



# COMPETITION RULES

- Section 1: Rules – SSA National Tournaments
- Section 2: Competition Rules
- Section 3: Interference
- Section 4: Judging
- Section 5: Judging Criteria and Hints
- Section 6: Evaluation of Judges
- Section 7: Duties of the Head Judge
- Section 8: Duties of the Contest Director
- Section 9 : Duties of the Tabulators
- Section 10: SSA Contest Discipline

**UPDATED ON APRIL 28, 2005**



## SECTION 1: RULES: SSA NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

### *1. Rules of Competition*

The rules of competition as set out in this Rule Book must be applied by all affiliated Provincial and National organizations.

Amendments to the rules are the prerogative of the Board of Directors. Amendments are generally made at the Board and Natcom meeting preceding the National Championships.

These amendments will be applied at all SSA contests as long as the amendments are circulated to affiliates prior to the start of a National Tournament.

Any proposals for changes to the Rule Book must be submitted in writing to the General Manager at least 30 days before an Annual General Meeting.

Surfing South Africa will enforce any Rule changes approved at an ISA or SSA Meeting and will incorporate the most up to date ASP Judging Criteria as the criteria for National tournaments.

### *2. Team Lists and Replacements: National contests*

Team lists must be submitted in writing to the General Manager a minimum of a calendar month (30/31 days) before a National contest is scheduled to begin. These lists must clearly indicate every surfer in each division and their seeding and their date of birth. Age qualifications are determined by calendar year. eg: surfers who compete in the Under 20 division may not turn 21 during the year of competition. This means that they MUST be 20 at midnight of Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of the year that they compete in the under 20 division.

This rule applies to surfers in the U20, U18,U16,U14,U12,U10,U8 or younger. Senior Men must turn 27 in the year of competition (over 26) Masters must turn 35 in the contest year, (over 34) Veterans must turn 42 (over 41) and Legends must be over 51. The Open Division is "open" to any age,

Alterations to teams will be permitted up to the time of and during the Manager's meeting held prior to the respective contests. Those surfers who are confirmed to compete at this point are the final starters and any no-show competitor for the first round will be allocated the fourth place in their Round One Heat. A reserve may only be substituted to compete in the Main Event at the beginning of the contest if there is medically documented illness or injury, in which case a direct substitution will be made (ie. no reseeding). Once a substitution has been made, the original surfer cannot re-enter the competition. After a surfer has surfed in the contest a reserve may not be substituted for him/her under any conditions EXCEPT in the case of TAG TEAM events where substitutes may be used.

Once the initial draw has been made, no redraws will be made to account for no-show competitors.

In events that include a Tag Team Contest reserves/substitutes may compete in the Tag Team rounds.

### *3. Seedings.*

In the SA Championships, SA Junior Championships and other National events, the seeding order in each division will be based on the complete sequence of the surfers of each participating team, as submitted to the General Manager/ Contest Director, following the rankings of each team at the previous event.

In the case of a new team event (such as the SA Masters Championships) the results from the most recent SA Championships will be used to determine seedings.

Where a team did not compete in a previous event, the surfers in this team will be seeded at the end of the team list in the order that the official team entry was received.

The first round seeding will follow the seeding order as specified in paragraph 1. The contest first seed will be the first seed of the first rated team, the contest second seed will be the second seed of the first rated team, and so on.

Within the competition, participants who progress through the heats will be seeded into each successive heat according to the position that they obtained in the previous heat.

All events should be designed to accommodate a minimum 50% progression rate.

IF there are 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.

#### *4. Format*

Contests will be run according to the format decided by the Board of Directors or affiliated body in the case of SALSA, SABA and SAKA.

The Rounds and the Finals may be held at different venues or at the same venue. The Finals will be run on a four surfer heat system with a minimum of two waves counting.

Where for any reason it is not possible to hold or complete the Finals, the Contest Director may determine division winners from the accumulated places of the contest. The last competition day will always include the Finals.

#### *5. Team Points*

In the South African, SA Junior Championships and SA Masters Championships each surfer will accumulate team points according to the place he/she finishes in the contest. The base points ( maximum 1000) will be multiplied by the number of surfers competing in the respective divisions. The total points will be distributed amongst the available places. Base points allocation will be as per the table attached in section 2.

The winning team at the South African Championships will be that team with the highest sum of points. They will be named as SA Team Champions and will be awarded the Presidents Cup.

In the SA Junior Team Championships the winners will be named SA Junior Team Champions and will win the Freedom Cup.

At the SA Masters Championships the winning team will receive the Team Trophy.

#### *6. Meetings*

The Contest Director, together with the Head Judge, will hold meetings for judges and officials prior to the commencement of any national event. Attendance at these is compulsory for all judges and officials.

