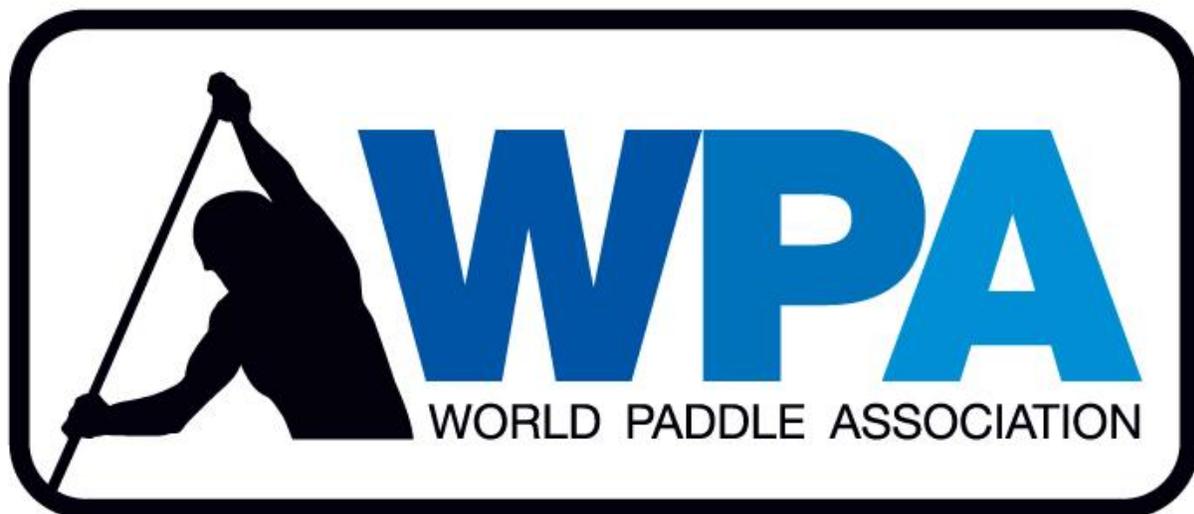


2012 SUP RACING RULEBOOK



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WPA SAFETY STATEMENT

The safety of the participants, spectators, staff and competitions is the number one priority of the WPA and should be treated as such for all races. Race Directors need to post the typical conditions for their venue and also the day of conditions to be expected. Race Directors need to warn the competitors of any dangers that could occur and where all safety personal will be located on the course and venue as well as have a safety plan in place if adverse or dangerous conditions should occur during the race and communicating such during the pre-race competitors meeting. Race Directors need to remind all competitors of the hand signals to be used if someone is injured, danger (paddle in the air, waiving or erect) or in need of help but not injured (hand in the air). All competitors should be mindful with any persons that may be in danger during the course of the race and should assist or help get safety staff attention.



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1. SUP Board Sizes Defined

a) **SUP UNLIMITED CLASS:**

Length - No Length Restriction.
Board Weight - No Weight Restriction.
Board Design - No minimum dimensions.

b) **SUP 14 Ft CLASS:**

Length - 14' ft maximum
Board Weight - No Weight Restriction.
Board Design - No minimum dimensions.

c) **SUP 12'6" CLASS:**

Length - 12'6" ft maximum
Board Weight - No Weight Restriction.
Board Design - No minimum dimensions.

d) **SUP Surfboard CLASS:**

Length - 12'2" ft maximum
Board Weight - No Weight Restriction.
Board Design – Board must be a surfboard style in shape with the minimum dimensions, Nose 17" wide(12" back from nose), 14" tail (12" up from the tail) and maximum thickness of 5".

e) Twin Hulls (catamaran) are NOT allowed.

f) Fin(s) are allowed, except for fins that have one or multiple points protruding from any one fin.

g) Rudder(s) are allowed except if deemed not allowed at specific races.

h) Foil(s) are NOT allowed on any fins or attached to a board.

