

USPFC SURFING-2026

GUIDING BODIES

United States Police and Fire Championships (USPFC)

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International Surfing Association (ISA)

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EVENTS

Events will be offered in the following age categories:

Men: 18+, 30+, 40+, 50+, 60+

Women: 18+

Novice Division (This division is for surfer's who have not competed previously in a recognized competition.)

Men 18+, 50+

- LONG BOARD
- SHORT BOARD
- BODY BOARD
- STAND-UP PADDLE

EQUIPMENT

Flags or similar signaling device: Red, green, and yellow. These are used to signal event time to competitors in the water. Colored jerseys: have 3 sets in at least 6 different colors. These are used to identify the competitors in the water.

Public address system: A public address system shall be used to communicate with the competitors.

Bracket board: The brackets must be displayed and updated on a large bracket board so that the competitors know when and against whom they are competing next.

Air Horns - 2

Judging Platform - During the competition the officials must be separated from the competitors. Judges work should not be scrutinized by competitors during competition. Any discussions regarding scoring will be directly with the Head Judge.

USPFC SURFING-2026

BRACKETING

Competitors will be bracketed into heats based on the number of entries per event. 6 person heats are preferred.

SCHEDULING

A minimum of two days of competition are required for this event.

As a general rule, Short Board and Body Board should be held on day 1. Long Board and SUP should be held on day 2. If three days are used, SUP and Body Board should be held on the final day. The schedule can be adjusted based on projections for the surf. Short Board should be held on the day projected to have the highest waves.

Heats will be 15 minutes with one 5-minute extension as necessary to allow for sufficient catchable waves. Finals will be 20 minutes in duration with a maximum of two 5-minute extensions as necessary to allow for sufficient catchable waves.

GENERAL SPORT RULES for Surfing

Long Board is a minimum of nine (9) feet.

Short Board design is unlimited.

SUP Board - No weight or length restrictions

- Single Hull
- Stationary/non-correctional fins
- Fin box allowed

In SUP a single blade paddle must be used.

Body (Boogie) Board will have the following attributes: 1) shall not exceed 5' in overall length; 2) shall be flexible and include some portion of soft exterior skin. *The use of fins (flipper) is optional.*

HEAT STRUCTURE:

Heats: Heats will be 15 minutes in duration with 5-minute extensions as necessary to allow for sufficient catchable waves. Finals will be 20 minutes in duration with minimum 5-minute extensions as necessary to allow for sufficient catchable waves

USPFC SURFING-2026

Unless the judges allow for water starts, heats will start from the beach with 1 blast of the horn. A yellow flashing light or flag marks 5 minutes remaining. The surfers from the next heat may then start paddling into position. They must be careful not to interfere with the surfers already in the water. Two horn blasts and the ceasing of the flashing yellow light or dropping of the flag mark the end of a heat. There will be a 30-second time delay between heats. Contestants must return to the beach in the prone position or paddle on their knees to the beach after the heat has ended with their jerseys on. Standing up after the heat ends is a 2.5-point penalty. Competitors must return the jersey to the beach marshal immediately having untied any knots in the jersey. Points may be deducted from an individual's score if they fail to remove all knots from their assigned jersey prior to returning it.

INTERFERENCE RULES:

RIGHT OF WAY: Wave possession or right of way in these situations will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue. Basically, 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. 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.

Anyone who stands up in front of a surfer with right of way in non-one on one heats 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. These include excessive hassling, leg rope pulling or breaking down a section.

INTERFERENCE PENALTY:

Under the best 3 wave format:

If most judges call interference, then that wave will count in the final tally as a zero score. This applies to a riding interference or a paddling interference, where the surfer catches that wave.

Under the 2 best waves format, the interfering surfer will be penalized with a loss of 50% of his second-best scoring ride. The wave that the interference was called on by most of the judges will count in the final tally as a zero.

Any interfering surfer will be penalized, and a drop-in decision is irrevocable once the decision has been made. All discussion regarding these decisions will be directly with the Head Judge.

The rider who is interfered with will be allowed an additional wave beyond their wave maximum, within the prescribed time limit. Exception to this is a double interference where neither surfer gets an extra wave.

USPFC SURFING-2026

Any surfer incurring two or more interference penalties will be disqualified from the event and they must immediately leave the competition area.

Any competitor who starts surfing while waiting for their heat or continues to surf after their heat is over (even if the surfer takes off their jersey) will lose 2.5 points from the total score on all judges' score cards if a majority of the judges agree.

SCORING

Heats - best 2 waves from a maximum of up to 10 waves ridden by each surfer.

Finals - best 2 waves from a maximum of up to 15 waves ridden by each surfer

A contestant will not be scored after reaching the maximum wave count.

The judges will score each ride from 0-10. The judging criteria shall be: "The surfer who executes the most radical maneuvers in a functional and stylish manner in the critical sections of the biggest wave for the longest functional distance will receive the highest score." The individual judge's scores should be consistent with one another.

Short Board Judging Criteria:

A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power, and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (maneuvers) will be considered when rewarding points for waves ridden. The surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves shall be rewarded with the higher scores.

Long Board Judging Criteria:

A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power, and flow to maximize scoring potential. A good blend of classic and modern long board surfing, Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (maneuvers) will be considered when rewarding points for waves ridden. The surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves shall be rewarded with the higher scores.

Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Surfing Judging Criteria:

A surfer must demonstrate board handling skills in the transition phase (end of one wave paddling to the next wave) and surfing phase of their performance. A surfer must perform radical controlled maneuvers, using the paddle as a key tool, in the critical sections of a wave with speed, power, and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire, wave negotiation, and the use of the paddle to increase the intensity of the maneuvers, will all be considered when awarding points for

USPFC SURFING-2026

SUP. The SUP surfer who executes these criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores.

USPFC SURFING-2026

AWARDS

A maximum of 32 sets of medals (1st through 3rd place) will be required. If either of the optional events are contested an additional maximum 6 sets of medals will be needed per event.

ATTENTION COORDINATORS

**THE USPFC GENERAL RULES APPLY TO ALL SPORTS.
YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH ITS CONTENTS.**

**PRECISE RESULTS MUST BE FORWARDED
TO THE HOST COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
CONCLUSION OF THIS SPORT**

The USPFC Director assigned to your sport is knowledgeable and experienced in providing assistance during the preparation and running of the sport. Questions, a detailed accounting of your preparations, and any area requiring approval of the USPFC shall be submitted in a timely manner to this USPFC Director.

The USPFC Directors want to work with you to make your sport a success.

PLEASE USE THE USPFC DIRECTORS AS A RESOURCE.