

UKWA FREESTYLE TOUR

Sailing Instructions for 2012.

These Sailing Instructions (SI's) are intended to ensure that the best competitor wins through individual skill, good fortune, and quality of equipment alone, and not as a result of procedural devices or legalistic argument.

They should be read in conjunction with the Championship Rules and the relevant Notice of Event.

RULES

1. The Freestyle Events will be governed by the ISAF Windsurfing Competition Rules 2009-2012 (WCR), the Notice of Event (NoE), the Championship Rules (CR), and these Sailing Instructions (SI's).
2. Failure to comply with the rules may result in disqualification.

SAFETY

1. **Responsibility**
2. The safety of the sailboard and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the competitor using the sailboard who must ensure that the sailboard is adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the event. Neither the establishment of these sailing instructions nor the inspection of the board under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the competitor for his/her board and the entire management thereof.
3. The event organizers, the event committee and officials will not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the competitor as a result of their taking place in the event.
4. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to decide whether or not to start or continue in the event.
5. **Wetsuits**
When ICF "numeral 3" is displayed ashore competitors shall wear wetsuits.
3. **Junior's**
 1. All junior competitors shall, if directed, wear above the waist a jacket or vest with a minimum buoyancy of 4kg un-inflated in fresh water. The buoyancy shall be tested with a metal (lead) weight of 4kg, which shall remain supported for a minimum of 5 minutes.
 2. Any competitor needing assistance shall try to signal by making the international distress signal (waving both arms above the head making an 'X' with open hands). If no assistance is needed the competitor shall signal by waving one hand with closed fist. If the event committee or its

delegated representative deems any competitor to need assistance, the competitor shall accept this assistance and shall follow the directions given.

3. Failure to comply. The penalty for infringement of Safety Rules may be disqualification from the round. A repeat infringement may mean disqualification from the event. When the Event Committee disqualifies a competitor for such an infringement it need not protest him or her. This Amends RRS. 63.1.

SAILOR IDENTIFICATION

1. Sail Numbers

Sail numbers are mandatory for Pro Fleet competitors, however if a sailor is unable to comply and makes a representation to the EC in good time, giving good reasons this rule may be waived. Sail numbers are advisory for all other competitors.

2. Identifying streamers

Competitors may collect their streamer from the beach marshal no sooner than two heats before their own. The streamers must be returned immediately after their heat. Late return may lead to disqualification from that round.

FLEETS, ELIGIBILITY AND AGE DEFINITIONS

Pro Fleet.

1. There are no age, experience or sponsorship restrictions in this fleet. Entrants to the "Pro" fleet will generally be those sailors who are or have been paid to windsurf, or are full time sailors, or with equipment supplied by a shop, brand or outside sponsor. Sailors who have sufficient skill to compete at "Pro" level but are not sponsored may also enter this fleet.
2. The Event Committee will reserve the right to promote sailors from other fleets if it is deemed necessary.
3. Sponsors branding on sails, boards, clothing or vehicles is unrestricted.
4. Sail numbers are mandatory

Amateur Fleets.

1 Amateur Men.

Any male of any age can enter. It is generally a fleet for those sailors who do not consider themselves to be of "Pro" ability or who are aspiring to reach that level. Sailors should have purchased their equipment themselves and no sponsors branding apart from manufacturers original logos are allowed on sails or boards unless approved by the Event Committee. Sail numbers are advisory.

2 Masters.

The above applies and sailors should be aged 35 or over on the 1st January 2012.

3 Youths.

The above applies and sailors should be aged under 20 on the 31st Dec 2012.

4 Juniors.

The above applies and sailors should be aged under 17 on the 31st Dec 2012.

5 Minims.

The above applies and sailors should be aged under 15 on the 31st Dec 2012.

6 Ladies.

There are no age or experience restrictions and sponsorship is allowed. If there are sufficient entries ladies fleets may be further sub divided into age categories. Sail numbers are advisory.

7 A Fleet at any Freestyle Tour event shall be formed by a minimum of four entrants, if there are less than four entrants in any category some or all fleets may be merged.

8 Competitors may enter one fleet only, except with the express permission of the Event Committee. Membership of the UKWA is a requirement.

9 Competitors may be required to wear rash vests or to display UKWA or Event Sponsors branding and logos on their sails or boards.

NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB)

CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes in the SI's will be posted on the official notice board (ONB) at least 15 minutes before they take affect. In exceptional circumstances the Event Director or Head Judge may announce such changes orally at a briefing.

SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

1. Location

Signals made ashore shall be displayed on the official flagpole at or near the ONB.

2. Postponement/Abandonment.

When the postponement flag (AP – red/white pennant) is flown ashore all heats are postponed. In the event of a heat being abandoned after it has been started, boards should return to the beach and standby for announcement and/or signals. The Heat Schedule may be changed. When the “N” flag (blue/white chequered) is flown ashore that heat is abandoned.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- 1.** The first briefing on the first day of the event will be at or near the Event Office, at the time published in the Notice of Event or on the O.N.B. Further briefings may be held if required prior to the First Start and the places and times shall be posted on the O.N.B.
- 2.** First Start. The first possible Warning Signal will be 15 minutes after the Heat Schedule is posted on the ONB
- 3.** Last possible start. The last possible start will be at the discretion of the Event Committee, unless published in the Notice of Event.
- 4.** Heat schedule. The Schedule of heats shall be posted on the O.N.B. at least 15 mins before the start of competition. It shall be the sole responsibility of each competitor to know in which heat they will be competing.

COMPETITION AREA & BEACH MARSHALL

1. The competition area will be illustrated on the ONB and/or described at the briefing.
2. When not competing, competitors shall not sail into the competition area, doing so may lead to disqualification.
3. Competitors will only be scored in the competition area.
4. Sailors must report to the Beach Marshall prior to their heat and not go onto the water until he releases them, which will generally be after the previous heat has finished.
5. Sailors must return as quickly as possible to the Beach Marshall immediately after their heat to hand in their streamer and to check their results, failure to do so may lead to disqualification.

HEAT DURATION, SEQUENCE AND SIGNALS

- 1 The Head Judge shall write the duration of the heats and the transition time on the Official Notice Board prior to the start of competition.
- 2 Heats may be of any length but are usually between 3 and 8 minutes depending upon time constraints and weather conditions, they may be changed during a break
- 3 Transition time is usually 2 minutes but can vary.
- 4 The start and finish of a heat shall be signaled as follows.
 - Warning signal (normally 2 mins) – red flag displayed with 1 sound signal.
 - Preparatory signal (normally 1 min) – yellow flag displayed, with 1 sound signal
 - Start signal – green flag displayed, with 1 sound signal.
 - End of heat warning (1 min. remaining) – green flag lowered, with no sound signal
 - End of heat signal and warning signal for next heat – red flag displayed, with sound signal.
 - Heat abandoned - All flags lowered, the “N” flag, (blue and white chequered) shall be raised to signal the abandonment of a heat at least 1 minute before the heat end.
 - Programme Break. - All flags lowered, the answering pennant, (red and white stripes) shall be displayed with sound signal to indicate a break in the competition. It shall be lowered 1 minute before the next warning signal to restart competition.
 - Calling all sailors off the water before the start of competition or to change sailing instructions – All flags raised with three long sound signals. These flags shall be lowered 1 minute before re-starting the heat sequence, (next warning signal).

ELIMINATIONS AND SEEDING

1. A variety of elimination systems may be used including Repechage and Single / Double Elimination. The Event Committee will publish the details on the ONB at least 15 minutes before the start of competition.

2. Seeding for the first elimination of each event will be based on the previous years National Championship results and the Event Committee's judgement and experience. Subsequent eliminations will be seeded on the results of the previous elimination.
3. The Event Committee decision is absolute and cannot be protested.

CONDITIONS

1. There is no minimum or maximum wind strength or sea state.
2. The Event Committee shall decide if the conditions are suitable to start competition, and whether to proceed with or cancel the event/heat.
3. The Event Committee decision is absolute and cannot be protested.

RIGHT OF WAY RULES

These rules, reproduced here for convenience, replace all rules of Part 2 of Racing Rules of Sailing and are incorporated in the ISAF Windsurfing Competition Rules (WCR).

1. COMING IN AND GOING OUT

A board coming in shall keep clear of a board going out. When two boards are going out or coming in while on the same wave, or when neither is going out or coming in, the board on port tack shall keep clear of the one on starboard tack.

2. BOARDS ON THE SAME WAVE COMING IN

When two or more boards are on a wave coming in, a board that does not have possession shall keep clear.

