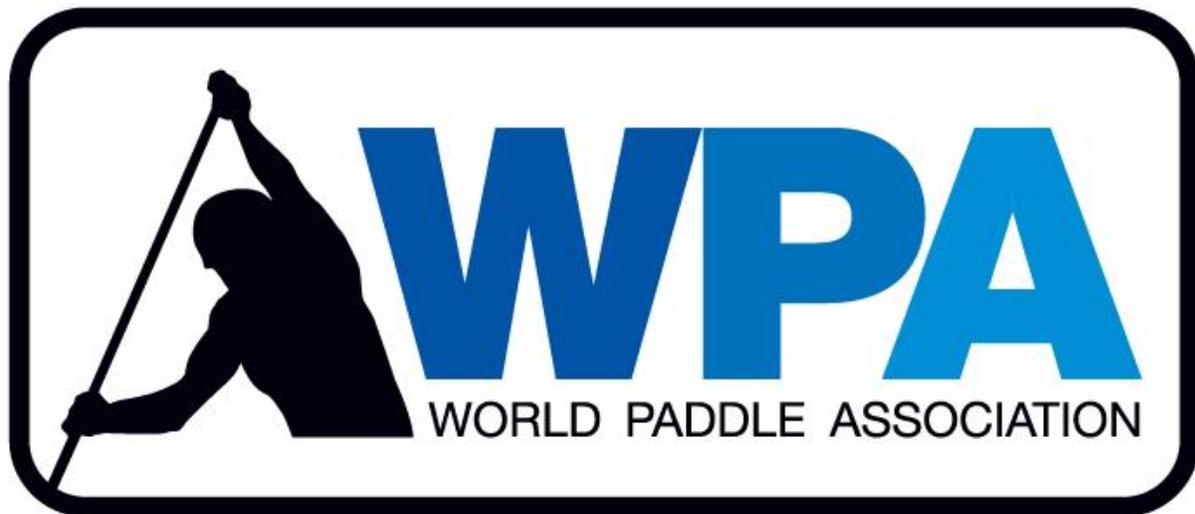


# 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK



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## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

# CONTENTS

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1. SUP Board Sizes Defined	Page 3
2. Definitions of SUP Board attachments and Paddle	Page 3
3. Competitor Rules	Page 4
4. Drafting	Page 4
5. Race Directors Obligations	Page 5
6. Race/Courses Defined	Page 5
7. Race Type and Procedures Defined	Page 5
8. Race Starting and Finishing Procedures/Moving Mark	Page 6
9. Protests	Page 6
10. Race Distance/Board size Guidelines for Long Courses	Page 7
11. Definition of Participant Skill Level by Race	Page 7
12. Standardized Race Categories/Divisions	Page 7
13. Participants to Support a Class	Page 8
14. Ranking Points System	Page 8
15. World Championship Qualifying Criteria	Page 8
16. Safety Statement	Page 9



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

### 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.



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

- 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

- 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 from boat wakes, sails, 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.

### 4. Drafting

- a) Allowed- It is up to each race director to decide whether they want to allow drafting. The WPA suggests that if a race director allows drafting that a racer may only draft off another competitor in the same board class. In other words, if you are racing on a SUP 12'6" board a competitor may only draft off another competitor on a SUP 12'6" board. A racer may NOT draft off any other board class and or vessel.
- 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.



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

- c) 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.

### 5. Race Directors Obligations

- a) 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, safety meeting during the pre-race meeting, plan of action for adverse weather and abandon course procedure.

### 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 2-3 miles and at no more than 4 miles in distance.
- 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.

### 7. Race Types and Procedure 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 40 – 50% longer in length than a standard 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



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

their intentions at least 30 minutes before the race has started and before the competitors left the launch area.

### 8. Race 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.
- 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.

### 9. Protests

- a) It is the racers responsibility to act in a sportsman like fashion and avoid a collision at all times. 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, the racer that was deemed penalized must file a protest within 15 minutes of the last person to finish the stated division, class or race. In doing so the racer 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.

**10. 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.

- a) SUP 12'6"- 4-6 miles.
- b) SUP 14' – 7-9 miles.
- c) SUP Unlimited- 9 + miles.



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

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.

### 11. Definition of Participant skill level by Race

- a) Short Course 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 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) National Event Participant: It is recommended that a paddler must have proven their paddling abilities as follows: 1) Proven themselves in prior National 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.
- d) Money Division: it is recommended that the minimum prize money of \$2,500.00 is to be paid out to Men's and Women's divisions. It is also recommended that the prize money should also be paid out to be equitable to the number of entries.

### 12. Standardized Race Categories/Divisions

#### Men

SUP Surfboard 12'2" (short course)

Stock (12'6")

14'

Unlimited

50+ , board size tbd by race director

Juniors (16 and Under) on a Stock (12'6") only (short course)

#### Women

SUP Surfboard 12'2" (short course)

Stock (12'6")

14'

Unlimited

Juniors (16 and Under) on a Stock (12'6") only (short course)



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

- a) Race Directors have the option to omit any of the standardized 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. Participants to Support a Class

- a) Trophy- A minimum of 3 participants is needed to make a class in any division to trophy.  
b) Ranking- A minimum of 5 participants is needed in any division to receive ranking points.  
c) Money- A minimum of 10 participants is needed in any division to receive money.  
d) A race director has the right to offer options a and c if they do not receive the minimum required participation as stated.

### 14. Ranking Points System

Points will be given to the top 10 finishers in each division of the selected six races in each region based on the following points scale:

- 1<sup>st</sup> = 1,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = 750
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = 550
- 4<sup>th</sup> = 400
- 5<sup>th</sup> = 325
- 6<sup>th</sup> = 250
- 7<sup>th</sup> = 200
- 8<sup>th</sup> = 150
- 9<sup>th</sup> = 125
- 10 = 100

### 15. World Championships Qualifying Criteria

Qualifying Criteria:

- a) Finish in the top 20% of your board division at the 2010 Hennessey's International Paddle Championships (Long course 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) 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)



## 2011 SUP RACING RULEBOOK

- d) Finish in the top 5 in your board division in the WPA National Race Series in 2011. (must be a ranked division and have a minimum of 10 unique participants)
- e) Finish in the top 5 in your division in the WPA Regional Race Series in 2011. (must be a ranked division and have a minimum of 10 unique participants)
- f) Finished in the top 20% of the selected international events to be announced.
- g) The WPA and Hennessey's reserves the right to hold 20 spots to invite selected paddlers to participate in the 2011 Hennessey's WPA World Championship race that may not have access or the ability to participate in any of the listed events.
- h) 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.
- i) Participants do not need to be current WPA member if you have qualified under options 1 & 2.

### 16. SAFETY STATEMENT

***The safety of the participants 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 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 help or help get safety staff attention.***

***WPA SUP rules and guidelines are the property of the WPA and cannot be duplicated or copied without expressed written consent of the WPA.***