Suitable prior notice of these meetings must be given by the General Manager in consultation with the Contest director and Head Judge and this information must be circulated to each province by the General Manager NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT.

The purpose of such meetings is to acquaint officials with the arrangements for the competition, procedures during the contest and judging standards as well as any other requirements.

A Managers meeting will be held prior to all national events and the same procedure as indicated for the judges meeting will be followed for the Managers Meeting.

#### *7. Entry Fees*

The entry fee shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of SSA and MUST be paid prior to the deadline set by the General Manager.

At present the Entry fee for the SA Championships is R5000 per team and for the SA Juniors and SA masters it is R3000 per team.

Failure to pay entry fees on time could lead to a 10% penalty or disqualification of the Team.

#### *8. Indemnity Forms*

All Indemnity Forms must be signed and EITHER faxed to the SSA offices 48 hours before the start of the first heat OR handed to the Contest Director or Event Director at the Team Managers meeting.

Failure to complete and sign an Indemnity Form will result in that surfer being withdrawn from the event

## SECTION 2 : COMPETITION RULES

### 1. Timing and Wave Counts

- a) Recommended minimum heat times and wave counts:
  - HEATS and Finals: Best 2 waves (max 12)Length of heats (timing) shall be between 15 and 25 minutes and finals shall be a minimum of 20 minutes. Heat times are decided by the CD and HJ and must be made known to Surfers, Team Managers, Contest officials and the Tabulators by the Contest Director before contestants enter the water for their heats.
- b) The Contest Director will consult with the Event Director and Head Judge for a recommendation on heat times. Any alteration during an event must be communicated to all parties before surfers enter the water.
- c) Official timing of all heats will be done by the Head Judge.
- d) A visual and PA warning will be given when 5 minutes remain in the heat.
- e) 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.
- f) A large disc system at least 1 metre square must also be used to indicate to surfers the start of and completion of their heats. Green to start and yellow for the last 5 minutes.
- g) The commentator or Head Judge must give a five second count-down at the beginning and end of each heat, and when this count reaches zero the heat must start or end immediately.
- h) The first of the two sirens must blow immediately when the commentator reaches zero. The official end of the heat is when the siren is first audible to the Head Judge, who will indicate to the judges that no more rides are to be scored for that heat. The siren takes precedence over the disc.
- i) The coloured disc must be in the neutral position with no colour showing when the commentator reaches zero in the countdown. The disc must remain in the neutral position between heats.
- j) In the event of siren failure the coloured disc will be the indicator for heat timing.
- k) During and at the end of a heat the surfer must be clearly in possession of the wave on the wave face, making a movement to stand, hands having left the rails (rail grabs excluded) for the wave to be scored.
- l) If the Contest Director wishes to use the minimum time delay between heats (of 10 seconds) he must provide a marshalling area in the water outside of the line up.
- m) In the case of a water start the maximum time between heats shall be 2 minutes, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.
- n) 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 the originally set period. The only exception will be if the Head Judge, in consultation with other qualified officials (Contest Director, Event Director etc) feels that the entire heat should be rerun because no surfer had a clear advantage at the time of cancellation, or if altered surf conditions make it impossible for judges to keep to the same scale.
- o) In extreme conditions, in heats with 5 competitors and for sub-20 minute heats, a surfer's best 2 waves will determine results.
- p) It is a competitor's responsibility to monitor the number of waves he or she has ridden. An attempt will be made to notify a competitor who has caught the maximum number of waves. Protests regarding no announcements made or heard will not be accepted. If more than the maximum allowed number of waves are ridden within the time limit the surfer shall be penalised for each extra wave ridden. In addition the surfer who remains in the water after catching the wave maximum will be penalised for interference if:
  - i) He/she rides an extra wave that clearly deprives another competitor of an available ride
  - ii) He/she interferes with any other competitor by paddling, positioning or some other reason.This penalty might be a fine OR disqualification (OR both) for unsporting conduct. In this case the points of the surfer in questions will be scrapped.

