

Contest Rules

Heats

- Preliminary Heats will usually be 15 minutes, unless otherwise specified at check-in.
- Final Heats will be 20 minutes, unless otherwise specified at check-in.
- The event sponsors reserve the right to specify the length of heats based on conditions.
- Each heat will begin and end with one horn blast and the display of a green flag.
- A five minute warning will be given with two horn blasts and the display of a yellow flag.
- The maximum number of waves per competitor in a heat and the number of waves judged will be determined on the morning of the event according to the surf conditions.

Check-In (REQUIRED)

- All competitors must check in 15 minutes before the beginning of their first heat or when called.
- Jersey colors are assigned and finalized at check-in only. Competitors who do not check in and just grab a jersey based on what they saw online or in other published heat documents may be disqualified. Only check-in personnel know what color jersey has been assigned to any competitor.
- Competitors must sign an event waiver before their first heat in order to participate in the event.

Penalties

- When penalties result in a competitor's loss of a scoring wave(s) in a heat, the penalty will be averaged in as a scoring wave of zero (0). The wave will be included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.

Surfboards

- Surfboard lengths for all Longboard heats must be a minimum of nine (9) feet.
- For most events leashes are optional, some events prohibit them. Competitors assume responsibility for no cord use and do so by entering this event.

Jerseys

- Competitors must return their jerseys to the Check-In area immediately upon exiting the water.
- Any competitor removing their jersey before exiting the water and then surfing in the contest area will be disqualified from the event.

Starts/Ends

- In all water starts, competitors may enter the water at the five-minute warning (two horn blasts and the display of a yellow flag).
- Competitors must paddle out at the area designated by the Contest Director.
- Competitors waiting in the water for their heat to start must stay clear of the heat in progress. Failure to follow the instructions will result in a "paddling interference".
- If a competitor stands up before the beginning of their heat, the competitor may be scored zero (0) for that wave. The wave will be included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.
- If a competitor stands up after the end of their heat, the competitor may be scored zero (0) for that wave. The wave will be included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.
- Competitors exiting from the competition area must not stand and must return to the beach in a prone position.
- At the conclusion of the heat, competitors will immediately exit the competition area and return to the beach in either a prone position or on their knees. Violation of this rule will result in the competitor's disqualification from the event.

Waves

- The maximum number of waves allowed per heat will be determined on the day of the event by the Contest Director and is dictated by conditions. All preliminary and Semi-Final heats will have the same maximum wave count. Finals may be assigned higher wave counts.
- Competitors are responsible for knowing the maximum wave count for their heat as well keeping track of their wave count.
- If a competitor stands up on an extra wave, it be scored as zero (0). The wave will be included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.
- **If a competitor stands up on number of extra wave that is equal to or exceeds the maximum wave count, all be scored as zero (0) and at the discretion of the head judge and contest director and may result in a disqualification from the event.**

Check-Out (REQUIRED)

- Competitors are required, at a minimum, to return their jerseys immediately following the end of their heat. Not returning a jersey may result in a disqualification. Most events pass out goodie bags when competitors complete their first round heat to encourage the return of the jerseys.

Interference

- Interference is determined by a competitor impeding another competitor from either:
 1. Riding a wave,
 2. Trying to establish possession of a wave,
Trying to paddle out or in, or
 3. Trying to swim out or in.
- The competitor closest to the curl has the unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that wave, i.e., standard Point Break Rule.
- If the event is held at a Beach or Peak break where two riders may "split the Peak" or take off in different directions, neither will be charged with interference providing they do not deliberately reverse direction and attempt to promote an interference on the other surfer. "Splitting the Peak" is done by mutual agreement with each competitor giving right-of-way to a specific direction to the other competitor. Once right-of-way is given, tampering with it constitutes interference.
- In the event two riders stand up at the same time the rider closest to the curl has wave possession.
- Any action which impedes a competitor riding or taking off on a wave by another competitor by Dropping In, Taking Off, or Paddling in front of the rider in possession will result in an Interference infraction and loss of that scoring wave in that heat. The wave will be scored a zero (0) and will be included in the competitor's wave count.
- In cases where a rider is in front of another rider unknowingly or so appears to the majority of judges, and if that rider exits promptly while not impeding the rider's ability to perform, then no interference shall be called (i.e., No Harm, No Foul).
- Paddling directly in front of, around, or directly behind a competitor to impede their take off -- Snaking -- with non-sportsmanlike conduct will not be allowed. The penalty will be considered Interference and loss of the competitor's "highest" scoring wave. That wave will be scored as zero (0) and will be included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.
- Boxing out tactics employed by two competitors against another will be considered Interference. Both violating competitors will be scored a zero (0) for a wave and that wave will be included in the competitor's wave count.
- Collapsing a wave intentionally to prevent a competitor from surfing or catching the wave will be considered Interference. The violating competitor will be scored a zero (0) for a wave and that wave will be included in the competitor's wave count.