2. Definitions of SUP Board attachments and Paddle

a) **Fin:** Fins may be of any length, width or shape, provided the Fin design does not promote the upward lift characteristics of a Foil and is not angled greater than 30 degrees from perpendicular to the bottom of the board (90 degrees). Fins are fixed to the bottom of the board, do not pivot and do not have controls for steering.

b) **Foil:** Foils are defined as any Fin that is angled greater than 30 degrees from perpendicular to the bottom of the board (90 degrees), or any Fin with appendages, or any Fin designed to promote an upward lift. Foils may be of any design and shall only be allowed on Open Class boards.



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- c) Rudder: Rudders are defined as any Fin or Foil that pivots in order to steer the board. The paddler will usually have a device on the deck that controls the angle of the Rudder in order to steer the board.
- d) Twin Hulls: Twin Hulls (catamarans) are defined as two separate hulls attached together in any manner, or any board with a concave bottom greater than two inches (2" or 5 cm) deep measured at any cross section on the bottom of the board.
- e) Length: The board length is measured from nose to tail at ninety (90) degree angles from the boards natural flat laying position with the deck facing up.
- f) Paddle- A paddle shall be a single blade design, with one blade on one end and a handle on the other end. The length of a paddle may be adjustable. Only a single paddle may be used while racing. A replacement paddle may be fixed to the board.

3. Competitor Rules and Safety

- a) A competitor must be standing while paddling once a race has started until crossing over the finish line. A competitor is allowed to sit, lay or kneel to rest without making forward progress. If a competitor takes more than five strokes while sitting, laying or kneeling once a race has started the competitor may be disqualified (DNF). The exception with this would be for safety reasons where a competitor needs to avoid or may be put into a potentially dangerous situation that would put them or others at risk of injury and or property damage.
- b) A competitor shall only use the paddle, waves and wind to propel the board forward during a race. No outside assistance drafting a vessel not in the race, form of a sail, clothing designed to catch wind, or any other speed device not considered the norm to SUP racing is allowed. Boat wakes are considered natural conditions unless a competitor is deemed as getting an unfair advantage over other competitors as with drafting (see drafting rule 4b).
- c) The safety of all participants and competitions is the number one priority of the race director and the WPA. Participants shall attend all competitor meetings and race postings to keep themselves informed with the typical conditions for the race and also the day of conditions to be expected. Race Directors need to warn the competitors of any dangers that could occur and where all safety personal will be located on the course during the pre-race competitors meeting. Competitors shall be mindful of the hand signals to be used if someone is injured, danger (paddle in the air, waiving or erect) or in need of help but not injured (hand in the air). All competitors should be mindful with any persons that may be in danger during the course of the race and should assist or help get safety staff attention.



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4. Definition of Participant skill level by Race

- a) Short Course (2-4 miles) Participant: A person that does not race on a regular basis or is just beginning to race in the sport and is also not interested in competing at a high level of competition. The racer most likely has not placed in the top 10 of their division in a race.
- b) Long Course (5+ miles) Participant: A person that races frequently and maybe interested in competing at a higher level with better paddlers. This person can also manage and adapt to various water conditions like with waves, current and more difficult conditions on the open ocean.
- c) Elite or Experienced Participant: It is recommended that a paddler must have proven their paddling abilities as follows: 1) Proven themselves in prior long course races. 2) Placed in the top 3 in a Short course division. 3) Consistently placed in the top 10 places in a long course division.