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

3. Where water starts are being used, competitors will be permitted to paddle out when there are 5 minutes left in the preceding heat, and will congregate in the marshalling area, well clear of competitors in the heat in progress. Surfers may only paddle towards the line-up 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 out time.
4. 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 of 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. The Contest Director must have an official notice board where the daily schedule and contest conditions are posted for all the competitors to see. This schedule must be posted by no later than 3pm each day and once posted, cannot be extended.
6. While the contest is in progress any unauthorised surfer in the competition area may be penalised This ruling also applies to clearing the water before the start of the day's events.
7. Any surfer standing up and riding during any preceding heat may be penalised. Waves caught during the dead time between heats will not be scored. No penalty or fine is applicable during "dead time"
8. Any surfer standing up after his heat and riding during the next heat may be fined, disqualified (or both) depending on the severity of the interference.
9. Anyone who is guilty of unsporting conduct or bringing an SSA event or SURFING SA itself into disrepute may be liable to disqualification at the discretion of the Board of Directors or may face a Disciplinary Enquiry on the recommendation of the Contest Director.
10. Heats will be made up of a maximum of 4 surfers except in the first round and repechage rounds of any contest where 5 man heats may be surfed.. A minimum of 50% of the surfers in a round must advance in Round three and beyond. (except in five person heats in Round One and Round Two (repechage) where either two or three may advance to the following round.)
11. The composition of the heats will be decided by the Event Director or the Contest Director after entries have closed. Composition of heats will be based on the seedings of entries, but if no seedings are available then known ratings or a random draw may be used. (If a random draw is used, it is recommended that a repechage round is held after the first round).
12. The judges score sheets and the tabulator sheet may be scrutinised by competitors in the presence of their manager or coach after the conclusion of their heat and once the heat has been published by the Contest Director and results announced.
13. Competitors must wear the official competition vest provided 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.
14. Competitors are responsible for ensuring they wear the correct coloured contest vest in their heat. A surfer in an incorrect colour contest vest shall have no right to protest if the judges were unable to distinguish his/her rides from those of the other surfers in the heat.
15. There must be a minimum of 18 inches (0,5m) of wave height before surf can be deemed contestable. A special allowance may be made on the final scheduled day of an event, if the surf is rideable/ contestable. This decision will be made by the Contest Director and Head Judge and may not be influenced by Event producers or sponsors.

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

17. Unless the event (or conditions) are of such a nature that motorised craft may be used to assist surfers to reach the backline and this has been approved by the Board and Contest Director prior to the start of such event any use of outside craft (rubber-duck, jet ski, 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 or the contest officials feel 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 he/she may continue the heat.

#### 18. Protests

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

The merits of each protest will be considered by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge. Qualified observers (off-duty judges, spotter, senior officials) may be asked for their advice. The Contest Director will rule on the incident and inform the surfer's manager of the decision in writing. Note: No protest will be considered against a judging (scoring) decision which is irrevocable no matter what proof is available to show difference. Once a decision has been made by the judges or officials there is no form of protest. No judges are to be approached over a call or results or a penalty may be imposed on the individual concerned. At this time video analysis of a heat to check for interference or missed waves is not permitted.

#### 19. Water Photographers

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

#### 20. General

- a) Under no circumstances may an event sponsor force contestants to wear any particular brand of trunks or wetsuits as a condition of their entry into any SSA sanctioned event.
- b) Sponsors and their representatives may not be involved in any SSA event in any official capacity (Judge, Commentator, Contest Director etc)
- c) Sponsors and their representatives may not be involved in decisions relating to the technical issues of any SSA Event
- d) All beach marshals must be English speaking.
- e) All functions, meetings, etc. are to be held near the contest site and at reasonable times
- f) All official meetings are compulsory for the appropriate persons.

## 21. Announcements

- a) During the heat the announcer/commentator may not announce the computer scores or standard of ride until all the judges' scores are entered into the system.
- b) All announcements of interferences must be conveyed to the announcer/commentator by the Head Judge or Contest Director before they can be announced publicly.
- c) In all heats and finals computer scores must be given throughout the whole heat, unless instructions to the contrary are given by the Event Coordinator
- d) If a score is given by the announcer/commentator and it is wrong due to judges inputting the incorrect scores, the commentator/announcer giving the wrong score, or for any other reason, then the surfers will have no form of protest.
- e) The announcer/commentator may not call or indicate in any way any wave conditions (eg. approaching outside sets, etc) that may benefit one contestant over another.
- f) If any surfer requires information from the water during a heat they must use hand signals :
- g) Time remaining:  
One hand touching another above the head
- h) Wave count:  
One arm outwards horizontal to the water.
- i) Scores, last scores, total, needed to win, etc:  
Both arms out horizontal to the water.  
If contestants hear and understand the above they must acknowledge by waving one arm.

## 22. Specific Board Sizes

### a) **Bodyboards require the following attributes:**

Will be flexible and shall include some portion of soft exterior skin

Shall not exceed 5 feet in length.

The use of fins is optional.

### b) **Longboard requirements:**

Length is a minimum of 9 feet from the tip of the board in a straight line along its length. Width dimensions to be a minimum aggregate of 47 inches. That is the total of the widest point, plus the width 12 inches up from the tail and the width 12 inches back from the nose.

Traditional longboard Malibu shape to be used with use of multiple fins and channels allowed. Board length measured using straight line along the deck.

"Nose Protection", will not be accepted as part of the longboard. Any increase in size must be made with a rigid material as part of the shape of the longboard.