Scoring

- The competitor who exhibits the best style while executing the most functional, controlled maneuvers in the most critical section of the best wave, for the longest time shall receive the most points.
- Competitors will gain points for:
 1. A “good presentation” of surfing skill and style.
 2. Surfing with balance, using the wave’s power, performing maneuvers within the wave’s flow, and looking good.
 3. Selecting a wave which: has more sections, peaks, and power, is lined up, can be ridden for distance, and has good appearance.
 4. Surfing the entire wave to its completion while performing maneuvers throughout the entire wave.

Flow, style, and, for longboards, noseriding are scored at a premium.

Judging, General

- Three (3) or more judges will score each competitor. A judge’s scoring sheet will be signed by that judge and will include the heat number.
- The judge’s wave score sheet is used to determine how that judge ranks the competitors or that heat (IE: 1 thru 6, assuming 6 competitors in the heat).
- If there are five (5) judges, the high and low judges ranking for each competitor will be dropped with the remaining three rankings totaled to determine the Judges’ Tally Score.
- If there are three (3) judges, each competitor’s high and low placement scores (from heat tallies) for the heat will be dropped; the remaining three placement scores will be averaged.
- The Judges’ Tally Score determines heat placement ranking low to high (low score: 1st, and so on).
- A wave is counted when the surfer’s hands leave the rails of their surfboard.
- If two (2) of three (3) Judges indicate that an interference has occurred, the interfering competitor’s wave may be scored as a zero (0) by all judges.
- The Head Judge will notify the Tally Team that an interference has occurred.
- Judges must check in thirty (30) minutes before commencement of event (First Call).
- Judges must not surf in the competition unless otherwise agreed upon by the Head Judge, Competition Director, and Beach Marshall.
- Points will be calculated on a 20-point scoring system or other agreed upon system that can produce results in a timely manner.

Judging, Ties

- Ties are broken during the Tally process.
- A general judging consensus using plus/minus system on the judging sheet must break ties.
- First level tie breaker are the next scoring wave, and so on.
- In the case of a three way tie the plus and minus system is used to decide the best two surfers, then used again to split those two surfers.
- The next level of tie breaker is the best combined next 2 waves, the tabulator combines the next 2 wave score for the tied competitors and compares the results, and so on until the tie is broken.
- Count backs on tied sheets are to go to the best 3 waves, then the best 2 waves, then the best wave, until the tie is broken.
- In the event that the tie cannot be broken in this manner, the tabulator would then count the best 3/4/5/6 waves etc... up until the tie is broken.
- If a tie results in the possibility of more surfers advancing to the next round than expected the next round will be expanded to accommodate that expansion.
- Where a tie occurs and a surfer has an interference penalty this surfer has already had one or more waves deducted. Therefore any count backs will result in this surfer winning as they would be deducting a zero score.

Judging, Protests

- Protests must be filed in writing by the competitor's Team Captain and given to the Beach Marshall within 30 minutes of conclusion of the heat in question. After filing written protest, only the Team Captain will be allowed to speak with the Beach Marshall, Contest Director, or Head Judge. Citing rule definitions in protests from this list is recommended.
- For the day's last heat, the Beach Marshall and/or Head Judge will be available to consider any protests up to 30 minutes after the conclusion of that heat.
- To file a protest, include: competitor's name, jersey color, heat number.
- Only the Team Captain is allowed inside the Operations Area.
- Failure to handle the Head Judge's final decision with good sportsmanship may result in immediate disqualification. Non-professional attitude, profanity and rude behavior will be considered bad sportsmanship.

Judging, Advancing

- It is the competitor's responsibility to know when she/he surfs.
- If a competitor has any questions, they are to ask someone from the Event Staff qualified to help make things clear.

General Conduct

- The Event is focused on surfing competition, sportsmanship, and fellowship.
- Competitors, non-competing spectators, judges, officials, and volunteers must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner -- showing respect for themselves and each other in and out of the water. This includes their actions at all official Coalition of Surf Club events, i.e., during the day and in the evening, on the beach and off.

Sportsmanlike Conduct

- Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but not limited to: respect for the Event partners, competition officials, Event volunteers, judging officials, the surfing and beach-going public; respect for facilities, the use of courtesy and good manners at Event venues; acting responsibly and maturely at Event venues; refraining from the use of profane or abusive language at Event venues; illegal (e.g., under age) or immoderate use of alcohol at Event venues; and the use of illegal or banned drugs. Event competitors, spectators, judges, officials, and volunteers shall conduct themselves in accordance with the best traditions of sporting competition.
- Event competitors, spectators, judges, officials, and volunteers who violate this sportsmanlike conduct rule, or who conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner or otherwise engage in conduct harmful to the reputation of the MSA, or surfing as a sport, are subject to disciplinary action.
- Disciplinary action can include: verbal warnings; personal disqualification, expulsion from the event site, suspension from future Event, and/or some combination of the foregoing.

Process

- The Event Head Judge and Beach Marshall are authorized to impose "on the spot" warnings or disqualifications. Upon consultation with the Contest Director, points deductions, expulsions, and suspensions may be further levied.
- All disciplinary action must be reported to, and by, the Beach Marshall.

Non-Progressive Policy

- Nothing in these rules impedes the Contest Director, Head Judge, or Beach Marshall from suspending, disqualifying, or expelling a competitor without prior warning. In other words, this is not a progressive discipline policy.