



National Freestyle Series Rulebook

Version 2.0

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1.1	05 Nov 2018	National Freestyle Committee	Updated format and wording to align with updates in National Wave Series Rulebook and to incorporate updated event format (Rhys Higham)
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Introduction

The following National Kitesurfing Series Rulebook is used as a document to outline the safety guidelines, competition format and rules of kitesurfing competitions sanctioned or organised by Kiteboarding Australia or a State Association body.

The content of the document has been created in collaboration with State Associations and the National body to create a consistent approach to competition in Australia and create an alignment to the international competition standards set by the WKL.

The rule book should provide clear instruction and guidance to competitors regarding National and State based event rules, safety guidelines and rider expectations.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Rhys Higham, Jarrett Stock, Chrissy Gaudieri, Christelle La Baccon, Murray Kenny and Declan McCarthy for their collaborative efforts in creating this document.

Additional thanks goes to Kiteboarding South Australia, Kiteboarding Western Australia and Kiteboarding Queensland for providing input documentation to assist with the development of this National Rulebook.



1.0 Safety Guidelines

Kiteboarding is easy to practice safely with a little forethought and common sense. Ultimately, we are responsible for minimizing the risk to ourselves and others, which will help protect the future of this great sport. As such competitors are asked to familiarise themselves and follow the below safety guidelines at all times, not just at sanctioned events.

1.1 During events:

- Competitors are to attend the initial competition briefing to ensure familiarity of the day's events, conditions, potential hazards, safety guidelines, emergency procedures and general rules and regulations relevant to the competition.
- Every competitor is responsible for disclosing any pre-existing medical conditions to the event committee. KA strongly discourages involvement in a kiteboarding event if this puts the competitor's health and well-being at risk.
- Medication (if required) for pre-existing conditions is to be carried by the competitor and the competitor should take all foreseeable measures to make event organisers aware of its location and use in case it is required.
- Qualified first aider's and first aid kits are available in the event of an incident on the day.
- A rescue vessel may be available for on-water support in the event of an incident/injury to a competitor while on the water.
- All competitors are expected to sign on and off each day using the designed sign on/off sheets. Failure to sign off prior to the end of the day's competition may result in being disqualified from the competition.
- Treat all other beach users with respect; beach users/swimmers have right of way at all times.
- Treat the environment with respect. Do not enter dune areas, use designated paths to and from the beach and please put any rubbish in the bins provided.
- Competitors are encouraged to drink plenty of water, and protect themselves from the sun (Slip, Slop, Slap). Sunscreen and sun shelters will be provided on the day.
- Competitors are encouraged to leave valuable items at home or in a safe place while competing. Items such as towels, shoes, sunglasses can be left in a central location (e.g. the event tents) on the beach where on-shore event organisers can monitor them.
- Competitors should check all equipment for faults prior to the competition, making sure all equipment is fit for use, including making sure safety systems are in working order. Competitors are encouraged to avoid using equipment if deemed to be unsafe.
- Competitors are asked to use equipment suitable for the conditions on the day. If you are unsure on the correct equipment to use, please ask event organisers for assistance.
- It is also advised to wear appropriate protective equipment such as helmets and PFD's to prevent injury and harm.
- Roll up bar and lines when kites are not in use to prevent slips, trips, falls and tangles.



- It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their equipment is ready and they have reported to the marshalling area prior to their heat/s. Event organisers will not chase competitors and heats will be run whether participants are ready or not.
- Volunteers will be available on the beach to assist with launching and landing kites. Launch/Land kites towards the water and do not self-launch or land where possible.
- The competition zones will be clearly marked to competitors, organisers and beach users with flags, signs and buoys.
- Competitors are required to leave the water immediately when their heat has finished. Competitors riding through the competition zone outside of their heats may BE DISQUALIFIED from the competition.
- It is advised not to perform manoeuvres too close to the beach or in very shallow waters to avoid injury.
- Event organisers may postpone or stop heats should a safety risk arise i.e. change of weather conditions, member of the public in the competition zone, shark sighting, etc. Heats will not be recommenced until the event committee deem it safe to do so.
- Competitors are to report all incidents or confrontations with members of the public to an organising committee member ASAP. The organising committee will deal with any disgruntled members of the public to diffuse the situation prior to escalation.
- Any undesirable behaviour (verbal or physical abuse, unsafe behaviour, disregard for event organisers instructions) will be dealt with appropriately by event organisers and may result in disqualification from the competition.
- All competitors must abide by the C.L.E.A.R guidelines, right of way and wave priority rules outlined in this document at all times.

