

Eco Pro Surf Series EVENT ADMINISTRATION | RULES | REGULATIONS

Eligibility

A. Intercompetitoral Age Categories for Events - Applies to all Eco Pro Surf Series Disciplines

1. Open Men: Male of any age
2. Open Women: Female of any age
3. U17 Boys: Male 17 years and younger
4. U17 Girls: Female 17 years and younger
5. U13 Boys: Male 12 years and younger
6. U13 Girls: Female 12 years and younger
7. Polywog: Male or Female 10 and under NEEDING paddle assistance
8. Mens Pro: Male of any age
9. Womens Pro: Female of any age
10. Longboard Pro: Male or Female of any age
11. Junior Pro: Male 21 years and younger
12. Masters Pro: Male 45 years and older

Special note: Ages are taken from January 1st in the year of participation.

- Examples: A Masters surfer must be 45 years and older ON JANUARY 1ST IN THE YEAR OF COMPETITION. An Under 18 competitor may not turn 19 between January 1st and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this Division and an Under 13 surfer may not turn 13 between January 1st and December 31st of the year in which they are competing in this Division. Proof of the age of Under 18, Under 17 and Under 13 competitors may be requested by competition at any time.

Event Registration Policy and Procedures.

A. Fee Structure

i. The registration fee shall be decided by the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee and is applicable to all participating surfers. The registration fee is to be paid to the Eco Pro Surf Series by each competing surfer as and when directed by the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee via online resource adhering to expiration date and expiration time. A surfer competing in more than one division is required to pay the registration fee for each division entered. Late submission of registration fees may attract a substantial late fee to be decided upon by the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee at time of entry.

ii. The current Eco Pro Surf Series fee structure is as follows:

a. USD \$100: Competition fee for ALL Pro division entries plus applicable taxes and associated online fees.

b. USD \$40: Competition fee for ALL Open/Amateur division entries plus applicable taxes and associated online fees.

B. Registration / Entry Process & Team Lists

i. Placements are not guaranteed until ALL documentation has been received (payment and/or registration forms) by set deadlines. Partial registration is not accepted.

ii. If/when registration entries are limited, participation will be guaranteed on a first-come-first-serve basis only to competitors that have completed all registration requirements.

iii. Changes to seeding order and athlete alternates for confirmed registered surfers will be permitted up to 3pm on the final day of on-site check-in. Those competitors who have been nominated to compete at this point are the final starters for the event and any no-show competitor for the first round will forfeit their right to compete and their registration fees. Once the initial draw has been made no redraws will be made to account for no-show competitors. When Double Eliminator format is being used, competitors who are no-shows in first qualifying may compete in the first round of repechage. A reserve may only be substituted at the beginning of the division or discipline if there is a medically documented illness or Eco Pro Surf Series Rule Book. Once a substitution has been made the original competitor cannot re-enter the competition. After a competitor has competed in the contest a reserve may not be substituted for him/her.

iv. Reserves may compete in the Eco Pro Surf Series as long as the reserve competitor completed registration payment and paperwork prior to the closing of registration.

Contest Rules and Procedures

A. General

i. Rules of Competition: Coverage and Authority.

a. The rules of competition as set out in the Eco Pro Surf Series rulebook must be applied by each competitor. This is particularly relevant to outside organizations that are hosting Eco Pro Surf Series sanctioned events.

b. Amendments to these rules are the prerogative of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will advise all competitors once any amendments have been made and approved by the Executive Committee.

c. These amendments, once approved, will be applied to Eco Pro Surf Series' contests as long as they are circulated to competitors 45 days prior to the start of the specific event.

d. Any proposals for changes to the Rule Book must be submitted in writing, with reasons for requesting the change, to the Executive Committee at least 90 days before an Annual General Meeting.

ii. Format of Events

a. The contest will consist of a format decided by the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee. The competition and the Finals may be held at different venues or at the same venue.

b. Where, for any reason it is not possible to hold or complete the Finals, the Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Director may determine division winners from the accumulated places of the contest. If required by the Host Nation, the last competition day will be set-aside for the Finals.

c. In extraordinary circumstances where registrations for Eco Pro Surf Series events may fall below 6 and the application of the 8 surfer double elimination format is unfair, the Technical Director, in association with the Contest Director, may customize an alternative draw for that specific situation that incorporates multiple rounds and points for places, with the object of giving the competitors more than one opportunity to surf.

d. Seedings

i. In Eco Pro Surf Series events, the seeding order in each division will be based on the rankings of each competitor at the previous matching event.

