



**SURF
DOG
EVENTS**



**Surf Dog Events Series Judging Rules
7/26/17 - Subject to Further Edit by Organizers**

Fun, Friendly & Furry Event Policies

Surfing with your dog should be fun! *Surf Dog Events Series* is a competition as well as a fundraiser for various dog related charities. Please treat volunteers, judges and fellow competitors with respect. The following rules are set forth to ensure the safety of the athletes (2 and 4-legged), the fairness of competition and to promote the best dog surfing!

Registration/Heat Assignments:

- Registration for each event is online.
- **Heats can sell out!** If you register your dog for the wrong heat, just because his/her actual heat is sold out, your registration will be disqualified.
- The **Imperial Beach Surf Dog Competition (7/29/17)** participation is limited to the following:
 - Three heats of five dogs per heat in each weight category: 15 small dogs, 15 medium, 15 large dogs, and 15 X-large dogs.
 - Shredder - no more than five per heat.
 - Three total tandem heats: one heat of dog/dog surf : one heat of dog/human surf: one heat of dog/human SUP (stand up paddle board)
 - No event day registration is available; if not sold out, registration will close Monday, 7/24/17 at midnight
 - Registered dogs will be notified via e-mail of their heat time no later than Thursday, 7/27/17.
- The **Surf City Surf Dog® (9/23/17)** participation is limited to the following:
 - Three heats of five dogs per heat in each weight category: 15 small dogs, 15 medium, 15 large dogs, and 15 X-large dogs.
 - Shredder - no more than five per heat.
 - Three total tandem heats: one heat of dog/dog surf: one heat of dog/human surf: one heat of dog/human SUP (stand up paddle board)
 - No event day registration is available; if not sold out, registration will close Monday, 9/18/17.
 - Pre-registered dogs will be notified via e-mail of their heat time no later than Thursday, 9/21/17.

1. Heat Rules:

- Heats will be 10 minutes, depending on surf conditions.
- Final heats will be 10 minutes.
- Each heat will begin and end with one long horn blast and display of a green flag.
- A 2-minute warning will be given with two horn blasts.
- At the conclusion of the heat, competitors will immediately exit water and return rash guards and receive medals quickly to not delay the next heat.

Check-In:

- All surFURS must:
 - Check in at least 1 hour before their heat.
 - Get board inspected at least 30 minutes before their heat to ensure no weights have been added and





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consistency.

- Be ready in the waiting zone at the heat prior to your heat.
 - Heats will not be delayed for late arrivals or media interviews.
- Dog owners/handler teams of TWO humans + dog (*no entourages*) will enter judging zone and meet the judges prior to entering the water.
 - *Please face your dog and board towards the judges and stand behind your dog - do not block the judges' view of your dog or board.*
 - Dog, handler and catcher MUST wear the same color rash guard for visibility in the water

Weight Divisions

- **Weight Division Heats:**

- X-Large Dogs (60 lbs. +)
- Large Dogs (41 lbs. - 59 lbs.)
- Medium Dogs (21 lbs. – 40 lbs.)
- Small Dogs (20 lbs. and under)
- All surFURS will compete with other dogs in the same weight division.
- May be launched by their owners OR a handler if they wish.
- Have specific board restrictions - Please ensure you have thoroughly read the **Equipment Section**
- Up to 5 finalists in each weight division overall will progress to the Finals (***not necessarily in each heat***).

Shredder Division

- SurFURS will be surfing against other dogs (any weight)
- Any type of board will be allowed: INT, fiberglass, stand-up, and also foam.
- Shredders must be launched by their owners/pet-pawrents, not handlers.
- Depending on quantity of Shredders entered, the judges will determine *if* there will be a final heat and the quantity of dogs to advance to finals.

Tandem Division

- Tandem division will consist of dog/human surf, or dog/dog surf and dog/human Stand Up Paddle.
- Heats will be scored with a blend of weight and shredder division criteria.
- May be launched by their owners OR a handler if they wish.
- **SurFURS competing in the Tandem division can use whichever type board they want.**
- **Paddles may be used in the Stand-Up Paddle Division only**
- Tandem heats do not advance to a final heat. The 1st-3rd place will be awarded based on the original heat.

2. Water Support Teams & Photographers Rules:

To make sure judges can see the action and score dogs accordingly, each surFUR will be allowed:

- *In-surf* teams of 2 - (1) handler/launcher and (1) assistant/catcher.
- In addition, one Junior Lifeguard volunteer will be available for catching dogs closer to shore, *or you may have your own designated catcher.*





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- Junior Lifeguard (JG) volunteers will meet you and your dog before each heat; owner/handler will debrief on how to handle the dogs and retrieve the surfboard and re-entry into the waves.
- JGs will be trained by staff and will assist in catching dogs as they come in; if you have your own team, please *kindly* inform the staff and the JG's ahead of time. If unsportsmanlike conduct is present, you run the risk of being disqualified.
- Judging zone photographers will be limited to allow for clear viewing for judges.
- No personal photographers or camera crew will be allowed in the judging zone or water without prior approval from contest organizers. Non-official photographers will be removed by security.
- The head judge may remove water photographers hindering the judges' viewing of the competition.

3. Equipment Rules:

- All dogs **must** wear a life vest while surfing.
- All dogs, handlers and designated catcher must wear contest-provided rash guard.
 - After your heat, please do not leave the waiting zone with the rash guard, as the next heat will be using them!
- We will **NOT** have boards for rent on-site. If you need to rent one, we suggest you contact a local vendor ahead of time.
- Leashing dogs to the board is not allowed.
 - Dogs should be under voice command, though leashes can be hooked on the lifejacket used to catch dogs from running once they are on-shore.
 - No choke chains, prong/pinch or rope collars allowed while surfing.
 - Training/slip collars used in the water will result in a 2pt deduction
- Points can be deducted if costumes impede the dogs' vision or mobility. Think safety over cute.
- As previously stated, any surFUR competing with a board not allowed will be disqualified. Please note types of boards allowed in *each division below*.
 - Dogs participating in the weight-based heats must use a surfboard with a foam top, foam rails and foam nose, as opposed to one primarily of fiberglass
 - Dogs participating in the shredder division can surf on any type of board: INT, fiberglass and also foam.
 - No adding of weights will be allowed. Boards will be inspected prior to your heat.

4. Scoring/Judging Criteria

- Judging criteria is based on the judges' analysis of the following major concepts when scoring waves, and scored on a point basis of 0.5 – 10.
 - Each surFUR will be scored on their highest two waves in each heat. Each surFUR's two highest scores will be combined to determine their total heat score.
 - The highest two-combined scores determine 1st, second highest scores determine 2nd, and so forth through 5th place.
 - In the event of a tie, the tabulator will break the tie by counting the surFUR's highest single wave score (single wave count back system) and comparing it to the other surFUR's highest single wave score.
 - The best single wave score will break the tie and that surFUR will win the tiebreak. If still tied with one best wave, the same count back system will be utilized comparing the second best wave scores, then





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third best wave scores, and so forth until the tie is broken.

- Maximum wave count and number of scoring waves may be adjusted depending on the surf
- conditions of the contest.
- Scores will be posted after each heat.

▪ **Criteria**

Be selective on your wave choice - quantity does not equal quality! Remember, each surFUR is scored on their top two waves. Judges analyze the following elements when scoring waves and the top 5 scores for each surFUR will be based on the following factors:

- **Wave:**
 - Degree of difficulty
 - Wave Size (Bigger set waves are more difficult than smaller waves)
 - Critical positioning on the wave (taking off on a critical section or steeper section)
 - Riding an open faced wave vs. riding a white water wave
 - Riding a wave right or left (more difficult than riding the wave straight in to Beach)
 - Ability to surf alone (i.e. launchers should not ride/weight the back of the board to continue down the face of the wave)
- **Dog Positioning:**
 - Standing on all fours vs. sitting or lying down
 - If the dog pulls a maneuver (360 or 180)
- **Shredders**
 - Shredders will surf outside (not white-wash) when possible
 - Be judged on innovative and progressive maneuvers

5. Protests / Disqualification

- Competitors are passionate and committed to the sport of dog surfing. We understand that not all judgments will be agreed with. When entering a contest, surFURS and their owners are subject to the judges' independent perception and scoring. The process for lodging a protest with the head judge is as follows:
 - Protests must be filed in writing and placed in a protest box no later than the end of the next heat.
 - Scores are posted as quickly as possible after each heat
 - The competitor lodging a protest may have a maximum of 5 minutes to discuss with the head judge only. The head judge will determine the most appropriate time to discuss the protest with the competitor (owner) based on his/her necessary involvement for heats in progress. The head judge will communicate through the beach marshal to the competitor (owner) of when he/she will be able to discuss the protest.
 - Final decisions and judgments made solely by the event judges will stand.
- **Interference/Snaking**
 - Positioning himself or herself in front, around, or behind a competitor to impede and take wave possession is known as snaking. This interference results in a loss of the highest scoring wave.
 - Any action, which impedes a contestant riding or taking off on a wave, in front of the rider in





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possession will result in an interference call and result in loss of highest scoring wave in that heat.

- In cases where a rider is in front of another unknowingly, or so appears, to judges, no interference shall be called-
- Priority
 - The surfer with priority has the unconditional right of way to catch any wave they choose. Other surfers in the heat can paddle for, and catch, the same wave, but only if they do not hinder the scoring potential of a surfer with priority. A surfer loses priority once they catch a wave and/or a surfer paddles for but misses a wave. If two or more surfers catch a wave, the first surfer to make it to the take-off zone will get priority.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will be cause for removal and disqualification from contest.
 - Unsportsmanlike actions including outbursts or intimidation of other participants and/or spectators, volunteers, judges and organizers must be seen *by lifeguards, judges or contest organizers*.
 - This is a family fun event and we value and respect our competitors, sponsors/vendors, volunteers and judges. We request the same respect for all of the attendees in return.

6. Surf Dog Events Series Scoring/Rankings

After each event surfers are awarded points based on their respective placing; the better they perform, the more points they get. For example, at Imperial Beach first place gets 1,000 points, second place gets 800 **points** and so on.

- These points are added together to create the Surf Dog Events Series Rankings.
- Tandem points are not factored into the Surf Dog Events Series Rankings.
- At the conclusion of the Surf City Surf Dog event, the suFUR at the top of the Rankings will become the Surf Dog Events Series Champion.
- The Surf Dog Events Series Champion will have their name placed on the perpetual trophy to be on display (LOCATION TBD).

7. AWARDS:

All dogs will receive a participation medal. Commemorative Trophies will be given will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the following categories:

- X-Large, Large, Medium and Small Weight Categories
- Shredder
- Tandem Dog/Dog (2 awards are provided; 1 for each competitor)
- Tandem Dog/Human
- Tandem SUP/Dog

