



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

TGSA Competition Rules

Revised for 2016-17 Competition Season

Contents:

- I. Events**
 - A. Open Contests and the Texas State Surfing Championships (TSSC)
 - B. Surfing in Multiple Age Divisions
 - C. Texas State Surfing Championships
 - D. Pro/Am Competitions

- II. Equipment**
 - A. Shortboards
 - B. Longboards
 - C. Body Boards
 - D. Other Equipment

- III. Heat Preparation and Structure**
 - A. Reporting for Heats
 - B. Heat Duration and Wave Counts
 - C. Water Starts
 - D. Beach Starts
 - E. Buoy Starts
 - F. End of Heat
 - G. Sportsmanship
 - H. Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - I. Appeals Process

- IV. Judging and Scoring**
 - A. Judging System
 - B. Start of Ride
 - C. Judging Criteria
 - D. Head Judge's Responsibilities
 - E. Wave Counts and Tabulation of Heat Results
 - F. Checking Results

- V. Wave Possession and Interference**
 - A. Basic Rule
 - B. Right of Way
 - C. The Right of Way Criteria
 - D. Snaking
 - E. Paddling Interference
 - F. Board Caddying
 - G. Penalties

- VI. Awards**

- VII. Protests and Complaints**

- VIII. Team Competition Rules**



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

I. EVENTS

A. District contests, Open Contests and the Texas State Surfing Championships (TSSC)

Age divisions for all District contests, Open contests and TSSC are determined by the surfer's age as of Jan. 1 of the current competition season. Proof age is required upon the request of TGSA officials.

1. Micro-Groms (8 years & under, push-in) No board size restrictions
2. Menehune Boys (12 and under) Short Board Only - (18" maximum above competitor height)
3. Boys (14 & under) Short Board Only - (18" maximum above competitor height)
4. Junior Men (17 & under) Short Board Only - (18" maximum above competitor height)
5. Men (29 & under) Short Board Only - (18" maximum above competitor height)
6. Open Shortboard (all ages) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
7. Masters (ages 30+) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
8. Senior Men (ages 40+) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
9. Legends (ages 50+) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
10. Menehune Girls (12 and Under) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
11. Girls (14 and under) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
12. Junior Women (17 & under) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
13. Women (all ages) Short Board Only – (18" maximum above competitor height)
14. Junior Long Board (17 & under)***(boards must be at least 3' above competitor height)
15. Open Long Board (all ages) – (boards must be a minimum of 9')
16. Senior Long Board (ages 40+) – (boards must be a minimum of 9')
17. Women Long Board (all ages) – (boards must be a minimum of 9')
18. Air Division (Men/Women all ages)
19. Bodyboard (Men & Women all ages)
20. Standup surfing (all ages, men & women) *Open contest only

B. Surfing in Multiple Age Divisions

Surfing in Multiple Age Divisions, also called "Surfing Up" into more competitive age divisions, is allowed and encouraged. This will allow our competitors to push their skill levels by having more heats to surf in and by having the challenge of tougher competition. This format has been a key factor in how other surfing organizations have raised the skills of their youth competitors to the point professional careers are possible. For example, a male competitor who is 11 would be in the Menehune Boys division but could also compete in the Boys, Junior Men's and Men's divisions gaining many more times the competition experience than just surfing in one division. The following table details the possible divisions a surfer can entered based on the surfer's gender and age.

NOTE: Age is determined as of January 1 in the middle of the season.

Female Competitors – Short board Divisions

	Primary	Next	Next	Next	Next	Next
	Division	Competition	Competition	Competition	Competition	Competition
<u>Age</u>	<u>Short board</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>
8 and under	Micro-Groms	Menehune-Girls	Girls	Junior Women	Women	Menehune Boys
9-12	Menehune-Girls	Girls	Junior Women	Women	Menehune Boys	Boys
13-14	Girls	Junior Women	Women	Boys	Junior Men	Men
15-17	Junior Women	Women	Junior Men	Men	Open Shortbd	
18-29	Women	Men	Open Shortbd			
30-39	Women	Masters	Men's	Open Shortbd		
40-49	Women	Senior Men	Masters	Men's	Open Shortbd	
50+	Women	Legends	Senior Men	Masters	Men's	Open Shortbd

Female Competitors - Longboard Divisions



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

	Primary	Next	Next	Next	Next
	Division	Competition	Competition	Competition	Competition
<u>Age</u>	<u>Short board</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>
17 and under	Women's LB	Junior LB	Men's LB	Open LB	
18 -39	Women's LB	Men's LB	Open LB		
40+	Women's LB	Senior Men's LB	Men's LB	Open LB	