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

iii. The first round seeding will follow the seeding order as specified in paragraph one above. The contest first seed will be the first seed of the first rated contest; the contest second seed will be the second seed of the first rated contest, and so on.

iv. 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.

v. The event should be designed to accommodate a minimum 50% progression rate.

vi. In the event of there being only two surfers in a heat that was seeded for three or four surfers, the heat will not be surfed and the surfers will be given positions based on their points scored in the previous round or according to their seedings in the case of a first round heat.

f. Official Meetings

i. The Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Director, together with the Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Head Judge, will hold Judge and Team Manager Meetings prior to the commencement of all Eco Pro Surf Series events. Attendance at these meetings is compulsory for ALL relevant participating persons. Suitable prior notice of these meetings must be given by the Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Director in consultation with the Eco Pro Surf Series Head Judge and Host Contest Coordinator.

ii. The purpose of such meetings is to inform officials of the arrangements for the competition, clarify operational questions from competitors, and manage the judging process and other event requirements.

iii. All functions, meetings, etc. are to be held via phone, video call, or near the contest site and at a reasonable time.

Event Officials

Job Description and Selection

i. Technical Director - To be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Eco Pro Surf Series to manage the beach presentation and other aspects of the event. TD reports to the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Director. The TD is the highest event official. The TD works closely with the Contest Director to manage the event delivery on a daily basis. The Contest Director and all other event officials, report to the Technical Director. The Technical Director and Contest Director positions may be combined at Eco Pro Surf Series events at the discretion of the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Committee.

ii. Contest Director - To be selected by the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Director based on Professional, Intercompetitorial and National criteria.

a. To work with the Head Judge in all aspects of the running of the event (see duties of Head Judge and Contest Administration Rules).

b. To apply the Rules of Competition as laid out in Sections 2 & 3.

c. To seed the surfers competing in the event in accordance with these Rules.

d. To apply the Contest Format, as determined by the Executive Committee.

e. To maintain a daily updated competitor points total and to distribute the same to all team managers, Eco Pro Surf Series officials and media by 20h00 at the end of each day of the 5th day following any competition.

f. To convene officials, judges and managers meetings when necessary.

g. To apply the penalties as laid out in the Eco Pro Surf Series Disciplinary Code and to impose the appropriate penalties as indicated in this code.

iii. Jury of Appeal – the Jury of Appeal shall be composed of the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Director, Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Director, Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Director and the Eco Pro Surf Series President, or his representative, and shall be convened Eco Pro Surf Series Rule Book upon request by one of its members. The Jury of Appeal may be called to hear questions of penalties, infringements of the rules, disqualifications or other non-Anti-doping related matters.

iv. Head Judge[s] - Top ranking professional judges will be hired by the Eco Pro Surf Series and ratified by Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee as Head Judges after receiving recommendation from the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Committee. Selection and the number of Head Judges is determined solely by the Eco Pro Surf Series Executive Committee. Head Judges will be paid a salary as outlined by the Eco Pro Surf Series.

v. Judges - The Technical Committee recommends the Judging Panel based on Professional, Intercompetitoral and National criteria.

a. Judges will be selected by the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Committee (TC) using the comprehensive Eco Pro Surf Series Judges database to appoint the most appropriate Intercompetitoral and/or National Judges. The TC's selection will be based on a Judge's Eco Pro Surf Series event experience, accreditation level, professional surfing judging experience and internal Eco Pro Surf Series rating. Staff may supply names of Judges they consider appropriate for Eco Pro Surf Series level Judging duties. Eco Pro Surf Series TC will review. Upon the decision of the Eco Pro Surf Series TC, each Judge will be notified of their appointment directly. No additional judges can be added to or dismissed from the Eco Pro Surf Series selected panel by the Eco Pro Surf Series Head Judge unless specific agreement is received from the Eco Pro Surf Series Contest Director after consultation with the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Committee [or

representative present]. All Judges MUST have a fundamental understanding of the English language.

b. Selection of Judges/Tabulator for Events is based on the following criteria:

i. Appointed Judges: A selection of seven (7) appointed paid judges and one (1) Head Judge will be approved by the Eco Pro Surf Series Technical Committee. Appointed Judges will be paid a daily rate as outlined by the Eco Pro Surf Series. Eco Pro Surf Series Appointed Judges will be regarded as having “no competitor affiliation” and will be appointed based on their demonstrated intercompetitor judging experience.

ii. Tabulator - Duties vary according to the presence of a scoring computer. If a scoring computer is being used then the Tabulator will basically check the typing input from the judge's personal record sheet to the computer printout, immediately the heat concludes. Any irregularities are brought to the attention of the Head Judge.

