



INTERNATIONAL VA'A FEDERATION

Race Rules Sprints

World Elite Sprint Championship
And
World Club Sprint Championship

Revised Dec 2023



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DEFINITIONS

Ama: The float used to balance the va'a, also known as the outrigger.

Appeals Jury: The group that will receive and decide on an appeal received. The Appeals Jury shall adhere to the terms of reference on how the committee is made up and functions.

Area or Membership Area: The area which an IVF Member Federation represents.

Area Coordinator: The representative of a Membership Area who is the liaison between the IVF and the membership area in matters regarding championship racing (eg registration of paddlers, entries, managing protests and supporting crews at the event).

Board: The Board of Directors of the IVF.

Competitor(s): Paddler(s) and crews taking part in the regatta.

Competition: Same as regatta.

Controlling Authority: The National Sport Organization representing va'a in an IVF Member Federation.

Crew: A V6 or V12 team of competitors registered to race in a specific event of the competition.

Event: An event is defined by the craft, sex, age, and disability of the paddlers, and by the distance of the race.

Host: The organizing group in the Membership Federation where the competition takes place.

Iako or Iato: The two spars used to attach the ama to the va'a.

Infractions Director: The individual who receives protests and co-ordinates the Protest Committee and the Appeals Jury.

Member Federation: Entity that is a member in good standing with the International Va'a Federation.

Man: A male who possesses XY chromosomes and (in the absence of medical intervention) testes and increased circulating testosterone.

Race: A contest of speed between competitors in an event/event category.

Race Director: The individual responsible for carrying out or fulfilling the duties outlined in these race rules.

Regatta: A series of coordinated races, used here to mean the IVF World Sprint Championships or World Elite and Club Sprint Championships.

Protest Committee: The Protest Committee shall consist of at least 7 individuals who will be appointed prior to the event. The Protest Committee shall deal exclusively with Protests and Disqualifications. The Protest Committee shall refer to the Protest Committee terms of reference on how the committee is made up and functions.

Safety Boat: A boat or craft that is officially designated by the Host to monitor the race and ensure the safety and wellbeing of competitors.

Sex: Refers to a competitor's biological sex at birth.

Sanctioned: An official approval by IVF of a planned competition through the IVF bid process.

Team: The designated name under which a crew or competitor enters.

Woman: A female who possess XX chromosomes and (in the absence of medical intervention) ovaries and increased circulating oestrogen and progesterone.



GENERAL

1. Events

a. Beginning with the 2016 World Sprints as incorporated in these rules there shall be 2 events hosted within the Championship Regatta week. For other sprint events organized by an IVF Member Federation or under the oversight of the IVF Rules, Elite events are defined as Elite Development (Age 14-19 boys and girls), Open (women and men) and Para Va’a only where an event encompassing all categories would not be classified as “elite”.

1) **World Elite Championship** – In the World Elite Championship Member Federations are represented by their elite competitors. The events to be contested are V6 500, V6 1000 or 1500 (turns), and V12 500 in a select group of divisions. Junior (19), Open, and Para Va’a for both men and women will be the divisions.

V1 events are considered part of the World Elite Championship, and may be scheduled across the entirety of the Championship Regatta week. V1 events will be awarded under the elite medal design and V1 competitors will not be considered in the quota for club teams.

2) **World Club Championship** – In the World Club Championship, club teams from a Member Federation will compete against other club teams for the title of “Club World Champion”. Competitors participating in the Elite V6 or V12 events will be allowed to join their club crew without limitation on the number of elite competitors per crew, with the exception of Open Club V6 and Open Club V12 crews which are limited to 3 elite competitors per Open Club V6 entry or 6 elite competitors per Open Club V12 entry.

b. The event categories for the IVF World Elite and Club Sprint Championships are the following one (1), six (6), and twelve (12) person (double va’a) events. “V” stands for “va’a”.

World Elite Championship Events Categories		
V1	Para Women	250 Meters
V1	Para Men	250 Meters
V1	Master 80 Women	250 Meters
V1	Master 80 Men	250 Meters
V1	Master 75 Women	500 Meters
V1	Master 75 Men	500 Meters
V1	Master 70 Women	500 Meters
V1	Master 70 Men	500 Meters
V1	Master 60 Women	500 Meters
V1	Master 60 Men	500 Meters
V1	Master 50 Women	500 Meters
V1	Master 50 Men	500 Meters
V1	Master 40 Women	500 Meters
World Elite Championship (continued)		
V1	Master 40 Men	500 Meters

World Club Championship Event Categories		
V6	Master 80 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 80 Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 75 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 75 Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 70 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 70 Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 60 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 60 Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 50 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 50 Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 40 Women	500 Meters
V6	Master 40 Men	500 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Women	500 Meters
World Club Championship (continued)		
V6	Junior 19 Men	500 Meters



