule will only be possible with the approval of the organizers, sponsors, and a 75% majority of the teams, which still have at least one athlete competing.

**ISA OFFICIAL TEAM POINTS ALLOCATION TABLE**

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
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1	1000	46	255
2	860	47	250
3	730	48	245
4	670	49	240
5	610	50	235
6	583	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

**xv. Beach Announcer Protocol**

- a. During the heat, the announcer should not announce the score needed by a particular surfer once that competitor has begun paddling to takeoff on a wave. Situations [wave scores to progress and heat ranking, etc] can only be announced when surfers concerned are NOT riding waves. This

approach must be a priority of the Beach Announcer.

- 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 and situations must be given throughout the whole heat.
- 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.
- 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.
  - v. All results/scores provided by Announcers/Officials at the end of each heat are “provisional and unofficial” until all transcription of the scores from the judges’ sheet to computer have been checked to identify possible typing input errors. 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.

#### xvi. **Contest Singlet/Vest**

- a. 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.
- b. **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.**
- c. 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 ISA sanctioned event.

#### xvii. **Leash / Legrope Policy**

- a. As a risk management precaution, and subject to the ISA Technical Director’s approval, the ISA has a mandatory leash / legrope policy at events, due to the potential risk to other participants. All contestants are to use a leash / legrope while competing or practicing within the confines of the contest site and / or any area under the jurisdiction of the contest administration. Leashes / legropes are to be of any types that are commercially available.
- b. **Free surfing with or without a leash is at the rider’s discretion however the ISA recommends the use of a leash if there is a possible danger to third parties.**

#### xviii. **Mechanical / Electronic Communication Devices**

- a. The ISA prohibits any mechanical / electronic audio communication device, (including megaphones) that links a competitor in the action of competing with another party during ISA competitive events.

#### xix. **Personal Personal Watercraft (PWC) Guidelines**

- a. Unless the event is of such nature that PWC may be used to assist surfers to reach the field of play and this has been approved by the ISA and the Technical Director prior to the start of an event, any use of outside craft (jet ski, boat, water patrol board, photographer’s boards, etc) will be deemed Outside Assistance in accordance with the Infringements and Penalties of this Rulebook. A fine, interference, and/or Disqualification from the remainder of the heat may be applied if a surfer, after using one of them, re-enters 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 removes the surfer from the field of play for the remainder of the heat, or in special circumstances 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.
- b. Use of PWC: Some ISA and Olympic Events have the option to allow the use of PWC assistance during an Event under the following approved guidelines as decided by the International Surfing Association.
  - c. Guidelines for PWC Use:
    - i. Event insurance must cover PWC in case of accidents involving pilots, athletes, and the general public.
    - ii. PWC will be allowed under the following conditions:
      1. Extreme surf conditions
      2. Long paddle back to line-up
      3. Safety reasons
      4. When the wake will not cause adverse damage to the waves.
    - iii. The decision on the use of PWCs will be made by a majority vote of the Technical Director, Contest Director, Head Judge, Surfer Representative, and Executive Director (or their representative).
    - iv. The direction they are to use to get back to the line-up will be determined at the Event by the Technical Director and pilot's team leader with the route causing the least wake in the Primary Take-Off Zone.
    - v. The line-up drop-off point is to be decided by the Technical Director on the day depending on surf conditions and will be preferably wide or outside of the Primary Take-Off Zone with a buoy to mark the position. The maximum paddle time from the line-up drop-off point to the Primary Take-Off Zone should be no less than thirty (30) seconds.
    - vi. The inside pick-up point is to be decided by the Technical Director on the day depending on surf conditions. It will be located near the end of the wave or set zone within the Competition Area, and the PWC will sit in deep water and move in as the Surfer exits a wave. If a Surfer fails to meet the PWC at the inside pick-up point, the PWC cannot move up the line-up to get them. They must wait for the Surfer to paddle to the inside pick-up position unless a Surfer's safety is at risk. If a pilot acts contrary to this Rule, they are subject to disciplinary action.
  - d. Qualified Pilots: ISA will supply the Event with a list of qualified PWC pilots in accordance with the PWC safety management plan. There will be two (2) lists of names
    - i. The first list will be comprised of a select group from which one (1) must be selected and used as the Team Leader and decision maker.
    - ii. The second list will be comprised of all other authorized pilots from which the remainder of the pilots to be used must be chosen. All pilots must have CPR skills, tow in/out experience and hold any required permits, licenses or certifications required by the rules and regulations governing the location of the Event. The PWC pilots must provide evidence of all required permits, licenses, or certifications prior to working at an Event.
    - iii. If ISA does not have an active PWC safety management plan at any time, the obligation to provide qualified PWC pilots will fall on the Event licensee/organizer.
  - e. Priority: The allocation of Priority when two (2) riders are being transported at the same time will be decided by the Priority Judge after considering both pick-ups and drop-offs. PWCs cannot overtake each other at any time when returning a Surfer to the line-up drop-off point.
  - f. Head Judge Authority with respect to PWC
    - i. The ISA Head Judge may place a heat on hold due to unforeseen circumstances. If a Surfer is injured by a PWC during a heat, the heat can be put on hold while the Surfer receives medical attention. Once the medical attention is completed, the heat will be restarted with the remaining available time in the heat.
    - ii. If the Head Judge determines that priority is affected by either the PWC pilot's capacity or mechanical problems, priority will be allocated as the Head Judge deems fit.
    - iii. The Technical Director will determine at the start of each day of competition if PWC assistance is permitted to transport the Surfers from where they have lost their surfboard to the marshalling area or the beach as directed (while safety concerns for any Surfer remain paramount).
  - g. General

- i. Where only one (1) PWC is available, use of PWC assist will be suspended until such time as both PWCs are back in use, or until the Head Judge consults with the Technical Director and they have decided that it is suitable to allow the one (1) PWC to operate.
- ii. Two-way radio communication between all PWC pilots and Head Judge must be available at all times.
- iii. Caddies that have given their board to the Surfer they are caddying for can obtain use of the Surfer's PWC, if not being used and it's available, to transport them to the lost surfboard or the beach. If they are taken to the lost surfboard on the Field of Play, they can be transported back to the marshalling area, however if they are transported to the beach, they must paddle back unassisted to the defined marshalling area for Caddies.
- iv. If PWC assistance is used by any Surfer with priority, they automatically lose that priority.