If a manual system is being used then the process is as follows:

a. On receipt of the completed Judges' sheet at the end of a heat, the Tabulators will immediately check to see if:

i. All the Judges' sheets have been handed in and completed legibly on paper.

ii. That the correct number of waves has been scored on each sheet for each surfer.

iii. That any/all interference calls have been recorded.

b. In the event that an interference call is recorded by the majority of Judges, the Tabulator will notify the Contest Director of this fact in terms of the protest rule. No tabulation of the results of the heat will take place until approval is given by the Contest Director.

c. If the ride has been missed an attempt will be made to identify the missing ride by referring to other Judges sheets, under the direction of the Head Judge.

d. If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge then a score is given to the ride: - Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride. - Taking this average score and adjusting it, if necessary to bring it into line with the Scoring Spread that the errant Judges used.

e. When the Head Judge is satisfied that the best attempt has been made to establish the correct Eco Pro Surf Series Rule Book value of the missed ride, this value will be written on the Judging Sheet and signed by the Head Judge.

f. 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 totaled. The TWO best scoring waves will be circled 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. The positions that remain are added and entered into the total in the total points column, then; vi. Complete the competitors' heat places.

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

i. 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, 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 only and recalculate.

ii. Count backs on tied judging sheets go to the best wave, then 3 waves, then best four waves and so on until the tie is broken.

iii. Only completely unbreakable ties will be re-surfed. Only the tied surfers will be involved in the re-surf and the heat will be no longer than 15 minutes. D is applicable if an officially endorsed contest computer system is not used. If the computer system is used and breaks down, the Head Judge may choose to switch to the manual tabulations described here. This will be adopted at the point designated by the Head Judge and Contest Director.

k. The procedure for calculation of the final surfer wave scores using the contest computer system is as follows:

i. The judge with the higher score and the judge with the lower score for each wave will be deleted. The average of the other three judge's scores (in a 5 judge panel) will be the "wave score average".

ii. The sum of the wave score average for the two best scoring waves of each surfer will decide the heat places.

iii. In the case of a Tie for a place(s): In the case of ties in the sum of the best two waves the tie will be broken as follows (applied only to the surfers directly involved in the tie): - Consider just "the wave score average" for the ONE best wave. If the tie persists, - Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the THREE best waves. If the tie persists, - Consider the "total of the wave score averages" for the FOUR best waves, and continue this procedure until the tie is broken. NOTE: In the case of ties and interferences where the computer has corrected down to TWO decimal points in numbers with more than TWO decimals (i.e. : 3,335 = 3,34 , or 3,666666666 = 3,67) and this arrangement results in potentially different places to that using extended decimal calculations, the computer correction to two decimal places will be taken as the official score.

vii. Media Director - Is responsible to the Contest Director / Event Coordinator for the preparation and implementation of a media plan for the event, which will consist of pre, during and post event elements, together

aimed at maximizing interest in the event, promoting the participation of all stakeholders [generally in order of importance] and the distribution of factual information and results Eco Pro Surf Series Rule Book to targeted and general audiences.

viii. Beach Announcer[s] - Primary responsibility is to present the event to the spectators and competitors in an entertaining and instructive fashion and to lead the Assistant Announcer in bringing the surfing information from the bio sheets and scoring computer to the audience and surfers. The Head Announcer must provide consistent live scoring updates to the surfers at appropriate times and situations. The Head Announcer reports to the Contest Director / Event Coordinator. The Assistant Announcer manages the flow of information from the computer and bios to the Head Announcer and directly reports to him.