3. CLEAR ASTERN, CLEAR AHEAD AND OVERTAKING

A board clear astern and not on a wave shall keep clear of a board clear ahead. An overtaking board that is not on a wave shall keep clear.

4. TRANSITION

A board in transition shall keep clear of one that is not. When two boards are in transition at the same time, the one on the others port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

PROTESTS

1. A protest shall be made in accordance with the rules governing protests for competitors in heats i.e. RRS 61.2.b. Written protests are not required.
2. All parties to the protest must report immediately to the Protest Committee.
3. The Protest Committee will hear the protests as soon as is practicable.
4. Appeals. There shall be no appeal except against decisions under rule 69 – gross misconduct. RRS 70.6 applies.

EVENT MANAGEMENT, JUDGING & SCORING

1. Each Event shall be managed by a committee, consisting of at least the UKWA Representative and the Head Judge joined by the Local Organiser if available.

2. A panel of three judges shall score each heat, one of whom shall be appointed Head Judge.
3. Freestyle shall be judged on a subjective basis, (overall impression), each judge will quantify his assessment of a sailor's performance with a position. If required, marks out of ten for, "difficulty, diversity and fluidity may be used by judges to further quantify that position".
4. The sailor with the best aggregate of the three judge's position scores wins the heat.
5. In the event of a tie the head judge's score shall be the deciding factor.
6. Competitors may only see their score sheets at the end of a round.
7. Each sailor in a completed Elimination Series shall be scored with points as follows.

Position = Points

1 = 0.7

2 = 2

3 = 3

4 etc, as per position

Dnf = number of entries

Dne = number of entries + 1

8. If any positions are tied points shall be aggregated and shared equally.
9. Each sailor's event score shall be the total of their elimination series scores, with the number of their worst scores excluded as follows:

1 – 3 Elimination series:	No discards
4 – 7;	1 discard
8 – 11;	2 discards etc
10. The maximum number of elimination series in any day is four.
11. After every fourth round a sailor's worst round score shall be discarded
12. There is no limit to the number of elimination series in an Event.
13. Each Event in the Freestyle Tour will count towards the National Championships.
14. An Event will be deemed complete provided one elimination round reaches the last four competitors.
15. If four or more tour events are completed a sailor's worst event score shall be discarded. If six or more tour events are completed a sailor's worst two event scores shall be discarded.

NB: An alternative method of judging such as the "PWA Best Move" system may be used if approved by the Event Committee.

EVENT PRIZES AND AWARDS

Awards shall be made as published in the Notice of Event or as displayed on the ONB prior to the finish of the Event.

APPENDICES

1 Definitions

1. Coming in/going out. A board sailing in the same direction as the incoming surf is coming in. A board sailing in the direction opposite to the incoming surf is going out.
2. Competing. A board is competing from its preparatory signal until the end of the heat, or until the heat has been postponed or abandoned.
3. Mark. A mark is any object specified in the sailing instructions which delineates the competition area.
4. Possession. The first board sailing shoreward immediately in front of the wave has possession of that wave.
When it is impossible to determine which board is first the windward board has possession.
5. Overtaking. A board is overtaking from the moment she gains an overlap from clear astern until the moment she is clear ahead of the overtaken board.
6. Jumping. A board is jumping when she takes off at the top of a wave while going out.
7. Surfing . A board is surfing when she is on or immediately in front of a wave while coming in.
8. Recovering. A board is recovering from the time her sail or, when water-starting, the competitor is out of the water until she has steerage way.
9. Transition . A board changing tacks, or taking off while coming in, or one that is not surfing, jumping, capsized or recovering is in transition.
10. Capsized. A board is capsized when her sail or the competitor is in the water.

2 Misconduct

The event committee may penalise a competitor for misconduct, without a hearing, for the following reasons:

11. Sailing in the course/ competition area when not competing
12. Littering
13. Audible and visible abuse
14. Unsportsmanlike conduct: competitors shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators, members of the media or other persons. For the purposes of this rule, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, but does not fall within the prohibition of any specific on site offence contained within these rules. In addition, unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the giving, making issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement within the precincts of the event site or at event functions having or designed to have an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the sport.

15. Other abusive or aggressive behaviour.
16. Non attendance of event opening or closing ceremonies.
17. Competitors hindering or otherwise distracting scorers or officials carrying out their duties in the course of competition, or otherwise obstructing the progress of the competition.