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V1	Junior 19 Women	500 Meters
V1	Junior 19 Men	500 Meters
V1	Junior 16 Women	500 Meters
V1	Junior 16 Men	500 Meters
V1	Open Women	500 Meters
V1	Open Men	500 Meters
V1	Para Women	500 Meters
V1	Para Men	500 Meters
V6	Para Mixed	500 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Women	500 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Men	500 Meters
V6	Open Women	500 Meters
V6	Open Men	500 Meters
V6	Para Mixed	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Open Women	1500 Meters
V6	Open Men	1500 Meters
V12	Para Mixed	500 Meters
V12	Open Women	500 Meters
V12	Open Men	500 Meters

V6	Junior 16 Women	500 Meters
V6	Junior 16 Men	500 Meters
V6	Open Women	500 Meters
V6	Open Men	500 Meters
V6	Master 80 Women (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 80 Men (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 75 Women (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 75 Men (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 70 Women (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 70 Men (1 turn)	500 Meters
V6	Master 60 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Master 60 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Master 50 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Master 50 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Master 40 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Master 40 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 19 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 16 Women	1000 Meters
V6	Junior 16 Men	1000 Meters
V6	Open Women	1500 Meters
V6	Open Men	1500 Meters
V12	Master 75 Women	500 Meters
V12	Master 75 Men	500 Meters
V12	Master 70 Women	500 Meters
V12	Master 70 Men	500 Meters
V12	Master 60 Women	500 Meters
V12	Master 60 Men	500 Meters
V12	Master 50 Women	500 Meters
V12	Master 50 Men	500 Meters
V12	Master 40 Women	500 Meters
V12	Master 40 Men	500 Meters
V12	Junior 16 Women	500 Meters
V12	Junior 16 Men	500 Meters
V12	Junior 19 Women	500 Meters
V12	Junior 19 Men	500 Meters
V12	Open Women	500 Meters
V12	Open Men	500 Meters



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- c. The host association (host) may select exhibition event/s as approved by the IVF Events and Technical Committee, to be included in the regatta.
- d. K1 and K2 open men and women in sprints and marathon or ocean racing may be organized in some competitions falling under the IVF regulations.

2. Para Va'a Events

- a. Para Va'a Events will have additional rules as stated in the "Para Va'a Rules and Classification System".
- b. V6 and V12 entries require the para va'a classification point scale to be applied to the crew for qualification. Para Va'a rules may be adjusted by the Para Va'a Committee as the classification system changes.
- c. A Para Va'a Committee as stated in the above document will oversee races, coordinate with other race officials, and advise the Race Director on all decisions as necessary.

3. Eligibility

- a. Each competitor/team must be entered by a Member Federation of the IVF.
- b. A competitor may not paddle for more than one crew in an event category nor for more than one IVF Member Federation during a world championship.
- c. Each competitor may only participate with a team from the Member Federation of his or her citizenship or, in the case of a Member Federation being only part of a nation, residence in that Member Federation area. However, a competitor who has been a new or temporary resident in another Member Federation area for at least six (6) months, immediately prior to the start of the event competition day, may represent that new or temporary Member Federation area if they so choose. Citizenship or residency documents as per the Member country's Laws must be supplied if necessary.
- d. Competitors in Para athlete races must have a disability recognized by the International Va'a Federation.
- e. Para competitors must have been assigned an IVF classification score and that score must be declared on their event entry forms. No competitor without an IVF classification score will be allowed to enter a Para athlete event.
- f. Elite competitors must be declared during registration.
- g. Competitors participating in the Elite V6 or V12 events will be allowed to join their club crew without limitation on the number of elite competitors per crew, with the exception of Open Club V6 and Open Club V12 crews which are limited to 3 elite competitors per Open Club V6 entry or 6 elite competitors per Open Club V12 entry.
- h. Each IVF Member Federation must confirm that the competitors entered in club teams are in fact members of recognized clubs within their federation.
- i. The Definition of a "Club" is defined by each Member Federation



4. Sex Verification

- a. Any competitor may be asked to prove sex by any membership area coordinator through the race director via the IVF event protest process.
- b. To authenticate sex, the competitor must produce both his/her passport and original birth certificate.
- c. The chair of the IVF Medical Committee or their delegate shall oversee any protest regarding authentication of sex.

5. Age Requirements

- a. Junior (16) competitors must not reach the age of 17 before or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place and must reach the age of at least 11 during said calendar year.
- b. Junior (19) competitors must not reach the age of 20 before or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place and must reach the age of at least 14 during said calendar year.
- c. Open competitors must reach the age of at least 16 during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- d. Elite V12 competitors must reach the age of at least 14 during said calendar year.
- e. Master 40 competitors must have reached the age of 40 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- f. Master 50 competitors must have reached the age of 50 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- g. Master 60 competitors must have reached the age of 60 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- h. Master 70 competitors must have reached the age of 70 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- i. Master 75 competitors must have reached the age of 75 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
- j. Master 80 competitors must have reached the age of 80 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.