Male Competitors – Short board Divisions

	Primary	Next	Next	Next	Next	Next
	Division	Competition	Competition	Competition	Competition	Competition
<u>Age</u>	<u>Short board</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>
8 and under	Micro-Groms	Menehune Boys	Boys	Junior Men	Men	Open Shortbd
9-12	Menehune Boys	Boys	Junior Men	Men	Open Shortbd	
13-14	Boys	Junior Men	Men	Open Shortbd		
15-17	Junior Men	Men	Open Shortbd			
18-29	Men	Open Shortbd				
30-39	Masters	Men's	Open Shortbd			
40-49	Senior Men	Masters	Mens	Open Shortbd		
50+	Legends	Senior Men	Masters	Men's	Open Shortbd	

Male Competitors - Longboard Divisions

	Primary	Next	Next	Next
	Division	Competition	Competition	Competition
<u>Age</u>	<u>Short board</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Level</u>
17 and under	Junior LB	Men's LB	Open LB	
18-39	Men's LB	Open LB		
40+	SR LB	Men's LB	Open LB	

***Note: Competitors are allowed and encouraged to surf in any division listed to the right of their primary division in the grid above.**

C. Texas State Surfing Championships (TSSC)

The Texas State Surfing Championships are invitational contests. In order to receive an invitation to compete in a division or divisions at TSSC you must have accumulated a predetermined number of points in that division during the regular season in the District & Open contests. The number of points to qualify for the TSSC are determined by the Board of Directors at the summer Board meeting.

D. Pro/Am Competitions

1. Pro/Am competitions are surfing contests where prize money is awarded to top finishers.
2. TGSA Pro/Am competitions are “non-points rated” and will not be considered for invitations to the TSSC or USA Surfing Championships.



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

II. EQUIPMENT (All boards are measured from end to end, using a straight edge along the deck).

A. Short boards

In short board divisions, surfboards must not exceed 18 inches above the competitor's height.

B. Longboards

Long boards must be a minimum of 9 ft. in length for all longboard divisions (Junior LB Board Length – 3' over competitor height)

C. Body Boards

Body boards shall not exceed 5 ft. in length.

D. Additional Equipment

Additional equipment, such as leashes and helmets may be used.

III. HEAT PREPARATION AND STRUCTURE

A. Reporting for Heats

All contestants must report to the ready area 15 minutes prior to the start of their heat to be checked in and receive their instructions and colored jersey. When possible, the competition area will be defined by the use of flags, barriers, points, piers, jetty's and/or buoys. If a competitor does not check in by the 5-minute warning prior to their heat, they may be replaced by the next highest ranked alternate.

B. Heat Duration and Wave Counts

All heats, except finals, will last 15 minutes. Finals will last 20 minutes. Open Divisions finals will last 30 minutes. The officials' time clock will be deemed the "official time," regardless. In preliminary heats a competitor's best 2 rides will count towards their placing and the competitor must not catch more than the maximum of 10 rides. In final heats a competitor's best 2 rides will count towards their placing and the competitor must not catch more than the maximum of 12 rides. Open Division competitor's best 2 rides will count towards their placing and the competitor must not catch more than the maximum of 15 rides. ***Any wave over this maximum amount will result in a 2.5 point penalty per wave on each judge's sheet for the offending competitor. Although TGSA officials or judges may attempt to warn competitors that have reached their maximum wave count, it is the sole responsibility of each competitor to keep track of his or her wave count.***

C. Water Starts

Most heats in TGSA contests are water start heats. However, the TGSA reserves the option of running beach start heats and/or buoy start heats.

All heats will begin with the blast of the horn and/or the raising of the green flag. The raising of the yellow flag will indicate the five-minute warning (five minutes remain in the heat in progress). At the five minute warning, the next heat of competitors may start paddling to the designated standby area, being careful not to interfere with the heat in progress. It is recommended that all competitors paddle out together and wait together for their heat to begin, as this will aid the judges in starting their heat. When the horn sounds and the red flag is raised, ending the heat in progress, the standby heat may paddle into the take off zone, but not catch any waves until the horn sounds again, and the green flag is raised, starting their heat. ***Any wave caught before the start of the heat will not be scored by the judges.***

D. Beach Starts

All competitors in the "standby" heat will gather at the waters edge anytime between the five minute warning for the "heat in progress" (raising of the yellow flag) and the start of their heat. The "heat in progress" will end with one horn blast and the raising of the red flag. The "on deck" heat will begin with one horn blast and/or the raising of the green flag.

