



In Partnership with

SUP SURFING RULEBOOK

March 2019



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. ABOUT SUPSA	2
3. EVENT SAFETY STATEMENT	3
4. DRUG POLICY AND TESTING	3
5. SUP SURFING COMPETITION RULES	4
5.1 GENERAL	4
5.2 EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS	4
5.3 SUP SURFING DIVISIONS	4
5.4 COMPETITOR RULES AND SAFETY GUIDELINES	5
5.5 EVENT ORGANISER OBLIGATIONS AND SAFETY GUIDELINES	6
5.6 COMPETITION FACILITIES	9
5.7 MOTORISED WATERCRAFT	10
5.8 WATER PHOTOGRAPHERS	10
5.9 SUP SURFING JUDGING RULES	10
5.10 JUDGING PANEL PROTOCOLS AND ROSTER	11
5.11 SUP SURFING SCORING AND JUDGING SCALE	18
5.12 INTERFERENCE SITUATIONS AND JUDGES RULINGS	19
5.13 TABULATING SCORES	21
5.14 CONTESTABLE SURF CONDITIONS	24
5.15 FORMAT OF EVENTS	24
5.16 TIMING AND WAVE-COUNTS	25
5.17 START OF A HEAT	27
5.18 UNAUTHORISED SURFERS IN THE CONTEST AREA	28
5.19 BUFFER ZONE(S)	28
5.20 CADDIES FOR COMPETITORS	29
5.21 INFERENCES PENALTIES	30
5.22 PROTESTS	31
5.23 DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR SUP SURFING EVENTS	31
5.24 MEDAL/TROPHY/PRIZE ALLOCATIONS	33
5.25 AWARDING OF NATIONAL SUP SURFING TITLES	33
5.26 RANKING POINTS SYSTEM FOR ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM	34
5.27 SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM QUALIFYING CRITERIA	34
5.28 TEAM POINTS ALLOCATION AND TROPHY	35

INTRODUCTION

The *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook* provides the administrative rules to guide event organisers and administrators in running an officially SUPSA sanctioned stand-up paddling (SUP) surfing event. The *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook* also provides competitors participating in these respective events with the rules defining eligibility for entry as well as competitions rules.

The *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook* covers coastal and inland SUP events run in South Africa and applies international SUP sports code rules as set out by the International Surfing Association (ISA), as adhered to by Surfing South Africa (SSA).

The *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook* applies specifically to elite sanctioned events, where competitors can gain points towards a SUPSA national ranking. However, SUPSA encourages event organiser's and administrators running events not defined as elite sanctioned events, whether local or regional in nature, to adopt the policies and practices set out in the rulebook to align events to a national SUP sports code so as to further the growth and development of the sport in South Africa.

Any proposals for changes to the *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook* must be submitted in writing, with reasons for requesting the change, to the SUPSA Executive Committee at least 60 days before an Annual ^{SEP} General Meeting. Any amendments, once approved, will be applied to SUPSA sanctioned contests as long as they are circulated to event organizers 30 days prior to the start of the specific event.

1. ABOUT SUPSA

Stand-Up Paddling South African (SUPSA) was established in late 2010 as a not-for profit national sports body to promote stand-up paddle (SUP) boarding in South Africa as a sporting and lifestyle activity. It caters for the both surfing and race paddling disciplines, and encourages competitive and social SUP riders to participate in the sport through sanctioned SUPSA surfing and racing events. SUPSA is affiliated to Surfing South Africa. For more about information about SUPSA visit www.supsa.org.za.

Surfing South Africa (SSA) is the recognized governing body for the sport of surfing in South Africa. SSA is a member of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), which, along with Sport and Recreation South Africa, controls all sport in South Africa. SSA is a founding member of the world's governing body for the sport, the International Surfing Association (ISA), www.isasurf.org. For more information about SSA visit www.suringsouthafrica.co.za.

2. EVENT SAFETY STATEMENT

2.1 The safety of the participants, spectators, staff and competitions is the top priority of SUPSA and should be treated as such for all contests. The event organiser needs to post the typical conditions for their venue and also post the expected conditions for the day on which the event is to be held. The event organiser needs to warn the competitors of any dangers that could occur and where all safety personnel will be located at the venue (including the arena used for the surfing contest) as well as have a safety plan in place if adverse or dangerous conditions should occur during the event and communicating such during the pre-event competitors meeting. The event organiser needs to remind all competitors of the hand signals to be used if someone is injured or in danger (paddle in the air, waving or erect) or in need of help but not injured (hand in the air). All competitors should be mindful of any persons that may be in danger during the event and should assist or help get safety staff attention.

3. DRUG POLICY AND TESTING

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

3.2 SUPSA sanctioned events fall under the jurisdiction of SSA, the national governing body under the ISA. The ISA has signed an agreement with WADA and WADA guidelines will be applied for all ISA sanctioned events. If requested by SSA, SUPSA should conduct anti-doping tests as per ISA and WADA rules in their national championships. All results should be reported to the SSA.

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

3.4 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.

4. SUP SURFING COMPETITION RULES

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 The rules below aim to ensure all competitors develop a standard approach and understanding of what is expected from an elite performer in SUP surfing and draw the guidelines as set out in the *ISA Rulebook*.
- 4.1.2 SUP surfing 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.
- 4.1.3 To the best of a rider's ability he/she are expected to stand up on the board at all times throughout the heat, unless the situation of safety dictates otherwise.
- 4.1.4 A double-elimination format will apply only for the Open Men's and Open Women's divisions, the divisions for which competitors may gain ranking points to be eligible to qualify for national team selection.

4.2 EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- 4.2.1 *SUP Board Design for Surfing* – is an unlimited class and in the spirit of traditional surfing, no structural device to maintain foot contact with the board is allowed.
- 4.2.2 *Paddle* – only a single blade paddle is to be used in SUP surfing. The paddle is a tool and a big part of the sport therefore it is not just used to help catch a wave but is necessary as an aid for riding waves.
- 4.2.3 *Leash/legrope* – as a risk management precaution, SUPSA 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. Free surfing with or without a leash is at the rider's discretion however SUPSA recommends the use of a leash if there is a possible danger to third parties.

4.3 SUP SURFING DIVISIONS

The following divisions will receive points for rankings to qualify for National Titles in their division:

- 4.3.1 *Open Men's Division* – male participants of any age are eligible to compete in this division.
- 4.3.2 *Open Women's Division* – female participants of any age are eligible to compete in this division.
- 4.3.3 *Junior Boys' Division* – male participants are under 18 years of age. An U18 competitor may not turn 19 years of age between 1st January and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this division. At the event organiser's discretion, this division may include both the U18 Junior Boy Division and the U16 Junior Boy Division.
- 4.3.4 *Junior Girls' Division* – female participants are under 18 years of age. An U18 competitor may not turn 19 years of age between 1st January and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this division. At the event organiser's discretion, this division may include both the U18 Junior Girl Division and the U16 Junior Girl Division.
- 4.3.5 *Legend's (Senior Men's) Division* – male participants over the age of 45 years. Must be 45 years or older as of the 1st January in the year of the competition. (This division was previously was known as the Legend's Division).
- 4.3.6 *Diva's (Senior Women's) Division* – female participants over the age of 45 years. Must be 45 years or older as of the 1st January in the year of the competition.
- 4.3.7 An event organiser may include more divisions however cannot deviate from the age guidelines set for rankings unless there are insufficient entries for a stated age division.
- 4.3.8 An event organiser may also include Social divisions for each gender in their event at their own discretion.