5. Race Directors Obligations and Safety Guidelines

- a) Every race director must complete a race submission form with details to be posted, sanctioning application, provide liability insurance naming the WPA, provide and have every participant sign a liability release before competing in a race, submit results as required and adhere to the current WPA SUP Racing Rulebook.
- b) The race director must adhere to the minimum safety guidelines to insure that the competitors overall safety is not compromised during the race with the following: 2 water safety crafts and one boat (minimum of one boat), 6 water safety personal of which there needs to be one certified lifeguard for every 50 participants, safety meeting during the pre-race meeting, plan of action for adverse weather and abandon course procedure.
- c) The race director agrees that the safety of the participants and competitions is the number one priority of the race director and the WPA and should be treated as such for all races. Race Directors need to post the typical conditions for their venue and also the day of conditions to be expected. Race Directors need to warn the competitors of any dangers that could occur and where all safety personal will be located on the course during the pre-race meeting. Race Directors need to remind all competitors of the hand signals to be used if someone is injured, danger (paddle in the air, waiving or erect) or in need of help but not injured (hand in the air). All competitors should be mindful with any persons that may be in danger during the course of the race and should assist or help get safety staff attention.
- d) All race directors and race organizers must keep in mind the forecast and conditions of the day with all races to be conducted on a safe and manageable course for the safety of all participants and staff.



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- e) Race directors should keep entry fees at a value and based on what the participant is being offered with their entry fee (permits, insurance, race timing, product, food, drinks, etc). The WPA recommends the following entry fees to get the best participation for all sanctioned events. Entry fees may be less as the WPA is trying to suggest lower entry fees to grow participation.
 - o Kids race- 12 under free.
 - o Recreation/short course race- \$30-\$50.
 - o Elite/Long race- \$50 - \$75.
 - o Prize Money race- \$75 - \$125.00.
 - o Offer two levels of entry fees in a prize money race, one for a competitor who just wants to race against the best paddlers and one for the paddlers who want to race for prize money.
- f) Prize money should only come from sponsor money and not entry fees that would otherwise increase entry fees for all competitors.

6. Race/Courses Defined

- a) Short Course – it is recommended that short course races should be conducted on a safe and manageable course free from going in and out of the surf. The course should be set at 2-4 miles in distance and no more than 4 miles.
- b) Long Course: it is recommended that long course races should be no less than 4 miles. The exceptions for less than 4 miles would be for conditions that would be considered unsafe, time deadline or multiple heats or races.
- c) Typical conditions- each race shall also define their race based on typical conditions for the venue and to consider the following factors: length of race, current, technical aspects (buoy turns or other), wind, chop, waves, and boat traffic. Each race shall use this as the general guideline for a person to select and enter the proper race based on their ability and skill level.
- d) Course name- it is required that the length (listed in miles or meters) of each race shall be included in the name of each course in your race information as follows: “Shelter Bay 6 mile Challenge course”.

7. Race Distance/Board size Guidelines for Long Course- it is recommended that if a race is conducted on one board size in a division on a long course that the following guidelines should be used. The exceptions would be for races conducted downwind, down current or in adverse conditions that would need to shorten the length of the course for safety and the best experience for all competitors:

- a) SUP 12'6": 4-6 miles.
- b) SUP 14': 6-9 miles.
- SUP Unlimited- 6-9 + miles.



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8. Race Types Defined

- a) Out & Back- Generally an Out & Back course will be set up to head either into the wind or downwind and then back in the opposite direction.
- b) Triangle- Generally a Triangle course will be set up to have upwind, side or off the wind and downwind conditions in the shape of a triangle. A Triangle course can be set up as multiple loops depending on the length of race and the race venue.
- c) Surf Slalom- A Surf Slalom is a race course that would be set up to go through the breaking waves or surf zone of a particular area with buoys placed outside of the surf area and inside the surf area. There may be multiply buoys for the racers or competitors to go around both outside and inside the surf area.
- d) Downwind- A downwind course is set up to run from point A to point B and to have participants race with the wind at their back the entire race with the starting line set at a location upwind from the finish. Distances will vary depending on the conditions of the location and typically downwind races are 30 – 40% longer in length than a typical race.
- e) A race director may choose to mix the combination of stated courses to give their event the best competition for racers, spectators and the safety for all attending their event. The race director also has the right to change or amend the course the day of the race given the conditions. Upon any change of course the race director must give all competitors advance warning and or announce their intentions at least 30 minutes before the race has started and before the competitors left the launch area.