1.2 Alcohol Consumption:

- Competitors are discouraged from consuming alcohol while competing at KA sanctioned events.
- Should competitors choose to consume alcohol during the event they are encouraged to drink responsibly.
- All alcohol must be consumed in accordance with all relevant Australian laws. No alcohol is to be consumed by minors.
- All competitors found with alcohol in a designated dry zone will be asked to leave the competition area immediately.



1.3 Weather and Marine Conditions

- In extreme weather conditions, the event organisers reserve the right to call off heat(s) or the event if conditions are unsafe.
- Event Organisers will postpone the event at the first sign of thunder and lightning. Competitors are asked to exit the water immediately and take shelter from the elements until the storm has passed. Shelter should be sought under solid structures, buildings or motor vehicles, avoiding standing under large trees, kites, tents or temporary shelters. Event organisers will monitor the weather conditions closely and if deemed safe will restart the competition as soon as practical to do so.
- Event organisers and competitors are to keep an eye out for marine creature hazards. Evacuation of the water, postponement of heats or the event may be necessary should signs of danger be present.

1.4 C.L.E.A.R. kiteboarding safety rules

Conditions

- Wind strength and direction
- Always keep downwind area well clear
- Waves, tides and currents
- Consider possible changes

Look

- Before you launch, land, jump, jibe etc.
- Use appropriate launch areas. Make sure your launch area is in an approved kiting area. Make sure the area is open, no person or hard objects are downwind from you, watch poor or slippery footing, nearby power lines, buildings and walls etc.
- Check to see what size kite other kiteboarders are rigging and get their input on conditions. Try to select a kite size for the lower to middle part of the wind range. Do not rig too large a kite for conditions and carefully consider advice of more experienced riders. If you do not have a small enough kite to safely launch, do not go out.

Equipment

- Always complete a pre-flight check (Check your kite for tears or leaky bladders. If you have leaky bladders or tears in your kite, repair them before flying. Check all equipment, including your kite, harness and bar. Check that your safety works and inspect lines for knots, cuts, wear or abrasion. If the line sheathing shows any breaks or knots, replace them. The pigtails should be replaced no less frequently than every year on inflatable kites)
- Use a kite leash and use a quick release on anything you hook into
- Practice using your safety systems regularly so that it becomes instinctive



- Never exceed manufacturers specifications and connect your lines according manufacturers specifications

Attitude

- Always seek and listen to local advice
- Do not exceed your limitations
- Use judgement to prevent situations, do not rely on skill to try and get out of it
- Avoid self-launching and landing. Self-launching and landing are NOT recommended and should be avoided when possible, particularly when other kiters are able to help. Launch and land with a trained assistant towards the water, using reliable audible and visual signals. Never use untrained bystanders to help you launch or land your kite. If in doubt, don't go out.

Respect

- Others - be considerate and courteous to all other waters and beach users
- The law
- Fellow kiters - follow the right of way rules
- The environment



2.0 Competition Rules and Format

The following rules and format information apply to all National Freestyle Series events.

2.1 Divisions

Division	Gender	Age
Junior's	Male	<18
	Female	<18
Open's	Men's	All ages
	Women's	All ages
Masters	Male and Female	35+
Grand Masters*	Male and Female	45+
Legends *	Male and Female	55+
Amateurs *	Male and Female	All Ages

* Event organisers have the authority to not run any of these divisions due to lack of numbers, time constraints or for any other reason should it be deemed acceptable to do so.

2.2 Seeding

Where applicable seeding for National and State Titles events will occur from the previous Nationals or State Titles events. For instance, seeding for the 2018 Nationals will originate from the 2017 Nationals.

Where possible, the top 8 riders will be seeded.

No seeding will be carried through from a State Titles event to a Nationals Titles event.



2.3 Event Format

National and State Title competitions should be held in either of the following formats as agreed by the State Association / Organising Committee:

- Dingle Elimination Ladder – the format adopted by the Global Kitesurfing Association (GKA) for all international kitesurfing events
- Rotation Format - an emerging format currently being used in some international freestyle competitions. This format was used for the first time in a KA sanctioned event at the 2018 Australian Freestyle Kiteboarding Nationals and generally suits divisions with smaller numbers of competitors (>10).