E. Buoy Starts

In the instance of exceptionally large surf or an extremely long or difficult paddle to the line up, a buoy technique may be employed with the competitors in the standby heat paddling to a marker buoy, located some distance from the line up. The rest of the procedures heats with buoy starts are the same as the heats with water starts.



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

F. End of Heat

And the end of the heat, as marked by the horn blast and/or the red flag, all competitors are required to paddle, ride prone, or ride on their knees to the beach. If a ride has begun, as indicated by a competitor standing up with his/her hands leaving the rails of the surfboard, before the horn and red flag, the ride may be completed and will be scored by the judges. In circumstances where there is uncertainty as to if the competitor was up prior to the end of the heat, the Head Judge of the judging panel will have the final decision as to if the ride will be scored. ***Any competitor that stands up after the end of their heat and is still standing at the start of the next heat may receive a 2.5 point penalty to their scores.***

In the event of danger or a problem, a long horn blast will sound and the red flag will be raised. All competitors must leave the water immediately under this circumstance.

All heat jerseys must be worn with the imprint clearly showing and not inside out. At the conclusion of a heat, all heat jerseys are to be worn onto the beach and all the way to the officials' area, just as they were used going out, and returned in a sportsmanlike manner. ***Any competitor who removes their jersey in the water or prior to returning to the officials' area will be subject to a 2.5 point penalty to their heat score at the discretion of the Competition Director.***

G. Good Sportsmanship

All competitors, friends and family of competitors, spectators, volunteers and TGSA officials and judges are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. Good Sportsmanship is defined as conduct becoming to one participating in a sport. Such as fairness, respect for one's opponent, and graciousness in winning or losing. This definition of good sportsmanship will be strictly applied and enforced at all TGSA competitions and events.

H. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct will not be tolerated. A competitor may receive one verbal warning for the displaying Unsportsmanlike Conduct. If further Unsportsmanlike Conduct is displayed after the verbal warning, that competitor will be suspended for the remainder of that TGSA event and will lose all individual and team points that may have been accumulated at that event. Examples of behavior that are considered to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- *Rude gestures to contest officials and judges.
- *Swearing at contest officials and judges.
- *Spitting at contest officials and judges.
- *Ripping up judges sheets
- *Writing on judges sheets
- *Swearing in official's area.
- *Use of illegal drugs in or near the official competition area.
- *Any and all behavior deemed to be unsportsmanlike conduct by any two TGSA officials.

Any competitor who assaults a TGSA official or employee in any way will be suspended from the association for the remainder of the competition year and will lose all individual points that may have been accumulated up to the point of the infraction. Any competitor that causes destruction or damage to property will be subject to immediate suspension from that TGSA event and will lose all individual and team points that have been accumulated at that event.

Any competitors practicing in a designated contest area or causing any other interference with competitors when it is not his/her heat, will be disqualified from the contest, or the next contest, and lose any rating points and team points from that contest.

I. Appeals Process

Any competitor who loses their TGSA membership due to the violation of this sportsmanship conduct code may appeal to the Board of Directors. Upon review, the Board's decision will be final.



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

A. Judging System

A subjective judging system will be used (0-10 points using .5 increments). Points awarded are based on the judging criteria, detailed below, with a range of 0-2 points for a “poor” ride, 2-4 points for a “fair” ride, 4-6 points for an “average” ride, 6-8 points for a “good” ride and 8-10 points for an “excellent” ride. Judging panels will contain 3 judges, with one of these being the Head Judge for the panel.

B. Start of Ride

When judging standup surfing, a ride will begin to be scored when a surfer’s hands leave the rails of their surfboard. When judging body boarding, there is no limitation as to body position on the board and the ride will be scored after the head judge designates the body boarder has caught the wave and executed a maneuver.

C. Judging Criteria

The judging criteria shall be: “The surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers in the critical section of a wave with speed, power, and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/ progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (maneuvers) will be taken into consideration when rewarding points for waves ridden.

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

Each judge’s scores should be consistent with the other judges’ scores on the judging panel. If a judge’s scores are repeatedly inconsistent with the other judges’ scores, he/she may be replaced. Please refer to TGSA Judges Course for detailed policy, instructions and guidelines for judging.

D. Head Judge’s Responsibilities

- The Head Judge of each panel shall be responsible for:
- Determining which riders and rides are to be scored
- Determining wave possession
- Maintaining an accurate wave count
- Notifying judges of missed rides
- Assisting judges in making accurate scores for the missed rides.