6. Anti-Doping Regulation

- a. The IVF prohibits the use of performance enhancing or illegal drugs by competitors competing in and during preparation for IVF events.
- b. Refer to the current official IVF Anti-Doping Control Regulations.

7. Awards

- a. The host, at its expense, shall award championship medals bearing the IVF name in three values: gilded, silvered and bronzed. The medals must on no account be presented to any other persons than



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those who have won championship races. There shall be unique medals that identify the World Elite and World Club Championship.

- b. Only medals are to be presented at the official ceremony. Other awards may be presented at another time.
- c. To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the presentation ceremony, the competitors receiving medals must wear appropriate clothing (team or area uniforms or traditional cultural attire).
- d. There must be at least 2 teams confirmed (no later than one week prior to the competitor roster closing date) to constitute a race. If one of the two teams withdraws after that time, the remaining team will be awarded a medal should they choose to complete the race.

EQUIPMENT

8. Hull Specifications

- a. All va'a are to be made from the same mold, using the same materials, with weight and dimensions to be the same. Shortly prior to a competition, officials will check the weight and make alterations as needed so that all va'a are of the same weight, with tolerance levels set by the Events and Technical Committee.
- b. If the Organizing Committee or Competition Committee determines there is a need to measure the va'a to ensure uniformity, the va'a shall be compared after taking the following measurements (with allowed differences in parentheses):
 - 3) overall hull length (2" (5.08 cm));
 - 4) midpoint width 12" – 30.48cm from bottom (1/8" (0.3175 cm));
 - 5) two widths midway between the midpoint and ends 12" (30.48 cm) from bottom (1/8" (0.3175 cm));
 - 6) two widths midway between the points of (3) above and the ends 12" (30.48 cm) from the bottom (1/8" (0.3175 cm)).

9. Va'a Accessories

- a. All va'a accessories, including floatation tanks, seats, ama, iako, bailers and rigging shall be properly constructed and standardized. Prior to the competition, the Events and Technical Committee shall oversee the rigging, which shall be standardized with ama on left, and may not be altered except by an official.
- b. No seat accessories may be brought into the canoe by the competitor with the exception of para va'a equipment as noted in 14.b.
- c. Altering the va'a without permission from an official, this includes bringing in seat and footboard accessories (para va'a excluded), attaching electronic equipment, is not allowed and may be cause for disqualification.



10. Paddles

- a. A paddle shall have one blade and may be of any shape or size. It may be constructed from any material.

11. Numbering

- a. All va'a must have a vertical plate on which their number shall be painted in black on a contrasting white or yellow background on both sides.
- b. The plates must be placed on the longitudinal axis of the decking at the bow of the va'a, and shall be approximately 18 x 20 cm - 7 x 8".

COURSE

12. Lanes and Course Markers

- a. The course will be set up as shown on the course diagram (see appendix).
 - 1) Straight races are demarcated by the buoy markings on each side of the lane.
 - 2) Turn races shall turn around the flag marking the center of the lane. The width of the lane is from buoy to buoy. The canoe must remain within the buoy markings throughout the course of the race.
- b. The course shall be surveyed to the course diagram prior to the event for accuracy.
- c. There must be at least six (6) and no more than eight (8) turn course lanes; and, at least six (6) and no more than twelve (12) straight 500 meter lanes.
- d. The course shall have lanes that are:
 - 1) 500 meters long;
 - 2) 25 to 35 meters wide for turn races with half that width allowed for straight races;
 - 3) at least 2 meters deep, but exceptions may be allowed by the Board if the course is of uniform depth
 - 4) lane markings on the right and left of the lane shall be placed every 25 meters at a minimum.
 - 5) A pre-start line at 20 meters before the start line shall be set to align the canoes prior to the start sequence (15.f.(1)) This applies to each end of the course as turn racing begins at the start/finish line while 500 meter straight races are at the far end of the course;
- e. Turn Races shall be run on a 250 meter course and will start and finish at the same point.
- f. The course shall have flags that measure a minimum 70 cm by 70 cm at 250 meters for turns and at the pre-start line (behind the start finish line) to direct crews on the course. Markings at the 500 meter start line may be low and have the lane numbers identified but need not have a flag. Flag colors are as prescribed in the course diagram to ensure visibility to the competitors.



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- g. Start and finish lines shall be aligned by the buoys for the innermost and outermost lanes.
- h. Markings at the finish line shall be low enough to the water to not block the photo finish camera view but must be distinct enough for the athlete to know they have completed the course.
- i. A course mark shall be placed to identify the area 15 meters from the turn ends of the course so that judges can evaluate infractions on the lane during the race. This must be a different color buoy in the markings that line the right and left of each lane.
- j. A lane or area shall be designated so that the competitors may proceed safely to the starting line without interfering with the race course.
- k. When a race is taking place, competitors who are not racing will not be permitted on or near the course, unless so directed by the Race Director.