## **xx. Judging**

### **a. Introduction: Judging panel protocols and Rosters**

- i. Where practicable not more than one Scoring Judge from any given country is to be on any given heat at the same time. This does not include the Head Judge or the Priority Judge of each podium. The Head Judge will manage this situation.
- ii. Where two podiums operate during the event, the judging panel must be rotated between podiums and also its makeup must periodically be varied, but still balanced with experience. No panels or locations are to be constant during ISA events. This is the responsibility of the Head Judge and Contest Director.
- iii. The podium / event Head Judge[s] responsibility is to manage the judging panel selected by the ISA and maximize its performance. To this end recommendations can be made over performance matters involving judges, but the final decision on the makeup of the panel at any particular time stands with the ISA Technical Committee, Contest Director and the event Technical Director. The Head Judge will individually mentor judges in areas of identified weaknesses, will work with the panel to set the heat's scaling waves at the beginning of heats, will manage the video replay system for the judges, will describe waves if required in terms of general categories [poor, fair, average, good, excellent] after wave scores are final, will complete missed waves, and will manage the general conduct of the judging process on their podium. All actions in this area by the Head Judge will be monitored by the ISA Contest Director.
- iv. Technical Director or Contest Director and Head Judges are responsible for selecting the appropriate judging panel for finals events.
- v. Video and Replay: A video service with replay will be provided for ISA major events. This service will include a cameraman with experience and software able to nominate, find and replay any wave at any time. An LCD or Plasma Screen will be available in a position that all the judges and HJ can see for reference as required. This set up will be operated in BOTH podiums.
- vi. Daily Judges Meetings post contest: Every day, after the last heat, the HJ will conduct a small meeting replaying and commenting on the waves and situations that occurred during the day. Open discussion of the daily judging performance at this time will highlight comparisons, standards, criteria and process to be followed for the next day's heats. Attendance at such meetings is mandatory for all Head Judges, Judges, Technical Director and Contest Director unless special circumstances for non-attendance exist.

#### Management of the Panel by the HEAD JUDGE

- To set up a meeting of the Judges on the day before the event begins.
- This should be done in consultation with the Technical Director, Contest Director and Host Country. Such a meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, education, standardization of procedures and methods, and open communication. 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 on each respective podium, and then conclude the day with a

review meeting immediately after the final heat. These meetings are chaired by the podium head judge and are aimed specifically at performance and critical onsite processes for the judges.

- Judges whose ability and performance is found to be compromised or 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.
- The Head Judge will organize the Judges into Judging Panels rotating them through a judging roster so that Judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.
- The Head Judge will frequently evaluate the Judges' sheets and will identify those Judges who do not maintain an acceptable judging standard including the evaluation of interferences. He will report these Judges to the Contest Director in the case that further action must be taken.
- While heats are in progress the Head Judge will evaluate Judges' scores to ensure the maintenance of uniform standards and consistency 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 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.
- 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 show the images from the video replay system if available, and if not available then the Head Judge will nominate the 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 the judges, but rather to coach, mentor, supervise, control and coordinate. The Head Judge is there to ensure the smooth running of each individual heat through the event.
- The Head Judge will be responsible for maintaining an equal wave count amongst the judges for each heat and ensuring that colors are adequately identified by the spotter for the judges.
- 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 responsibility is on the surfer to monitor his/her own wave count.

## **b. Judging Criteria**

### **i. Shortboarding:**

Surfers must perform to the ISA judging key elements to maximize their scoring potential. Judges analyze the following major elements when scoring a ride:

- Commitment and Degree of Difficulty
- Innovative and Progressive Maneuvers
- Combination of Major Maneuvers
- Variety of Maneuvers
- Speed, Power and Flow

NOTE: It's important to note that the emphasis of certain elements is contingent upon the location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the day.

The Following scale may be used to describe a Ride that is scored:

.1 - 1.9 = Poor

2.0 - 3.9 = Fair  
4.0 - 5.9 = Average  
6.0 - 7.9 = Good  
8.0 - 10.0 = Excellent

**ii. Longboarding:**

The Surfer must perform controlled maneuvers in the critical section of the wave utilizing the entire board and wave using traditional longboard surfing. The Surfer who performs this to the highest degree of difficulty with the most style, flow and grace will receive the highest score for a Ride.

Further to that above, the following are key elements for Judges to consider:

- Nose Riding and Rail Surfing
- Critical Section of Wave
- Variety
- Speed and Power
- Commitment
- Control
- Foot work

NOTE: It's important to note that the emphasis of certain elements is contingent upon the location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the day.

The following scale may be used to describe a Ride that is scored:

0.1 - 1.9 = Poor  
2.0 - 3.9 = Fair  
4.0 - 5.9 = Average  
6.0 - 7.9 = Good  
8.0 - 10.0 = Excellent

**iii. SUP Surfing**

Surfers must perform to the ISA judging key elements to maximize their scoring potential. Judges analyze the following major elements when scoring a ride:

- Commitment and Degree of Difficulty
- Innovative and Progressive Maneuvers
- Combination of Major Maneuvers
- Variety of Maneuvers
- Speed, Power and Flow
- Use of the Paddle to give greater degrees of leverage and thus the creation of increasingly radical moves

NOTE: It's important to note that the emphasis of certain elements is contingent upon the location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the day.

The Following scale may be used to describe a Ride that is scored:

0.1 - 1.9 = Poor  
2.0 - 3.9 = Fair  
4.0 - 5.9 = Average  
6.0 - 7.9 = Good  
8.0 - 10.0 = Excellent

**iv. Tandem**

- The female partner must weigh at least half the weight of the lifter (there is a mandatory weigh in before the competition).
- The final score will be computed regarding 3 criteria:
  - Highest scoring (most technical) LIFT performed (10 Pts)  
The "LIFT" score will be computed with respect to the best lift performed during the ride. For a lift to be considered valid it must be executed, stable, and the partner must land on the board. Stable meaning that the lift must be controlled throughout its execution.
  - Lifts SEQUENCE and artistic level (10 Pts)  
The "SEQUENCE" score will be computed with respect to the number of lifts performed during the sequence and their technical level of difficulty. Extra points may be awarded for artistic performance. In the event of a sequence, a lift will be taken into account only when the next lift is executed and stable. Stable meaning that the lift must be controlled throughout its execution. For the last lift of a sequence to be valid, it will have to be appropriately landed on the board.
  - Wave SURFING (10 Pts)  
The "SURFING" score will follow traditional surf scoring rules, with emphasis on commitment and extreme maneuvers. Extreme surfing while performing a lift will prevail over non-lift surfing.
- In order to foster diversity and innovation, identical lifts cannot be taken into account twice as best lifts (score A). Would a lift be executed several times, it would only be taken into account in the best wave, and be discarded in the others
- Give way rule stays the same as in traditional surfing. In the event of an interference, the penalized couple will have their second best score halved.
- Every session will be judged by 3 judges and 1 chief judge. Each couple may ride a maximum of 10 waves, and only the 2 highest scoring waves will be taken into account for the final score. The final score will be given out of 20 points.
- $\frac{(10\text{pts LIFT} + 10\text{pts SEQUENCE} + 10\text{pts SURFING})}{2} \times 2$  (for the 2 best waves) = final score
  - When a lift is stable but incomplete in its execution with respect to its theoretical description, it will be attributed half its completed score if the landing is valid.

#### v. Aerial Surfing

Surfers must perform to the ISA judging key elements to maximize their scoring potential. Judges analyze the following major elements when scoring a completed aerial in and Aerial Surfing event:

- Innovative and Progressive Maneuvers
- Degree of Difficulty
- Technicality
- Height / Amplitude
- Commitment
- Style
- Speed
- Power
- Control

It's important to note that the emphasis of certain elements is contingent upon the location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the day.

#### vi. Alaia Surfing

- A surfer must perform controlled manoeuvres in the critical sections of a wave, with

speed, rhythm & flow to maximise scoring potential. A variety and combination of major manoeuvres as well as drifting and sliding with control and fluid transition between manoeuvres will be taken into account when rewarding points for alai'a surfing. The surfer who executes the criteria above with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores.

