Judging Criteria

Standard ISA Judging Criteria will be implemented and is defined as: “A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power and flow. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as the combination and variety of repertoire will be taken into consideration when rewarding points for a surfer’s 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.”

In the case that no clear maneuvers are performed during competition, the judges will look at Fundamental Surfing Criteria as described as follows and will be emphasized in the ISA Judging Criteria under Degree of Difficulty or Commitment:

- Surfers who paddle out and catch open-face waves will always be scored higher than surfers who catch whitewater (waves that have already broken and do not reform into open-face waves).
- The surfer who catches an open-face wave and travels right or left will score higher than a surfer who catches an open-face wave and goes neither right nor left.
- The surfer who catches an open-face wave and performs a maneuver will be scored higher than a surfer who rides an open-face wave right or left, but does not perform a maneuver.
- The surfer who catches an open-face wave and travels right or left and attempts to perform a maneuver, but fails by not completing the maneuver at 100 percent (maneuvers must be completed at 100 percent), will generally score higher than the surfer that travels right or left on an open-face wave without attempting to perform a maneuver.
- Surfers who perform maneuvers in whitewater will only score higher than surfers who ride whitewater without performing maneuvers.
Adaptive Surfing Classifications

Refer to: ISA Adaptive Surfing Classification- Eligible Impairments 2016 Document

Adaptive Surfing Team Size

Team Size: Each National Federation will be allowed to field a team of up to eight athletes in the following six classifications:

- 2 athletes – AS 1 (Stand/Kneel)
- 2 athletes – AS 2 (Stand/Kneel)
- 1 athlete – Visually Impaired
- 1 athlete – Upright
- 1 athlete – Prone
- 1 athlete – Assist

Each team has one mandatory spot for a female athlete and this spot can be filled in any of the above divisions. Without a woman, the maximum number of athletes that can be fielded per team is 7 (as opposed to 8). We feel that the mandatory spot will lead to inclusion of female Adaptive Surfers with the hopes of eventually having a separate female division (when numbers permit).

If a team does not have an athlete to compete in a specific division, that team will lose scoring potential (For example: If a team does not have a Prone athlete, the maximum team size will be 7. If a team does not have female athlete or an Assist athlete, the maximum team size will be 6).

*Please note: it is not a requirement to have a full team. Each National Team can be comprised of as little as 1 athlete. However, for maximized scoring potential it is recommended to field the full 8 athletes.
**Competition Format and Team Points**

ISA World Adaptive Surfing Championship Competition Format is subject to the ISA Contest Director’s discretion and will either follow standard ISA Double Elimination Contest Format or Qualifying Round Format described below.

All athletes will surf in two Qualifying Round heats and top surfers will advance to the Final Round(s).

Country seeding order for Qualifying Round 1 will be based upon a 2015 combined ISA Nation ranking. Athletes will be re-seeded for Qualifying Round 2 based upon their Qualifying Round 1 point aggregate total from their best two waves.

For the Qualification to the Final Round(s),

An Overall Division Ranking will be established for every surfer based on top two wave score points from either Qualifying Round 1 or 2 (top two wave scores can be from same round). Surfers will be seeded into Finals Round(s) based on their Overall Division Ranking. Where a tiebreak is necessary, this will be determined by comparing the best wave of the surfers concerned and then if necessary wave scores for waves 2, 3 & 4 in descending order, until the tie is broken.

All Quarterfinals, Semi-finals and Finals will progress on the 50% progression, two best wave total system, as per normal ISA Contest Rules in 4 surfer heats.

Team Points: In applicable ISA events, each competitor will accumulate team points according to the place he/she finishes in the contest. The ISA Team Points Allocation Table will be used, beginning with 1000 points for each division winner (please refer to the ISA Official Team Points Allocation Table for subsequent placing-point ratios). The total points will be distributed amongst the available places. The winning team will be that team with the highest sum of points. Where places are equal, then the highest of the possible points for those places will be allocated to each competitor.
Adaptive Surfing Competition Rules

AS-1 DIVISION:

The rules for competition in the AS-1 division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board, but must be independent while in the water and on the wave.

Due to impairment of a disability, an athlete in this division does have the ability to stand or kneel on a surfboard and does have the ability to paddle into a wave without assistance. Furthermore, the individual does have the balance and strength to stand or kneel on a surfboard while paddling into and surfing a wave. Athletes may use a surfboard according to ISA rules/guidelines. No additional equipment will be allowed except for use of upper/lower body medical prosthetics, orthotics, or essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-1 division.