ix. Beach Marshal[s] - All beach marshals must be English speaking. They will ensure that all competitors are checked in for their heat, that they have the correct lycra contest vest color and that they have been personally informed of the heat rules [maximum number of waves that can be ridden by each competitor, number of waves to be included in the score, duration of heat, timing disc colors, horn blasts [one blast to start and two to finish heat], paddle out time and starting point. Competitors must be requested to wear their contest vest from the collection at the Beach Marshall before their heat to return after the heat.

x. Scoring Computer Operator - The scoring computer will provide real time results after calculating the wave scores punched in by the individual judges. This information is used by the Announcer to inform competitors in the current heat. Scores allocated and scores needed to progress are available. The Operator will provide terminals for each judge, a central scoring management computer and TV monitors for the Head Judge, Announcer, media and VIP areas as required.

xi. Timers, Disk Operators, Spotters - Work on a roster operating timing disk, priority / interference disk[s] and calling colors for the judge panel.

xii. Security - All official areas must be kept free from unauthorized entry. Personal safety of contestants as they move to and from the water for their heats is essential. The Judging Podium must be secure with

access to event personnel only. Overnight security may be deemed necessary for events with facilities as determined by the Eco Pro Executive Committee.

xv. Beach Announcer Protocol

a. During the heat, the announcer should not announce the score needed by a particular surfer once that competitor has begun paddling to takeoff on a wave. Situations [wave scores to progress and heat ranking, etc] can only be announced when surfers concerned are NOT riding waves. This approach must be a priority of the Beach Announcer.

b. All announcements of interference must be conveyed to the announcer by the Head Judge or Contest Director before they can be announced publicly.

c. In all heats and finals computer scores must be given throughout the whole heat.

d. If the commentator gives a score and it is wrong due to judges putting in the incorrect scores, the commentator giving the wrong score, or for any other reason, then the surfers will have no form of protest.

e. The announcer may not make any announcement or call on any wave conditions (i.e. approaching outside sets, etc) that may benefit one contestant over another.

f. If any surfer requires information from the water during a heat they must use hand signals as described below:

i. Time remaining is one hand touching another above the head
ii. Wave count is one arm outwards horizontal to the water.

iii. Scores, last scores, total, needed to win, etc is both arms out horizontal to the water.

iv. If contestants hear and understand the above they must acknowledge by waving one arm.

v. All results/scores provided by Announcers/Officials at the end of each heat are "provisional/unofficial" until all

transcriptions of the scores from judges' hard copy to computer input have been checked to identify possible typing input errors. If computer input errors are detected and corrected and this process causes a change in the "unofficial" result of the heat, there is no form of protest by affected competitors. Competitors are advised to stay on site to witness the posting of the "official" result of the heat.

b. Judging Criteria

i. Shortboard Surfing, the surfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvres in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow. Innovative/Progressive surfing as well as the Combicompeter and Variety of Repertoire (of MAJOR manoeuvres) will also be taken into consideration when rewarding points for a surfers performance. The surfer who performs to the criteria above, exhibiting the maximum Degree of Difficulty and Commitment on the waves shall maximize his/her scoring potential.

ii. Longboard Surfing, the longboard surfer must perform controlled traditional maneuvers with the highest degree of difficulty in the most critical sections of the wave to gain the highest score. Judges will reward the performance with reference to style and flow, visual appeal, commitment, variety of maneuvers and use of the entire board, speed and power. Nose riding, trimming and footwork will be important elements in the Judges decision-making.

- NOTE: It's important to note that the emphasis of certain elements is contingent upon the location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the day. - Variety highlights the need to present different types of manoeuvres. Speed, style and flow highlights

the way the wave is presented and the manner in which the rider is able to link the moves together. Cross stepping out of and into turns and noserides, carving drop knee turns and extended noserides with weight directly over the tip are all indications of the quality of style and flow in traditional surfing.

v. Aerial Surfing - For a maneuver to be considered successful a surfer must land and ride out with forward momentum.

A surfer must perform committed, radical aerials in the most critical section of a wave with speed, power and flow in order to maximize scoring potential. Height, rotation, technical difficulty, creativity [innovation] and the smoothness of landing with control, will be taken into account when rewarding points for aerials that are completed. The surfer who executes the manoeuvres with the highest degree of difficulty and commitment on the wave shall be rewarded with the higher scores.