4.4 COMPETITOR RULES AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- 4.4.1 Each entrant to an event must sign the indemnity declaration on the Entry Form before the event. If under 18 years, the parent or guardian must sign.
- 4.4.2 When applicable, only paid-up competitors are to be allocated official wristbands and have the right to enter "designated areas" at the event site and other associated activities.

- 4.4.3 Competitors will start from the beach unless instructed otherwise by the event organizer.
- 4.4.4 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.
- 4.4.5 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.
- 4.4.6 No mechanical / electronic communication device, (including megaphones) that links a competitor in the action of competing with another party is allowed at SUPSA sanctioned events.
- 4.4.7 Competitors will comply with SSA requirements to undergo a drug test if selected.

4.5 EVENT ORGANISER OBLIGATIONS AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- 4.5.1 Every event organiser must complete a SUPSA SUP surfing event sanctioning application form, provide liability insurance, provide and have every participant sign a liability release before competing in a race, submit results as required, and adhere to the current *SUPSA SUP Surfing Rulebook*.
- 4.5.2 Stipulating the SUP surfing event name – it is suggested that the event name include the location and that the event is a SUP surfing event: “North Coast SUP Surfing Contest”. The event name should also include the event headline sponsor’s name. If the event is, or includes, the SUP national titles, then the event should name the SUP surfing section of the event: “SUPSA South African SUP Surfing Championships hosted by” along with the event name.
- 4.5.3 It is recommended that an event organiser should keep entry fees at a value based on what the competitor is being offered with their entry fee (permits, insurance, judging, product, food, drinks, etc). Prize money should only come from sponsor money and not entry fees that would otherwise increase entry fees for all competitors.
- 5.5.4 Event Organisers must include in the event entry fee a SUPSA sanctioning fee which must be paid over to SUPSA within in 14 days of completion of event. This fee must be applied to all entrants

irrespective of division/course or age group but shall not be payable in the social divisions.. This fee will be determined by SUPSA prior to announcement of following years Events Calendar

- 5.5.5 The event organizer reserves the right to accept, reject and cancel entries.
- 5.5.6 The event organizer should stipulate the total number of competitors allowed in each division, with periodic updates prior to the start of the event including contest availability based on the number of registrations received at that time.
- 5.5.7 *Officials Meeting* – the event organizer, together with the contest head judge, will hold judge and officials meeting prior to the commencement of all events. Attendance at these meetings is compulsory for all relevant participating persons. The event organizer in consultation with the head judge must give suitable prior notice of these meetings. The purpose of such meetings is to review heats, inform officials of the arrangements for the competition, clarify operational questions from teams, and manage the judging process and other event requirements. All meetings are to be held near the contest site and at a reasonable time.
- 5.5.8 At the minimum, the event organiser needs to communicate the following items to competitors at the pre-contest competitors' meeting before the start of the event, and post on the official notice board for all competitor see:
- Post all heat times and prize-giving/awards time;
 - The description of the venue(s) where the heats are to be held;
 - Interference rules and any other local rules;
 - Safety briefing to address: leash requirements, the location of the first aid facility, and description of all safety personnel;
 - To indicate a plan of action for adverse weather and surf conditions, and an abandon event procedure, including an alternate venue;
- 5.5.9 At the minimum, the event organiser needs to post the following items on the official notice board during the course of the event for all competitors to see:
- The daily schedule of heats to be run for the day. This schedule must be posted as early as possible and minimum one hour before the first heat of the day is run.
 - The competitor finishing positions will be posted.
 - The contest conditions, including a weather and surf forecast for the day.

- 5.5.10 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 or official 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.
- 5.5.11 The event organiser must adhere to the minimum safety guidelines to ensure that the competitors overall safety is not compromised during the event.
- 5.5.12 The event organiser agrees that the safety of the participants is the number one priority and should be treated as such for the event. Event organisers need to post the typical surf conditions for their venue and also the expected surf conditions on day. During the pre-content meeting, event organisers need to warn the competitors of any dangers that could occur and where all safety personal will be located at the event. Event organisers need to remind all competitors of the hand signals to be used if someone is injured or danger (paddle in the air, waiving or erect) or in need of help but not injured (hand in the air). All competitors should be mindful of any persons that may be in danger during the course of the event and should assist or help get safety staff attention.
- 5.5.13 Event organisers must keep in mind the weather and, when applicable, surf forecast and the conditions of the day so that all heats are to be conducted in a safe and manageable manner for the safety of all competitors and staff. In the event of being cancelled due to dangerous surf or weather conditions, it is at the event organiser's discretion whether or not to hold the event at another venue or on an alternative date.
- 5.5.14 The event organizer is responsible to allocating specific official roles for SUP surfing management staff for the event, whereby some roles may be held by the same person:
- a) *Contest Director* – the head event official, to work with the head judge in running the event, decides on event format, seeds surfers, apply penalties;
 - b) *Head Judge* – a top ranking ISA or SSA accredited judge responsible for managing the Judging officials, works with the contest director in running the event;
 - c) *Judging officials* – responsible for recording heat scores and placing's of competitors;
 - d) *Tabulator* – duties vary according to the presence of a scoring computer. If a scoring computer is being used then the tabulator will basically check the typing input from the judge's personal record sheet to the computer printout, immediately the heat concludes. Any irregularities are brought to the attention of the head judge.
 - e) *Beach Marshals* – responsible for all aspects of the venue and safety, competitors are checked in for their heat, that they have the correct contest vest color and that they have been personally informed of the heat rules – i.e. maximum number of waves that can be ridden by each



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competitor, number of waves to be included in the score, duration of heat, timing disc colors, horn blasts, paddle out time and starting point;

- f) *Timers, Disk Operators, Spotters* – to work on a roster operating timing disk and calling colors for the judge panel.
- g) *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.

5.5.15 The event organizer, or any event officials, shall have the ultimate and final authority to remove a competitor from the event if the competitor is judged to be physically incapable of continuing in the event without the risk of injury.

5.5.16 Under no circumstances may an event organizer or sponsor force competitors to wear any particular brand of trunks or wetsuits as a condition of their entry into any SUPSA sanctioned event.

5.5.17 Written information on accommodation and transport services relevant to the contest should be provided by the event organizer.

5.5.18 Event organiser must ensure all event results are made public within 24 hours of completion of event. Results must include all divisions.

5.5.19 Event organiser must forward complete list of paid up entrants incl. name, birthdate, address, tel.no and e-mail address to SUPSA within 14 days of completion of event.