9. Starting and Finishing Procedures/Moving Mark

- a) Starting Sequence- A start of a race should provide a start timing sequence that would have been announced at the paddlers meeting that would give a minimum of a 3 minute warning before the start and a countdown sequence giving the racers a one minute count down outside of one minute and a minimum of a 30 second countdown inside once minute.
- f) Water Start- To form a straight line perpendicular to the first buoy rounding and between two points like with two buoy's, start boat and a buoy or two start boats in the water.
- g) Beach Start- To form a straight line perpendicular to the first buoy rounding and between two points like with flags or other points of reference to determine the starting line in which racers will start.



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- b) Beach Finish- Where racers will exit the water and cross a point for reference like with two flags or other points of reference to determine the finish line. Paddlers must carry their paddle with them across the stated finish line unless it is determined that it may be unsafe to racers.
- c) Moving Mark or Buoy- A race director must notify competitors of a moved mark or moving mark and either anchor the mark before the first competitor has reached the stated mark or replace the moved or moving mark so all competitors are racing the similar distance and or shape of course.

10. Drafting

- a) Allowed- It is up to each race director to decide whether they want to allow drafting in their race. The WPA recommends that if a race director allows drafting that a racer may only draft off another competitor in the same board class and gender. In other words, if you are racing on a SUP 12'6" board and a female competitor you may only draft off another female competitor on a SUP 12'6" board. A racer may NOT draft off any other board class, vessel or opposite gender. There is an automatic disqualification for a rules breach of drafting. A competitor is allowed time to pass another competitor without a rules infraction however a competitor must make a effort to pass or move out away from the draft of the other craft to not incur a disqualification. The maximum time allowed without making progress to pass another craft is one minute.
- b) Not Allowed- If a race director decides to not allow drafting a competitor would need to give a 500 meter (546 yards) rule from the start of the race to let competitors to get sorted out. After 500 meters it is up to the racers and the race committee to police drafting. Drafting would be defined as racer within a board length behind another racer and 2 meters (6.5 feet) on the side of another competitor without making an effort to pass.

11. Violations/Penalties/Protest

- a) It is the competitor's responsibility to act in a sportsman like fashion, avoid a collision at all times and obey the rules as listed in the WPA rulebook and or listed by the race director. If there is contact or un-sportsmen like conduct during the time of a race that effects the outcome for any racer and they feel they have been penalized or interfered with that has caused the racer to lose position and or time beyond just giving a 360 penalty, the competitor that was deemed penalized must file a protest within 15 minutes of the last person to finish the race in question. In doing so the competitor must inform the other party(s) that they may have fouled them during the course of the race and also bring in any witness's to attest to their claim and or protest to the race committee. All protest decisions are final upon the committee's review and the protest committee may rule in favor or overrule the protest.
- b) Violations of the rules and or unsportsmanlike conduct by a competitor that is listed in the rulebook or that is posted by the race director but not limited to: purposely obstructing or



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interfering with another competitor, causing damage or bodily harm to another competitor, use of profane language toward any persons or competitor while at a race, not rounding a mark, competing on the proper course, over the start line early, avoiding a collision and adhering to the drafting rules.

- c) Penalties for any violation of the rules by a competitor shall be: one 360' turn at the earliest and safest opportunity, major infraction- two 360' turns at the earliest and safest opportunity. Once a competitor has completed their penalty turns they have cleared themselves of the stated penalty.
- d) If a competitor does not feel that they were in the wrong they must declare to the other party that they feel they are not in violation and will continue on racing however they must be able to bring witnesses to the protest committee to state their case or they risk being given a Disqualification (DQ).

12. Race Board Divisions to be supported

Men

SUP Surfboard 12'2" (short course only)

12'6" (Stock)

14'

Unlimited

Juniors (13-17) on a 12'6" and short course only

Kids (12 Under) on a 12'6" and short course only

Women

SUP Surfboard 12'2" (short course only)

12'6" (Stock)

14'

Unlimited

Juniors (13-17) on a 12'6" and short course only

Kids (12 Under) on a 12'6" and short course only

- a) Race Directors have the option to omit any of the categories if they so choose depending on regional challenges such as number of entrants, conditions, length of race, etc. These are recommended guidelines from the WPA and are categories that WPA will both sanction and rank against.