### **c. Interference Rules and Priority**

#### **i. Application of Interference Rules**

- An interference penalty can only be called if a majority of the judging panel marks an interference on their judging sheet.
- The Head Judge will be able to call an interference penalty only if a majority decision could not be reached (taking into account Judges who did not see it cannot vote on the call).

**Overlapping Heats:** When Overlapping Heats are being conducted at an event:

Priority rules will apply to each individual heat. Priority

will be displayed and announced separately for each heat.

(b) The Surfers in the heat that started first ("First Heat") have unconditional priority over the Surfers in the other heat ("Second Heat"), no matter where they are in relation to the Line-up.

(c) Interference penalties will apply to each individual Heat and to any Surfer who interferes with either of the Surfers in the other Heat.

(d) If there is deliberate unsportsmanlike interference by any Surfer with either of the Surfers in the other heat, the Judges can call an interference penalty against the interfering Surfer even if the Surfer has unconditional priority. If the Judges call an interference penalty, they will take into consideration the circumstances described under interference penalties 11.17(b), 11.18, 11.19 and 11.20 to determine what Penalty to apply.

(e) If a Surfer with Priority in the Second Heat paddles alongside a Surfer in the First Heat who then catches the wave, the Second Heat Surfer will not lose their Priority.

(f) There will be no restarts.

#### **ii. Right of Way in Non-Priority Situations**

- For non-priority situations, the surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride. An interference penalty 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. Examples of interference may include excessive hassling and leash pulling. If the Judges call an interference penalty, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
- The choice of right-of-way criteria for each of the situations described within Rules regarding "Right of Way in Non-Priority Situations" is the responsibility of the Technical Director and/or Head Judge.
- Right of way in these situations will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue. Basically, it is the responsibility of each 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 with the exception of the multiple peak situation.
- If a Surfer incurs an interference penalty, they will lose priority. The Priority Judge will determine the new priority position of the Surfers in the heat.
- It's the responsibility of the Surfers to check for changes to the priority in a heat at all times

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- iii. **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.
- iv. **One Peak Situation (Reef or Beach Break):** 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 the inside surfer, in the majority of judges opinion). If neither surfer can make a definite turn to their chosen direction and collide or hinder one another, both surfers will be subjected to an interference penalty (double interference).
- v. **Multiple Peak Situation (Reef or Beach Break):** \_With multiple random peaks, the right of way may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave.
  - With two (2) peaks, there will be cases where one (1) swell will have two (2) separate, defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two (2) surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the surfer whose hands leave the board first shall be deemed to have the right of way and the second surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way surfer.
  - If two (2) surfers stand at the same time on two (2) separate peaks that eventually meet, then:
    - i. If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty.
    - ii. If they collide or hinder one another, the judges a Surfer will be penalized by the judges if either or both indicate aggression at the point of hindrance. If an interference penalty is called, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
    - iii. If neither surfer gives way by exiting the ride and both share responsibility for the confrontation, then both Surfers will receive Interference Penalty 1.
- vi. **Snaking**
  - The surfer who is farthest inside at the initial point of take-off and has established the right of way 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 an interference may be called on the second surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty was called. If an interference penalty is called, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
- vii. **Paddling Interference**
  - a. A Surfer paddling for the same wave should not excessively hinder another Surfer who has inside position.
  - b. An interference penalty may be called if:
    - i. The violating Surfer makes contact with the inside Surfer, or physically blocks the inside surfer, hindering them and resulting in the Surfer having to change their line while paddling to catch the wave causing possible loss of scoring potential.
    - ii. The violating Surfer obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside Surfer which would not normally have done so causing loss of scoring

- potential.
- iii. If an interference penalty is called, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
- c. In the event of a collision or near miss between a Surfer paddling out and a Surfer Riding a wave, which adversely impacts the scoring potential for the Surfer Riding the wave (if the majority of the Judges deem the collision/near miss occurred on a wave with no scoring impact on the current heat result then there is no interference penalty), the following applies:
  - i. If a Surfer paddling out has no ability to remove themselves from the line of a Surfer Riding a wave, then there is no interference penalty.
  - ii. If a Surfer paddling out accidentally causes a collision or near miss with the Surfer Riding a wave, it is up to a majority of the Judges to call an interference penalty. In determining whether to call an interference penalty, the Judges will consider the Surfer's safety and the Surfer's positioning/effort to avoid the situation. If an interference penalty is called, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
  - iii. If a majority of the Judges determine that the Surfer paddling out only caused the collision or near miss with the Surfer Riding a wave, then Interference Penalty 2 will be called on the Surfer paddling out.
  - iv. If a majority of the Judges determine that the Surfer Riding the wave deliberately caused a collision with a Surfer paddling out, then Interference Penalty 2 will be called on the Surfer Riding the wave. Any such interfering Surfer may be subject to additional penalties and sanctions.
- d. In the event of a collision or a near miss with the surfers paddling out for the next heat or paddling in from the previous heat which adversely impacts the scoring potential for the Surfer from the current heat riding the wave (if the Head Judge and the majority of the Judges deem the collision/near miss occurred on a wave with no scoring impact on the current heat result then there is no interference penalty or possibility of a resurf), the following applies:
  - i. If a Surfer paddling out or paddling in has no ability to remove themselves from the line of a Surfer Riding a wave then there's no penalty.
  - ii. If a Surfer paddling out or paddling in accidentally causes a collision or near miss with the Surfer riding a wave it is up to the Head Judge and the majority of the Judges to call an interference penalty and to consider the possibility for a resurf. In determining whether to call an interference penalty and to consider the possibility of a resurf, the Head Judge and the judges will consider the Surfer's safety and the Surfer's positioning/effort to avoid the situation. If an interference penalty is called, Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
  - iii. If the majority of the Judges determine that the Surfer paddling out for the next heat or paddling in from previous heat deliberately caused the collision or near miss with the Surfer Riding a wave then interference penalty 2 will be called against the surfer paddling in or out and the possibility for a resurf could be considered as well as possible unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - iv. If the majority of the Judges determine that the Surfer Riding the wave deliberately caused a collision with a Surfer paddling out for the next heat or paddling in from previous heat, then Interference Penalty 2 will be called on the Surfer Riding the wave as well as possible unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **viii. Priority System**

- The Contest Director and Head Judge have the option to conduct the event using a 2, 3, 4, or 5 surfer priority system and its associated rules as described below.