## 23. Double Elimination

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

- a) If an interruption is not definite but makes it impossible to follow the original schedule, even if the heat times are reduced to the minimum as stipulated in the Rules, the repechages 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 repechages.
- b) If it is impossible to continue with the competition, the points still to be decided will be divided among the competitors who are still in the competition. The surfers who are in the repechage will be allocated half points.  
Postponement of the competition beyond its original schedule will only be possible with the approval of the organisers, sponsors, and a 75% majority of the teams, which still have at least one athlete competing.

## 24. Team Surfing Rules (TAG TEAM)

- a) A match will consist of registered teams, with five (5) surfers per team.
- Four (4) men and one (1) woman in each round. Surfers may be substituted in subsequent rounds...
  - Time will determine how many teams compete in the event and the decision on number of teams will be made by the Contest Director

A reserve/substitute may compete as long as the reserve/substitute pays an entry fee.

- b) Four surfers will compete in each heat, each representing a separate team.
- c) Each surfer must commence from behind a designated start line / area near the shoreline.
- d) The team order of surfing cannot be changed once submitted at check in time. A surfer may only surf once. A power surfer must also be nominated.
- e) Each surfer can catch a maximum of three (3) waves. Surfers must nominate two (2) of their three (3) waves as scoring, by raising both hands above their head before paddling out again. Once waves have been locked in, they cannot be changed. When a surfer has locked in two (2) rides they return to the shore, make contact with the designated beach marker, releasing the next surfer to catch their waves Team surfer must make contact with the beach marker to release the next team surfer.
- f) Heat length will be a maximum of sixty (60) minutes. (This may alter at the discretion of the Contest Director).
- g) The official in charge designates the start line and beach marker.
- h) Match final results will be calculated by the scoring computer.
- i) Interference as per SSA Rules.
- j) As a bonus each team will have a Power surfer. The power surfers have the added pressure of all three (3) rides counting in the team score. When an interference has been scored, a three (3) minute time penalty will be incurred by the team's following surfer, who must wait the time penalty in the penalty box after the surfer in the water has made contact with the beach marker. In the case of the interfering surfer being the last team member, the team's set time will be reduced by the time penalty.
- k) In the event of an interference the Head Judge may award a replacement wave within the heat time period to the surfer who has had their scoring potential hindered. The surfer will be notified of the option of the replacement wave by PA announcement.
- l) Surfers may release their board at the water's edge when returning to the beach marker.
- m) All team members are not required to be present in the finishing area.
- n) All team members are required to stay in the team box wearing a contest vest for the duration of the heat in which the team is surfing unless otherwise informed by the CD. Team boxes must be big enough to accommodate all team members.
- o) Penalties:
- Surfer competes out of turn: 5 points
  - Surfer catches more than wave limit: 5 points
  - Interference: 3 minute penalty
  - Non completion of wave limit within time (ie: possible number of waves required to cross finish line): 5 points

## 25. National Contests Points Allocation

1	-	1000	pts
2	-	860	pts
3	-	730	pts
4	-	670	pts
5	-	610	pts
6	-	583	pts
7	-	555	pts
8	-	528	pts
9	-	500	pts
10	-	488	pts
11	-	475	pts
12	-	462	pts
13	-	450	pts
14	-	438	pts
15	-	425	pts
16	-	413	pts
17	-	400	pts
18	-	395	pts
19	-	390	pts
20	-	385	pts
21	-	380	pts
22	-	375	pts
23	-	370	pts
24	-	365	pts
25	-	360	pts
26	-	355	pts
27	-	350	pts
28	-	345	pts
29	-	340	pts
30	-	335	pts
31	-	330	pts
32	-	325	pts
33	-	320	pts
34	-	315	pts
35	-	310	pts
36	-	305	pts
37	-	300	pts
38	-	295	pts
39	-	290	pts
40	-	285	pts
41	-	280	pts
42	-	275	pts
43	-	270	pts
44	-	265	pts
45	-	260	pts
46	-	255	pts
47	-	250	pts
48	-	245	pts
49	-	240	pts
50	-	235	pts
51	-	230	pts
52	-	225	pts
53	-	220	pts
54	-	215	pts
55	-	210	pts

56	-	205	pts
57	-	200	pts
58	-	195	pts
59	-	190	pts
60	-	185	pts
61	-	180	pts
62	-	175	pts
63	-	170	pts
64	-	165	pts
65	-	160	pts
66	-	158	pts
67	-	156	pts
68	-	154	pts
69	-	152	pts
70	-	150	pts
71	-	148	pts
72	-	146	pts
73	-	144	pts
74	-	142	pts
75	-	140	pts
76	-	138	pts
77	-	136	pts
78	-	134	pts
79	-	132	pts
80	-	130	pts
81	-	128	pts
82	-	126	pts
83	-	124	pts
84	-	122	pts
85	-	120	pts
86	-	118	pts
87	-	116	pts
88	-	114	pts
89	-	112	pts
90	-	110	pts

Points are multiplied by the number of competitors in each division.

e.g. winner of Open Men @ SA Championships – 1000 points x 8 = 8000 points.