13. WPA Ranking Divisions

The following age divisions will receive points for rankings to qualify for both Regional and World Championships in both the ELITE (long course) and OPEN (short course for each event):

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- a) 17 under on all board classes and genders.
- b) 18-29 on all board classes and genders.
- c) 30-39 on all board classes and genders.
- d) 40-49 on all board classes and genders.

- e) 50+ on all board classes and genders.
- f) All ages are based on the age of the competitor at the start of a region series and or the day of a championship race.
- g) Any competitor that has a change of age in the middle of a year can begin accumulating points in the new age division however cannot carry over points from the previous age division.
- h) A race director may include more age divisions however CANNOT omit from the age guidelines set for rankings unless there are no entries for a stated age division or board class.

14. Participants to Support a Class

- a) Trophy- A minimum of 3 participants is recommended to make a class in any division to trophy.
- b) Men Ranking- A minimum of 5 participants is required for Men's for all age or board divisions to receive points for rankings.
- c) Women/17 Under- A minimum of 3 participants is required for Women and 17 Under for all age or board divisions to receive points for rankings.
- d) Money- A minimum of 10 participants is recommended in any division to receive money.
- e) A race director has the right to offer options a and d if they do not receive the minimum required participation as stated.

15. Ranking Points System

Points will be given to all finishers in each division meeting the minimum participant requirements stated in rule 13.b in all sanctioned points races in each region with only the top six races for each participant to be totaled for yearend rankings. Points can be earned by Regional and National race series to qualify for a Regional Championship and World Championship races. Points will be offered for both Short and Long course participants in sanctioned events based on the following points scale:

- a) ELITE- long Course (5+ miles) Points breakdown
 - 1st = 1,000
 - 2nd = 750
 - 3rd = 550
 - 4th = 400
 - 5th = 325
 - 6th = 250
 - 7th = 200
 - 8th = 150
 - 9th = 125



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- 10th= 100
 - 11th= 99, 12th= 98, 13th= 97, 14th= 96 and so on with one less point for each place to 90th with each place after receiving a minimum of 10 points.
- b) OPEN- short Course (2-4 miles) point breakdown
- 1st = 500
 - 2nd= 375
 - 3rd= 275
 - 4th= 200
 - 5th= 160
 - 6th= 125
 - 7th= 100
 - 8th= 80
 - 9th= 65
 - 10th= 50
 - 11th= 49, 12th= 48, 13th= 47, 14th= 46 and so on with one less point for each place to 40th with each place after receiving a minimum of 5 points.

16. World Championships Qualifying Criteria

Qualifying Criteria:

- a) Finish in the top 30% of your board division at the 2011 Hennessey's-WPA World Championships (Championship race only).
- b) Finish in the top 30% of your board division at the 2011 Hennessey's-WPA U.S. Paddle Championships (Long course only).
- c) Qualify for a Regional Championship in 2012 by finishing in the top 50% of your board division and or ranking age divisions (see rule 15) in a WPA regional series in 2012.
- d) Finish in the top 20% of your board division at a "WPA National Race" in 2011. (must be a ranked division and have a minimum of 5 participants)
- e) Finished in the top 20% of the selected international events to be announced.
- f) The WPA and Hennessey's reserves the right to hold spots open to invite selected paddlers to participate in the 2012 Hennessey's WPA World Championship race that may not have access or the ability to participate in any or limited points races and events listed.
- g) All qualifying spots will be determined from a person's highest qualifying option as listed 1 – 7. If a person qualifies from option 1 and option 2 their spot in option 2 would be passed to the next person not qualified and so on.
- h) Participants do not need to be current WPA member if you have qualified under options 1 & 2.



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