Interference Situations and Rulings

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

i. Anyone who stands up in front of a surfer with right of way has the chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the surfer with right of way by any means. This includes excessive hassling, leash pulling or breaking down a wave section.

ii. When an interference has been called, the hindered surfer has the right to take the option to keep the score of the hindered ride or be eligible for an additional wave within the heat time limit. The announcer will say the score and the surfer will signal if he wants to keep the ride [by raising both arms vertically] or not [by raising and crossing arms].

iii. The Right of Way [ROW] 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.

B. ROW Priority

i. Wave possession or right of way will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue. It is the responsibility of the judge to determine which surfer has the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left but never on which surfer is first to their feet. (Exception): 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 (by making an obvious right or left turn).

ii. Point Break - 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. - One Peak Break (Reef or Beach)

iii. 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 makes 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 hindering, in the majority of judges opinion, the inside surfer).

iv. Multiple Peak - Multiple Peak Situation With multiple random peaks. In these conditions, wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:

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

vi. 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.
- v. Snaking
- d. 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 behind them. The judges will not penalize the surfer because they have right of way, even though they are in front.
- e. If the second surfer has not hindered the original surfer with right of way, then the judges may choose not to penalize them and will score both surfers' rides.
- f. A surfer may not take off on the opposite side of a broken wave peak to gain possession of the opposite wave face, when a surfer has already established possession on the inside of the peak. An interference will be called if the majority of the judges feel that the

surfer surfing/riding from behind the broken peak has hindered the scoring potential of the surfer who has established possession of the inside of the broken peak.

- g. 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 may be called on the second surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty was called. vi. Paddling Interference - In four person heats, positioning at the correct point of takeoff for a wave is an integral part of surfing skill and each competitor must be allowed to reach this chosen point unhindered.
- h. Paddling interference tactics in the general contest area can be, but will not be restricted to:
 - i. blocking the direct pathway of an opponent to the takeoff position by paddling across his/her line, other than by taking and holding the natural inside paddling position.
 - ii. blocking/hindering a direct /natural pathway of an opponent into the lineup from the beach paddle out position.
 - iii. In four person heats, another surfer who has inside position should not be excessively hindered by another surfer paddling for the same wave. Paddling interference may be called if:
 - iv. The offending surfer makes contact with or forces the inside surfer to change their line while paddling to catch the wave causing loss of scoring potential.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. 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 an interference unless it is felt that the rider contributed to the collision by selecting an unreasonable and aggressive line across the wave.

Special Priority Rules

A. The Contest Director/Head Judge have the option to conduct the event using a 3 or 4 surfer priority rule as described below [ix] or to only use the TPI Rule [vii] above.

B. The 3-4 surfer priority rule will negate the need for the TPI. a. Resurf due to Incorrect Interference Calls

C. If some, or all, of the surfers in the heat already have their places mathematically decided, even in the case of an incorrect call, these surfers will NOT participate in a re-surf. In other words, re-surfs should only involve the surfers that have their results affected.

D. If the simple correction of the incorrect interference call due to an incorrect priority call is enough to correct the situation, without possible changes, there will NOT be a re-surf.

E. If a re-surf does occur, it shall start from the time in the heat when the official mistake happened. The wrong call will be corrected, correct priority will be established, previous scores up to that time will be kept, and the re-surf between the surfers involved will happen using the remaining time on the clock.

3 & 4 Surfer Heat Priority

A. A priority system can be used in 4 or 3 person heats, whereby riders establish priority by being the first to reach the Primary Takeoff Zone under direction of the Head Judge.

B. When surfers reach the line-up at the same time, priority will go to the surfer who did not have the last priority.

C. The Head Judge (or Priority Judge) will determine who has priority in heats and may consult with the judging panel for close calls. This priority will be indicated by changing the colours of the priority discs, lights, blocks, or flags to coincide with the colours of the competition vest worn by the riders who have priority.

D. The priority discs, lights, blocks, or flags must be situated at one end of the judging area where it is clearly visible by the competitors of the heat in progress. It must be easily accessible so that it may be changed immediately as priority changes, either by or under direction of the Head Judge (Priority Judge).

E. At the start of a heat when multiple riders have not established a priority order, there will be no priority between these riders and normal interference rules will apply. These riders without priority may paddle for waves without losing priority.