## SECTION 3: INTERFERENCE

### *1. Basic Rules*

a. The surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride. Interference will be called if during a ride a majority of judges feel that a fellow competitor has hindered the scoring potential of that surfer deemed to have right of way on the wave.

b. Anyone who stands up in front of (or takes off in front of) a surfer with right of way has the opportunity to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless he hinders the scoring potential of the surfer with right of way by any means, including excessive hassling, leg rope pulling, breaking a wave section or any other unsporting behaviour.

### *2. Right of Way*

Wave possession or right of way will vary slightly under the following conditions as determined by the nature of the contest venue, but basically it is the responsibility of the judge to determine which surfer holds the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left but never on which surfer is first to their feet. 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.

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 Point 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 make 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 possibly hindering, in the majority of judges opinion, the inside surfer).

c) Beach Break with multiple, random peaks

In these conditions, wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:

i) With two Peaks, there will be cases where one swell will have two separate, defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the surfer who is first to their feet shall be deemed to have wave possession and the second surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way surfer.

ii) If two surfers stand at the same time on two separate peaks that eventually meet, then:

a) If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty.

b) 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.

c) If neither surfer gives way, by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility for the confrontation, then a double interference will be called.

### *3. The Right of Way Criteria*

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

#### 4. Snaking

- a) The surfer who is furthest inside at the initial point of take-off and has established wave possession is entitled to that wave for the duration of their ride, even though another surfer may subsequently take off in the white water behind them. The judges will not penalize the surfer even though they are in front because they have right of way.
- b) If the second surfer has not hindered the original surfer with right of way, then the judges may choose not to penalize him/her and will score both surfers' rides.
- c) 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 shall be called on the second surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty is called.

#### 5. Paddling Interference

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

- i) The offending surfer makes contact with or forces the inside surfer to change their line while paddling to catch the wave causing possible loss of scoring potential.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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 interference based on whether it is felt to be accidental or not.

#### 6. Interference Rule

- a) The surfer deemed to have the INSIDE POSITION on a wave has UNCONDITIONAL right of way for the entire duration of that ride. Interference will be called if during that ride a majority of judges feel that a fellow competitor has HINDERED THE SCORING POTENTIAL of the surfer deemed to have the right of way.
- b) Riding Interference If a majority of judges call a riding interference, then the lowest counting 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 (or two of the judges in the case of a panel of three) 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.
- c) Paddling Interference If a majority of judges call a paddling interference, then that surfer will lose 50% of the score of his/her lowest counting wave. If a surfer has less than the required minimum scoring rides and receives an interference then they will be scored 50% on one less wave, i.e. if they have caught only one wave and the best two count then they will receive only a 50% score of the wave ridden. 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 upon.
- d) 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. (team points will be lost.)
- e) A Head Judge or Contest Director may be included in this decision, and in this case an interference would be determined on three of six judging sheets.

- f) Any interfering surfer must be penalized and a 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.
- g) The surfer who is interfered with, will be allowed an additional wave, beyond their ten or twelve wave maximum, 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.
- h) Where any surfer incurs two or more interference penalties they must leave the competition immediately. Failure to do so may result in a fine and/or disqualification. (team place points for the team championship will also be lost )
- i) An interference call will be announced only once approval has been received from the Head Judge or Contest Director. This announcement must be made during the heat.
- j) The Contest Director will also notify Team Officials of the interference over the PA at the end of the heat.

#### SECTION 4: JUDGING

##### **Current Judging Criteria (2005)**

"A surfer must perform radical manoeuvres in the most critical sections of a wave with Speed, Power and Flow to maximise scoring potential.

Innovative /Progressive surfing as well as a variety of repertoire (manoeuvres) will be taken into consideration when awarding points for waves ridden.

The surfer who executes this criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the better waves shall be rewarded with the highest scores."

Longboard criteria: "Longboards will be judged on a combination of 50% traditional and 50% modern manoeuvres with CONTROL being the major factor."

Bodyboard criteria: This shall be based on the surfing criteria above with emphasis on bodyboard manoeuvres (prone, drop-knee or standing).

2. Judging panels for each heat will consist of five judges who will rotate from a larger judging panel. A panel of seven judges is the minimum necessary to conduct an event on a full-time basis. The judging panel roster should not require any judge to judge for more than 3 heats without a break. Each judging panel will officiate under the control and discretion of a Head Judge whose duties are more fully described in Section 8.

