



RULE BOOK

2022

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SECTION 1: CONTEST RULES: SSA NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. Contest Rules

The contest rules as set out in this Rule Book must be applied by all affiliated districts and disciplines when running or participating in SSA sanctioned events.

SSA will use the ISA Judging Criteria as the criteria for SSA sanctioned events.

2. Team Lists and Replacements: National contests

Team lists must be submitted in writing to the General Manager at a date specified by the GM. These lists must be in seeded order by division and indicate each surfer's membership number.

Team name changes will be permitted up to 5pm the day before the start of each event. Those surfers who are confirmed to compete are the final starters and any no-show competitor for the first round will be allocated fourth place in their Round One heat. A reserve may only be included in the event prior to the start of the first heat if a team member suffers a medically documented illness no later than one hour prior to the first heat of their division. A medical certificate must be handed to the Contest Director for this substitution to be approved. This replacement will be a direct substitution. (I.e. no reseeding). Once a substitution has been made, the original surfer may not re-enter the competition under any circumstances.

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

In Tag Team Contests reserves/substitutes may compete in the different rounds.

Age Groups and eligibility

The Men's and Women's Open Divisions are "open" to any age.

3. Seeding.

In National Championships and team events sanctioned by SSA, the seeding order in each division will be based on the complete sequence of the surfers of each participating team.

The results obtained in the previous respective championship, by division, will determine the team seeding.

In the case of a new team event, the results from the National tournament held immediately prior to the new event will be used to determine seeding. Where a team or teams have not competed in a previous event, the team and the surfers in these teams will be seeded at the bottom of the draw.

National Championships are seeded based on previous results achieved by the team as a whole, by division and not on previous individual results.

In summary: 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, by division.

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 in R1 and from R3 onwards. Repercharge Rounds (R2) may have less than a 50% progression in some circumstances.

If there are only two surfers in a heat that was seeded for three, four or five surfers, that heat will not be surfed and the surfers will be given positions based on their positions achieved in the previous round or, according to their team seeding, in the case of a first round heat.

4. Format

Contest formats will be applied by the General Manager. Disciplines may use their own formats when running their specific events.

Any round, including finals, may take place at the same venue or at different venues. Generally, finals will be run on a four surfer heat system with a minimum of two waves counting. Some finals may have five surfers in them and in some events, one on one heats may be used in the final.

The last contest day will always include the finals.

Where, for any reason, it is not possible to complete or run finals, division winners may be decided from the accumulated places achieved at the contest.

5. Team Points

In the SA Junior Championships, SA Masters Championships and SA Grommet Games and other team events, 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.

This does not apply in the SA Championships (Open Men & Women) where both Men and Women will be allocated the same base points.

The points table is outlined below.

POINTS ALLOCATION

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

At the SA Championships the winning team is awarded the Presidents Cup, at the SA Junior Team Championships the winning team is awarded the Freedom Cup and at the SA Masters Championships the winning team is awarded the Masters Trophy.

6. Meetings

The General Manager may hold virtual or virtual meetings for officials prior to the commencement of any national team event. Attendance at these meetings is compulsory for all officials and team managers or representatives. Suitable prior notice of these meetings must be given by the General Manager after consultation and this information must be communicated to each district timeously via email.

Managers meeting, run by the Contest Director, may be held at any time during the event. The Contest Director will also form a Whatsapp group for Team Managers and other at National events to facilitate communication

7. Entry Fees

The entry fee shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of SSA. These fees must be set no later than two weeks prior to the start of all national team events. Entry fees must be paid prior to the deadline set by the General Manager.

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 kept in a file at the event by the respective Team Managers. It is the responsibility of each district to ensure that Indemnity forms are completed by each team member.