#### **a. Priority Rules**

##### **1. Right of Way using the Priority System**

- a. For heats where priority applies, the priority system will determine which Surfer has priority to a wave at that time. The Surfer with priority

has the unconditional right of way and can paddle for and Ride any wave they select. The Surfer's opponent(s) can paddle for and Ride the same wave in any direction and be scored providing they do not;

- (i) Hinder the scoring potential of the Ride for the Surfer with superior priority.
  - (ii) Cross in front of or bottom turn around the Surfer with superior priority causing a hindrance of scoring potential, regardless if the Surfer is up and Riding a wave or in the process of catching a wave
- b. If a surfer without priority does not comply with Priority section 1(a), Interference Penalty 2 will be called against them.
  - c. If a Surfer incurs an interference penalty they will lose priority. The Priority Judge will determine the new priority position of the Surfers in the heat.
  - d. It's always the responsibility of the Surfers to check for changes to the priority in a heat at all times

## **2. General Priority**

- a. Before Priority has been established, all non-priority rules apply.
- b. The Priority Judge will make any call on Priority using a colored display system corresponding to the Surfer's competition jersey colors in the water to indicate priority and may consult the judging panel for close calls. With all display systems, if vertical then order of priority will be from top to bottom and if horizontal then order will be from left to right. Once Priority has been established, it is the Surfer's responsibility to check the priority system for their priority position at all times.
- c. Wave priority is lost as soon as a Surfer rides a wave or makes a committed paddle to catch a wave and misses the wave.
- d. Loss of priority through Rule 2(c) will not apply in heats with more than two (2) surfers if the surfer is:
  - i. Paddling alongside a Surfer with higher Priority, who then catches the wave.
  - ii. They are blocked by a Surfer with higher Priority by paddling or positioning.
- e. If a Surfer inside has second or third priority and their opponent paddles for, but misses a wave, the inside Surfer automatically assumes the higher priority. Therefore, if they also paddle for, but miss the wave, then they have also lost priority. That is, both Surfers have then lost priority even though only one (1) wave has passed and there was not sufficient time to change the priority.

## **3. "Blocking Rule" in Non-Priority Situations**

For all Events with a Priority Judge, a Surfer with the inside position will be allocated lowest priority applicable at the time if they:

- i. Make a committed paddle for a wave and block a Surfer from catching that wave;
- ii. Position themselves in the take-off zone and block another Surfer from catching a wave.

## **4. Excessive Hassling in Non-Priority Situations**

For all Events with a Priority Judge, in the opinion of the Priority and Head Judge, if a Surfer excessively hassles, blocks or hinders another Surfer from paddling in the line-up they will be allocated lowest Priority applicable at the time. If the behavior is aggressive or unsportsmanlike then an Interference Penalty 1 may also be called. The Surfer may also be subject to additional sanctions (Unsportsmanlike Conduct).

## **5. "Blocking Rule" in Priority Situations: The Priority Surfer will lose priority**

if in the opinion of the Head Judge or Priority Judge they:

- i. Paddle in front of the non-Priority Surfer to deliberately impede them from catching a wave.
- ii. Position themselves in the take-off zone to prevent another Surfer from catching a wave.
- iii. Use their priority by either paddling for or taking off on a wave to block their opponent when the Surfer with priority appears to have had no intention to score. In this situation, priority can be awarded regardless of which Surfer reaches the take-off zone first after the Ride.

## 6. Special Circumstances in Priority Situations

- a. Priority Suspension: If a Surfer with superior priority paddles outside the Primary Take-off Zone (including if they sit on the inside position), the Surfer will have their Priority suspended until they re-enter the Primary Take-off Zone. If the Surfer does not re-enter the Primary Take-off Zone, they will no longer be the Priority Surfer. The Priority Judge will determine the Surfer's new priority position in the heat. All attempts will be made to verbally announce to the Priority Surfer as they start to leave the Primary Take-off Zone by a verbal warning via the PA system. Surfers should not rely on the verbal warnings and should always confirm priority by viewing the Priority Disc for the Event.
- b. An Interference Penalty 2 (Or penalty 3) will be called individually by the Head Judge only if the majority of the judging panel do not see the incident.
- c. In all cases where a dispute results from a decision or a malfunction of the priority system, the ISA will consult with the Technical Director and Head Judge to determine a resolution, which may include a re-surf.
- d. Allocation is based on who the Priority Judge believes has reached the Primary Take Off Zone first. The Primary Take Off Zone is defined by the Priority Judge and may change with conditions. In cases where Surfers appear to reach the Primary Take-Off Zone at the same time, priority will go to the Surfer who did not have the last priority.
- e. Once a heat has ended all priority ceases. If a Surfer is Riding on a wave as the heat ends, they can't be interfered with by any Surfer (even if that Surfer had higher priority before the heat ended). If an interference occurs, an Interference Penalty 2 or Penalty 3 will be called.
- f. When there is Personal Water Craft assistance, the allocation of Priority when Surfers are being transported at the same time will be decided by the Priority Judge after taking into account both pick-ups and drop-offs. PWCs cannot overtake each other at any time when returning a Surfer to the line-up.
- g. If the Head Judge or Priority Judge determines that priority is affected by either the PWC pilot's capacity or mechanical problems in a certain situation, priority will be allocated as the Head Judge or Priority Judge deems appropriate.
- h. If any unauthorized PWC assistance is used by any Surfer, they automatically move to lowest priority if PWC are being used. If PWC are not being used, the surfer will be fined, receive and interference, and/or disqualified if deemed outside assistance.
- i. When a Surfer Rides a wave prior to a heat start, that Surfer takes the lowest priority position in their heat once it has begun and retains it after any restart.
- j. In the discretion of the Priority Judge, if a Surfer's equipment is damaged and they actively make their way to their replacement equipment (including catching a wave in prone position or use of a PWC for Surfer safety) or when a Surfer gets washed out of the

Primary Take-Off Zone by a set:

- (i) the Surfer's priority is suspended, indicated by the Surfer having "No Priority"; and
- (ii) the Surfer's priority position (1st, 2nd, etc.) they had when they were in the Primary Take-Off Zone can be reinstated once they return to the Primary Take-Off Zone.

#### **7. Two (2)-Surfer Heat Priority**

Two (2) surfer Heat priority works in the following manner, subject to section c(3) and section c(6.i):

- a. At the start of a heat once the first wave has been ridden, the second Surfer gets automatic priority for any other wave they choose, unless the Surfer Rides the wave before the heat starts (refer to section 6(i)) or if the Surfer is not in the Competition Area before the heat start.
- b. If a Surfer with second priority paddles for and misses a wave they will not lose their priority position unless (i) their hands left the board, as they attempted to stand or they paddled outside the Primary Take-Off Zone, as determined by the Priority Judge and (ii) the Surfer with first priority Rides a wave and returns to the Primary Take-Off Zone before the Surfer with second priority.
- c. Allocation is based on who the Priority Judge believes has reached the Primary Take off Zone first. In cases where Surfers appear to reach the line-up at the same time, priority will go to the Surfer who did not have the last priority.
- d. If a Surfer is not in the Primary Take-Off Zone when the heat starts and arrives late, priority will be allocated to the other Surfer at the discretion of the Priority Judge.

#### **8. Three (3)-Surfer Heat Priority:** Three (3)-Surfer Heat priority works in the following manner, subject to section c(3) and c(6.i):

- a. The first Surfer to Ride a wave then receives third priority (First Surfer) when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone.
- b. The remaining two surfers in the heat have priority over the First Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until one of them catches a wave (Second Surfer).
- c. Once the Second Surfer catches a wave, the initial heat priority order is established:
  - i. The Surfer yet to catch a wave receives first priority; and
  - ii. the remaining Surfers will receive priority in the order they return to the Primary Takeoff Zone.
  - iii. The Surfer with first priority has priority over both surfers. The Surfer with second priority only has priority over the Surfer with third priority.
  - iv. If a Surfer is not in the Primary Take-Off Zone when the heat starts and arrives late, the Surfer will be allocated the appropriate priority position as determined by the Priority Judge at the time when the Surfer reaches the Primary Take Off Zone.
  - v. If a Surfer with third priority paddles for and misses a wave they will not lose their priority position unless (i) their hands left the board, as they attempted to stand or (ii) they paddled outside the Primary Take-Off Zone, as determined by the Priority Judge.