Divisional draws will be displayed at the event or by using online tools, which can be viewed by competitors and spectators alike. Event Organisers will endeavour to update the draws as soon as reasonably practicable to keep riders informed on their progress throughout the competition.

2.3.1 Dingle Elimination Format

This competition format allows every rider to compete at least twice, with the top two riders from each heat progressing to the next round. Third and fourth placed riders move to the repechage round or are eliminated, depending on the stage of the competition. An example of the Dingle Elimination format can be seen in [Appendix -1](#).

Each Division will consist of a maximum of 24 riders. In the event there is more than 24 competitors wishing to compete in a Division, it is at the head judge's discretion to form an abridged format allowing additional riders to compete.

Heat times shall be no less than 7 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes in length, with 1 to 2 minutes for change overs between heats.

There is to be a maximum of two heats, with a maximum of 6 competitors on the water at any given time.

Event organisers have the right to alter heat duration, formats, etc at any time to cater for competitor numbers, time restrictions, or adverse weather conditions, which will be communicated to all competitors involved as soon as practical.

2.3.2 Rotation Format

The rotation format generally follows the principles of a double elimination format in that:

- Every rider gets to compete at least twice, with the top two riders from each heat progressing to the next round, all other competitors moving through to the repechage round or are eliminated, depending on the stage of the competition.



- The differences lie in that divisions are divided up into heats with a maximum of 8 competitors per heat.
- Competitors are allocated a number order within their given heat and enter the competition zone one at a time to perform one trick (within 2 tacks, ie in and out).
- Competitors must then leave the competition zone as soon as they have completed their trick to allow the next competitor to begin their run.
- Following the predefined number order each rider enters the competition zone 8 times throughout their heat, allowing a total of 8 trick's attempts in total per heat per rider.
- At the completion of the heat the top two riders with the highest trick totals progress to the finals, all remaining riders progressing to Round 2 (repechage round).
- Following the same format in round 2 the top 2 riders from each heat also progress to the finals.
- Depending on the number of competitors within the division this heat format system will continue until only 4 competitors remain, who then battle it out in the final for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place.

Example of the Rotating format can be found in Appendix 2 – Examples of Rotating Event Format.

Note: The organising committee has the authority to alter the event draw, ie number of tricks per heat or number of heats per round, etc to suit weather conditions, timeframes, number of competitors per division or unique requirements of the event, which will be communicated to all competitors involved as soon as practical.

2.4 Flag System

A flag or lighting system will be utilised at all KA sanctioned events to signify the start and end of heats, however may be altered to accommodate availability of resources and infrastructure.

The specifics of the flag or lighting system, to signify the start and end of heats, used at events will be advised during the rider briefings taking place at the start of each event.

Below is a typical example of a flag system used at events which may be adopted by event organisers.

Flag Colour	Meaning
Green	Heat in progress
Yellow	1 minute warning
Red	Heat is finished
Blue	Competition is on hold

2.5 Judging Criteria and Guidelines

The competition is a kiteboarding freestyle competition and will be judged using the WKL judging criteria. The WKL judging criteria is an internationally recognised judging format that prepares competitors for



international standard riding and judging, should they progress to that level. Using this criteria creates a fair and unbiased scoring method, catering for all levels of competition.

The aim of the judging panel and head judge is to ensure the best riders win on the day irrespective of the equipment being used.

2.5.1 Judging Criteria

Judges will analyze the following major elements when scoring tricks, noting competitors must perform to these key elements to maximize their scoring potential.