A generic Indemnity Form, which can be adapted for all SSA national team events, can be downloaded from www.surfsouthafrica.co.za

SECTION 2: COMPETITION RULES

1. Timing and Wave Counts

- a) Heats and Finals: Best 2 waves (no maximum waves)
Length of heats shall be between 15 and 25 minutes. In most cases heats will be 20mins long but in recharge heats 15 min heats may be run. If time allows and conditions dictate, the Contest Director may approve 25 min Finals.
Heat times are set by the General Manager in consultation with the Contest Director and the Head Judge and must be published on Liveheats timeously.
- b) The Contest Director will consult with the Head Judge if there is a need for heat times to be adjusted. Any adjustments during an event must be communicated by the Contest Director to all parties before surfers enter the water.
- c) Official timing of all heats will be the responsibility of the Head Judge.
- d) A visual and PA warning must be given when 5 minutes remain in the heat.
- e) A 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) In addition a large disc system at least 1 metre square must be used to indicate to surfers the start of and completion of their heats. Green to start and Red for the last 5 minutes.
- g) The commentator, guided by the 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/horns must blow immediately when the commentator reaches zero. The official end of the heat is when the siren/horn 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 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/horn failure the 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 and on the wave face, making a movement to stand, hands having left the rails for the wave to be scored.
- l) If the Contest Director wishes to use the minimum time delay between heats, a marshalling area in the water outside of the line- up must be provided.
- m) In the case of a water start the maximum time between heats shall be two minutes.
- n) Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has started. 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. When it commences it will run for the time that remains based on the originally set period. The only exception will be if the Head Judge, in consultation with other qualified officials (Contest Director, senior SSA officials 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. The decision to rerun a heat will only be taken under exceptional circumstances.

- 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 the fact that no announcements were made or heard will not be accepted. If more than the maximum allowed number of waves is 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.
- q) All SSA events will use a Priority System which deals with unsporting paddling tactics as well as wave priority. Details are outlined below.

2. Unsporting Paddling Tactics

It is the opinion of the ISA that unsporting tactics as well as priority infractions should be penalised as a heat result is decided on waves ridden and not by negative tactics such as trying to reduce the waves ridden. This practice does not enhance the performance in the heat. Right of Way should be available to any surfer who wishes to catch a wave in a heat. They should not be hindered in any way nor prevented from catching a wave if they have Right of Way. Preventative or hindering tactics are not in the spirit of the sport. Unsporting paddling tactics include but are not restricted to taking the inside position and Right of Way with respect to an opponent then intentionally aborting take off once deferred by the opponent at the take off point.

Judges will review each situation taking the first instance as an indication by the competitor that the surfer is using this tactic. If the surfer commits an unsporting paddling offence, the first offence will receive a verbal warning over the PA. If a second unsporting paddling offence is committed by the same surfer they will be instructed to leave the water (as per the interference rule).

3. Priority Rules

The Contest Director, Priority Judge and Head Judge will have the final say as to whether the surfer priority rule (as described below) will be used in an event.

A Priority Rule system can be used where surfers establish priority by being the first to reach or go beyond or to the side of the main take off zone under the direction of the Priority Judge.

Where surfers reach the line up at the same time priority will go to the surfer who did not have the last priority.

The Priority Judge will determine who has priority. They may consult with the judging panel in the case of close calls.

Priority will be indicated by changing the colours of the priority discs, lights or flags to match the colours of the contest vest worn by the surfer who has priority.

The priority discs, lights or flags must be situated at one end of the judging area where it is clearly visible by the surfers in the heats in progress. It must be easily accessible so that it can be indicated immediately as and when priority changes either by or under the direction of the Priority Judge. Normally, when a heat commences there will be no priority until one surfer catches a wave. They will all be deemed to be sharing priority at the start of a heat. All non-priority interference rules apply until this point. The surfer with first priority has ultimate and absolute wave possession. Once a surfer catches a wave all the remaining surfers will share equal first priority and the surfer who caught the first wave will move to third priority in a heat of three, fourth priority in a heat of four or fifth priority in a heat of five.

A competitor loses priority as soon as they catch a wave or paddle for and miss a wave. This loss of priority is determined by the Priority Judge and is based on their experience of watching similar situations. The loss of priority can be defined by as gaining momentum on a wave by either catching a wave or paddling for and missing a wave but still travelling towards the shore. When this happens priority reverts to another competitor only if they had already established second priority. Then the surfers in third and fourth place and fifth place all move up one place and the surfer who lost first priority automatically moves to third priority in the case of a heat of three, fourth priority in the case of a heat of four or fifth priority in the case of a heat of five. If no competitors hold priority no discs, lights or flags are indicated and the normal non-priority interference rules will apply to determine right of way. These rules will apply until priority has been re-established as described above.

A competitor loses second priority as soon as they catch a wave or paddle for and miss a wave. If this surfer catches and rides a wave in any way they will be scored for that wave, lose second priority and automatically move to third priority in the case of three in a heat, fourth priority in the case of four in a heat or fifth priority in the case of five in a heat.

When a surfer with first priority paddles for and misses a wave the other surfers will get automatic first, second and third priority (or fourth priority in the case of five in a heat) if they held priority at that time. If the second priority surfer then paddles for and misses the same wave, both surfers (in this situation) will be deemed to have lost priority regardless of their having been insufficient time to change the priority disc. The surfer who had first priority will go to third priority and the surfer who was holding second priority will go to fourth pushing the original third, fourth (and fifth in the case of five in a heat) priority surfers into the new first and second (and third in the case of five in a heat) priority respectively.

The surfer with first priority must not position themselves in front of the other surfers to deliberately block them from catching a wave or they will lose priority. Prior to losing priority a verbal warning will be given to notify the surfer with priority that they are close to turning over their first priority position.

Similarly, where in the opinion of the Priority Judge, a surfer with first priority places themselves in the take-off zone to "sit" on the other surfers and prevent them from catching a wave, that surfer will also lose priority. Prior to losing priority a verbal warning will be given to notify the surfer with priority that they are close to turning over their first priority position. The Head Judge may call priority interference only if the majority of the judging panel does not see the incident and after consultation with the Priority Judge.

In all cases where a dispute arises from a malfunction of the priority system, the event Priority Judge and Head Judge will arbitrate. It is always the surfers' responsibility to continually check the priority system at all times to verify allocation. If the surfer is not in the competition area when the heat starts and arrives late they will be allocated the appropriate priority position as determined by the Priority Judge at the time when the surfer reaches the Primary take off zone.

Surfer Heat Interference Penalty

- In Priority situations when interference is called on a surfer, that surfer's heat score will be calculated using only their best scoring wave.
- In non-priority situations when interference is called on a surfer, that surfer's second best scoring wave will be halved.
- In Priority situations, when interference is called on a surfer while paddling to catch a wave or while riding a wave, the ride will be scored zero.
- Interference will be denoted by a triangle over the score on the Judges' sheets or tablets.
- Any interfering surfer must be penalized. Once an interference decision is made it is irrevocable unless the interference is a consequence of incorrect official priority information. The Judges are directed not to enter into any discussion over the interference call. Any discussion must be with the Head Judge who has the option of discussing the situation with the Priority Judge.
- The surfer who has been interfered with will be allocated an additional wave beyond their wave maximum within the prescribed heat time limit.
- EXCEPTION: where a double interference is called neither surfer is allocated an extra wave. An extra wave or heat delay as decided by the Head Judge at the time will apply to interference caused by water photographers, water security craft or personnel or other outside interferences.
- Any surfer who incurs two interference calls must immediately leave the water. Failure to do so will result in a penalty as defined in the Rule Book.
- If both interference calls are in a non-priority situation, both scoring rides will be halved.
- If one interference call is in a no priority situation and the other is in a priority situation, one scoring ride will be halved and the other ride will score zero according to the order of the interference calls.
- If both interferences are in a priority situation the surfer will be disqualified from that heat.
- If neither surfer in a double interference situation has established priority, the penalty will be a non-priority interference (see point b) regardless of the other surfers in the heat (those not involved in the interference situation) who hold priority or not.
- In this described interference situation the interfering surfers involved will have their second best scoring wave halved.

4.Heat Starts

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. Where water starts are being used, competitors will be permitted to paddle out when there are at least 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.

5. Schedule of Events

During an Event, 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 or anyone who is not the Contest Director. If however the Contest Director clearly gives incorrect information and a surfer subsequently misses a heat then a re-surf of that heat may take place.

This schedule must be posted on Liveheats or on an accessible Notice Board if Liveheats is not being used.

6. Penalties

- While the contest is in progress any unauthorised surfer who is an SSA member and is surfing in the competition area, will be penalised. This ruling also applies to surfers not clearing the water before the start of the day's events.
- Any SSA member 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.
- Any SSA member standing up after his heat and riding during the next heat may be fined, disqualified (or both) depending on the severity of the interference.
- Anyone who is guilty of unsporting conduct or bringing an SSA event or Surfing South Africa itself into disrepute may be disqualified by the Contest Director and on the Contest Director's recommendation to the Board of Directors, may face a Disciplinary Enquiry.

7. Heat Length, progressions & composition

- Heats will be made up of a maximum of 4 surfers except in the first round and reperchage rounds of any contest where heats of 5 may be surfed. A minimum of 50% of the surfers from R1 and R3 and beyond must advance. An exception may be applied in five person heats in R2 (reperchage) where, due to time constraints, either two or three may advance to R3.
- The composition of the heats will be determined by the General Manager after entries have closed. Composition of heats will be based on seeding, but if no seeding is available a random draw may be used. The draw and schedule will be published on Liveheats.

8. Heat Sheet reviews

- If paper scoring is being used the judges score sheets and the tabulator sheet may be scrutinised by competitors in the presence of their manager or coach in the case of national events or by the surfers in the case of non team events after the conclusion of their heat and once the heat has been published by the Contest Director and results announced.

9. In contest rules

- Competitors must wear the official contest vest from time of issue until returned to the beach marshal at the completion of the heat, and if requested, during the awards presentation. Failure to follow these rules may result in a fine being imposed.
- 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 are unable to distinguish his/her rides from those of the other surfers in the heat.

10. Contest Conditions

- 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 deemed contestable. This decision will be made by the Contest Director and Head Judge and may not be influenced by event producers, promoters, sponsors, participants or other third parties.
- In extreme conditions, water caddies or jet skis may be allowed to assist surfers. This decision will be taken by the Contest Director in consultation with the Head Judge. Water caddies or jet skis may only enter the water in a defined marshalling area determined by the Contest Director. Surfers may only use equipment carried by their own caddy or jet skis 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 interference will be imposed on the surfer for whom he/she is caddying.
- Approval to use motorised craft/ jet skis will be given by the Contest Director prior to the start of an event or during an event if the conditions require this.
- Unless the event is specific or conditions are of such a nature that motorised craft need to be used to assist surfers to reach the backline or act as rescue craft, 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.

11. 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 and must be submitted to the Contest Director by the surfer (in the case of non- team events), Team Manager or Team Coach within 15 minutes of the heat result being published/announced

The merits of each protest will be considered by the Contest Director after consultation with the Head Judge. The Contest Director will rule on the incident and inform the surfer or in the case of team events, the surfer's manager, of the decision in writing.

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. Video analysis of a heat to check for interference or missed waves, if approved prior to a contest, may be permitted as long as every heat in the event is filmed in its entirety.

12. 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 may remove the photographers from the water.

Only sanctioned water photographers will be allowed in the water at SSA events. This access is to be controlled by the Contest Director.

13. 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) No staff member appointed by SSA to work on an event may compete in that event.
- f) No staff member may judge a division if there is any conflict of interest in that division
- g) All functions, meetings, etc., if held, are to take place near the contest site and at reasonable times.
- h) All official meetings are compulsory for the appropriate persons.

14. Announcements

- a) During the heat the announcer/commentator may not announce the 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 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 an SSA official.
- 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 surfer or team managers will have no form of protest.
- e) The announcer/commentator may not call or indicate in any way any wave conditions (e.g. approaching outside sets, etc) that may benefit one contestant over another.
- f) Announcers/commentators may not verbalise a score publicly without confirmation from the judges.
- g) If any surfer requires information from the water during a heat they must use hand signals :
- h) Time remaining: One hand touching another above the head
- i) Wave count: One arm outwards horizontal to the water.
- j) 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.

15. Specific Board Sizes.

Longboard requirements:

Length is a minimum of 9 feet from the tip of the board in a straight line along its length. Board length is measured using straight line along the deck. "Nose Protection", will not be accepted as part of the longboard length. Any increase in size must be made with rigid material.

Width dimensions to be a minimum aggregate of 47 inches at its widest point including the width 12 inches up from the tail and the width 12 inches back from the nose.

Traditional longboard Malibu shapes with multiple fins and channels are allowed.