#### **9. Four (4)-Surfer Heat Priority:** Four (4)-Surfer Heat priority works in the following manner, subject to section c(3) and c(6.i):

- a. The first Surfer to Ride a wave then receives fourth priority (First

- Surfer) when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone.
- b. The remaining three surfers in the heat have priority over the First Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until the next Surfer catches a wave (Second Surfer).
- c. The remaining two surfers in the heat have priority over the First and Second Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until one (1) of those Surfers catches a wave (Third Surfer).
- d. Once the Third Surfer catches a wave, the initial heat priority order is established:
  - i. The Surfer yet to catch a wave receives first priority; and
  - ii. The remaining Surfers will receive priority in the order they return to the Primary Take-Off Zone.
  - iii. The Surfer with first priority has priority over all other Surfers. The Surfer with second priority only has priority over the Surfers with third and fourth priority. The Surfer with third priority only has priority over the Surfer with fourth priority.
- e. If a Surfer is not in the Primary Take Off Zone when the heat starts and arrives late, the Surfer will be allocated the appropriate priority position as determined by the Priority Judge at the time when the Surfer reaches the Primary Take Off Zone.
- f. If a Surfer with fourth priority paddles for and misses a wave they will not lose their priority position unless (i) their hands left the board, as they attempted to stand or (ii) they paddled outside the Primary Take-Off Zone, as determined by the Priority Judge.

**10. Five (5)-Surfer Heat Priority:** Five (5)-Surfer Heat priority works in the following manner, subject to section c(3) and c(6.i):

- a. The first Surfer to Ride a wave then receives fifth priority (First Surfer) when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone..
- b. The remaining four surfers in the heat have priority over the First Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until the next Surfer catches a wave (Second Surfer).
- c. The remaining three surfers in the heat have priority over the First and Second Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until the next Surfer catches a wave (Third Surfer).
- d. The remaining two surfers in the heat have priority over the First, Second, and Third Surfer and may paddle for waves without losing this priority until one (1) of those Surfers catches a wave (Fourth Surfer).
- e. Once the Fourth Surfer catches a wave, the initial heat priority order is established:
  - i. The Surfer yet to catch a wave receives first priority; and
  - ii. The remaining Surfers will receive priority in the order they return to the Primary Take-Off Zone.
  - iii. The Surfer with first priority has priority over all other Surfers. The Surfer with second priority only has priority over the Surfers with third, fourth, and fifth priority. The Surfer with third priority only has priority over the Surfers with fourth and fifth priority. The Surfer with fourth priority only has priority over the Surfer with fifth priority.
- f. If a Surfer is not in the Primary Take Off Zone when the heat starts and arrives late, the Surfer will be allocated the appropriate priority position as determined by the Priority Judge at the time when the Surfer reaches the Primary Take Off Zone.
- g. If a Surfer with fifth priority paddles for and misses a wave they will not lose their priority position unless (i) their hands left the board, as they attempted to stand or (ii) they paddled outside

the Primary Take-Off Zone, as determined by the Priority Judge.

## 11. Interference Penalties

- a. Interference Penalties will be as follows:
  - i. Interference Penalty 1: The value of the interfering Surfer's second highest scoring Ride will be halved.
  - ii. Interference Penalty 2: The interfering Surfer's second highest scoring Ride will tally as a zero.
  - iii. Interference Penalty 3: The interfering Surfer's highest scoring Ride will tally as a zero.
  - iv. Disqualification: The Surfer will be disqualified from the Heat.
- b. In non-priority situations when an interference is called on a Surfer, then Interference Penalty 1 will apply.
- c. In priority situations when an interference is called on a Surfer, then Interference Penalty 2 will apply.
- d. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in ISA WSG and Olympic related Events only, if there is an interference (e.g., by dropping in, paddling, blocking) that prevents a Surfer from performing on a potential scoring Ride (i.e., a Ride that the Judges determine could have resulted in one or the Surfer's two highest scoring Rides) in the final five (5) minutes of a heat, then Interference Penalty 3 will apply. For the avoidance of doubt, an Interference Penalty 3 does not mean an automatic violation of Unsportsmanlike Conduct. If a majority of the Judges determine that the interference during the final five (5) minutes was intentional, the interfering Surfer will be Disqualified.
- e. When an interference is called on a Surfer while paddling to catch a wave or while riding a wave, the Ride will be scored zero. Judges must still score the ride, but if an Interference is applied by the majority of the judges then the ride becomes zero points.
- f. A riding interference will be shown on the judge's sheet as a triangle placed around the interfering score with an arrow drawn to the rider's score where they were interfered.
- g. A paddling interference will be shown on the judge's sheet as a triangle placed on the line between the waves where the interference occurred, or above the score if the wave is ridden, with an arrow drawn to the rider's score (or line) where they were interfered.
- h. Any surfer who has caught their wave maximum, 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 will receive an Interference. The Interference Penalty applied will vary depending on the situation. Interference Penalty 1 will be applied if it involves a non-priority situation, Interference Penalty 2 if it involves a priority situation, or Interference Penalty 3 may also be applied depending on the circumstances within the heat in relation to Rule 11(d). Further penalties and sanctions may also apply.
- i. An interference call will be announced by the Beach Announcer only once approval has been received from the Head Judge or Contest Director.
- j. Any interfering Surfer must be penalized and once an interference decision is made, it can only be modified by the Head Judge if they deem the decision was made relying on inaccurate technology (video/audio). The Judges will not enter into any discussion over the interference call.
- k. In non-priority heats, the Surfer who is interfered with will be allowed an additional wave beyond their wave maximum, within the prescribed time limit. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, if

there is a double interference called, 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 interference.

- I. Where any Surfer incurs two (2) interferences they must immediately leave the Competition Area (failure to do so will result in a penalty in accordance with this Rule Book), furthermore:
  - i. If both interferences are in a non-priority situation then Interference Penalty 1 will apply to the highest and second highest scoring rides.
  - ii. If one interference is in a non-priority situation and the other in a priority situation, regardless of the order, then Interference Penalty 1 will apply to the Surfer's highest scoring Ride and Interference Penalty 2 will apply to the second highest scoring Ride.
  - iii. If both interference penalties are in a priority situation, or one of the penalties is in the last 5 minutes of the heat in a WSG or Olympic event, then the Surfer will be disqualified from the heat.
- m. If neither Surfer in an interference situation has established priority over the other Surfer involved, then Interference Penalty 1 will apply regardless of whether the other Surfers in the heat (not involved in the interference situation) hold priority or not. This rule will be applied to one-on-one, three (3)-Surfer, four (4)-Surfer, and five (5)-Surfer heats.