13. Check-in and Holding Areas

- a. A check-in location, termed the Check-in Area, will be designated where the competitors will report to the competitor inspectors when called. No one other than the competitors may pass beyond the check-in desk, except for Para competitors, who may have appropriate assistance.
- b. An area, termed the holding area, for competitors to go to after they leave the Check-in Area and before they enter the va'a will be designated near where the va'a are kept between races.

14. Position in Va'a

- a. Paddling, including any stationary use of the paddle in the water, is only allowed while the competitor is in a sitting position on a seat in the va'a. Competitors must remain in a seated contact position in the va'a (no standing or kneeling).
- b. Support seats and footrests may be used by Para competitors, but must be quickly and easily attachable/detachable.

15. Starts

- a. Competitors must be present on time at the starting line, in the order stated for the day's events.
- b. Starting signals shall be given regardless of absentees.
- c. The position at the start should be such that the bow of each competing va'a is lined up in its assigned lane without movement on the starting line.
- d. Holders may be used, and may be either:
 - 1) by mechanical means, or
 - 2) by people to hold the stern of the va'a by way of a platform or from the water.
- e. The start will be controlled by the Aligner, located at the side of the course, and the Starter, located in a boat in the middle of the course approximately sixty meters in front of the starting line. Use of a Starter to the side of the course must be reviewed and approved by the Events and Technical Committee.



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f. Starting procedures must be as follows:

- 1) Immediately prior to race start time, the Starter will raise a white flag signaling va'a to come to the pre-start line.
- 2) As soon as the va'a are lined up on the pre-start line, the Aligner will communicate to the Starter the OK to raise a red flag signaling the va'a to line up evenly on the start line.
- 3) As soon as the va'a are lined up evenly, the Aligner must communicate quietly to the Starter by radio to start the race.
- 4) Instantaneously upon radio communication, the Starter will simultaneously lower the red flag and raise a green flag signaling the start of the race. An air horn or other sound device may simultaneously be set off, but the green flag is the official start.
- 5) If the Aligner is unable to line up the va'a evenly and their positioning makes it difficult to do so, they may order the white flag to be raised and begin the process again.
- 6) At the start of a race, no va'a shall have an illegal advantage. All va'a that are lined up illegally will be provided a warning by the raising of the black flag indicating an infraction exists and will be given the opportunity to line up correctly. If, after reasonable time, any va'a persists in lining up so that an illegal advantage is gained, the Aligner may start the race. The black flag remaining raised at the start indicates that an infraction will be called.
- 7) If the Aligner, after communicating to the Starter to start the race, sees an unfair situation not previously noticed, a rerun must be immediately called.

16. Interruption

- a. The Race Director, the Head Course Judge or the Aligner may authorize the interruption of a race if an unforeseen problem occurs. A red flag will be used to halt the race.
- b. In case of an overturn, any outside help will result in a disqualification of the competitor. The course officials may, at their discretion, authorize or provide outside help.

17. Turns

- a. Turns are to be made counter-clockwise, with the ama nearest to and rounding the flag.
- b. During a turn, the canoe shall not run over the flag in such a way that the flag is between the ama and the hull. If this occurs, the competitor shall be disqualified.

18. Finish

- a. The finish line is crossed when the bow of the va'a passes the finish flags, or as noted in 18.b below.
- b. When finish line systems are used whereby the camera may be blocked by the finish line flags, an imaginary line one meter in front of the finish flags will be the official finish line.
- c. Any va'a finishing without its entire crew will result in the crew being disqualified.



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- d. Any va'a outside its assigned lane during the course of the race, including the finish will result in a crew disqualification.
- e. Electronic photo finish system for the recording of finish times and place is the preferred system for a sprint regatta. Va'a and lane markings should be identifiable via the pictures captured. A manual backup system for verification of the order of finish must be provided. A secondary video should be provided in the event the main system is not operating properly at any time.
- f. For timing of events, the photo finish system may be equipped with timing options. A secondary manual timing system shall be required. An acceptable timing unit shall be used. A single recording timer ensures the start time is fixed for all competitors and the finish time is recorded in chronological order on the tape.
- g. Va'a should continue through the prestart area before turning off the course.