- **Technical Difficulty** – The technical difficulty of tricks completed during the heat.
 - Technical difficulty of low tricks is directly related to the speed in and out of the trick and the amount and quality (lines direction) of the air during the trick execution. Landing low tricks with a high degree of technical difficulty on the execution will increase the chances of winning the heat.
 - Note that “combination tricks” will not automatically score higher than a “regular trick” (eg kiteloop-Mobe Vs Mobe). Everything is related to the quality of the execution (Power) and when considering Kiteloop / Downloop combinations, to the extra Power and Amplitude generated by the Kiteloop / Downloop compared to the “regular trick”.
- **Power** – The power during the execution of the tricks.
Power will be considered as a combination of:
 - Speed - into and out of the trick
 - Kite angle - at 45 degrees or lower during the execution of the trick
 - Height and amplitude of the trick.
 - Risk factors – involved in the execution of the tricks.
 - Commitment of the rider.
 - Technical and physical challenges during the execution.
 - Duration of the critical moment.
 - Quality of the air in the trick (when executing pop-air tricks, lower kite line angle will obviously score higher)
 - Energy on the execution.
- **Variety** – Variety of tricks completed during the heat on both tacks. Repetition of tricks on the same tack will decrease the chances of winning the heat. Repetition of tricks on both tacks (switch tricks) will increase the chances of winning the heat.
- **Height** – Height of the tricks completed during the heat. This aspect will exponentially come into consideration as the wind conditions increase, but only when the height is achieved along with risk factor and technical difficulty.
- **Smoothness** – Smoothness and fluidity during the execution of tricks completed during the heat, between different tricks in a routine and on landings.
- **Style** – The personal flamboyance and attitude of the rider when performing tricks.



- **Innovation** – Tricks that have never been landed in competition before.

Innovative /progressive kitesurfing as well as variety of repertoire (manoeuvre's) will be taken into consideration.

The competitor who executes this criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment shall be rewarded.

It is important to note that the scoring of manoeuvres will vary depending on location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions throughout the day.

Competitors will be judged on a **MAXIMUM** of 12 tricks (dingle elimination format) or 16 tricks (Rotating Format), and only their **BEST** 5 tricks will be counted at the end of the heat/round to determine the result. Riders will not be scored once their trick limit has been reached. This trick total is at the discretion of judges and may be revised on the day, depending on conditions, to ensure a fair and reasonable competition.

Note: Performing the same trick multiple times does not increase your chance of winning the heat/round. Performing the same trick multiple times will be counted towards your trick total however only the highest scoring trick (ie Back Roll, Raily, etc) will contribute to your 5 trick total.

Variations of tricks will be treated as a different trick ie Back Roll to blind, etc.

Judges will assign numerical values to tricks based between 0.1 and 10, the scaling of which is detailed below:

Score	Trick
0.1-1.9	Poor
2- 3.9	Fair
4-5.9	Average
6-7.9	Good
8-10	Excellent

In the event of a draw, the competitor with the highest single trick score will win. If this still results in a draw, a second and third trick may be considered, however outcomes must be based on trick scores, not on consensus.



Examples of trick categories are shown below:

Basic Jump Glide/ Grab Front/Back Roll Raily Kite Loop S Bend	Flat spins Front 3 Back 3 Front 5 Back 5 Front 7 Back 7	Raily Tricks Kyrpt Blind Judge Back 313 Back 315 Front 313 Front 315	Back Tricks Back to Toeside Low Mobe Back Mobe Back Mobe 5 Hinterberger Hinterberger 5	Front Tricks Front to Blind S Bend to Blind Double S Bend Double SB Blind Heart Attack Front Mobe
Front Rewind Vulcan S Mobe S Mobe 5	Front Pass Slim Slim 5 NIS	Back Pass Back to Blind KGB KGB 5	Toe Side Basic Toe side Raily Toe side Front Roll Toe side Back Roll	Toe Side Scarecrow Crow Mobe Crow Mobe 5

2.5.2 Judging Guidelines

- In general, the judges will look for quality of tricks over quantity.
- Any handle pass that is finished by pulling the leash to get the bar, will be considered a crash and therefore will not be scored a 0, however it will count towards your overall trick limit.
- The chicken loop is considered as part of the bar. Grabbing the chicken loop when passing the bar still gives credit to the trick, although, won't be considered as a clean pass.
- If a rider "butt checks" when landing the trick and doesn't lose their board, the judges will still give some credit to the trick. It's at the discretion of each judge to consider if it's a crash or a butt check and to consider how much credit they will give to the trick.
- When the heat is close, the quality of the execution of the tricks completed during the heat will be the key factor to decide the winner. The quality of the execution of the tricks is determined by the power, risk factor and speed in and out of the tricks for low tricks.
- Tricks are judged from take-off to landing. Combinations and risk factor are taken into account when judging.
- A rider shall be scored whilst being in the designated competition area. Whether a rider is in or out of the competition area, will be at the discretion of the head judge or judging panel.
- Judging sheets will only be shown to competitors in that heat, if requested and at a time that does not interfere with the competition i.e. between heats.
- Scores are final and the decisions of the judges may not be appealed.
- The Head Judge has the power to re-run a heat where there is strong evidence that there is a major discrepancy in the judging scores or should conditions be unsatisfactory to provide a result.
- If competitors feel disadvantaged by certain judges, a formal report shall be made in writing to the relevant organising body at the end of the day. A competitor cannot approach a judge or event official whilst competition is taking place.



