

OFFICIAL VLF RULES 2016 Steel Pier Classic

Heats

- Preliminary Heats will be 15 minutes for Amateur and 20 Minutes for Pro divisions.
- Final Heats will be 20 minutes for Amateur and 30 minutes for Pro Divisions.
- Each heat will begin and end with two sound signals and display of a green shape. A five-minute warning will be given with one sound signal and display of a yellow shape. A red shape will signal a temporary hold.
- Competitors are given 10 waves maximum for preliminary heats and 12 waves maximum on finals. Upon reaching the maximum wave total competitors will immediately exit the water. Failure to do so will result in an Interference Penalty. Competitors are responsible for keeping their own wave count.

Check-in

- All competitors must check in 15 minutes before their first heat begins, or when called.
- It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to stay current with changes in the competition schedule. Changes will be posted on the Schedule Board.

Penalties

- When penalties result in a competitor's loss of that scoring wave(s) in a heat, the penalty will be averaged in, as one-half (50%) of the score of the lowest scoring wave *and* the wave is included in the competitor's wave count for that heat.

Equipment

- Shortboards shall not exceed two (2) feet longer than the competitor's height, except Grand Legends Division which has no limit as to equipment used.
- Longboards must be a minimum of nine (9) feet in length, except Menehune Division which shall be a minimum of three (3) feet longer than the competitor's height.
- Leashes. Competitors assume sole responsibility for abiding by local surfing ordinances/codes.

Jerseys

- All competitors must return their jerseys to the Check-In area immediately upon exiting the water
- Any competitor removing jersey before exiting the water and surfing in the contest area may result in disqualification.

Starts

- If water start is warranted, competitors may enter the water at the five-minute warning (two horn blasts and display of yellow shape). Competitors must paddle out at the area designated by the Contest Director. Competitors waiting for their heat to start must stay clear of heat in progress. Failure to follow the instructions may result in a "Paddling Interference" penalty.
- Exiting competitors must not stand up after the conclusion of their heat. At the conclusion of the heat competitors will immediately exit the competition area and return to the beach in prone position or on their knees, as the next heat begins. Violation of this will result in a Disqualification.

Interference

- Interference is determined by another competitor impeding first rider up, or first rider to establish possession:
- Closest to the curl has wave possession. In the event two riders stand up at the same time the rider closest to the curl has wave possession.
- Any action, which impedes a contestant riding or taking off on a wave by another competitor by Dropping In, Taking Off or Paddling in front of the rider in possession, will result in an Interference penalty of that wave not being counted as a scoring wave *and* loss of one-half (50%) of their lowest scoring wave in that heat.

- In cases where a rider is in front of another rider unknowingly or so appears to the majority of judges, and if that rider exits promptly with no impedance on wave possessing rider's ability to perform moves, then no Interference shall be called. (No Harm, No Foul)
- When a competitor receives a second Interference infraction in a heat, the competitor shall exit the competition area immediately. Failure to do so will result in Disqualification.

Snake Rule

- Paddling directly in front of or around directly behind a competitor to impede the take off and with non-sportsmanship conduct forcing position for wave possession will not be allowed. Known as Snaking, the penalty will be considered Interference and loss of one-half (50%) of their lowest scoring wave in that heat.
- Boxing out tactics by two competitors against another in a heat will be considered Interference and have the same penalty.
- Collapsing a wave will be considered Interference and will have the same penalty.

Judging General

- A Three and/or Five judge panel, plus a Head Judge will be scoring competitors on the stand. In the event of a Five judge panel, the judges sheets with the high and low placement scores for the heat will be dropped and the remaining three judge's placement scores will be combined and averaged in final tally for that heat's place finishes.
- To decide a winner, the top two waves of each judge's sheet will be tabulated, and the placings indicated on each judge's sheet.
- Points will be calculated on a 10-point system.

Ties

- Tie scores broken on wave scores will be broken by the surfer with the highest scoring wave factored. If still tied, highest single scoring wave will be next break; then highest fourth wave score, and so on.

Protests

- Protests must be filed in writing and given to the Beach Marshall within 15 minutes of the posting of the results for the heat in question. Citing rule definitions in protests from this list is recommended. Include name, color and heat number. Concerning procedure to make protest or comply with Contest Director's decision, failure to handle final judgment with good sportsmanship may result in immediate disqualification. Non-professional attitude, profanity and rude behavior will be considered bad sportsmanship and will be handled appropriately.

Advancing

- Please make sure you know when you surf. If you have any questions consult the Schedule Board or ask the Beach Marshall.
- Please be advised that the contest schedule is subject to change. All changes to the schedule will be announced and/or posted on the Schedule Board.

Sportsmanship

- Any display of poor sportsmanship by a competitor, or in the case of a minor, the competitor's parent, shall be cause for automatic dismissal from the contest. This also applies to unsportsmanlike conduct directed to another competitor.

Rule Authority

- These rules, and any interpretive judgements, are determined at the sole discretion of the VLF Rules Committee, the Head Judge, and Beach Marshall.