ENTRIES

19. General

- a. The deadlines for entry submittals and the possibility of late entries and fees will be determined by the Board or its designee. There will be an entry fee for Elite and Club competitors; however, elite registered competitors may participate in both Elite & Club events under their fee.
- b. Each Member Federation is allowed the following entries in the World Elite Championship:
 - V6 Junior 19 Male and Female: 1 Entry
 - V6 Open Male and Female: 1 Entry
 - V12 Open Male and Female: 1 Entry
 - V1 events: 3 entries per category will be allowed. Additional entries may be earned based on the medals received in a category at the prior World Sprints. A maximum of 6 is allowed. Refer to published quota.
- c. Each Member Federation is allowed the following number of entries in the World Club Championship:
 - V6 event categories: 6 entries
 - V12 event categories: 3 entries
- d. Entries may only be submitted by the Member Federation.
- e. Competitors must enter under the name of a team. The Team shall be reported on all result postings under their IVF Member Federation, crew ranking for the event and a team name. The team name for V1 shall be the competitor's registered name. For V6 and V12 the team name is optional, and shall default to the IVF Member Federation if left blank.
- f. The World Elite Championship uniform must be a national uniform of the Country/region. This requirement includes the V1 entrants.



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- g. The World Club Championship uniform should be representative of the IVF Member Federation or club and may be different from the elite uniform.
- h. With the exception of variations in sleeve length (eg sleeveless, short sleeve or long sleeve), competitors in the same crew must wear identical team uniform tops in competition. Underlayers may be worn by one or more of the crew and are not part of the uniform. Clothing worn below the waist need not be uniform. Headwear is optional and may be worn by only those needing or wanting to wear them.

20. Forms

- a. Entry forms turned in by the controlling authority include (entry procedures may be electronic)
 - 1) Intent to Participate = number of entries in each event (World Elite and World Club Championships and total competitor count
 - 2) Roster = registration of eligible competitors from an area with required verification documents and digital photo
 - 3) Anti-Doping Declaration
 - 4) Therapeutic Use Exemption Request (if applicable)
 - 5) Elite World Championship teams must submit Media Information Form
 - 6) Media release form, if required.
- b. Additional sheets and forms to be used and posted as necessary (not necessarily inclusive):
 - 1) Start List – for each race a list of competitors and their lanes
 - 2) Order of Finish – including lane and time for each competitor
 - 3) Disqualification
 - 4) Protest
 - 5) Appeals
 - 6) Intent to withdraw
 - 7) Waiver

21. Seeding

- a. All entrants must be ranked by their Member Federation as requested through the entry procedure.
- b. Entrants will be seeded into first rounds (Heats) with the following goals in mind:
- c. The best entrants are not all placed together.
- d. Entrants from one Member Federation are not all placed together.



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- e. The Race Director & Race Secretary co-chair the seeding process.

22. Drawing of Lanes

- a. Lanes shall be assigned randomly for the first round (heats) of each race and the process shall be carried out under the control of an IVF official and the supervision of the Race Director. Should initial heats become unbalanced due to scratches, assignments may be adjusted or a full re-draw may be needed. Competitors will be notified if event time is moved more than 15 minutes and may be held at check-in for their new heat assignment.
- b. All manual processes of creating the lane draw and subsequent progressions may be replaced or enhanced by use of automated (electronic) solutions.
- c. Lanes for rounds subsequent to the first round (heats) shall be designated in the progression schedule with a predetermined formula.
- d. The race schedule for the entire regatta and the first day's lane assignments shall be posted the day prior to the start of the regatta. Subsequent lane assignment postings shall be done as early as possible. The Race schedule and lane draw shall be available for each Area Coordinator.
- e. Where Elite and Club Championships are to be contested in the same Regatta period, the Elite competition shall begin on Day 1. V1 racing may be scheduled during the Elite and Club Championship events.
- f. Finals for some events should be scheduled to occur each day to allow for medal presentation to happen each day for shorter ceremony time overall.

23. Replacements and Withdrawals

- a. V6 and V12 teams shall be entered with 6 and 12 competitors respectively. No substitutes from the start list may be made without the approval of the Race Director after the heats. Where a competitor is deemed unable to paddle for any verified medical reason, any eligible competitor from within that country roster list may replace him.
- b. If a competitor does not start, and has no valid reason approved by the Competition Committee, a US \$100 fine (or equivalent in the currency of the country where the competition is taking place - this applies to all dollar amounts in these rules) shall be levied. These fines shall not be refundable and no competitor from that Member Federation will be allowed to compete until the fine is paid.

24. Progression

- a. The progression schedule of races from heats to finals shall be posted the day prior to the start of the regatta.
- b. The Race Director may alter the progression schedule should unforeseen circumstances change the expected ability to finish all the races on time.