2.6 Alteration to Event Format or Rules

The event committee has the right to alter the rules and judging criteria from time to time to suit weather conditions, competition formats, time constraints, etc. Any changes to the rules or judging criteria will be communicated to the competitors in a timely and effective manner.

2.7 Right of Way Rules

- There is no absolute right of way - All competitors should take any action necessary to avoid a collision.
- Starboard Tack Rule - When two competitors are on opposite tacks, the port tack competitor shall alter course and/or kite position to keep clear of the starboard tack competitor who should maintain the same course and speed.
- When two or more competitors are on the same tack with kite lines overlapped, the upwind competitor(s) shall keep their kite high and the downwind competitor(s) keep their kite low.
- When two competitors are on the same tack and are not overlapped, the competitor behind shall ensure the competitor ahead is aware of the competitor approaching from behind.
- Never deliberately manoeuvre into a right of way position so that it interferes with any other water user. If you are behind another kite heading into the beach, turn early to allow the lead kiteboarder plenty of room to turn. Always check for other water users before jumping, water-starting, jibing, re-launching a kite or recovering a board.

2.8 Rider Briefings

Event organisers will conduct a rider briefing at the beginning of each day's competition to advise competitors of the competition rules, heat format details, judging criteria, risks and overall day to day running of the event. It is the competitor's duty to ensure they are at the event prior to the morning briefing each day.

Should the event be postponed, conditions or event formats change, or a new risk be identified Event Organisers will call a special rider briefing to convey these changes and keep riders informed.

2.9 Postponing, Abandoning, Extending or Rerunning a Heat/the Event

The event organising committee, competition director or head judge may abandon, postpone, extend or rerun a heat in the event of unfavourable weather conditions, a safety risk, judging discrepancies, rider interference or a starting error.

The Event Organising committee will advise the process to be followed in the event these circumstances are required during the rider briefing.

This decision by the event organising committee, competition director or head judge cannot be appealed.



In the event the competition cannot be completed within the event window or is postponed due to adverse weather conditions the Event Organising Committee will reschedule the event and advise competitors as soon as reasonably practicable.

2.10 Rider Eligibility

Proof of the below will be the onus of the competitor and can be requested by the Event Organising Committee or Head Judge at any time prior, during or after an event.

2.10.1 Insurance/Membership

All competitors must be current financial event or full members of Kiteboarding Australia or their State Association at the time of the event. By default, members of Kiteboarding Australia are also members of their local state association.

Membership can be obtained through the Kiteboarding Australia Website at the below address:
www.kiteboardingaus.com.au/registration.

2.10.2 Division Age Group Eligibility

Where age groups are defined in the Division Table above a competitor's age will be determined on the scheduled start date of the competition. Ie if a competitor turns 18 years of age on the scheduled start date, they are ineligible to compete as a junior. Similar if a competitor turns 35 on the start date of the competition they are eligible to compete in the master's division.

2.10.3 Amateurs Division Eligibility

The Amateurs division should be reserved for kiteboarders new to the sport. It should consist of non-shop affiliated riders and should be treated as a fun entry level division to build the sport, and freestyle interest throughout Australia.

The event organising committee has the right to bump competitors to another division if they are deemed too good to compete as an Amateur.

2.10.4 Competing in Multiple Categories

It is at the Event Organising Committee's discretion to allow individuals to compete in multiple division, should they be eligible, ie Open Men and Masters, Juniors and Open's, etc.

Notification of eligibility to compete in multiple divisions will be advised in event communications in the lead up to the competition and through the KA website (registration portal).

2.10.5 International Rider Eligibility

The National Title may only be contested by Australian Residents or a person who currently holds a long-term Australian visa for three or more consecutive years.