Athletes in this classification will compete in a standing or kneeling position while surfing in one of the following manners:

1. Athletes will stand on their feet whereas the base of their feet will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
2. Athletes will stand on a prosthetic whereas the base of their prosthetic will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their prosthetic on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
3. Athletes will stand on their stump whereas the base of their stump will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their stump on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
4. Athletes will have their legs bent under the base of their body (buttocks) whereas their knees and legs will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be resting on their knees and legs at all times while surfing, or
5. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position in any combination of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet, prosthetic, stump, or knees at all times while surfing, or
6. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position similar to one of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet, prosthetic, stump or knees at all times while surfing, as approved by ISA.

(Examples: Amputation- leg or arm, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, etc.).
AS-2 DIVISION:

The rules for competition in the AS-2 division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board, but must be independent while in the water and on the wave.

Due to impairment of a disability, an athlete in this division does have the ability to stand or kneel on a surfboard and does have the ability to paddle into a wave without assistance. Furthermore, the individual does have the balance and strength to stand or kneel on a surf board while paddling into and surfing a wave. Athletes may use a surfboard according to ISA rules/guidelines. No additional equipment will be allowed except for use of upper/lower body medical prosthetics, orthotics, or essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-2 division.

Athletes in this classification will compete in a standing or kneeling position while surfing in one of the following manners:

1. Athletes will stand on their feet whereas the base of their feet will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
2. Athletes will stand on a prosthetic whereas the base of their prosthetic will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their prosthetic on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
3. Athletes will stand on their stump whereas the base of their stump will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their stump on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
4. Athletes will have their legs bent under the base of their body (buttocks) whereas their knees and legs will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be resting on their knees and legs at all times while surfing, or
5. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position in any combination of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet, prosthetic, stump, or knees at all times while surfing, or
6. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position similar to one of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet, prosthetic, stump or knees at all times while surfing, as approved by ISA.

(Examples: Amputation- leg or arm, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, etc.).
AS-3 DIVISION:

The rules for competition in the AS-3 division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board, but must be independent while in the water and on the wave. Athletes may use a surfboard or Wave Ski with one paddle in this division.

Due to impairment of a disability, a participant in this division does not have the ability to stand or kneel on a surfboard, but does have the ability to paddle into a wave without assistance. The individual does have the balance and ability to sit upright on a surf board while paddling into and surfing a wave. Sitting upright on a surfboard will be allowed in this category, but must be in compliance to ISA Surf Board/Equipment rules/guidelines. No additional equipment will be allowed except for use of upper/lower body medical prosthetics, orthotics, wave-ski and paddle, or essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-3 division.

Athletes in this classification will remain in a seated position while surfing in one of the following manners:

1. Athletes will have their legs on the board (in front, to the side or behind the athlete) whereas the base of their body (buttocks) will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be resting on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
2. Athletes will be seated in an upright position similar to the above written position and the weight of their body will be resting on their surfboard at all times while surfing, as approved by ISA.

(Examples: Paraplegia- with trunk/core support, triple amputations, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, etc.).

AS-4 DIVISION:

The rules for competition in the AS-4 division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board, but must be independent while in the water and on the wave. Athletes may use a surfboard according to ISA rules/guidelines. Lying down prone will be allowed in this category, but must be in compliance to ISA Surfboard/Equipment rules/guidelines.

Due to the impairment of a disability, a participant in this division does not have the ability to sit, kneel or stand on a surfboard, but does have the ability to paddle into a wave without
assistance. The individual does have the balance and ability to lay prone on a surfboard while paddling into and surfing a wave. Therefore, sitting, kneeling or standing on a surfboard will not be allowed in this category. No additional equipment will be allowed except for use of upper/lower body medical prosthetics, orthotics, or essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-4 division.

Athletes in this classification will remain in a prone position while surfing in one of the following manners:

1. Athletes will have the midsection of their body on the board whereas the base of the midsection of their body will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be resting on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
2. Athletes will be lying in a prone position similar to the above written position and the weight of their body will be resting on the surfboard at all times while surfing, as approved by ISA.

(Examples: Paraplegia- little/no trunk support, Quadriplegia, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, triple amputations, etc.)

**AS-5 DIVISION:**

The rules for competition in the AS-5 division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board. They may also have help paddling out to the lineup and into the waves, but must be independent while on the wave.