5.6 COMPETITION FACILITIES

5.6.5 All events must have a well-secured sizeable competitor's area that is clearly designated as a "non-smoking" area.

5.6.6 The area will be available for competitors only.

5.6.7 A secured surfer's storage and preparation area should be provided. Only competitors are permitted in this area. No guests or media are allowed in this area.

5.6.8 Adequate supplies of drinking water must be available at the contest site.

5.6.9 Where possible, a masseur/chiropractor should be made available each day of the event.

5.7 MOTORISED WATERCRAFT

5.7.1 Unless the event is of such nature that motorised craft may be used to assist surfers to reach the backline and this has been approved by the contest director prior to the start of an event, any use of outside craft (jet ski, rubber-duck, water patrol board, photographer's boards, etc) will be deemed an interference if a surfer, after using one of them, 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 in this case the surfer may be removed from the danger zone and placed in a safe area, no closer to the line-up, from which the surfer may continue the heat.

5.8 WATER PHOTOGRAPHERS

5.8.1 Water photographers will only be allowed into the contest area after checking in with the event organiser and signing a waiver. Only two photographers will be allowed in the line-up at a time. 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.

5.8.2 Only sanctioned water photographers will be allowed in the water at SUPSA sanctioned events. This access is to be approved and controlled by the event organiser.

5.9 SUP SURFING JUDGING RULES

5.9.1 Judging Criteria: A surfer must demonstrate board-handling skills in the transition phase (as described below) and the surfing phase (as described below) of their performance, for a wave to be considered complete.

5.9.2 *SUP Transition Phase* – is when a competitor is paddling out to the backline for the start of the heat as well as the phases from the end of one wave ridden during a heat to the paddle-in to the next wave in a heat. A competitor in the transition phase should be standing and paddling with good technique and stable wave negotiation. Note the critical element: To the best of a rider's ability he/she are expected to stand up on the board at all times throughout the heat, unless the situation of safety dictates otherwise.



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- 5.9.3 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.
- 5.9.4 A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers, using the paddle as a key tool, in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire of maneuvers, wave negotiation and use of the paddle to increase the intensity of the maneuvers, will all be taken into account when awarding points for SUP surfing.
- 5.9.5 *Using the paddle* – the paddle is correctly used in SUP surfing to do three main things: it is used in turns as a brace, a pivot, and a force multiplier. A surfer will be scored higher when he uses the paddle in some or all of these three ways to achieve sharper or more powerful turns. Tricks such as twirling or otherwise using the paddle in a non-functional manner will earn little or no extra score for the surfer.
- 5.9.6 The SUP surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores.
- 5.9.7 Traditional longboard surfing compared to progressive SUP surfing techniques: Because the paddle allows large SUP boards to be turned with high rates of speed and power, stand-up paddle surfing is deemed to be, at the competition level, a performance-centered branch of surfing, much like conventional shortboarding surfing. Footwork, nose riding and style points will be scored, but this will be done in their relationship to the criteria of degree of difficulty and critical nature of wave positioning.

5.10 JUDGING PANEL PROTOCOLS AND ROSTER

- 5.10.1 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 events. This is the responsibility of the Head Judge and Contest Director.

- 5.10.2 The podium/event head judge(s) responsibility is to manage the judging panel selected by the event organiser 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 event organiser. The head judge will individually mentor judges in areas of identified weaknesses, will work with the panel to set heat standard waves at the beginning of heats, will describe waves if required in terms of general groupings (poor, fair, good, excellent), will complete missed waves, 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 contest director.
- 5.10.3 The contest director and head judges are responsible for selecting the appropriate judging panel for finals events.
- 5.10.4 *Daily Judges Meetings post contest* – every day, after the last heat, the head judge will conduct a meeting 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, and contest director.
- 5.10.5 *Management of the Panel by the Head Judge* – the following procedures are to be undertaken by the head judge:
- a) To set up a meeting of the Judges on the day before the event begins.
 - b) Such meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, standardisation of procedures and methods as well as the setting up a series of judging trials during which the judges' ability will be tested and evaluated. 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 coping processes for the judges.
 - c) Judges whose ability is found to be sub-standard in the opinion of the head judge and contest director will be removed from the judging panel and will not be permitted to judge during the event.
 - d) The head judge will organize the remaining judges into judging panels so that judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.
 - e) The head judge will frequently scrutinize the judges' sheets and will identify those judges who do not maintain an acceptable judging standard including of the evaluation of interference's. He will

report these judges to the contest director and a decision will be taken whether to drop the judge or not.

- f) While heats are in progress the head judge will scrutinise judges' score sheets to ensure the maintenance of uniform standards between one heat and the next and the use by the judges of the full range of scoring options. In addition, although the head judge will ensure that the interference rule is fairly and consistently applied, the head judge will not interfere with any judges' independent decision in this regard. If the need should arise to inform a judge that his standards are not compatible with the other of judges, such action would only be taken by the head judge between the end of one heat and the commencement of the next heat or at the end of the day.
- g) 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 surfer's ride. In this case an "M" must be inserted and the head judge will nominate an average score for that ride based on previous scoring rides and correct scores from other judges. The head judge's role is not to influence the scoring by judges, but rather to coach, mentor, supervise, control and coordinate. The head judge is there to ensure the smooth running of each heat.
- h) The head judge will be responsible for maintaining a wave count record for each heat and ensuring that colours are adequately identified for the judges.
- i) The wave count may be done by the spotter.
- j) It is the head judges' responsibility to attempt to notify any surfer who has been interfered with, that he/she has an extra wave. Notification will be made on the public address (PA) system. The onus is on the surfer to monitor his/her own wave count.
- k) Judges will all receive certificates of participation and will be ranked (i.e. first to fourth) and the top judge they will receive a trophy and/or prize.

5.10.6 *Judging Evaluation and Hints –*

- a) Judging panels for each heat will consist of 3 judges who will rotate from a larger judging panel. A panel of five judges is the minimum necessary to conduct an event on a full-time basis. The judging panel roster should not require any judge to judge for more than 5 heats without a break. Each judging panel will officiate under the control and discretion of a head judge whose duties are more fully described above. Judges must check in with the Head Judge at least 15 minutes prior to the heat starting times. This allows time to get a realistic view of the waves, and the surfing standard. The number of the Judge and heat number must be clearly entered on the judging sheet.