State Titles international rider eligibility is to be decided by each State Association at their own discretion. Should no prior notice be given by the Organising Committee regarding International Rider State Title eligibility then the National Titles eligibility criteria will apply.

Note: Event organisers may choose to have a unique draw that would include international competitors separate to the National or State Titles. This draw would allow international riders to go head to head with Australian riders.



KITEBOARDING NEW SOUTH WALES



KITEBOARDING VICTORIA



KITEBOARDING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

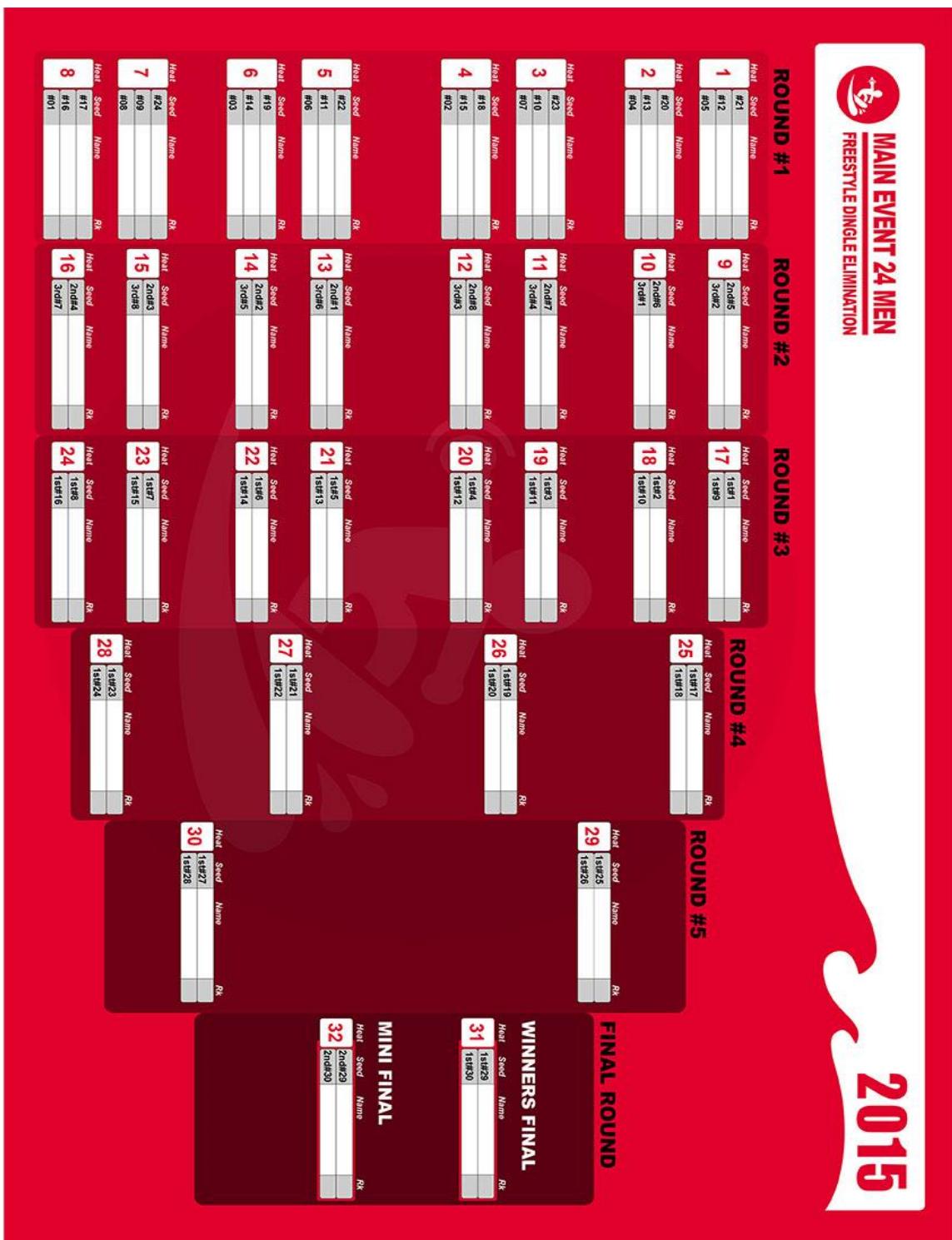


KITEBOARDING QUEENSLAND



KITEBOARDING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Appendix 1 – Example of a Dingle Elimination Event Formats