RULES INFRACTIONS

25. Disqualification

- a. The following provisions as stated in these rules are cause for automatic disqualification:
 - 1) Competing while not a member of a Member Federation, affiliated or otherwise, of the IVF. (Section 3a)
 - 2) Competing for more than one crew in an event will disqualify both crews from the competition. (Section 3b)
 - 3) A competitor who is a citizen of or resides in an IVF Member Federation area competing in a team from another Member Federation area. (Section 3c)
 - 4) Not meeting the age requirements. (Section 5)
 - 5) Using prohibited drugs. (Section 6)
 - 6) Paddling in a non-seated position. (Section 14a)
 - 7) Starting incorrectly. (Section 15)
 - 8) Not rounding the flags in a counter-clockwise direction. (Section 17a)
 - 9) When making a turn around a flag resulting in the flag passing between the ama and hull. (Section 17b)
 - 10) Finishing without the entire crew in the va'a. (Section 18c)
 - 11) Going outside of one's lane. (Section 18d, 12.a.2.)
 - 12) Unsporting conduct. (Section 25b)
 - 13) Para competitors will be disqualified if they do not meet all the requirements contained in the separate "Para Va'a Rules and Classification System" document.
 - 14) Having more than 3 Elite competitors in an Open Club V6 or more than 6 Elite in an Open Club V12 (Event 1).
 - 15) Not wearing appropriate uniform in a Elite team, Elite V1 or Club crew as defined in 19 d. and f.
 - 16) Altering the va'a without permission of an official, this includes bringing in seat and footboard accessories (Section 9.) (para va'a excluded)
 - 17) Competitor being assisted by outside help in the event of the va'a overturning. (Section 16)
- b. Besides the reasons set out for disqualification in other parts of these rules, any competitor who attempts to win an event by means other than those which are honest, does not respect the race rules, or who displays unsporting conduct, shall be disqualified for the entire duration of the championships.
- c. All disqualifications are to be pronounced by the Race Director and shall be immediately confirmed in writing with reasons given. The Area Coordinator of any disqualified competitor shall then be notified, given a copy of the disqualification form and acknowledge receipt thereof on a copy indicating the



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precise time, which is the start of the protest time. The disqualification shall then be publicly announced and posted. The disqualification will be posted without Area Coordinator acknowledgement and receipt after 10 minutes has passed since being called.

26. Protests

- a. Protests must be filed by an Area Coordinator or their designee. Prior to filing a protest, Area Coordinators may seek information through the Infractions Director. Any Area Coordinator who is considering a protest dependent on information from the Infractions Director must inform the Infractions Director, who shall then have the Area Coordinator sign a disqualification inquiry form showing both the start and finish time of the inquiry with the infractions' director.
- b. A protest to any result or disqualification may be lodged by filling out the protest form and handing it in at the information and protest booth not later than 30 minutes after: 1) the announcement and publication of the results of the race in question when there is no disqualification, 2) the Area Coordinator signs a receipt of the disqualification form, or 3) Discussion with Infractions Officer to occur within 30 min protest lodgement timeframe of 1) or 2) above.
- c. Once a protest has been received, the Protest Committee must notify immediately all parties involved in the race, allowing time for other or counter protests to be received. After 20 minutes, the Protest Committee closes the case and starts deliberating.
- d. The decision of the Protest Committee, on each protest, must be confirmed in writing, giving reasons for the decision. The decision must be handed to the affected Area Coordinators, who must acknowledge receipt of it by signing the Protest Committee's copy and recording the time in case of any further appeal. Counter protest by others affected by this result have 15 minutes to submit their protest after time recorded.
- e. All protests shall be made in writing and accompanied by a fee of US\$100 or the equivalent in the currency of the host country. The host country currency amount for Protests shall be confirmed to all Area Coordinators by the IVF prior to racing commencing. The fee cannot be paid by cheque. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- f. If a protest, or an official decision, results in a rerun, no change in the competitors is allowed.

27. Appeals

- a. An appeal against a decision of the Protest Committee must be addressed to the chairman of the Appeals Jury in writing on the appeals form and be accompanied by a fee of US\$150.00 or the equivalent in the currency of the host country. The host country currency amount for Appeals shall be confirmed to all Area Coordinators by the IVF prior to racing commencing. The fee cannot be paid by cheque. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The appeal must be handed in at the information and protest booth not later than 20 minutes after the Area Coordinator has been informed with a written communication of the decision against the competitor or team and has signed the receipt given. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- b. The decision of the jury may not be appealed.



28. IVF Board

- a. The IVF Board, by a majority of all votes, may disqualify or reinstate competitors if subsequent information, such as drug tests, warrants such change. If such change involves different medal winners, the competitor who loses a medal must return it to the IVF.



INTERNATIONAL VA'A FEDERATION

Organisation & Administrative Guidelines



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

29. Sanction

- a. The International Va'a Federation (IVF) will hold its World Elite and World Club Sprint Championships (World Sprints or Sprints) every two (2) years under its:
 - 1) Race rules
 - 2) Organization & administration guidelines
- b. Other regattas that wish to be recognized or sanctioned by the IVF should refer to the IVF policy and submit a bid document to the IVF for approval by its Board of Directors (Board).
- c. An IVF international regatta must:
 - 1) Have competitors from at least two (2) regular Member Federations and
 - 2) Be monitored by an IVF approved official.