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- b) The last wave exchanges should be judged based on the same criteria as the first wave exchanges. The first wave scored, sets the scale for the heat and should remain in the judge's mind as the benchmark for that level of performance and wave comparisons.
- c) Individual wave scores are what the judge should concentrate on and the final outcome of the heat should be based on scoring waves.
- d) As no surfer rides any wave in the same way, judges should try hard to differentiate between all scoring waves.
- e) Judges should not deliberate but should put a score down after the ride is completed.
- f) During the heat, wave counts should be called as frequently as possible while the contestants are not riding. Repeat wave counts regularly.
- g) Judges must avoid being influenced by the spectators, commentators or by friendships and other outside influences and should have the confidence to stand by their decisions.
- h) During the heat, opinions should not be shared with other judges.
- i) If a score is not clear or is incorrect and is authorised be changed, it must be lined through and the correct score inserted in the next block. All alterations must be initialized by the Judge concerned.
- j) Judges must not tally the sheet and must hand in the sheet promptly at the end of the heat.
- k) Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached. The standard of the judging panel is based solely on the individuals' qualifications. Politics, country of origin and personal likes or dislikes should become irrelevant if the Judge does his/her job properly.
- l) Judges must score every wave ridden by every competitor. Wave scoring will be done from 0.1 to ten broken into one-tenth increments.
- m) Judges are responsible for ruling on interference situations as described in ^[11]_[SEP]Section 6.10.8.
- n) Judges should be visually separated and it is the responsibility of the head ^[11]_[SEP]judge to ensure that judges do not discuss wave scores or interference calls.
- o) Judges may not change their scores or interference calls either on the computer ^[11]_[SEP]terminal or on manual sheets. In the event that a mistake has been made, the judge must inform the head judge who will authorize the amendment. The judge must initial any changes/alterations. In the case of the computer judging system only the head judge can change a score in the system.
- p) If a judge misses a wave or part of a wave he must place an "M" in the block on the sheet, and inform the head judge, who will give a score based on a comparison of previous rides and other judge's sheets. The score must be initialed by the head judge.
- q) Judges who have finished their duty roster are to remain on hand in the contest area until their last heat has been tallied and until protests can no longer be lodged.

- r) Judges must wait for the completion of the tabulators work before checking the completed Tally Sheets.
- s) No judge may pass comment on a surfer's chances in any event, to the public, media, or contestants, or that judge may be dismissed from the panel and other action may be taken by the head judge in consultation with the contest director.
- t) Judging statistics will be compiled daily. (Detailed in Section 7). The judges used in the finals will be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency over the contest. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and assigned to other contest duties (i.e.: spotter). This can take place at any time and be enforced by the contest director on the recommendation of the head judge.
- u) At times, errors of a special nature occur with respect to judging. This includes timing and judges scores. At his discretion the contest director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as head judge, judges, off-duty judges, spotters, or other officials) who may have witnessed the incident in question, and who will rule on these special circumstances case by case.
- v) *Before Judging* – Judges must make sure to take part in the pre-event meeting to establish the criteria and rules that will be used. Judges must be at the judges' tower punctually. This means 30 minutes before the first heat, so that conditions can be checked. All judges must be available at all times, be prepared for all conditions and if necessary bring sweaters, towels, pants and a coat in case of rain. The judges must know the rules and be able to implement them in any situation. Judges should study the Judging criteria and make sure they understand and can interpret the criteria accurately.
- w) *Judging in Bad Conditions* – many events are held in marginal conditions. All events can suffer from poor conditions or surf, so judges must be able to adjust. In poor surf they should concentrate on surfers who are utilising the power on the wave. Judges should observe how each manoeuvres is being linked directly to another (rail to rail turns through the flat sections should be distinguished from hopping all the way to the next section). Establish if the surfer is generating/creating enough speed out of turns. In poor conditions there are normally fewer waves. Low scores may be counted in the final tabulation.
- x) *Judging Heavy Heats* – difficult heats should be accepted by a judge as a challenge. This means judging methodically, being extremely critical, watching details and mentally picturing the whole wave. In every contest there will always be some heats that are more difficult than others either because they are the first heat of the day, due to deteriorating conditions or a close heat. This is when the top judges come to the forefront. The following factors should be considered when analyzing each wave in such heats:
 - Where was the first maneuver executed?



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- How well was it executed?
 - How well were the manoeuvres connected together?
 - Did the surfer execute rail-to-rail turns through the flat sections or hop through the flat sections or through to the next section?
 - How did the outside maneuvers compare to the inside maneuvers?
 - How deep was the surfer at the initial point of take-off?
 - How did the surfer utilise/flow on the wave?
 - Did the surfer make sections and were the manoeuvres functional?
 - Was the manoeuvre completed with control?
- y) A comparison between the first scoring wave and the last scoring wave in a heat is extremely important. Inexperienced judges tend to over score last waves as they forget or ignore what has taken place during a heat and this can affect the result. This is an area where less experienced judges can learn from more experienced judges.
- z) *Concentration / Multiple Riders* –
- 100% Concentration is the key. It is not good enough to put each score down correctly but judges should also assist the head judge with wave and interference calls. In such heats, the ability to score the wave instinctively and to allocate the score automatically at the end of the ride is of utmost importance.
 - When several competitors are riding at the same time, it is important to watch everyone. However, it is essential that focus be on more critical areas such as the take-off point, the first maneuvers and other outside maneuvers. This is where the surfer's greatest scoring potential will occur. The beginning of a wave is far more important therefore when at least two surfers are riding concentration should be allocated according to each surfer's scoring potential. The surfer's scoring potential at the end of the wave is obviously much lower. It is important to put scores down as quickly as possible and recall the rides in order. Place the best score down first and then worst score and deliberate on the middle scores.
 - Continuous wave counts should be called and if unsure about a score only the head judge should be asked for assistance not a fellow panel judge.

5.10.7 *Judging Tower/Area* – the event organiser will be responsible for the application of this rule.

- a) The Judges, spotter, announcer and head judge must have unrestricted view of the full width of the wave being surfed by the competitor at all times.
- b) Side on view or a view that does not give the judges an accurate or appropriate perspective of the wave is not acceptable.
- c) If a fixed structure (podium) is in place, this podium (or podiums) must be erected in consultation with the contest director and head judge.



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- d) If a contest is moved the judges must be positioned at the vantage point that allows them best viewing of the wave being surfed – even if this requires temporary structures to be positioned on the beach.
- e) The judges must be provided with a suitable weatherproof protective shelter and reasonably sound proofed from outside noise such as PA sound systems and back ground noise.
- f) If possible, judges must be visually separated from each other.

5.10.8 Evaluation of Judges –

- a) Method (Manual): This only applies to contests where there is no computer system supplied. The ISA computer system generates statistical analysis of judging performance based on average scores and not on placing given by a judge. With either manual or computer averages, the complete judging analysis sheet is based on the manual or computer averages, as well as, the head judge's evaluation of the individual judge. Half of the evaluation is based on the averages achieved on their error rate and the other half is based on the complete Head Judge evaluation out of 100 points. Both Averages and evaluations are added together then halved. The resulting average is out of 100% and is a true analysis of the judges' ability.
- b) The level of accuracy of judge is measured by comparing the placing given by a judge in a particular heat against the actual placing in the heat.
- c) The evaluation is made on all the competitors in the heat from first place to last place.
- d) A perfect score is a zero and is awarded to a judge who has correctly placed all the competitors in the heat.
- e) One point is added to a judge's score for each place error he has made. In other words, if the judge's placing is subtracted from the actual placing – or vice versa as the case may be – the difference is the Judge's degree of error.
- f) The judge's score is then entered in the appropriate column on the tabulation sheet and then recorded on the Judge's Record Sheet. A judge's accuracy is then calculated by dividing his score by the number of heats that he has judged. This result gives the average number of place errors per heat judged. In making this evaluation, the number of heats judged by each judge should not vary by more than 10%.
- g) *Judging Record Sheet* – maximum possible errors (MPE):
 - 3 man heat = 4 possible errors;
 - 4 man heat = 8 possible errors.
- h) Judging statistics must be compiled daily. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and designated other duties (i.e. beach marshal, spotter). This can take place at any time and will be enforced by the contest director on the recommendation of the head judge.