KITEBOARDING NEW SOUTH WALES



KITEBOARDING VICTORIA



KITEBOARDING WESTERN AUSTRALIA



KITEBOARDING QUEENSLAND



KITEBOARDING SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MAIN EVENT 12 WOMEN
FREESTYLE DINGLE ELIMINATION

2015

ROUND #1

ROUND #2

ROUND #3

ROUND #4

FINAL ROUND

WINNERS FINAL

MINI FINAL

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
1	#11		
	#06		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
5	2nd#3		
	3rd#2		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
9	1st#1		
	1st#5		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
13	1st#9		
	1st#10		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
15	1st#13		
	1st#14		

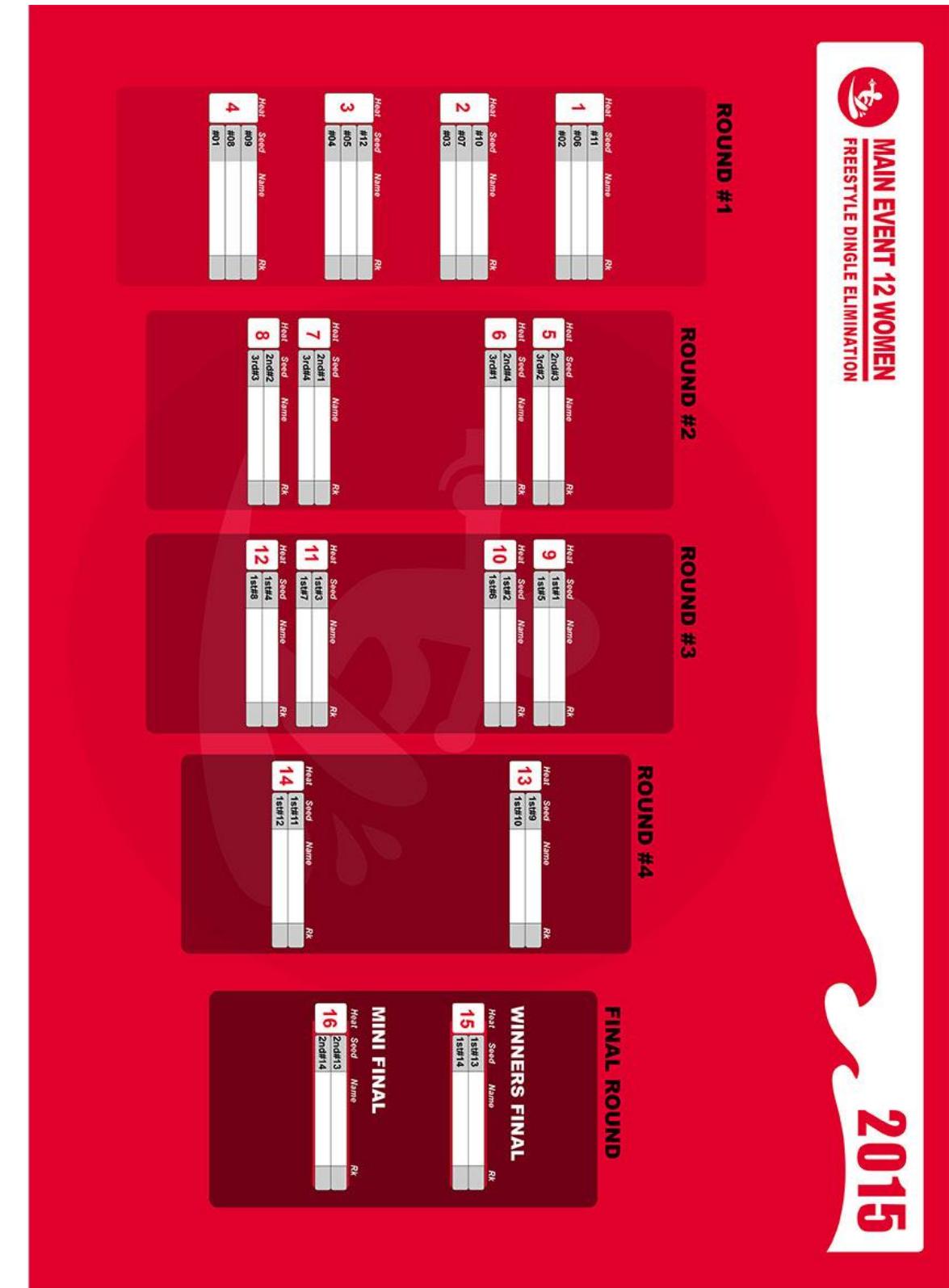
Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
1	#11		
	#06		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
5	2nd#3		
	3rd#2		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
9	1st#1		
	1st#5		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
13	1st#9		
	1st#10		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
15	1st#13		
	1st#14		