30. Invitations

- a. Invitations should be sent to each Member Federation at least nine (9) months before the regatta and should contain the following:
 - 1) Dates and place of competition
 - 2) Map of the course
 - 3) Categories and racing distances
 - 4) Amount of entry fees
 - 5) Instruction for registration
 - 6) Deadline for receipt of entry material
 - 7) Number of lanes to be allowed per Member Federation
 - 8) Notification of any restrictions with regard to the use of sponsor logos by teams
- b. The above items should not be different than stated in these rules unless previously approved by the IVF board during the bid process.

31. Registration Fees

- a. Registration fees and deadlines for entries being received shall be set by the Board. These fees are not refundable unless unforeseen circumstances arise.
- b. Late registration fees shall be set by the Board.



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- c. The Schedule for Entries, fees, and registration will be determined by the Board in consultation with the Host. These will be notified in the entry procedure. An outline of the schedule is provided below as a guide:
 - 1) Online registration will open to Area Coordinators
 - 2) Intent to participate entries shall be entered by Area Coordinator;
 - 3) Intent registration fee per competitor is due
 - 4) Therapeutic Use Exemptions requests must be submitted
 - 5) Close date set for Competitor registration and entries adjusted without penalty
 - 6) Late Event Entry – addition of event entries incur a \$150 USD late fee
 - 7) Competitors may be replaced on the Member Federation roster at no charge.
 - 8) Late Competitor Registration – addition of a competitor to roster is a 100% late fee.
 - 9) Event Entry scratch incurs \$100 USD penalty

32. Identification Cards and Birth date Verification

- a. Identification cards
 - 1) One (1) ID card will be issued to each competitor to use as required.
- b. Verification document:
 - 1) Passports OR birth certificates along with a government issued document with current photo and birthdate are acceptable verification.
 - 2) All competitors must furnish a copy of proof of birth date, citizenship and include a photograph.

33. Results and Reports

- a. The results/reports of any protests and appeals, as well as other necessary documents concerning the world sprints, must be sent to the IVF Secretary by the Host not later than 60 days after the end of the regatta.
- b. A final report of the event by the Host to the IVF board should be submitted by the next general meeting of the IVF. By providing their view of the overall event, it will assist future hosts in their planning process.

34. Race Rules Amendments

- a. The IVF Race Rules and Organization & Administration Guidelines may be amended by a majority vote of the Board, but no amendment may go into effect prior to 31st December the year prior to competition.



COMMITTEES

35. Organizing Committee

- a. The Sprints shall have an Organizing Committee which shall be responsible for the complete organization of the competition including, but not limited to, the planning of pre-race, race-day, and post-race logistics and activities, and shall have such other duties and responsibilities as contained in these rules.
- b. The chair shall be responsible for communication with the Board.
- c. The Organizing Committee, in consultation with and approval from the Board or its designee, shall determine the schedule of race events. The overall program of all events and ceremonies shall also be approved by the Board.
- d. The following decisions in these rules are given to the Organizing Committee, but must be approved by the Board:
 - 1) Inclusion of a traditional event (1b)
 - 2) Design of medals (7a)
 - 3) Producing a course diagram (12a)
 - 4) Appointment of the Race Director and other officials (38b)
 - 5) Appointment of the Competition Committee and the Appeals Jury (36 & 37)
 - 6) All Va'a equipment to be used (V1, V6, V12 along with associated weight and rigging compliance).

36. Competition Committee

- a. There shall be a Competition Committee, appointed by and under the direction of the Race Director, which shall run the regatta, including dealing with disqualifications and protests.
- b. The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members (all knowledgeable of the IVF rules) from various areas, appointed by the Organizing Committee with Board approval.
- c. One member of the Committee, known as the Infractions Director, will deal exclusively with disqualifications and protests, and appoint the Protest Committee of 3 from among the 6 other Committee members to deal with protests as they arise.
- d. At the Infractions Director's discretion, two protests may be dealt with simultaneously using six (6) members of the Competition Committee on two (2) Protest Committees.
- e. The infractions' director shall be in charge of the personnel located at the information and protest booth, at least one of whom should be a member of the Competition Committee. No Competition Committee member who has dealt with a protest at the information and protest booth may sit on a Protest Committee dealing with the same protest.
- f. The purpose of the Committee member in charge of the information and protest booth minimize the number of protests by assisting competitors in understanding the rules and giving Area Coordinators all



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the information necessary in order to make a decision whether or not to lodge a protest. In performing their duties they:

- 1) shall have capable assistants helping perform their duties;
- 2) may restrict contact, at their discretion, to Area Coordinator or their designees;
- 3) shall reasonably gather all information available to the Protest Committee;
- 4) shall monitor the process of an official disqualification inquiry, and reasonably call an end to the process in the interest of the timely progression of the regatta.

