

## **Gradings for WSA Events including the Australian Open**

Prior to the beginning of the WSA Circuit and the Australian Open Events, the WSA Contest Committee will use all information available to them to grade riders based on objective and measurable criteria.

The intent of the gradings is to encourage competitors to surf against others of a similar ability and as well improve their competence in the surf.

Competitors are able to meet with the Contest Committee and discuss in an open and safe manner any concerns which they may have regarding where they might be placed in divisions.

Decisions regarding placement of a competitor in a division remains at the discretion of the Contest Committee.

### **Criteria**

#### **Open A grade** (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to demonstrate expertise surfing in challenging conditions ie head to over head high surf closeouts

Able to paddle out through heavy waves

Competent with eskimo rolling and recovery from a wipeout

Able to execute a full range of manouvres in the critical section of the wave including but not limited to

- Top turn
- Bottom turn
- Re-entry; ramping off the white water
- Aerials

Consistently scores in the 5-7 plus points range;

#### **Qualifiers** (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to safely surf in moderate conditions ie waist to chest high

Competent with eskimo rolling or working towards same

Competent with paddling back out through white water or working towards same

Able to undertake a series of manouvres in the critical section of the wave including but not limited to

- Top turn
- Bottom turn
- Re-entry; ramping off the white water

Consistently scores in the 3.5 plus points range;

**Challengers** (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to surf in safe - moderate conditions ie waist high, fattish waves, with definite peaks, excluding closeouts

Able to undertake a series of basic manouvres in the section of the wave that isn't the critical part such as towards the shoulder including but not limited to

Top turn

- Bottom turn
- Competent with eskimo rolling, but not consistent with this skill and/ or working towards same
- Competent with paddling back out through white water but not consistent with this skill and/ or working towards same

Consistently scores in the 2-3.5 points range;