The Head Judge cannot call interference or a paddling interference for a panel as a unit but can do so on his own wave count sheet. The Head Judge can call for the panel:

- a. Up after the commencement of the next heat penalty
- b. Removal of jersey penalty

All missed rides should be averaged by the Head Judge according to the individual’s scoring scale. This should be done at or before the end of the heat, as time allows.

E. Wave Counts and Tabulation of Heat Results

Wave counts to be used for tabulation of results are top 2 rides for preliminary rounds and top 2 rides for final heats. The Contest Director, after consultation with the head judge, may determine a different number of high waves per heat to be tabulated and this shall be posted and announced prior to the start of the contest.

Upon receipt of the completed judges’ sheets, the tabulators will immediately check to see if:

1. All judges’ sheets have been turned in.
2. The same number of waves has been scored on each sheet.
3. Identify interference or other penalty calls, if any.

If a ride has been missed, an attempt will be made to identify the missing rides by referring to the other judges’ sheets. If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the head judge, a score will be given the missed ride by:

AVERAGING THE MISSED WAVE ACCORDING TO THE SCORING LEVEL THAT THE JUDGE IN QUESTION USES (INTERPOLATION).

Upon completion of these formalities, the judge’s sheets may be totaled. The scoring waves shall be circled, totaled, and interference penalties deducted. The total shall be placed in the total column. The heat places are then



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

calculated and entered on the judge's sheet. The competitor with the highest score will receive one point, the second highest will receive two points and so on. If a judge ties two or more competitors, the points awarded to each of the tied competitors will be the average of the affected placing points added together. EXAMPLE: If 2nd, 3rd and 4th are tied, add 2, 3, and 4 together and divide by 3 = 3 points for each tied competitor.

PLEASE NOTE: The head judge, along with a majority of the judging panel will determine the "official" wave count. When no further calculations are required on the judge's sheets, the results are transcribed on the tally sheet, which is completed in the following manner:

1. The competitor's names are entered.
2. The judge's names are completed
3. Places are copied in a row next to each judge.
4. Total the places and enter.
5. The competitor who receives the lowest point total in the final point column places 1st and so on.

***Please see new rules on breaking ties. Explanations & Illustrations are shown in the TGSA Manual (Black Book).**

If, at this point, a tie situation occurs, the tabulator will proceed to break the tie as follows:

1. Compare the relative position of the tied competitor's on the tabulator sheet using the plus/minus system. If not broken, then see #2.
2. Tabulate the top one (two for finals) highest wave on the **TIED** judge's sheet **ONLY**.
3. Go to the third, fourth, etc. until all waves are exhausted.

If the tie is not broken by these methods, go back to #2 and repeat for **ALL** judge's sheets. Go to #3, #4, etc.

In the case of three or more athletes tied, repeat this procedure with the goal of deriving one individual who will be the highest placing tied athlete. Once this individual has therefore been eliminated from the procedure, repeat the formulae for the remaining athletes until a clear order of finish for the heat is obtained. If the tie is still not broken by these methods, there will be a ten-minute surf off (top 2 waves) if one or more of the competitors could advance.

F. Checking Results

Competitors may check the judges' sheets, tally sheets and results for errors for up to thirty minutes after their heat results are made public. This applies to all heats, including finals. If an error is found, the contest director should be notified to have the error corrected. Unless there is an unresolved protest, all results become final after the thirty minute time period.

V. WAVE POSSESSION AND INTERFERENCE

It is the intent of this rule to encourage all competitors to strive toward situations where there is only one competitor at a time in the wave shoulder. The judges will strictly enforce this rule. Competitors are hereby alerted to the severity of the penalty and the strictness with which it will be enforced.

A. Basic Rule

1. The competitor deemed to have inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of the ride. Interference will be called if during the ride a majority of the judges feel that a fellow competitor has possibly hindered the scoring potential of the competitor deemed to have right of way on the wave.
2. Anyone, who catches a wave in front of the competitor that has the right of way, has a chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called for interference, unless he/she hinders the scoring potential of the competitor with right of way by any means including excessive hassling, leash pulling, or breaking down a wave section.

B. Right of way

Wave possession or right of way will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue but basically it is the responsibility of each individual judge to determine which competitor has the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left. If at the initial point of take off neither the right or the left can be deemed superior, then the right of way will go to the first competitor who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction.