## **12. Excessive Hassling in Priority situations**

- a. In the opinion of the Priority and Head Judge, if a Surfer excessively hassles another Surfer who has Priority, in an unsportsmanlike manner, an Interference Penalty 2 can be called against the interfering Surfer.
- b. Using Priority: In the opinion of the Priority or Head Judge, if a Surfer utilizes their priority in an unsportsmanlike manner to intentionally block another Surfer with lower or no Priority outside of the Primary Take-off Zone, an Interference Penalty 2 can be called against the interfering Surfer.

**13. Serious Unsportsmanlike Interference:** If the Technical Director and the Head Judge determine that an interference during an Event was intentional or unsportsmanlike and results in the injury of another Surfer, notwithstanding any penalty infringements available, a Surfer may be fined, disqualified from the Event, disqualify their Team from the event, and face suspension from future ISA events. In addition, the heat in question can be re-surfed if determined by the Head Judge that the result was affected by the Surfer's misconduct referred to within this Rule.

## **xxi. Resurfing Heats**

### **1. Incorrect Information**

- i. If the Contest Director gives wrong information and a Surfer subsequently misses a heat, then a re-surf may occur at the discretion of the Technical Director. In an attempt to avoid a re-surf, the Technical Director may also at their discretion hold a Surfer's heat at an unscheduled time due to the incorrect information being given if it's determined the Surfer has a legitimate excuse to warrant such an action and all surfers in the heat are notified.

### **2. Incorrect Technical Decision**

- i. Where unforeseen circumstances occur with respect to competition, including but not limited to technical situations relating to priority and

- timing, a resolution may be determined by the Technical Director in consultation with the Contest Director, Head Judge and the President or the Executive Director (or his representative) if the President is not available.
- ii. A judging, scoring or heat result decision once made may only be changed if, in the majority of the opinion of the judging panel, there is enough ISA official evidence to consider a re-evaluation. A resolution, including but not limited to a re-surf, score change, or the removal/addition of an interference, may be considered by the Technical Director, Head Judge, and Contest Director at this time depending on the situation. A resolution is only possible while a heat is "under review," "unofficial," or pending the evaluation of a protest.
  - iii. The resolution must be based on a clear technical error which created a non-subjective incorrect result between advancing and losing surfers which affected the final outcome of the heat.
  - iv. The Technical Director has the authority to call a re-surf without the involvement of the surfers in the heat if it is deemed appropriate. The Technical Director is to decide who should be involved in a re-surf if applicable and when the re-surf may occur. The Technical Director or Head Judge can delay the start of the next heat or round while a decision is made.
  - v. If any of the surfers in the heat have their places unaffected by the technical error, even in the case of an incorrect call, these surfers will NOT participate in a re-surf. A re-surf should only involve the surfers that have their result affected by the outcome of the technical error.
  - vi. If the simple correction of the incorrect technical decision (such as an interference call due to an incorrect priority call) is sufficient to correct the situation, without creating further changes, there will NOT be a re-surf.
  - vii. A re-surf shall start from the time in the heat when the incorrect technical decision was made. official mistake happened. The wrong decision call will be corrected, correct priority will be established, previous scores up to that time will be kept, and the re-surf between the surfers involved will happen using the remaining time on the clock. A re-surf for the full time period will only occur if the Head Judge determines that the conditions for the heat have significantly changed or there are special circumstances that require it.

### **3. Unbreakable Tie**

- i. Only completely unbreakable ties will be resurfed.
- ii. Only the tied surfers will be involved in the resurf and the heat will be no longer than 15 minutes.
- iii. A resurf will only happen when an unbreakable tie involves surfers involved with qualification and disqualification (advancement to next round). Breaking the tie will be done in the following order:
  - Using the best single score in the heat, followed by the third best, fourth best, fifth best, etc until the tie is broken. (If the tie is between competitors that have two priority interferences and their top two waves are zero, they will not be allowed to use their third, fourth, fifth, etc scores to break the tie).
  - Using the average of all 5 judges on their two best scores to break the tie. If tie still occurs, then use one best score, three best scores, four best scores, and so on until tie is broken.
  - If the tie still occurs, then there will be a re-surf.
- iv. If athletes that were tied were both advancing, then the original team seed or the scores obtained in the previous round will be used to break the tie and avoid the resurf.

- v. If athletes that were tied were both losing, then to avoid the re-surf the two tied surfers will share equal 3rd place in the heat (i.e. tie between 3rd and 4th) and the points allocated equally to each one will be the average between the points for the places involved in the tie in that round.
- vi. If athletes that were tied were both losing and did not compete in the heat (DNS), then to avoid the re-surf the tied surfers will share equal 4th place in the heat and the points will be allocated equally.

## xxii. SUP Surfing Rules

- SUP performance uses the normal judging criteria of 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.
  1. The judging scale will be 10 points with normal ISA contest rules applying.
  2. For SUP Surfing 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.
  3. The aggregate of the best rides will decide the final score for each surfer and interference adjudicated according to the ISA Surfing Rulebook.
  4. A SUP surfer must be standing at all times while paddling back to the take-off zone, as well as paddling in the take-off zone, except for the following circumstances:
    - i. in the impact zone or other safety hazards such as rocks or piers
    - ii. once out of the impact zone, a SUP surfer may sit or lay on board to adjust equipment (jersey, leash, etc.) without paddling
    - iii. in the case of extreme conditions as determined by the Contest Director
    - iv. The penalty for prone paddling to the take-off zone, and/or in the take-off zone, will be a warning for the first offense when prone paddling occurs for longer than 15 seconds. If the prone paddling continues, the second offense will be a non-priority interference. If prone paddling still continues, the third offense will be a second non-priority interference and removal from the heat with two non-priority interferences.
  5. While waiting in the take-off zone a SUP surfer must be standing at all times, unless there are extreme conditions as determined by the Contest Director.
    - i. The penalty for prone sitting on the board while waiting in the take-off zone will be a warning for the first offense when sitting occurs for longer than 15 seconds. If the prone sitting continues, the second offense will be a non-priority interference. If prone sitting still continues, the third offense will be a second non-priority interference and removal from the heat at the moment of the third offense.
    - ii. Prone sitting, lying on the board, kneeling, or squatting are not allowed while waiting in the takeoff zone.
    - iii. A SUP surfer may sit on board to adjust equipment (jersey, leash, etc.)

### a. SUP and Paddleboard Racing Rules Equipment Specifications

- i. **SUP Race Craft & Specifications:**
  - Single hull, Stationary/ non-correctional fins, fin box allowed, no rudder.
  - Board length (maximum): 14' & under measured along deck

ii. Paddleboard [Traditional Prone and Kneeling action] Race Craft & Specifications:

- Board length: 12' & under measured along deck.