- i) Record keeping (judging record and analysis sheet) – the judging analysis sheet is compiled from the statistics on the judging record sheet. By using the maximum possible errors (MPE) within the calculations the statistics are weighted with the heat sizes judged which in theory allows greater opportunity of error.
- j) Formula for evaluating judging performance that is recorded on the Judge’s Assessment Sheet:
 Average = Errors/Heats
 % Errors = Errors*100%/MP

5.11 SUP SURFING SCORING AND JUDGING SCALE

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

5.11.2 *Judging Scale* – the zero to ten point scoring system used by SUPSA is broken up into the following categories:

0.1 - 1.9	Poor
2.0 - 3.9	Fair
4.0 - 5.9	Average
6.0 - 7.9	Good
8.0 – 10	Excellent

5.11.3 Judges should refer to this judging scale to establish accurate scores for the first wave exchanges.

5.11.4 Wave scoring is broken into one-tenth increments i.e.: 0.1 – 10. Judges should try to remember all scoring waves so as to avoid judging higher as the heat continues.

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

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

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

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

5.12 INTERFERENCE SITUATIONS AND JUDGES RULINGS

5.12.1 *Basic Interference Rule:*

- a) The surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride. Interference will be called if during a ride a majority of judges feel that a fellow competitor has hindered the scoring potential of that surfer deemed to have right of way on the wave.
- b) Anyone who stands up in front of a surfer with right of way has the chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the surfer with right of way by any means. This includes excessive hassling, leash pulling or breaking down a wave section.
- c) The *Right of Way [ROW] Criteria*- the choice of right of way criteria for each of the above possible situations is the responsibility of the head judge or the available senior judge in that order.

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

- a) *Point Break* – when there is only one available direction on any given wave, the surfer on the inside shall have unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that wave.
- b) *One Peak Break* (Reef or Beach) – if there is a single well defined peak with both a left and a right available, at the initial point of take-off and neither the right nor left can be deemed superior then the right of way will go to the first surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn). A second surfer may go in the opposite direction on the same wave without incurring a penalty, providing they do not interfere with the first surfer who has established right of way (i.e. they may not cross the path of the first surfer in order to gain the opposite side of the peak unless they do so without hindering, in the majority of judges opinion, the inside surfer).



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- c) *Multiple Peak Situation* – with multiple random peaks. In these conditions, wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:
- With two Peaks, there will be cases where one swell will have two separate, defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the surfer who is first to their feet shall be deemed to have wave possession and the second surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way surfer.
 - If two surfers stand at the same time on two separate peaks that eventually meet, then: if they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty, but if they cross paths and collide or hinder one another, the judges will penalize the surfer who has been the aggressor at the point of contact.
 - If neither surfer gives way, by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility for the confrontation, then a double interference will be called.

5.12.3 *Snaking* and ROW priority –

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

5.12.4 *Paddling Interference* –

- a) In four person heats, positioning at the correct point of take-off for a wave is an integral part of surfing skill and each competitor must be allowed to reach this chosen point unhindered.
- b) Paddling interference tactics in the general contest area can be, but will not be restricted to:
 - Blocking the direct pathway of an opponent to the takeoff position by paddling across his/her line, other than by taking and holding the natural inside paddling position;

- Blocking/hindering a direct /natural pathway of an opponent into the line-up from the beach paddle out position.
- c) In four person heats, another surfer who has inside position should not be excessively hindered by another surfer paddling for the same wave. Paddling interference may be called if:
 - The offending surfer makes contact with or forces the inside surfer to change their line while paddling to catch the wave causing loss of scoring potential.
 - The offending surfer obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside surfer which would not normally have done so and thereby causing loss of scoring potential.
 - When a surfer is put in a position while paddling out that they cannot get out of the way and a collision happens due to this, it is up to a majority of the judges to call an interference unless it is felt that the rider contributed to the collision by selecting an unreasonable and aggressive line across the wave.

5.12.5 *Tactical Paddling Interference* –

- a) Unsporting Paddling Tactics must be penalised.
- b) A heat placing is decided as a result of waves ridden. Tactics directed at reducing waves ridden are negatives to the performance in the heat. ROW is available to a surfer so he/she is not hindered in actually catching the selected wave, not as a tactic to prevent opponents catching the wave.
- c) "Unsporting paddling tactics" (TPI) can be, but will not be restricted to: taking inside position and right of way with respect to a particular opponent, then intentionally aborting take-off once deferred to by the opponent at take-off point.
- d) *Process of determining TPI* - judges will view the TPI situation, taking the first instance as an indication by the competitor that he/she is enacting this tactic. When the second TPI for that surfer occurs, the announced warning will be given and the appropriate disc shown. When the third TPI for that surfer occurs, he/she will be asked to leave the water under the two interference rule. Recorded TPI's may involve infringement against different opponents each time.

5.13 TABULATING SCORES

- 5.13.1 The tabulating of judging scores may use a scoring computer to provide real time results after calculating the wave scores punched in by the individual judges. If the computer system is used and breaks down, the head judge may choose to switch to the manual tabulations as described in section 6.10.2 below. This will be adopted at the point designated by the head judge and contest

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

- a) The judge with the higher score and the judge with the lower score for each wave will be deleted. The average of the other three judge's scores (in a 5 judge panel) will be the "wave score average".
- b) The sum of the wave score average for the two best scoring waves of each surfer will decide the heat places.
- c) In the case of a tie for a place(s): In the case of ties in the sum of the best two waves the tie will be broken as follows (applied only to the surfers directly involved in the tie):
 - Consider just "the wave score average" for the one best wave. If the tie persists;
 - Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the three best waves. If the tie persists, Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the four best waves, and continue this procedure until the tie is broken.
 - 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.

5.13.2 If a manual system is being used for tabulating scores then the process is as follows:

- a) 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/all interference calls have been recorded.
- b) In the event that an interference call is recorded by the majority of judges, the tabulator will notify the contest director of this fact in terms of the protest rule. No tabulation of the results of the heat will take place until approval is given by the contest director.
- c) 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.
- d) If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the head judge then a score is given to the 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 spread that the errant judges used.
- e) 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.