F. Once a ride has been caught then all the remaining riders without priority are still under a non-priority situation with normal interference rules, and the first rider will move to fourth priority when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone. The three riders without waves have no priority amongst each other, but they have a higher priority over the first rider with fourth priority. The riders without priority may paddle for waves without losing priority.

G. Once the second ride has been caught then all the remaining riders without priority are still under a non-priority situation, but the first rider will move to third priority and the second rider will move to fourth priority when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone. The riders without priority may paddle for waves without losing priority.

H. Once the third ride has been caught then the remaining rider without a ridden wave will gain automatic first priority. The third rider will move to fourth priority when returning to the Primary Takeoff Zone, the second rider will move to third priority, and the first rider will move to second priority.

I. The rider with first priority has ultimate wave possession, but if they paddle for a wave with the intent to catch it and they miss it then they will move to last priority.

J. A competitor loses wave priority as soon as they catch a wave or paddle for a wave with the intent to catch it. This loss of priority is determined by the head judge or priority judge

and can be defined as gaining momentum on a wave by either catching or paddling for and missing. In this case, priority reverts to the next competitor in priority order if priority had already been established. Then the riders in the remaining priority order all move up one place and the rider that lost first priority automatically gets fourth priority.

K. If no competitors have priority, no priority discs are indicated and the normal non-priority interference rules will determine right of way. These rules will apply until priority is re-established.

L. When a rider with first priority paddles for and misses a wave, the other riders will get automatic first, second and third priority if they held priority at the time. If this second priority rider then paddles for and also misses the same wave, both riders (in this situation) will be deemed to have lost priority, regardless of there having been insufficient time to change the priority disc. The rider in first priority will go to third and the rider that was holding second will go to fourth pushing the original third and fourth into the new first and second priority.

M. The rider with first priority must not position themselves to deliberately block the other competitors from catching a wave or they will lose priority.

N. Similarly where in the opinion of the Head Judge a rider with first priority places himself or herself in the take off zone to "sit on" the other riders and prevent them from catching a wave, that rider will also lose priority. Prior to losing priority a verbal warning will be issued to notify the rider with priority that they are close to turning over the priority.

O. The Head Judge may call priority interference individually, only if the majority of the judging panel does not see the incident. Eco Pro Surf Series Rule Book.

P. In all cases where a dispute results from a malfunction of the priority system, the Eco Pro Surf Series Head Judge and Technical Director will arbitrate. It is always the surfers responsibility to continually check the priority system at all times for verification about allocation.

Q. If a Surfer is not in the Competition Area when the heat starts and arrives late, the Surfer 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.

3 & 4-Surfer Heat Interference Penalty

A. For priority situations when an interference is called on a Surfer, then the Surfer's heat total will be calculated using only their best scoring wave. The second best scoring wave will be counted as a zero. - For non-priority situations when an interference is called on a Surfer, the Surfer's second best scoring wave will be halved.

B. When an interference is called on a Surfer while paddling to catch a wave or while riding a wave, the Ride will be scored zero.

C. Interference will be denoted by a triangle on the Judges sheet marking the surfer who is responsible for the interference with an arrow to the surfer who was hindered.

D. Any interfering Surfer must be penalized and 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 directly with the Eco Pro Surf Series Head Judge, who has the option of discussing the situation or not.

E. The Surfer who is interfered with will be allowed an additional wave beyond their wave maximum, within the prescribed time limit.

F. EXCEPTION: where a double interference is called, neither Surfer gets an extra wave. An extra wave or heat delay as decided by the Eco Pro Surf Series Head Judge at the time will also apply to interference from water photographers, water security personnel or other outside interference.

G. Where any Surfer incurs two interferences they must immediately leave the Competition Area (Failure to do so will result in a penalty), furthermore:

i. If both interferences are in a non-priority situation, both scoring rides will be halved.

ii. If one interference is in a non-priority situation and the other in a priority situation, one scoring ride will be halved and the other scored a zero according to the order of the interferences.

iii. If both interferences are in a priority situation the Surfer will be disqualified from the heat.

H. If neither Surfer in an interference situation has established priority over the other Surfer involved, the penalty will be a non-priority interference (see b above) regardless of other Surfers in the heat (not involved in the interference situation) who hold priority or not, the Surfer's second best scoring wave will be halved.