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

1. Point Break - Where there is only one available direction on any given wave the competitor on the inside shall have unconditional right of way for the entire duration of the wave.
2. One Peak Break (reef or beach) – If there is a single well defined peak with both a right and a left available at the initial point of take off and neither the right or the left can be deemed superior then the right of way will go to the first competitor who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn). A second competitor may go in the opposite direction on the same wave without incurring a penalty provided they do not interfere with the first competitor who has established right of way (i. e. second competitor may not cross the path of the first competitor to gain the opposite side of the peak unless he/she does so without possibly hindering in the opinion of the majority of the judges, the first competitor).
3. Beach Break – With multiple random peaks. In these conditions wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of the individual wave.
 - a. With two peaks there will be cases where one swell will have two separate defines peaks far apart that eventually meet at the same point. Although two competitors may each have inside position on their respective peaks the competitor who first gains wave possession shall be deemed to have right of way and the second competitor must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way competitor.
 - b. If two competitors gain wave possession at the same time on separate peaks of the same wave and eventually meet, then
 1. If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out so neither is hindered there will be no penalty.
 2. If they cross paths and collide or hinder one another the judges will penalize the competitor who has been the aggressor at the point of contact.
 3. If neither competitor gives way by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility for the confrontation then a double interference will be called.

C. The right of way criteria

The choice of right of way criteria for each of the above possible situations is the responsibility of the event director and the head judge.

D. Snaking

1. The competitor who is the farthest inside at the initial point of take off and has established wave possession is entitled to that wave for the duration of his ride, even though another competitor may subsequently take off in the white water behind him/her. The judges will not penalize the competitor because he/she has right of way even though he/she is in front.
2. If the second competitor has not hindered the original competitor with right of way, then the judges may choose not to penalize him/her and will score both competitors rides.
3. If in the opinion of the majority of the judges, the second competitor interfered with the first competitor, who has right of way by causing him/her to pull out or lose the wave or to damage the scoring potential of the wave, then interference may be called on the second competitor even though he/she is behind the original competitor when the penalty was called.

E. Paddling Interference

1. A competitor who has the inside position should not be excessively hindered by another competitor paddling for the same wave. Paddling interference may be called if:
 - a. The offending competitor makes contact with or forces the inside competitor to change his/her line while paddling to catch the wave causing possible loss of scoring potential.
 - b. The offending competitor obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside competitor which would not normally have done so causing possible loss of scoring potential.
 - c. When a competitor is put in a situation while paddling out that he/she cannot get out of the way and a collision occurs due to this, it is up to the judges to call interference based on whether it is felt to be accidental or not.

F. Board Caddying/Competitor Assistance



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

Board caddying is not allowed. This includes losing your board and having someone retrieve it for you for the specific reason of helping you in your heat. Saving a board from damage is allowed so long as the board isn't paddled, handed, carried or pushed to the competitor. *Penalty DQ (automatic disqualification)*.

Other than the micro-grom division, there will be no in-water assistance or in-water coaching allowed. Competitors receiving the assistance of another individual, parent, or coach during any heat will receive a *Penalty DQ (automatic disqualification)*.

G. Penalties

1. If a judge thinks interference has taken place, the judge shall place a triangle around the ride of the offending competitor and draw an arrow to the ride of the competitor who was interfered with. In the case of a paddling interference, the triangle shall be placed on the line between the appropriate rides for the offending competitor and filled with P. I. (no ride/no score) and the arrow still drawn. *P.I. will be counted as a score of 0 and that score will count as one of the rides tabulated for the offending competitor.*

2. If a majority of scoring judges, 2 of 3 or 3 of 5 scoring judges rule interference, the tabulators shall give the offending competitor a score of zero for the ride on each of the judge's sheets and that score will count as one of the rides tabulated for the offending competitor.

VI. AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded to first through fourth places in all divisions. Other awards may be Men and Women Iron Surfer, top judge, and sportsmanship awards. The Iron Surfer Award, when presented, is awarded to the competitor with the highest placing in at least 3 divisions. Various prizes donated by sponsors, when available, may be awarded to finalists, in drawings at random or by other methods.

VII. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All protests and complaints by competitors must be in writing and handed to the TGSA Competition Director/Contest Director to be considered for possible action. The Surfer Representative may be consulted to help present the protest or complaint. All written protests will be handled by the TGSA Competition Director and one of the following: First the Head Judge, second the TGSA contest Director, third any TGSA official. The decision of the officials will be final. No heat that involves a competitor whose advancement is under protest will take place prior to the resolution of the protest. There will be no re-runs of protested heats. Heats may only be re-run for weather related incidents and only at the discretion of the Head Judge and the Competition Director. All rulings by the Head Judge and Competition Director with regard to heat re-runs are final.