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- f) Where interference is ruled and the surfer's appeal is not upheld, then the interference is tabulated by applying the provisions of the applicable Rule.
- g) On completion of these formalities, the Judges' sheets may be totaled. The two best scoring waves will be circled and the total entered in the total column. The heat places are then calculated and entered on the judges' sheet. The surfer with the highest score will receive 1st place, the second highest score 2nd place, and so on. If a judge ties two or more surfers, the places awarded to each of the tied surfers will be the average of the affected placing points added together (e.g. If 3rd, 4th and 5th are tied: $3+4+5=12$. Divided by 3 placed giving and average placing of 4).
- h) When no further calculations are required on the Judges' sheets the results are transcribed onto a Tally Sheet, which is completed in the following way:
 - The competitor's names are entered on tally sheet;
 - The judges' numbers are entered across the page at the top of each column. Positions are copied down beneath each judge;
 - The highest and lowest positions are crossed off for each surfer;
 - The positions that remain are added and entered into the total in the total points column, then;
 - Complete the competitors' heat places.
- i) If at this point a tie situation occurs, the tabulator will proceed to break the tie as indicated in the *Tie Break Rule*:
 - In a four-person heat, ties must be broken by a general judging consensus using the plus/minus system on the judging master sheet; i.e., the two tied surfers five places are compared and marked "+" for the highest and "-" for the lowest.
 - o Most "+" marks wins.
 - o 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.
 - o If the tie cannot be broken by using the above system the next process is to go back to the best wave; i.e., drop the lowest wave score on the tied judges sheets only and recalculate.
 - 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.
 - Only completely unbreakable ties will be re surfed. Only the tied surfers will be involved in the re surf and the heat will be no longer than 15 minutes.

5.13.3 All results/scores provided by announcers/officials at the end of each heat are "provisional/unofficial" until all transcription of the scores from judges' hard copy to computer input 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.

The judges score sheets and the tabulator sheet may be scrutinized by competitors in the presence of event official after the conclusion of their heat and once the heat result has been published by the contest director.

5.14 CONTESTABLE SURF CONDITIONS

5.14.1 There must be a minimum of 18 inches (0,5m) of wave height before surf can be deemed contestable.

5.14.2 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 event organiser and head judge.

5.15 FORMAT OF EVENTS

5.15.1 The contest will consist of a format decided by the event organiser.

5.15.2 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 may be surfed if circumstances so dictate.

5.15.3 Alterations to the heat sheet will be permitted up to the time of the competitors meeting held prior to a sanctioned event. Those surfers who have been nominated to compete at this point are the final starters for the event and any no-show competitor for the first round will forfeit their right to compete. 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, surfers who are no shows in first qualifying may compete in first round of the repechage heats.

5.15.4 The competition and the Finals may be held at different venues or at the same venue.

5.15.5 Where, for any reason it is not possible to hold or complete the Finals, the event organiser may determine division winners from the accumulated places of the contest.

5.15.6 The contest director will decide the composition of the heats after entries have closed. Composition of heats will be based on the seedings of entries, but if no seedings are available then known

rankings or a random draw may be used. (If a random draw is used, it is recommended that a repechage round be held after the first round).

- 5.15.7 *Seeding of Competitors* – if seedings are available, the seedings order in each division will be based on the overall ranked sequence of the surfers from the previous years elite sanctioned SUP surfing series on the SUPSA calendar. Where entrants did not compete in a previous sanctioned event, the surfers will be seeded at the end of division list, in the order that their entries were received or at the discretion of the event organizer.
- 5.15.8 Within the event, competitors who progress through the heats will be seeded into each successive heat according to the position that they obtained in the previous heat according to the approved Flow-Chart attached.
- 5.15.9 The event should be designed to accommodate a minimum 50% progression rate, i.e. a minimum of 50% of the surfers in a round will advance to the following round.
- 5.15.10 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.
- 5.15.11 *Double Elimination* – in a double elimination contest format, if the original schedule is not possible to complete, the rules are as follows:
- 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
 - 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.
 - Postponement of the competition beyond its original schedule will only be possible with the approval of the event organisers, sponsors, and a 75% majority of the competitors.

5.16 TIMING AND WAVE-COUNTS

- 5.16.1 *Recommended heat times and wave counts* – heats and finals will be best 2 waves from a minimum of up to 10 waves or a maximum of up to 15 waves ridden by each surfer and be nominated by the

contest director after consultation with the head judge. Heats and finals will be a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of up to 35 minutes and be nominated by the contest director after consultation with the head judge.

- 5.16.2 Variations to heat times may be made in cases where there may be insufficient time to finish an event. The contest director and head judge will decide this at the relevant time.
- 5.16.3 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 competitors before surfers enter the water.
- 5.16.4 The head judge will do official timing of all heats.
- 5.16.5 A five-minute visual warning will be given when 5 minutes remain in a heat.
- 5.16.6 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.
- 5.16.7 A large disc system at least 1 meter square must also be used. Green to start and red for the last 5 minutes.
- 5.16.8 The official end of the heat is when the siren is first audible to the head judge, who will indicate to the judges that no more rides are to be scored for that heat. The siren takes precedence over the disc.
- 5.16.9 The colored disc must be in the neutral position with no color showing when the heat finishes. The disc must remain in the neutral position between heats.
- 5.16.10 In the event of siren failure the colored disc will be the indicator for heat timing.
- 5.16.11 During and at the end of any heat the surfer must be clearly in possession of the wave on the wave face (i.e. no longer solely under paddle power but rather has harnessed and begun to be carried along by the power of the wave), for the wave to be scored.
- 5.16.12 If the contest director wishes to use the minimum time delay between heats (of 10 seconds) he must provide a marshaling area in the water outside of the lineup.

- 5.16.13 In the case of a water start the maximum time between heats shall be 5 minutes, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.
- 5.16.14 Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has entered the water. If a heat is interrupted for any reason it will be stopped by the head judge and will be resumed at the time it was stopped, and will run for its original period.
- 5.16.15 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.
- 5.16.16 Also, if the halfway mark of any heat is reached and no one has caught a wave then the heat may be cancelled and re-run. The head judge must decide on this at the time.
- 5.16.17 If a beach marshal tells competitors in a heat the wrong heat time then the following shall occur:
- a) If actual heat time is shorter then a restart at a later time for the remaining time period as told by the beach marshal will occur with all competitors starting from the line-up.
 - b) If actual heat time is longer than told by the beach marshal the heat will run through to the end of the actual set time by the judging panel.
- 5.16.18 It is a competitor's responsibility to monitor the number of waves he/she has ridden. An attempt will be made to inform a competitor who has caught the maximum number of waves. Protests will not be accepted. If more than the maximum number of waves is ridden, within the time limit, the competitor shall be penalised for each extra wave caught. In addition the surfer who remains in the water after catching the wave maximum will be penalised with an interference if he/she rides an extra wave that clearly deprives another competitor of an available ride, and/or he/she interferes with any other competitor by paddling, positioning or blocking causing loss of scoring potential. This penalty might be a fine or disqualification (or both) for unsportsmanlike conduct.

5.17 START OF A HEAT

- 5.17.1 All heats are started from either a marshaling area in the line-up, or from the beach, under the contest director's direction. The marshaling area in the line-up must be clear of the take-off area, and the contest director must demarcate the marshaling area by means of a buoy or other suitable method.