Appendix 2 – Example of a Rotating Event Format

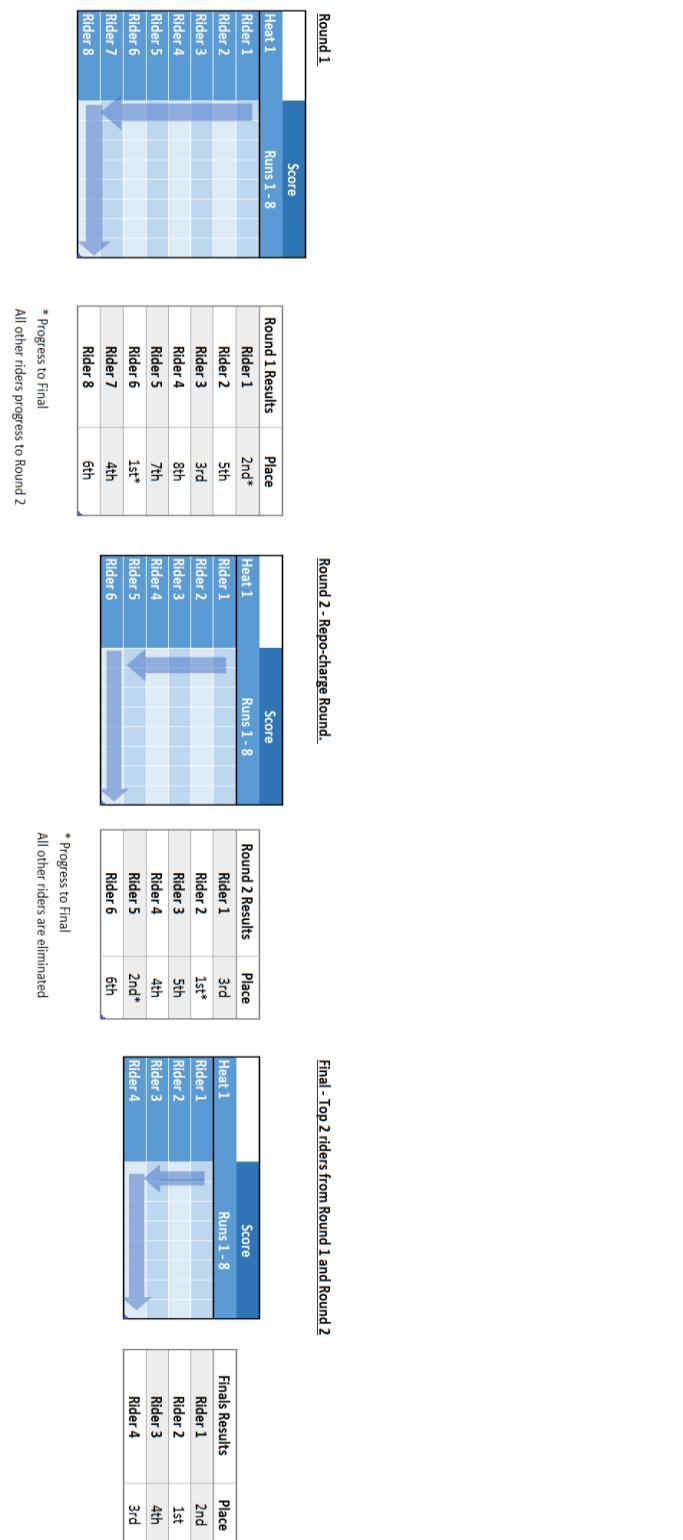


Photo Credit

Rider: Chrissy Gaudieri

Photographer: Mark Richardson