16. 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 makes it impossible to follow the original schedule, even if the heat times are reduced to the minimum as stipulated in the rules, the reperchages 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 reperchages.
- 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 reperchage 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.

17. Tag Team Surfing Rules

These are specific for each event and will be circulated by the General Manager at least 10 days prior to any event that is run as a Tag Team or where a Tag Team format is included.

SECTION 3: INTERFERENCE

1. Basic Rules

- 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 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 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, two peaks**

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

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:

- 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

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.

a) 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, three in the case of a panel of four) 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.

b) 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.

c) Additional wave interference

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

e) A Head Judge or Contest Director may be included in this decision.

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 Contest Director. This announcement must be made during the heat.

j) The Contest Director will also notify the public of the interference over the PA at the end of the heat.

SECTION 4: JUDGING

Judging Criteria (shortboards & longboards)

"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 these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the better waves shall be rewarded with the highest scores."

Judging Panels

Judging panels for each heat will consist of up to five judges who will rotate from a larger judging panel. A panel of up to 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 accredited judges will be selected to officiate. All will be paid and there will be no team judges.

Rules for Judges

- a. 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.
- b. The number of the Judge and heat number must be clearly entered.
- a. When paper judging is applied, if a score is not clear or must be changed, it must be lined through and the correct score inserted in the next block.
- b. All alterations must be initialled by the Judge
- c. Judges must not tally their sheets and must hand in the sheet promptly at the end of the heat.
- d. Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.
- e. Judges must score every wave ridden by every competitor.
- f. Scoring will be done from zero (0) to ten (10) broken into one tenth increments.
- g. Judges are responsible for ruling on interference situations as described in Section 4.
- h. 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.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. The judges used in the finals should be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency.
- l. 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.
- m. Judges must wait until the completion of the tabulators work before checking the completed Tally Sheets.
- n. 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.
- o. 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.
- p. 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 and Priority Judge 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.

Judging Area

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

- a) The Judges, spotter, announcer, Head Judge and Priority Judges 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.
- i) Under Covid-19 regulations judges must be separated from each other.
- j) The Head Judge is in sole control of the Judging area.
- k) 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 in the Judging area.
- l) Smoking and use of alcohol is not permitted in the judging area during any contest.
- m) Judges and officials who are on duty must turn their cell phones off.
- n) Only those tablets or laptops that are being used to run an event may be turned on in the judge's enclosure.

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. Preparation

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 hour 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 e.g.: 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 judge's 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 under difficult circumstances

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 judge's 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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. These judges may incur other penalties.

SECTION 6: DUTIES OF THE HEAD JUDGE

- If necessary, 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 General Manager, Operations Manager, Contest Director, and hosts. This meeting will be for the purpose of instruction, standardization of procedures and methods.
- The Head Judge is empowered to convene a meeting of all Judges at any time of the contest. The purpose of these meetings will be to update Judges on any changes, and to point out any recurring errors so as to improve performance.
- 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. Judges who are removed will not get paid a fee.
- The Head Judge will organise the remaining Judges into Judging Panels so that Judges will only judge a maximum of three consecutive heats.
- The Head Judge will identify those Judges who do not maintain an acceptable judging standard including of the evaluation of interference's. The HJ will discuss these Judges to the Contest Director and a decision will be taken whether to drop them from the panel or not.
- While heats are in progress the Head Judge may under NO circumstances adjust individual judges scores or give advice on scores, interferences etc.
 - 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.
 - 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 7: DUTIES OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR

- To work with the SSA General Manager, Operations Manager, Head Judge and Priority Judges in all aspects of the running of events
- To apply the Rules of Competition as laid out in this Rule Book.
- To apply a fair and reasonable Contest Format.
- To convene officials and managers meetings when necessary.
- To apply the penalties as laid out in the SSA Disciplinary Code as outlined in this Rule Book and to impose the appropriate penalties as indicated in this code.