37. Appeals Jury

- a. An Appeals Jury (including a chair) of five (5) members, all of whom must be knowledgeable of the IVF race rules, will be appointed by the Board.
- b. No one may be a competitor, coach or official in the competition.
- c. No IVF Member Federation may have more than one (1) representative on the jury.
- d. In the absence of any jury member, the chair, with approval of the Race Director, may appoint replacement members to deal with appeals.
- e. The Appeals Jury shall consider and have access to all evidence, including written reports and video, and may question officials, competitors, and onlookers.
- f. The process for adjudicating protests and appeals will be outlined in the Protest and Appeals Jury policy document approved by the IVF Board.

OFFICIATING

38. List of Officials

- a. Competitions are organized under the direction of the following head officials:
 - 5) Race Director
 - 6) Head Competitor Inspector
 - 7) Equipment Manager
 - 8) Head Course Judge
 - 9) Head Finish Line Judge
 - 10) Race Secretary
 - 11) Appeals Jury Chair
- b. Head Officials and other officials are to be appointed by the Organizing Committee.
- c. Head Officials may not be coaches or competitors; however, the Race Director may appoint coaches or competitors to observe, assist, and/or advise in regards to the running of the races.



39. Race Director

- a. The Race Director shall supervise the races and shall be responsible for the preciseness and proper progress of the program.
- b. The Race Director is in charge of the Competition Committee and shall involve them in all major decisions. They are responsible for naming and supervising the Head Officials and for all other duties as called for in these rules.
- c. The Race Director (or the Infractions Director) are in charge of pronouncing all disqualifications, and seeing to it that all results are posted and announced, and that all the affected Area Coordinators are notified. They may delegate his authority as needed.

40. Head Competitor Inspector

- a. The Head Competitor inspector shall be in charge of the Check-in area, the Holding Area, and the area where competitors get in and out of the va'a.
- b. The Head Competitor Inspector shall see that the competitors sign in correctly, are eligible, have no improper equipment and are wearing proper uniforms.
- c. They shall work closely with the Announcer, Race Secretary and the Head Starter to ensure the regatta progresses in a timely manner.

41. Equipment Manager

- a. The Equipment Manager will help supervise the launching of va'a; checking equipment to make sure it is properly functioning and not altered; seeing to it that bailers are in each va'a; and overseeing the repair or replacement of damaged equipment.
- b. The Equipment Manager shall notify the Race Director of any infractions or equipment problems.

42. Head Course Judge

- a. The Head Course Judge is in charge of the officials for the course, including the Aligner, the Starter and officials who will be looking for infractions (including lane, turn and interference) by va'a on the race course. They shall be in charge of the course boats and placing course judges in the best locations to see infractions. The head course judge is responsible to see that the starts follow the rules, are as fair as possible for all, and proceed in a timely manner. All infractions are to be reported to the Head Course Judge or their designee who shall pass the infraction on to the Race Director.
- b. Any official, not only course judges, who sees an infraction should report the infraction to the head official who must in turn report it to the head course judge. The Head Course Judge may solicit and pass on conflicting reports and may add their own assessment to any of these reports.

43. Head Finish Line Judge

- a. The Head Finish Line Judge shall be in charge of the finish line officials, with the responsibility to determine the order of finish and times for all competitors.



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- b. The Head Finish Line Judge is in charge of all finish line judges, timers and recorders and the official camera.
- c. The Head Finish Line Judge shall record any infractions brought to their attention and report race results to the Race Director or their designee.

44. Race Secretary

- a. The Race Secretary shall have overall responsibility for all paperwork involved in the competition.
- b. The Race Secretary shall provide all information required to media representatives in regards to the progress of the races and their results.
- c. The Race Secretary shall be in charge of posting all schedules and results.
- d. The Race Secretary shall be supported by the IVF registration and race system in the seeding, scheduling and lane assignment procedures.

45. Appeal Jury Chair

- a. The Appeals Jury Chair shall be in charge of the Appeals Jury. They shall see to it that all proper information is gathered and that all points are considered. They may appoint replacement members if necessary.

OTHER PERSONNEL

46. Announcers

- a. The Announcers shall be responsible to keep both the competitors and the spectators informed.
- b. The Announcers shall make official announcements as directed by the Race Director or head officials in both English and the official language/languages of the host country.
- c. The Announcers shall call the competitors to their upcoming races.
- d. The Announcers shall announce race results and disqualifications, shall call events in progress if possible, and give any commentary which enhances the spectator interest in the sport.

47. Area Coordinators

- a. Area Coordinators and their assistants are appointed by participating Member Federation.
- b. Area Coordinators are in charge of their Member Federation's paperwork (see Section 18d), must always be available to receive information from officials, and are responsible for communications between the race officials and all the competitors in their Member Federation's organization.