5.17.2 Where water starts are being used, competitors will be permitted to paddle out within a time limit set by the contest director in consultation with the head judge, and will congregate in the marshaling area, well clear of competitors in the heat in progress. Surfers may only paddle towards the line-up only when the previous heat has ended. Any surfer entering the take-off area during the preceding heat may be penalised. In extreme conditions the contest director may allow extra paddle time. If a surfer enters the water and paddles out before the designated paddle out time, the surfer will be subject to a listed fine. In addition, if the surfer reaches the take-off position before the other competitors and is considered to have an advantage, this surfer is banned from taking a wave until after any other competitor has caught the first wave of the heat. If the surfer paddles out before the designated time and proceeds to ride the first heat wave(s), before any other surfer in the heat, then this wave(s) will be scored as zero(s).

5.18 UNAUTHORISED SURFERS IN THE CONTEST AREA

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

5.18.2 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.

5.18.3 Any surfer catching or riding a wave during the preceding heat may be penalised.

5.18.4 Waves caught during the dead time between heats will not be scored. No penalty or fine is applicable during "dead time".

5.18.5 Any surfer catching or riding after his/her heat and riding during the next heat may be fined, disqualified, or both, depending on the severity of the interference.

5.19 BUFFER ZONE(S)

5.19.1 *Buffer Zone* – is an area of "non-competition" space to separate two podiums. Judges decisions regarding admissible waves in and around the buffer zone are final and not subject to appeal.

5.19.2 Recommended minimum size of the Buffer Zone is 100 metres wide and limited by “lines of sight” between a beach flag and a contest buoy set adjacent in the water.

5.19.3 The following rules of the Buffer Zone shall apply:

- a) A ride deemed to be caught in the buffer zone may not be scored;
- b) A surfer may ride into the Buffer Zone but risks that portion of the ride not being scored;
- c) A surfer may only catch a wave in the direction of his/her podium from the vicinity of the Buffer Zone line or in the edge of the Buffer Zone;
- d) No row applies in the Buffer Zone;
- e) Any competitor crossing the Buffer Zone into the other podium will not be scored as it is deemed to be outside the contest area and, likewise, if a wave is caught in the wrong podium it will not be scored. Any surfing activity in the wrong podium risks an interference penalty and/or a fine for surfing in the contest area. The head judge on the infringed podium will notify the surfer by announcement and by communication to the affected head judge on the other podium.

5.20 CADDIES FOR COMPETITORS

5.20.1 In extreme conditions water caddies may be allowed to assist surfers at the discretion of the contest director in consultation with the head judge.

5.20.2 Water caddies may only enter the water in a defined marshaling area determined by the Contest Director and the Head Judge.

5.20.3 Surfers may only use equipment carried by their own caddy once the heat has started.

5.20.4 If the caddy rides a wave the surfer he/she is caddying for may be penalised.

5.20.5 If the caddy interferes with any of the other surfers in any way, interference will be imposed on the surfer for whom he/she is caddying.

5.20.6 No communication is allowed between a competitor and his/her caddy other than a hand signal to change equipment. If this occurs the surfer will be subject to a fine by the contest director and/or the caddy asked to move to another location in the line-up or leave the water.

5.21 INFERENCE PENALTIES

- 5.21.1 *Riding Interference* - if a majority of judges call a riding interference, that wave will count in the surfers' score as a zero, and then the lowest scoring wave will count in the final tally as a 50% score for the offending surfer, (surfer will achieve half the wave score). Three of the five judges must call interference to be considered a majority. Interference will be shown on each judge's scoreboard, as a triangle placed around the score with an arrow drawn to the rider's score who was interfered on. In the case of a second interference from the same surfer, his better wave will be 50% and the surfer must leave the water immediately.
- 5.21.2 *Paddling Interference* – if a majority of judges call a paddling interference, then that surfer will lose 50% of the score for the lowest of his/her scoring waves (i.e. surfer will achieve half the wave score). If a surfer has less than the required minimum scoring rides and receives an interference then they will be scored on 50% of the wave, i.e. if they have caught only one wave and the best two count then only 50% of the wave will be scored. Three of the five judges must call interference to be considered a majority. Interference will be shown on each judge's scoreboard as a triangle placed above their score if they ride a wave but cause interference while paddling for that wave ridden, or between scores if caused by paddling but not riding, with an arrow drawn to the rider's score who was interfered on.
- 5.21.3 *Additional wave interference* – any surfer who has caught their wave maximum, and remains in the contest area, and in any way prevents a competitor still competing from catching a wave, or hinders the scoring potential of a competitor riding a wave may be fined or disqualified or both depending on the severity of the interference.
- 5.21.4 A head judge or contest director may be included on the judging panel, and in this case, an interference would be determined on three of six judging sheets.
- 5.21.5 Any interfering surfer must be penalised and an interference decision once made is irrevocable, with the judges not entering into any discussion over the interference call. All discussions must be directly with the head judge. The surfer, who is interfered with, will be allowed an additional wave, beyond their original wave maximum, set within the prescribed time limit. Exception to this is a double interference where neither surfer gets an extra wave. An extra wave or heat delay as decided by the head judge at the time will also apply to interference from water photographers, water security personnel or other outside interferences.

5.21.6 Where any surfer incurs two or more interference penalties they must immediately leave the competition area. Failure to do so may result in a fine and/or disqualification.

5.21.7 An interference call will be announced only once approval has been received from the head judge or contest director.

5.22 PROTESTS

5.22.1 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, tabulating errors, missed wave, etc. Any competitor has the right to protest the result of a heat due to any of the above. Protests must be in writing and must be submitted to the contest director by the competitor within 15 minutes of the heat results being posted.

5.22.2 The contest director will consider the merits of each protest 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 competitor of the decision in writing.

5.22.3 No protest can be lodged against a judging (scoring) decision. Wave scores of the judges are irrevocable. No head judge or panel judge is to be approached over a call/results or a penalty may be imposed on the individual concerned by the contest director.

5.22.4 Post event, official written documentation by the competitor may be submitted event organiser, explaining disagreement with particular scoring decisions. This will be reviewed for use in future judging training and a reply made to the competitor within 21 days.

5.23 DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR SUP SURFING EVENTS

5.23.1 *Surfer Misbehaviour* - several areas for disciplinary action follow below and the SUPSA Executive Committee will adjudicate all other areas not as yet defined in the Rulebook as special cases arise.

5.23.2 *Unsporting Conduct or bringing a SUPSA event or SUPSA itself into Disrepute* – following the ISA Executive Committee, which has agreed that, “a surfer who causes wilful destruction or damage to property, makes public displays of aggressive behaviour (i.e. 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 at a SUPSA event will be subject to disciplinary action and a

possible immediate fine and/or disqualification or suspension or other appropriate penalties imposed by the contest director after consultation with the head judge and contest director.” The SUPSA Executive Committee has the power to review any such decisions.