Judging Evaluation and hints

A.. General - Judging panels for each heat will consist of five judges who will rotate from a larger judging panel. A panel of seven judges is the minimum necessary to conduct an event on a full-time basis. The judging panel roster should not require any judge to judge for more than 3 heats without a break. Each judging panel will officiate under the control and discretion of a Head Judge whose duties are more fully described in Section 6. 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. The number of the Judge and heat number must be clearly entered on the judging sheet.

i. If a score is not clear or is incorrect and is authorized be changed, it must be lined through and the correct score inserted in the next block. All alterations must be initialized by the Judge concerned.

ii. Judges must not tally the sheet and must hand in the sheet promptly at the end of the heat. - Each judge must give 100% effort. Maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.

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

- Wave scoring will be done from 0.1 to ten (10) broken into one-tenth increments.

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

v. 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.

vi. 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 authorize the amendment. The Judge must initial any changes/alterations. In the case of the computer judging system only the HJ can change a score in the system.

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

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

ix. Judges who have finished their duty roster are to remain on hand in the contest area until their last heat has been tallied and until protests can no longer be lodged. x. Judges must wait for the completion of the tabulator's work before checking the completed Tally Sheets.

xi. 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 Head Judge in consultation with the Contest Director.

xii. 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 (i.e.: spotter). This can take place at any time and be enforced by the Contest Director on the recommendation of the Head Judge.

xiii. At times, errors of a special nature occur with respect to judging. This includes timing and judges scores. At his discretion the Contest Director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as head judge, judges, 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.

ixx. The standard of the judging panel is based solely on the individuals' qualifications. Politics, country of origin and personal likes or dislikes should become irrelevant if the Judge does his/her job properly.

xx. Before Judging: Judges must make sure to take part in the pre-event meeting to establish the criteria and rules that will be used. Judges must be at the Judges' tower punctually. This means 30 minutes 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.

Judging in Bad Conditions

Many events are held in marginal conditions. All events can suffer from poor conditions or surf, so judges must be able to adjust. In poor surf they should concentrate on surfers who are utilizing the power on the wave. Judges should observe how each maneuver 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.

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

Judging Heavy 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 analyzing each wave in such heats.

1. Where was the first maneuver executed?
2. How well was it executed?
3. How well were the maneuvers connected together?
4. Did the surfer execute rail-to-rail turns through the flat sections or hop through the flat sections or through to the next section?
5. How did the outside maneuvers compare to the inside maneuvers?
6. How deep was the surfer at the initial point of take-off?
7. How did the surfer utilize/flow on the wave?
8. Did the surfer make sections and were the maneuvers functional?
9. Was the maneuver 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. -

Concentration / Multiple Riders

1. 100% Concentration is the key. It is not good 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.

2. 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 maneuvers and other outside maneuvers. 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 and recall the rides in order. Place the best score down first and then the worst score and deliberate on the middle scores.

3. 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.

Judging Tower/Area

The Contest Director and Head Judge will be responsible for the application of this rule. - The Judges, spotter, announcer and Head Judge must have an unrestricted view of the full width of the wave being surfed by the competitor at all times.

- A. Side on view or a view that does not give the judges an accurate or appropriate perspective of the wave is not acceptable.
- B. If a fixed structure (podium) is in place, this podium (or podiums) must be erected in consultation with the Contest Director and Head Judge.
- C. 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.
- D. The judges must be provided with a suitable weatherproof protective shelter and reasonably sound proofed from outside noise such as PA sound systems and background noise.
- E. If possible, judges must be visually separated from each other.

Judging Scale and Categories

The zero to ten point scoring system used by the Eco Pro Surf Series 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 i.e.: 0.1 – 10 (ten) Judges should try to remember all scoring waves so as to avoid judging higher as the heat continues.
- C. The last wave exchanges should be judged based on the same criteria as the first wave exchanges .The first wave scored, sets the scale for the heat and should remain in the judge's mind as the benchmark for that level of performance and wave comparisons.
- D. Individual wave scores are what the judge should concentrate on and the final outcome of the heat should be based on scoring waves.
- E. As no surfer rides any wave in the same way, judges should try hard to differentiate between all scoring waves.

- F. Judges should not deliberate but should put a score down after the ride is completed. - During the heat, wave counts should be called as frequently as possible while the contestants are NOT riding. Repeat wave counts regularly.
- G. 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.
- H. During the heat, opinions should not be shared with other judges.