**b. Race Disciplines [types]**

i. SUP Racing

- Technical Race: 3-4 km
- Distance Race: 10-12 km (course length is dependent on geography of location).
- Sprint Race: 200m

ii. Paddleboard Racing

- Technical Race: 3-4km
- Distance Race: 10-12 km (course length is dependent on geography of location).

iii. Team Relay

- Equipment specification is 14' & under for SUP and 12' & under for Paddleboard.
- Team relay over a specified (400-meter leg) short sprint course. Beach Start from team box by competitor, running to water and collecting equipment, paddling out and back around marker buoy, leaving equipment and running up beach to box for changeover to next competitor. Final competitor to sprint to prearranged finish line within 50 meters of the team boxes. Team members: 2 SUP and 2 Paddleboard [Male and Female of each, or as designated by Race Director]
- Relay order – 1<sup>st</sup> Male Paddleboard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Female SUP, 3<sup>rd</sup> Female Paddleboard, 4<sup>th</sup> Male SUP
- Course and Relay Description: Team Relay over a specified [400 – 1000 meter leg] short sprint course. Beach Start from team box by competitor, running to water and collecting equipment, paddling out and back around marker buoy, leaving equipment and running up beach to box for changeover to next competitor. Final competitor to sprint to prearranged finish line within 50 meters of the team boxes. SUP Equipment 14' & Under, Paddleboard 12' & under.

**c. General Racing Rules – StandUp Paddle (SUP) and Paddleboard Racing Regulations.**

i. Race schedule (Organizer's responsibility):

1. A race meeting for team managers is mandatory for all events and shall: (a) be conducted by the Technical & Race Director [or delegated persons]; (b) explain the race course, any specific requirements, and start/finish sequences; (c) provide an update on race weather, tides, and winds; (d) explain safety protocol; (e) take place at a time convenient in advance of the competition activity itself.
2. A Race meeting for RACERS is mandatory before each discipline begins: (a) be conducted by the Race Director [or delegated persons]; (b) explain the race course, any specific requirements and start/finish sequences; (c) provide an update on race weather, tides, and winds; (d) explain safety protocol; (e) take place at the event start location immediately before the racing begins.

ii. Race Age / Group Categories: Open can be any age. Juniors are Under 18.

iii. Warm up's are not allowed on the main course during heats/ racing. Fines per standard ISA rules. Racers must promptly clear the water when directed by race management.

iv. General Race Rules (All classes): Single blade paddle to be used.

v. The Racer is intended to be standing at all times whilst paddling. To manage this, a "(5) five-stroke rule" may be applied to allow continuity. Meaning that if you fall due to conditions you can take (5) strokes on your knees before standing up. This rule is in effect so a Racer does not achieve an advantage by not standing up. Each competitor must complete the course in a standing position on their board. Racers will be assessed 1:00 minute penalty per infraction.

vi. When riding waves in the Technical and Distance races, the Racer must endeavour to stand up at all times except for situations involving safety to the Racer or other

competitors. If a racer is not standing when riding a wave, then he/she must be endeavouring to do so, to avoid official sanction [as per five-stroke rule].

vii. It is allowable for an athlete to kneel on the board for control in & out of the surf zone.

viii. ADHERENCE TO THE DESIGNATED COURSE

1. Race Course markers will consist of two kinds of buoys: TURN BUOYS and GUIDE BUOYS. TURN BUOYS indicate to racers the need to make turns on right or left shoulder to complete the race in the correct way. All the buoys in Technical race will be TURN BUOYS. GUIDE BUOYS are used when the race is a point-to-point race, from point A to point B and the visual distance between A and B is too far or restricted by obstacles and buoys in the middle way are needed to guide the racers in the correct direction. GUIDE BUOYS will be used just in Distance Races and must be clearly explained to competitors in the managers meeting. GUIDE BUOYS have no mandatory side to pass on.

2. A competitor will not be disqualified for touching a TURN or GUIDE buoy, unless, in the opinion of the Course Official, an advantage has been gained. This may include picking up and moving the mark with hands or a paddle.

3. A competitor will be disqualified when they round a TURN BUOY, flag or gate on the wrong side or in the wrong direction or incorrect sequence, irrespective of the racer having an advantage or not. However, a competitor may diverge from and then return to the course and correct any course mistake between turn buoys and BEFORE THEY CROSS THE FINISH LINE. After crossing the finish line the competition is over for that individual and no racer can return to the course to correct any mistake.

4. Course Officials are to be impartial and not provide any information to competitors that would give an unfair advantage.

ix. The nose of the craft is the designated point for crossing the finish line when determining relative placing in a water finish. Races that are finished on the beach may require competitors to run through a finish chute or across a designated finish line. We designate the "front of chest" [as priority] to designate the body finish. An electronic chip may provide the athletes time, but not necessarily the place in a photo finish. Diving [throwing the body head first] draws a 30 second penalty. Boards may be left at the waterline by competitors who then run to the finish. SUP Racers must finish with their paddle.

x. BEACH START

1. A flag will be set up at either end of the start line, for line of sight. A start line will be made between the flags. Racers will be called to take their chosen place on the line in order of their seed.

2. Race Director will use the command, "Front foot on the start line," at which time Racers will place their front foot on the start line.

3. Race Director will next use the command, "Racers ready." Once this command is issued athletes must remain completely still. Any movement after this command will result in a false start charged.

4. Race will start with an airhorn, siren, or single whistle.

5. First false start will be charged to the field. Next false start will be charged to the offending racer who will be disqualified.

6. False starts will be signaled with a multiple whistle blast signaling racers to come back to start line.

xi. WATER START

1. The starting line shall be facing in a direction that is perpendicular to the path from the centre of the start line to the first turn buoy.

2. The starting shall have clear line of sight along its length &/or be marked on either side by a set of buoys that are no larger than 1 meter in diameter.

3. Start buoys shall use a chained anchor line.

4. Start buoys must not move more than 1 meter (3.3 ft.) in any direction. One end of the start line may be a fixed point, provided there is no disadvantage to the closest racer.

5. Racers will be spaced 1 meter apart on the start line.

6. The Starter shall call paddlers to the start line with the command, "Racers to the line" or one short horn blast, no greater than 30 seconds and no less than 5

seconds before the official start time.

7. Racers must remain 1 meter (3.3 ft.) away from the start line before the Starter calls them to the line.

8. Race Director will then use the command, "Racers ready." Once this command is issued athletes must remain completely still. Any movement after this command will result in a false start charged.

9. Race will start with an airhorn, siren, or single whistle.

10. First false start will be charged to the field. Next false start will be charged to the offending racer who will be disqualified.

11. False starts will be signaled with a multiple whistle blast signaling racers to come back to start line.

12. In the event of high winds or choppy seas, or as required by the Race Director to control the start procedure, racers may be asked to sit on their boards behind the start buoys.

13. During water finish competitors must finish in control standing on their board.

xii. If there is outside interference or any other unforeseen circumstances, the Starter may recall all competitors with multiple whistle blasts. The Starter will begin a new starting sequence once all competitors are behind the start line.

xiii. Impeding Progress

1. A participant may not impede the progress of another participant while running, turning, or paddling

2. When approaching a buoy:

3. If two paddlers are "even" the paddler on the inside has right-of way.

4. Paddlers are considered even if neither paddler has more than half a board length lead.

5. If one paddler has half of their board ahead of the other paddlers nose, that paddler has the right of way, even if they are on the outside.

6. The penalty for impeding progress will be a 1-minute time penalty or disqualification in severe instances.

xiv. DRAFTING

1. Not allowed out of board class or gender.

2. A paddler will be deemed drafting when within 1 meter of the tail, or sides of another competitor or any watercraft on the racecourse for more than 10 seconds.

3. If there is a combined male and female start, either sex will be given 200 meters from the start to clear each others' draft.