VIII. TEAM COMPETITION RULES

1. All Teams must complete a Team Entry Form and submit it to the contest officials prior to the start of the first heat of the contest. No changes may be made to a Team Entry form after the contests starts.
2. Teams may consist of no more than 6 and no less than 4 individuals.
3. Each individual can not be entered in more than 2 divisions for one team but can be entered on more than one team. For example, Joe Shred could enter Junior Men and Men for Big Bad Surf Shop – Team A and Senior LB and Men's LB for Big Bad Surf Shop Team B.
4. Team points are earned only when a team member makes a final (places 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th but not 5th in the case of a 5 person final). The larger the number of competitors in a division the larger the possible points a competitor can earn for his or her team.
5. Micro-Grom (assisted) Divisions are **not eligible** for team competition points.

TABLE OF TEAM POINTS AWARDED:

	Number of Competitors in the Division								
	<u>1-6</u>	<u>7-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>	<u>19-24</u>	<u>25-30</u>	<u>31-36</u>	<u>37-42</u>	<u>43-48</u>	<u>49 +</u>
1st Place	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
2nd Place	9	14	19	24	29	34	39	44	49
3rd Place	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48
4th Place	7	12	17	22	27	32	37	42	47



P.O. Box 18616 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8616

Stand Up Paddle Judging Criteria

i. Introduction:

SUP surfing is unique and can be done in many ways but for competition it is important to set criteria's that sets it apart from just longboarding. The paddle is a tool and a big part of the sport therefore it is not just used to help catch a wave, but is necessary as a tool [aid] for riding the waves [similar to a Ski pole when skiing]. Too many times we see great SUP longboarders just catching the wave using the paddle, then ripping into their maneuvers without using the paddle any further in any practical [beneficial to performance] way. Often it is just "held".

ii. Judging Criteria:

A surfer must demonstrate board handling skills in the transition phase [description below] and the surfing phase [description below] of their performance, for it to be considered complete. **A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers, using the paddle as a key tool, in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative / progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire [maneuvers], wave negotiation and use of the paddle to increase the intensity of the maneuvers, will all be taken into account when awarding points for SUP surfing. The SUP surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores.** For Stand-Up Paddle Surfing [SUP] a wave is deemed to be begun, when in the opinion of the judges, the rider is no longer solely under paddle power but rather has harnessed and begun to be carried along by the power of the wave.

iii. SUP Scoring Considerations:

1. The judging scale will be 10 points with normal TGSA contest rules applying.
2. **The aggregate of the two best rides will decide the final score for each surfer** and interference calls adjudicated according to the TGSA Surfing Rule book.
3. Good SUP transition time [end of one wave to paddle-in to next one] should be spent standing and paddling with good technique and stable wave negotiation. Kneeling, lying or sitting whilst paddling, unless necessary for safety is regarded as bad SUP form. Note the critical element: To the best of a rider's ability he / she are expected to stand up on the board at all times throughout the heat, unless the situation of safety dictates otherwise.
4. Entry into the wave should be by paddling in the standing position to enable the maximum score.

5. Surfing

- a. **average scores for all maneuvers will be allocated unless the paddle is used as a pivot or tool in maneuvers**, then power, radical moves, critical sections and degree of difficulty are the deciding factors.
- b. Competitors will start from the beach unless instructed otherwise by the Contest Director.
- c. "Using the paddle": The paddle is correctly used in SUP surfing to do three main things: it is used in turns as a brace, a pivot, and a force multiplier. **A surfer will be scored higher when he uses the paddle in some or all of these three ways to achieve sharper or more powerful turns.** Tricks such as twirling or otherwise using the paddle in a non-functional manner will earn little or no extra score for the surfer.
- d. Traditional long board surfing compared to progressive SUP surfing techniques: Because the paddle allows large SUP boards to be turned with high rates of speed and power, stand-up paddle surfing is deemed to be, at the competition level, a performance centered branch of surfing, much like conventional short boarding. Footwork, nose riding and style points will be scored, but this will be done in their relationship to the criteria of degree of difficulty and critical nature of wave positioning.
- e. Officials Responsibility: As SUP is a new discipline of surfing in terms of competition, it is the responsibility of every Contest Director and Judge to promote the above ideas as criteria, to ensure all competitors develop a standard approach and understanding of what is expected from an elite performer in SUP.