Due to the impairment of a disability, a participant in this division does not have the ability to paddle into a wave without assistance. The individual does have the balance and ability to ride in a non-standing position on a surfboard while surfing a wave. Additional equipment will be allowed in this division to assist the athlete to remain on the surfboard or as essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-5 division.

The athlete will be required to arrange for one water coach and one water assist or arrange with the ISA to provide a trained, professional water coach and water assist. The participant’s water coach and water assist must be identified to the beach marshall prior to starting the competition heat. ISA will provide overall water safety.

An athlete utilizing a water coach and water assist in the AS-5 division must adhere to the following rules:
1. The athlete will be permitted to choose one “water coach” to push and one “water assist” to receive. These two will be in the water during the competition.
2. The water coach is permitted to give physical assistance to the athlete while paddling and catching waves, but is prohibited to do so after the athlete’s momentum reaches the speed of the wave and the athlete is considered to surf independently.
   a. If the water coach touches the athlete after the athlete’s momentum reaches the speed of the wave, the athlete may be disqualified.
3. The water assist is allowed to guide the athlete back out to their water coach but only one may be assisting the athlete at any point in time and not both. The water coach must remain on the outside while the water assist remains on the inside.
4. ISA will provide water safety personnel to stabilize athletes and assist them on and off of their board.
5. The water coach may wear swim fins but will not be allowed to use a surf or boogie board to keep them afloat.
6. The water coach is considered an extension of the athlete and will be called for interference in the same manner as the athlete would be as per ISA rules. If the water coach is called for interference, then the interference call will be placed on the athlete.

(Examples: Quadriplegia, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, etc.)

**AS-VI DIVISION:**

The rules for competition in the AS-VI division are as follows:

Athletes in this division may have support to get into and out of the water and on and off their board, but must be independent while in the water and on the wave.

Due to impairment of a disability, an athlete in this division does have the ability to stand or kneel on a surfboard and does have the ability to paddle into a wave without assistance. Furthermore, the individual does have the balance and strength to stand or kneel on a surf board while paddling into and surfing a wave. Athletes may use a surfboard according to ISA rules/guidelines. No additional equipment will be allowed except for use of essential safety equipment that does not enhance the ability to surf. Equipment is subject to the discretion of ISA. Swim fins and powered surfboards are not permitted to use in the AS-VI division.

Athletes in this classification will compete in a standing or kneeling position while surfing in one of the following manners:
1. Athletes will stand on their feet whereas the base of their feet will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet on the surfboard at all times while surfing, or
2. Athletes will have their legs bent under the base of their body (buttocks) whereas their knees and legs will be in contact with the surfboard and the weight of their body will be resting on their knees and legs at all times while surfing, or
3. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position in any combination of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet or knees at all times while surfing, or
4. Athletes will be in a standing or kneeling position similar to one of the above written positions and the weight of their body will be supported by their feet or knees at all times while surfing, as approved by ISA.

(Example: Visual Impairments)

Additional assistance for athletes with visual impairments will be permitted as follows:

1. The athlete will be permitted to choose one water coach to be in the water during the competition and receive verbal cues from the water coach while paddling and catching waves.
2. ISA will provide water safety personnel to guide the athlete back to their water coach after catching a wave.
3. The water coach may wear swim fins and is allowed to use a surf or boogie board to keep them afloat.
4. The water coach may give verbal cues throughout the competition heat.
5. The water coach may touch and physically guide the athlete while paddling out to the lineup, but is prohibited to do so after the athlete begins to turn around in the lineup of the surf.
   a. If the water coach touches the athlete after the athlete begins to turn into the lineup, the athlete may be disqualified.
6. The water coach is not allowed to lay on the athlete’s surfboard to help the athlete paddle out in a faster manner.
7. The water coach is considered an extension of the athlete and will be called for interference in the same manner as the athlete would be as per ISA rules. If the water coach is called for interference, then the interference call will be placed on the athlete.
All participants in any division may have assistance to get in and out of the water.

All classification inquiries will be directed to and reviewed by the ISA Adaptive Surfing Advisory Board on a case by case basis. Once reviewed, the board will determine the appropriate classification.

All equipment must adhere to ISA guidelines and is subject to the discretion of ISA judges.

All water coaches must be pre-approved by ISA and will be permitted as defined in the descriptions of the ISA Adaptive Surfing Competition Rules.

All equipment to be used for competition must be pre-approved by ISA and will be permitted as defined in the descriptions of the ISA Adaptive Surfing Competition Rules.

References: