



**SURF
DOG
EVENTS**



Surf Dog Events Series Judging Rules

As of 7/10/18 - Subject to Further Edit by Organizers

Fun, Friendly & Furry Event Policies

Surf Dog Events Series consists of the Imperial Beach Surf Dog Competition and the McKenna Subaru Surf City Surf Dog Competition. 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!

Participation Format

surFURS will compete in the following heats:

- Weight based:
 - Handler-Launched
 - Owner Launched
- SHREDDER: (owner-launched)
- TANDEM: Dog/Dog and Dog/Human and Dog/Human SUP

1. Heat Basics:

- Weight and tandem heats will be 10 minutes and shredder heats will be 12 minutes, depending on surf conditions.
- Final heats will be 12 minutes, depending on conditions.
- 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.
- All heats are limited to no more than 5 dogs

Weight Class Heats:

- X-Large Dogs (60 lbs. +)
- Large Dogs (41 lbs. - 59 lbs.)
- Medium Dogs (21 lbs. – 40 lbs.)
- Small Dogs (20 lbs. and under)

Owner-Launched Weight Class

- Are launched by their owners only.
- All surFURS will compete with other dogs in the same weight class.
- Have specific board restrictions - Please ensure you have thoroughly read the [Equipment Section](#)

Handler-Launched Weight Class

- Are launched by a handler.
- We will do our best to have all surFURS compete with other dogs in the same weight class; if there are not enough, then handler heats may be combined (i.e. smalls and mediums combined)
- Have specific board restrictions - Please ensure you have thoroughly read the [Equipment Section](#)



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Shredder Class

- Are launched by their owners
- SurFURS will be surfing against dogs of any weight.
- Have specific board restrictions - Please ensure you have thoroughly read the **Equipment Section**

Tandem Class

- May be launched by their owners OR a handler if they wish.
- Heats will be scored with a blend of weight and shredder class criteria.
- Two total tandem heats: one heat of dog/dog surf: one heat of dog/human surf.
 - Surf City Surf Dog will also have one heat of dog/human SUP (stand up paddle board).
- Paddles may be used in the Stand-Up Paddle Class (Surf City Surf Dog only).
- Finals:
 - Tandem heats do not advance to a final heat. The 1st-3rd place will be awarded based on the original heat.

2. 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 which will be combined to determine their total heat score.
 - Maximum wave count and number of scoring waves may be imposed depending on surf conditions.
- The highest combined scores determine 1st-5th placement.
- Live scores via the Stact App will be live after each heat.

Finals will be held for:

- Weight
 - Owner-launched – the 1st place small, medium, large and x-large dogs in the first round will advance to the “Owner-Launched Final” and will compete against various sized dogs for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall in the Owner-Launched Division.
 - Handler-launched – the 1st place small, medium, large and x-large dogs in the first round will advance to the “Handler-Launched Final” and will compete against various sized dogs for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall in the Handler-Launched Division.
- Shredders
 - If the first round of Shredders heat has 5 or more participants, we will have a Shredders Final Heat, in which at least one surFUR from the first round will be eliminated.
 - If we have less than 5 Shredders, we will not have a Shredders Final 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:

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



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- Ability to surf alone (i.e. launchers should not ride/weight the back of the board to continue down the face of the wave)
- **Shredders**
 - Will surf outside (not white-wash)
 - Will be judged on innovative and progressive maneuvers; Riding a wave right or left, etc.

3. Equipment Rules:

- All dogs must wear a life vest while surfing.
- All dogs, launchers and designated catchers must wear contest-provided rash guard for visibility in the water.
- Leashing dogs to the board is not allowed.
- Surfboards: Please note types of boards allowed in *each class below*.
 - Dogs participating in weight classes 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 class can surf on any size-appropriate board: made of fiberglass and foam; *SUP paddle boards not allowed*.
 - SurFURS competing in the tandem class can use whichever type board they want.
 - The addition of weights will not be allowed.

4. Water Support Teams & Photographers Rules:

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

- *In-surf* teams of 2: (1) 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*.
- 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. If a personal photographer refuses to move, you will be disqualified.
- The head judge may remove water photographers hindering the judges' viewing of the competition.

5. Protests / Disqualification

- Competitors are passionate and committed to the sport of dog surfing. We understand 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.
 - The head judge will determine the most appropriate time to discuss the protest based on his necessary involvement for heats in progress. The competitor lodging a protest may have a maximum of 5 minutes to discuss with the head judge only.
 - Final decisions made by the judge 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 possession will result in an interference call and result in loss of highest scoring wave in that heat.



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- In cases where a rider is in front of another unknowingly, or so appears to judges, no interference shall be called-
- Priority
 - The surFUR with priority has the unconditional right of way to catch any wave they choose. Other surFURs in the heat can paddle for, and catch, the same wave, but only if they do not hinder the scoring potential of a surFUR with priority. A surFUR loses priority once they catch a wave and/or a surFUR paddles for, but misses a wave. If two or more surFURs catch a wave, the first surFUR 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 pawticipants and/or spectators, volunteers, judges and organizers must be seen *by lifeguards, judges or contest organizers*.
- Any trick/maneuver which puts the animal at potential risk or harm will lead to disqualification.

6. Series Points

After each event, surFURs are awarded points based on their respective placing; the better they perform, the more points they get. For example, 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 Surf Dog Series Event 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 pawticipation medal.
- The 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place surFUR in the below FINALS Heat will receive a commemorative trophy:
 - Owner-Launched Division Final
 - Handler-Launched Division Final
 - Shredder Final
 - Tandem Dog/Dog (*1 award is provided per team*)
 - Tandem Dog/Human
 - Tandem SUP/Dog (Surf City Surf Dog only)