In National championships (SA Champs, SA Juniors, SA Masters) A Grade ASRO officials will be selected to officiate. All will be paid and there will be no Team judges.

3. Judges must check in with the Head Judge at least 15 minutes prior to the heat starting times. This allows time to get a realistic view of the waves, and the surfing standard.

4. The number of the Judge, and heat number must be clearly entered on the judging sheet.

5. If a score is not clear or must be changed, it must be lined through and the correct score inserted in the next block. All alterations must be initialled by the Judge.

6. Judges must not tally the sheet and must hand in the sheet promptly at the end of the heat.

7. Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.

8. Judges must score every wave ridden by every competitor.

9. Wave scoring will be done from zero (0) to ten (10) broken into one tenth increments.

10. Judges are responsible for ruling on interference situations as described in Section 4.

11. Judges should be visually separated and it is the responsibility of the Head Judge to ensure that judges do not discuss wave scores or interference calls.

12. Judges may not change their scores or interference calls either on the computer terminal or on manual sheets. In the event that a mistake has been made, the judge must inform the Head Judge who will authorise the amendment. The Judge must sign any changes/alterations.

13. If a judge misses a wave or part of a wave he must place an "M" in the block on the sheet, and inform the Head Judge, who will give a score based on a comparison of previous rides and other judge's sheets. The score must be initialled by the Head judge.

14. The judges used in the finals will be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency.

15. Judges who have finished their rostered events are to remain on hand in the administration area until their last heat has been tallied, and until protests can no longer be lodged.

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

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

18. Judging statistics will be compiled daily. (Detailed in Section 7). Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and assigned to other contest duties. This can take place at any time and be enforced by the Contest Director on the recommendation of the Head Judge. This could also result in a reduction of that judge's fee

19. At times, errors of a special nature occur with respect to judging. This includes but not limited to, timing and scoring on the wrong colour. At his/her discretion the Head Judge, along with the Contest Director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as off-duty judges, spotters, or other officials) who may have witnessed the incident in question, and who will rule on these special circumstances case by case.

## 20. Judging Tower/Area

The Contest Director and Head Judge will be responsible for the application of this rule.

- a) The Judges, spotter, announcer and Head Judge must have unrestricted view of the full width of the wave being surfed by the competitor at all times.
- b) Side on view or a view that does not give the judges an accurate or appropriate perspective of the wave is not acceptable.
- c) If a fixed structure (podium) is in place, this podium (or podiums) must be erected in consultation with the Contest Director and Head Judge.
- d) If a contest is moved the judges must be positioned at the vantage point that allows them best viewing of the wave being surfed – even if this requires temporary structures to be positioned on the beach.
- e) The judges must be provided with a suitable weatherproof protective shelter.
- g) If possible, judges must be visually separated from each other.
- h) The Head Judge is in sole control of the Judging area.
- i) Unauthorized people including coaches, managers, agents, sponsors, competitors, friends, family Committee members, NATCOM or even Board members (who are not part of the judging panel or one of the contest officials) are not permitted on the Judging Tower or in the Judging area.
- j) No smoking or alcohol is permitted in the judging tower/area during any contest.

## SECTION 5: JUDGING CRITERIA AND HINTS

The standard of the judging panel is based solely on the individuals' qualifications.

Personal likes or dislikes should become irrelevant if the Judge does his/her job properly.

### 1. Before Judging

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

### 2. Judging

The zero to ten point scoring system used by the SSA 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

- a) Judges should refer to this to establish accurate scores for the first wave exchanges.
- b) Wave scoring is broken into one tenth increments eg: 0.1 – 10 (ten) eg:7.3
- c) Judges should try to remember all scoring waves so as to avoid judging higher as the heat continues.
- d) The last wave exchanges should be judged based on the same criteria as the first wave exchanges. The first wave scored sets the standard for the heat and should remain in the judges mind as the benchmark for that level of performance.
- e) Individual wave scores are what the judge should concentrate on and the final outcome of the heat should be based on scoring waves.
- f) As no surfer rides any wave in the same way, judges should try hard to differentiate between all scoring waves.
- g) Judges should not deliberate but should put a score down after the ride is completed.
- h) During the heat, wave counts should be called as frequently as possible while the contestants are NOT riding. Repeat wave counts regularly.
- i) 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.
- j) During the heat, opinions should not be shared with other judges

### 3. Judging in Bad Conditions

Many events are held in marginal conditions. All events can suffer from poor conditions or surf, so judges must be able to adjust. In poor surf they should concentrate on surfers who are utilising the power on the wave. Judges should observe how each manoeuvre 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. Good judges notice which surfers are completing each wave flawlessly, with major, well executed manoeuvres..

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

### 4. Judging Difficult 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 analysing each wave in such heats:

- Where was the first manoeuvre executed?
- 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 did he just hop all the way through the flat sections or through to the next section?
- How did the outside manoeuvres compare to the inside manoeuvres?
- How deep was the surfer at the initial point of take-off?
- How did the surfer utilize the wave?
- Did the surfer make sections and were the manoeuvres functional?
- Was the manoeuvre completed with control?

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. Experienced judges have the ability to concentrate on what is happening in the heats as well as on details such as a paddling interference and so on.

## 5. General

- a) 100% Concentration is the key. It is not only important enough to put each score down correctly, but judges should also assist the Head Judge with wave and interference calls. In such heats, the ability to score the wave instinctively and to allocate the score automatically at the end of the ride is of utmost importance.
- b) When several competitors are riding at the same time, it is important to watch everyone. However, it is essential that focus be on more critical areas such as the take-off point, the first manoeuvre and other outside manoeuvre. 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.
- c) Continuous wave counts should be called and if unsure about a score only the Head Judge should be asked for assistance NOT a fellow panel judge.

## 6. Judging Panel – National Tournaments

- a) ASRO judges will be hired by SSA as event Judges. There are no Team Judges

## 7. Judging Discipline

Once selected, judges must remain on the panel for the duration of the event. If a judge forfeits their position on the panel through dereliction of duty or any other unacceptable reason they will be suspended for a period determined by SSA in consultation with the President of ASRO. These judges may incur other penalties.

## SECTION 6: EVALUATION of JUDGES

### 1. Method (Manual)

This applies to contests where there is no computer system supplied.

- a) The level of accuracy of judge is measured by comparing the positions given by a judge in a particular heat against the actual positions in the heat.
- b) The evaluation is made on all the competitors in the heat from first place to last place.
- c) A perfect score is a zero and is awarded to a judge who has correctly placed all the competitors in the heat.
- d) One point is added to a Judge's score for each place error he has made. In other words, if the judge's placing is subtracted from the actual placing – or vice versa as the case may be – the difference is the Judge's degree of error.
- e) The judge's score is then entered in the appropriate column on the Tabulation Sheet and then recorded on the Judge's Record Sheet. A Judge's accuracy is then calculated by dividing his score by the number of heats that he has judged. This result gives the average number of place errors per heat judged. In making this evaluation, the number of heats judged by each judge should not vary by more than 10%.
- f) Judging Record Sheet: Maximum possible errors (MPE)
  - (i) 3 man heat = 4 possible errors
  - (ii) 4 man heat = 8 possible errors
- g) Judging statistics must be compiled daily. Any judge who proves to be inconsistent will be dropped from the judging panel and designated other duties. This can take place at any time and will be enforced by the Contest Director on the recommendation of the Head Judge.

### 2. Record Keeping (judging record and analysis sheet)

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

b) Formula for evaluating judging performance

Average =  $\frac{\text{Errors}}{\text{Heats}}$

% Errors =  $\frac{\text{Errors} \times 100\%}{\text{MPE}}$

## SECTION 7: DUTIES OF THE HEAD JUDGE

- a) To set up a meeting of the tournament/event Judges on the day before the event begins. This should be done in consultation with the Contest Director, General Manager and Host Province. Such meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, standardization 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.
- b) 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.
- c) The Head Judge will organise the remaining Judges into Judging Panels so that Judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.
- d) The Head Judge 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.
- e) While heats are in progress the Head Judge may not adjust individual judges scores or give advice on scores, interferences etc.
  - b) 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. The wave count may be done by the spotter.
  - c) 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.

## SECTION 8: DUTIES OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR

In the case of National events there are some specific responsibilities:

- a) To work with the Event coordinator/Director and Head Judge in all aspects of the running of these events
- b) To apply the Rules of Competition as laid out in Sections 2 & 3.
- c) To correctly seed the surfers competing in the event in accordance with these Rules.
- d) To apply a fair and reasonable Contest Format.
- e) To maintain an updated team points total and to distribute same to all team managers, SSA officials and `media by 20h00 at the end of each day of competition.
- f) To convene officials and judges meetings when necessary.
- g) To apply the penalties as laid out in the SSA Disciplinary Code (Section 11) and to impose the appropriate penalties as indicated in this code.

## SECTION 9: DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR

- a) On receipt of the completed Judges' sheet at the end of a heat, the Tabulators will immediately check if:
  - (i) All the Judges' sheets have been handed in and completed legibly on paper.
  - (ii) That the correct number of waves has been scored on each sheet for each surfer.
  - (iii) 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:  
 (i) Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride.  
 (ii) Taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary to bring it into line with the Scoring Spread that the errant Judges use.
- e) When satisfied that the best attempt has been made to establish correct value of the missed ride, the Head Judge will ensure that this value is written on the Judging Sheet.
- f) Where an 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 totalled. The two best scoring waves must be circled or highlighted 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 an 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:
- (i) The Competitor's names are entered on tally sheet.
  - (ii) The judges' numbers are entered across the page at the top of each column.
  - (iii) Positions are copied down beneath each Judge.
  - (iv) The highest and lowest positions are crossed off for each surfer.
  - (v) Total the positions that remain and enter the total in the total points column.
  - (vi) Complete the competitors' heat places.

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

- a)
- In a four person heat, ties must be broken by a general judging consensus using the plus/minus system on the judging master sheet. ie: the two tied surfers five places are compared and marked "+" for the highest and "-" for the lowest. Most "+" marks wins.
  - In the case of a three way tie, the plus/minus system is used to find the top two surfers, then used again to split these surfers.
  - If the tie cannot be broken by using the above system the next process is to go back to the best wave (ie drop the lowest wave score) on the tied judges sheets only and recalculate.
- b) Count backs on tied judging sheets go to the best wave. Only completely unbreakable ties must be re surfed. Only the tied surfers will be involved in the re-surf and the heat will be no longer than 15 minutes.

## SECTION 10: SSA DISCIPLINE

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

### *1. Surfer Misbehaviour*

Although it is generally the Board of Directors' opinion that it does not wish to become the overall watchdog at events, it has been agreed that breaking the SSA and SASCOC Code of Conduct including damage to property, damage to the image of surfing, bringing surfing into disrepute, substance abuse (according to WADA guidelines) and any or all other non contest related infringements will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the SSA Constitution.

Contest Infringements could result in an immediate fine or other appropriate penalties imposed by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge and Event Director.

Fines imposed will be between R50 – R5000 with possible disqualification and/or suspension. Fines will be doubled each time another fine is imposed on the same individual.

### *2. Drug Testing*

- a) Any surfer found by the SSA testing agency (SA Institute for Drug Free Sport) to have participated in doping practices, including the use of cannabinoids and other substances prohibited by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), will face sanction as laid down by WADA.
- b) The official doping policy of the ISA, which has signed the WADA agreement, will be applied for all Surfing SA sanctioned events.
- c) Any coach, trainer, medical practitioner, sports scientist or psychologist who aids, abets, counsels or is knowingly involved in an athletes breach of doping regulations will face sanction as prescribed by WADA.
- d) A sample taken by a WADA appointed agency ( SA Institute for Drug Free Sport) shall be analysed by a laboratory accredited by them in accordance with WADA policy.
- e) Details of WADA regulations can be viewed by going into [www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za](http://www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za), clicking onto the SA Institute for Drug Free Sport icon and then choosing the WADA site.
- f) All queries can be directed to the SAIDS info line.

### *3. SSA Penalties*

Penalties for infractions, other than those associated with doping, 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 Board of Directors

In National or Provincial Team events payments of all fines will be the responsibility of the surfer's province and these fines must be paid to Surfing SA before the end of the contest or the surfer in question will lose the points that would accrue to the team score. The province will still be expected to pay the fine.

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

Fines imposed during "non" team events are the responsibility of the surfer or, if 18 or under, his or her parent or guardian. Fines will be imposed on the spot by the Contest Director based on the attached scale. All fines must be paid immediately to Surfing SA. Surfers who fail to do so and who have qualified for the next round will be withdrawn from that round. Failure to pay the required fine to SSA will mean that the surfer will not be permitted to surf in any contest whatsoever until the fine is paid or a Board of Directors decision is taken

### 5. GENERAL INFRINGEMENTS

Assault (judge, official, event staff, other competitors, media, public)	R5000/ suspension & referral to Disciplinary Committee
Derogatory remarks, verbal abuse, swearing at or rude gestures to judges, team officials, event staff, media, public	R200 & referral to Disciplinary Committee
Destruction or abuse of judging sheets or heat sheets	R150
Abuse of contest equipment or event property	R500 plus costs, Disciplinary Enquiry
Abuse of own equipment during event or in contest area	R150
Damage to property in event locality	R1000 plus costs/ suspension & referral to DC
Damage to the sport of surfing due to Misbehaviour	R2000 / suspension & referral to DC
Unsporting conduct	R500- R1000 fine, disqualification or both & referral to DC

### TECHNICAL INFRINGEMENTS

Catching a wave in excess of wave count	R50 per wave
Knowingly wearing contest vest incorrectly	R200
Not wearing vest until handed back to the beach marshal at end of heat	R100
Surfing in contest area during heats	R150-R1000 fine, disqualification or both
Surfing during, prior to or following a heat	R150 per wave, disqualification or both
Surfer's caddie rides a wave	R150 per wave

The penalties attached to the contest infringements are the maximum applicable. The Event/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. After a first warning, further infringements would attract the maximum penalty.

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

**UPDATED April 28, 2005**