4. If the boundaries of a racecourse do not allow competitors to get outside of the drafting zone, then no drafting rules will apply at that time.

5. A competitor must make an effort to exit the drafting zone immediately when boundaries allow. Examples of natural boundaries include rocks, canals, sub-merged objects, bridges, and vessels.

6. Competitors will be penalised for drafting any watercraft on the racecourse that is not in the same class or gender.

7. Penalty for drafting will be one (1)-minute per occurrence or disqualification, depending on the severity of the action.

xv. 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).

xvi. Wetsuits and hats (sun protection) are permissible.

xvii. Any competitor who attempts to win a race by any other than appropriate means, or who does not follow racing regulations, may be disqualified from the event. A competitor shall not receive external assistance during a race from another competitor or non-competitor. This includes replacing broken paddles unless from previously authorized staff boat or returning to paddle left at start line. A competitor providing the external assistance may also be disqualified from the race.

xviii. 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.

xix. Organizers reserve the right to accept, reject and cancel entries.

xx. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes:

- (a) Excessive physical harm using any part of the body, paddle, or board;
- (b) Using the board, paddle, or body in order to block a competitor from forward progress, turning, drafting, starting, or finishing;
- (c) Yelling at the start in order to create a false start;
- (d) Equipment abuse in any public or athlete accessible area.
- (e) Purposely impeding the ability of a competitor to paddle, turn, dismount, start, finish, or run.

Serious Unsportsmanlike Interference: If the Race Director and the Beachmaster determine that a rule violation during an Event was intentional or unsportsmanlike and results in the injury of another Surfer, a Surfer may be fined and/or disqualified, according to the rules of the Rulebook, and may be suspended from future ISA events.

- xxi. The Race Director, or his Delegated Official, shall immediately notify a disqualified competitor at the earliest possibility. Time for the filing of a protest against the disqualification starts at the time of the notice of disqualification.
- xxii. A protest must be filed in writing with a member of the Competition Committee no later than 15 minutes after the competitor has finished a race or received a notice of disqualification. Protests may be made against a competitor or against a disqualification by a Race official. When a protest is made against a competitor or Race Official, all parties in question shall be given the protest to read. All protests must have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party witness or official photo/video evidence in order for the protest to be upheld or denied. The Race Committee through first-hand accounts that they deem appropriate, as well as any photographic or video evidence from official sources, will decide on protests. All decisions by the Race Director will be final.
- xxiii. Before any decision is made regarding a protest, the Race Committee:
  - 1. Shall obtain a complete report from the official or athlete reporting the infraction;
  - 2. Shall notify the athlete performing the alleged infraction & obtain a statement of explanation from that athlete [if provided & in the Team Manager's presence];
  - 3. May seek the opinion of any Official who saw the incident;
  - 4. May seek the opinion of other Officials;
  - 5. Review any official video or official photographic evidence that may be available to establish the veracity of the claim;
  - 6. Shall base their decision on the above evidence as applied to the Racing Rules.
- xxiv. 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.
- xxv. All eliminated Paddlers in the SUP Technical heats to get points.
- xxvi. a) Competition may be stopped from a point on the course (Point Stop). For example, a strong wind occurs, rain, or general ocean conditions become dangerous for the level of competitor skills, or any other condition involving risk such as blanket fog occurs, but we have safe conditions to finish the race for some paddlers close to the finish line or already in a protected area in the final part of the course. Under this situation, the Race Director may nominate one point on the course (or any stationary point of reference) and any paddler past this point may finish the race normally. Paddlers before this point will be required to leave the water or enter into rescue boats. These paddlers will share the same position and points according to the number of competitors.
  - b) Competition may be stopped at a point in time (Time Stop). For example, when an emergency happens that puts all the paddlers in the water at risk, like an electric storm, shark alert, or any situation natural or otherwise, that requires everybody out of the water immediately. Under this situation ALL the paddlers still in the water at the time of the alert will be tied in the same position and with the same points. It does not matter where they are at the time of the alarm.
  - c) Tied racers will share the place and points equivalent to the sum of all the remaining points and places of tied racers divided by the number of tied racers.
- xxvii. No electronic recording or filming in official ISA meetings without prior ISA written approval.
- xxviii. Each entrant must sign the indemnity declaration on the Entry Form before the event. If under 18, the parent or guardian must sign.

- xxix. The organizers reserve the right to reject or cancel any entry.
- xxx. The Event "Race Committee" shall be composed of the following racing management staff, who will oversee all technical aspect of this event:
  1. Race Director (the head racing official, manages starts & finishes, determines race course, oversees safety plan)
  2. Beachmaster (assist Race Director, marshalling athletes, starts & finishes, responsible for all board measurements)
  3. Course Marshall (responsible for all aspects of the course & safety)
  4. Time / Results officials (responsible for recording placings and timing of events).

The Event Race Committee through its delegated officials:

(a) shall organize and supervise the competition; (b) may postpone the competition and decide on another time to be held in the event of inclement weather or other circumstances which make it impossible to hold the competition; (c) shall monitor [start, during, and finish] and record any infractions upon which they will subsequently adjudicate; (d) shall consult with the Team Manager(s) before, during, and after the event; (f) Shall decide on cases and situations not stated in this Rulebook; (g) shall provide a report to ISA headquarters including the results of the event, a record of any protest and the subsequent decision made, and a list of the officials participating at the competition.

Specific Official roles for racing management staff:

- xxxi. Before any decision is made regarding a protest, the Race Committee:
  - (a) shall obtain a complete report from the official or athlete reporting the infraction;
  - (b) shall notify the athlete performing the alleged infraction & obtain a statement of explanation from that athlete [if provided & in the Team Manager's presence];
  - (c) may seek the opinion of any Official who saw the incident;
  - (d) may seek the opinion of other Officials;
  - (e) review any official video or official photographic evidence that may be available to establish the veracity of the claim;
  - (f) shall base their decision on the above evidence as applied to the Racing Rules.

## CHAPTER 3: ISA CONSTITUTION

Available as a separate document due to length or online here:

[https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA\\_Constitution\\_April\\_1-2025.pdf](https://isasurf.org/downloads/ISA_Constitution_April_1-2025.pdf)

## CHAPTER 4: WORLD TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Available as a separate document due to length or online here:

<https://isasurf.org/isa-world-champions/>

## CHAPTER 5: ISA LIFE MEMBERS AND MEMBER EMERITUS

### **ISA Life Members**

Eduardo Arena, Peru  
Alan Atkins, Australia

Rod Brooks, Australia  
Kirsty Coventry, Zimbabwe  
Jacques Hele, France  
Tim Millward, South Africa  
Reginald Prytherch, United Kingdom

### **Appendix 1 (Available Upon Request):**

- I. Code of Conduct Official Forms.

### **Appendix 2 (Available Upon Request):**

- I. Event Documentation
  - A. Judging Sheet
  - B. Tabulator Sheet
  - C. Judging Evaluation Sheet
  - D. Judging Roster examples.
  - E. Event Format [DE].
  - F. Pointscore Table [for use in calculation of team points].

### **Appendix 3: Olympic Eligibility and Nomination Requirements**

\*To be updated following the confirmation of the Qualification System for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.