SECTION 8: DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR

- Check all paper sheets or laminate and Check wave counts.
- Record interferences and 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.
- Attempt to identify any missed ride by referring to other judges sheets, under the direction of the Head Judge. If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge then a score is given. This is done by averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride and taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary to bring it into line with the Scoring Spread that the errant Judges use.
- 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.
- 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 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. i.e.: 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, and 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 (i.e. drop the lowest wave score) on the tied judges sheets 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 9: DISCIPLINE

Several areas for disciplinary action are outlined below. Other undefined disciplinary breaches will be adjudicated by the SSA Board of Directors in the case of a National contest or by District Executive Committees in the case of District events.

1. Misbehaviour

The SSA BOD and/or District EC's do not wish to become the overall watchdog at events. However the breaking of ISA Rules, SSA Rules, the SSA Code of Conduct or the Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols is not acceptable and if this occurs action must be taken.

The rule violations itemised below include, but are not limited to, damage to property, damage to the image of surfing, bringing surfing into disrepute, substance abuse (refer to the relevant SSA & District Constitutions clauses) and any or all other non contest related infringements.

These infringements will be subject to disciplinary action during events as per the Rule Book or subject to Disciplinary procedures as outlined in the SSA Constitution.

Contest Infringements may result in an ON THE SPOT fine or other appropriate penalties as outlined in the schedule in the Rule book. **These will be imposed** by the Contest Director and the Contest Director may refer any disciplinary issues to the SSA Board of Directors in the case of National events or District EC's in the case of District or Club events, for further Disciplinary action.

Fines imposed will be between R200 – R6000. Fines may be combined with disqualification and/or suspension or both. Fines will be doubled each time another fine is imposed on the same individual.

2. Drug Testing

- a) Any surfer/coach/official who participates in any event held within the borders of South Africa is subject to the accepted SA Institute for Drug Free Sport Anti Doping Code.
- b) SAIDS may conduct drug tests on any surfer/coach/official of any nationality that competes in any surfing event held in South Africa without warning.
- c) Any athlete/coach/official found by the SA Institute for Drug Free Sport to produce an adverse analytical finding will face sanction as outlined in clauses 31.6.1 & 31.6.2 of the SSA Constitution.
- c) Details of the Anti Doping Code, list of substances and sanctions that may be applied if any individual is found guilty of an Anti Doping Code violation can be viewed by going into www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za and clicking onto the SA Institute for Drug Free Sport icon or by going directly to www.drugfreesport.org.za

3. Contest Penalties

Penalties for contest infractions, other than those associated with doping, will be determined on the spot by the Contest Director based on the attached definitions.

The competitor has the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Directors in the case of National events or to the EC in the case of District events

In National events payments of all fines will be the responsibility of the surfer's district and these fines must be paid to Surfing SA immediately or the surfer in question will not only lose the points that would accrue to the team score but will also be eliminated from the contest. The district 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 may be forfeited by the team he/she represents.

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

4. General Infringement penalties

1. Assault – verbal or physical (judge, official, event staff, competitors, media, public)
R10000 fine, disqualification & suspension. Compulsory referral to DC
2. Derogatory remarks, verbal abuse, swearing or rude gestures to judges & officials, team official other surfers or teams, event staff, media, public
R6000 fine and/or disqualification or both.
3. Unsporting conduct
R2000- R4000 fine, disqualification or both.
4. Damage to the sport of surfing due to misbehaviour thereby bringing the sport into disrepute
R5000 fine, disqualification and/or suspension.
5. Damage to property in event locality
R4000 fine plus costs/ suspension.
6. Abuse of contest equipment, event property, heat sheets or judging sheets or equipment
R1500 fine plus costs.
7. Abuse of own equipment during event or in contest area
R1000 fine

6. Technical Infringement penalties

Surfer “no show” at any event	R1500
Catching a wave in excess of wave count	R200 per wave
Knowingly wearing contest vest incorrectly	R250
Removing vest before handing it back to the beach marshal at the end of a heat	R200
Surfing in contest area during heats	R1500 fine, disqualification or both
Surfing during, prior to or following a heat	R1000 fine, disqualification or both
Surfer’s caddie rides a wave	R200 per wave

The penalties attached to the contest infringements are the maximum applicable. The Contest Director in consultation with other officials may decide to impose a suspended penalty (yellow card) based on the severity of the infringement. After a first warning (yellow card) further infringements would attract the maximum penalty (red card)
Other infringements not specified above may attract a warning, a fine, disqualification and/or suspension.

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