5.23.3 Fines levels imposed will be R50, R100, R250, R500 or R1000 with, in addition, a possible disqualification and/or suspension of the individual concerned. For multiple offenses over one or more events, fines will move to the higher level. These fines must be paid by the end of the day on which the fine was imposed or penalties may be supplemented by the contest director or the SUPSA Executive Committee.

5.23.4 *Judging Discipline* – judges, once selected, must remain on the panel for the duration of the event. If a judge forfeits his/her position on the panel, he/she will be suspended for a period determined by the contest director and head judge in consultation with the general manager of SSA and the SUPSA Executive Committee, and may incur other penalties. If the head judge is the person in question, then the contest director will consult with the general manager of SSA and the SUPSA Executive Committee to determine penalties.

5.23.5 *Penalties and Infringements* – the following shall apply:

- a) 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 SUPSA Executive Committee.
- b) All fines will be billed to the competitor and are considered the competitor’s sole responsibility. These fines must be paid by the end of the day on which the fine was imposed or the surfer in question will lose the heat points that would accrue to them.
- c) Any disqualified surfer, by definition, is not recognized by the event. Therefore any ranking points accumulated by the surfer to the time of disqualification are forfeited.
- d) The contest director in consultation with the head judge and other officials may decide to impose a suspended penalty (“yellow card”) based on the severity of the infringement. This would be a first warning. Subsequent infringements would attract the maximum penalty.
- e) The penalties attached to the infringements below are the maximum applicable. Other infringements not specified below may attract a warning, a fine, disqualification and/or suspension of their SUPSA membership.

Infringements

Assaulting (judge, official, event staff, other competitors, media, public)

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

Penalties

R1000 fine, disqualification and suspension of SUPSA membership

R250 fine



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Destruction or abuse of judging sheets or heat sheets	R250 fine
Abuse of contest equipment or event property	R250 fine plus costs
Abuse of own equipment during event or in contest area	R250 fine
Damage to property in event locality	R500 fine plus costs
Damage to the sport of SUP surfing due to misbehavior	R250 to R1000 fine and/or disqualification and/or suspension of SUPSA membership
Unsporting conduct	R250 to R1000 fine and/or disqualification
Illegal obtainment of Event Registration Wristband	Cost of twice the event entry fee
<i>Technical Infringements</i>	<i>Penalties</i>
Catching a wave in excess of wave count	R50 fine per wave
Knowingly wearing contest vest incorrectly	R100 fine
Failure to have SUPSA and/or event sticker on equipment	R50 fine per board used in event
Surfing in contest area during heats	R250 to R1000 fine and/or disqualification
Surfing during prior a heat (i.e. entering water early without permission) or following a heat	R250 fine and/or disqualification, depending on severity
Surfer's caddie rides a wave	R250 fine per wave

5.24 MEDAL/TROPHY/PRIZE ALLOCATIONS

- 5.24.1 All finalists in individual divisions of SUPSA sanctioned events will receive a First / Second / Third / Fourth recognition and/or medal/trophy according to final placing.
- 5.24.2 *Awarding Prize Money* – while the event organiser's discretion shall apply here, it is recommended that a minimum of 10 participants compete in any division before prize money is awarded.
- 5.24.3 *Awarding a Trophy* – a minimum of 4 participants is recommended to make a division, for the awarding of a trophy.

5.25 AWARDING OF NATIONAL SUP SURFING TITLES

5.25.1 National titles in each of the divisions are awarded at the annual SUPSA South African SUP Surfing Championships and at no other sanctioned SUPSA event.

5.26 RANKING POINTS SYSTEM FOR ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM

5.26.1 Competitors may accumulate ranking points in any SUPSA sanctioned SUP surfing events held in a calendar year. Competitors ranking points from their best placings at a number of events to be determined by SUPSA each year shall determine the order in which they shall eligible to be considered for selection for the National Team

5.26.2 The points system to be used for SUP surfing ranking points is:

First place	0.7 points;
Second place	2 points;
Third	3 points;
Fourth	4 points;
Equal Fifth	5 points;
Equal Seventh	7 points;
Equal Ninth	9 points;
Equal Eleventh	11 points;
Each place thereafter according to placing.	
Withdrew from contest (DNF)	number of entries + 1 points
Disqualification (DQ)	number of entries + 2 points
Did not compete (DNC)	Max. number of entries in an event in previous year + 2 points

5.26.3 In the event of a series tie, each paddlers placing at the SA Champs shall be listed in order of best to worst and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the paddler with the best score.

5.27 SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM QUALIFYING CRITERIA

5.27.1 Competitors in the Open Men's and Open Women's division as well as any other age division for which the ISA creates an age group event, will be eligible to qualify for selection for the national team to compete in the annual ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championships in any given year.

5.27.2 Eligibility Criteria for qualification for selection for the national team :

- a) Holder of a valid South African Passport or ID Book as determined from time to time by SASCOG;

- b) Availability at the time of ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championships;
- c) Ability to fund participation in the ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championships;
- d) Written Permission of the parent or guardian to be considered for selection If an eligible competitor is under the age of 18
- e) Eligibility of competitors in age group divisions at the time of the ISAWSPC in terms of the relevant age requirements of the competition.

5.13.3 Position on the final SUPSA points rankings for a particular year in a particular age division shall determine the order in which team members are considered for selection for the National Team for the following year. SUPSA shall also take into account other relevant criteria when selecting the national team, such as international results and each athletes attitude and potential, impact of selection on overall team performance, as well as taking transformation objectives into account.

5.28 TEAM POINTS ALLOCATION AND TROPHY

- 5.28.1 In applicable SUPSA sanctioned events, and at an event organiser’s discretion, each competitor will accumulate team points according to the place he/she finishes in the contest.
- 5.28.2 The base points (see Schedule below) will be multiplied by the number of surfers competing per team in the respective divisions. The total points will be distributed amongst the available places. The winning team will be that team with the highest sum of points.
- 5.28.3 A team may consist of members of a region or a club and the team is to consist of three participants per division.
- 5.28.4 More than one team per region or club may be entered into the event.
- 5.28.5 At an event organiser’s discretion, a team trophy (whether floating or not) may be awarded to the winning team. In the event that the sanctioned event is the SUPSA South African SUP Surfing Championships, then the winning team will be named the South African SUP Surfing Team Champions.
- 5.28.6 Schedule for determining team points, noting that points are multiplied by the number of competitors in each division (for a full listing of 90 placings see the *ISA Rulebook*):

First place	1000	Sixteenth place	413
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Second place	860	Seventeenth place	400
Third place	730	Eighteenth place	395
Fourth place	670	Nineteenth place	390
Fifth place	610	Twentieth place	385
Sixth place	583	Twenty-first place	380
Seventh place	555	Twenty-second place	375
Eighth place	528	Twenty-third place	370
Nine place	500	Twenty-fourth place	365
Tenth place	488	Twenty-fifth place	360
Eleventh place	475	Twenty-sixth place	355
Twelfth place	462	Twenty-seventh place	350
Thirteenth place	450	Twenty-eighth place	345
Fourteenth place	438	Twenty-ninth place	340
Fifteenth place	425	Thirtieth place	335