



## EXHIBIT A

### **2019/2020 WSL BIG WAVE AWARDS • OFFICIAL RULES**

The Association of Surfing Professionals LLC d/b/a World Surf League (“WSL”) owns and operates the WSL Big Wave Awards pursuant to these Official Rules, and the Entry Form provided to surfers, photographers and videographers to participate in the Big Wave Awards. The WSL invites surfers riding big waves and videographers and photographers capturing the surfers doing so, to be considered for nomination for, and participation in the WSL Big Wave Awards in specific categories, as set out below.

#### **PART A: GENERAL RULES**

The General Rules will apply to all of the Award Categories (as defined below) in addition to the specific rules that are included within the description of each Award Category in Part B below. Part A and Part B as described in these Official Rules will be referred to as the “BWA Rules”, and may be changed from time to time, effective from the time of delivery of such updated BWA Rules to the individual named in the relevant Surfer, Photographer or Videographer Entry Form and Release (collectively the “Entry Form”) and/or publication of the updated BWA Rules on the WSL website. Where there is a direct conflict between an Entry Form and these BWA Rules, the terms of the Entry Form will apply.

##### **1. Successful Ride**

For a ride to be deemed successful and eligible to be considered as a Submission (as defined below) to the Big Wave Awards, a surfer must be standing only on their feet on a board and complete the meaningful portion of the wave while in control and under the power of only the wave and gravity (“Ride”). For the Men’s and Women’s Paddle Award and the Wipeout of the Year awards, there are further terms relating to what constitutes a successful Ride (see the Award Category specifics in Part B). For the avoidance of doubt, a “Ride” as defined in this Part A is obviously not applicable for a Submission to be considered for the Wipeout of the Year award.

The judges for each Award Category have final discretion on considering the eligibility of a successful Ride and accepting a Submission for consideration for an Award Category.

##### **2. Categories**

Awards in the following categories are presented through the Big Wave Awards (each a “Category”):

- a. Men’s Ride of the Year – paddle or tow;
- b. Women’s Ride of the Year- paddle or tow;
- c. Men's Paddle Award;
- d. Men's Biggest Wave;

- e. Men's Best Overall Performance;
- f. Women's Biggest Paddle Wave;
- g. Women's Biggest Wave;
- h. Women's Best Overall Performance; and
- i. Wipeout of the Year.

### **3. Surfers who may be considered for the Big Wave Awards**

For a surfer to be considered in a Category for a Big Wave Award, they must be invited by the WSL. Once a surfer is invited, they are encouraged to coordinate with any photographers/ videographers who have captured images of a Ride. A surfer will only be considered for an award within the Big Wave Awards if the surfer satisfies the following conditions (each individual then referred to as an "Invited Surfer" until an Opt Out Notice in accordance with section 4 is provided):

- a. surfer is a qualified waterman (and women) who has earned the respect of their peers by demonstrating the ability to Ride extremely large waves without unnecessarily endangering themselves or others in the discretion of WSL;
- b. surfer has been invited by WSL and has signed the relevant terms and conditions as delivered by WSL (an "Entry Form");
- c. surfer is 18 years of age or older, unless approved specifically by WSL; and
- d. surfer has been featured in a Submission that complies with these Big Wave Awards Rules.

A surfer's status as an Invited Surfer may be revoked at any time by WSL if, in WSL's sole discretion, the Invited Surfer acts (or evidence is made available to WSL that they acted) in a way that impugns their own image or WSL's image to the public. WSL shall provide written notice of such revocation (email to suffice).

### **4. Opt Out Notice**

An Invited Surfer remains an Invited Surfer, until such time that the Invited Surfer notifies the BWA Director (as defined below) in writing no longer wish to participate in the Big Wave Awards by "opting out" of the Big Wave Awards ( an "Opt Out Notice") or unless WSL serves a notice of revocation, as set out above. The Opt Out Notice must be sent to BWA Director by email stating that the surfer is no longer to be considered for the Big Wave Awards, taking effect from that date of the Opt Out Notice. Following receipt of the Opt Out Notice by WSL, the Invited Surfer will no longer be considered an "Invited Surfer" for the purposes of these Big Wave Rules.

### **5. Request for Invitation**

If you wish to nominate a surfer, including yourself, to be considered as an Invited Surfer or specific audiovisual content be considered as a Submission please email the BWA Director, at the address provided below, with details of the Ride and the Submission.

### **6. Submission Window**

Unless otherwise stated within Part B, WSL will consider Submissions from videographers or photographers depicting a Ride which occurred between 6:00 AM (US Pacific Standard Time) March 21, 2019 and 7:00 PM (US Pacific Standard Time) March 20, 2020 (Submission Window). WSL reserves the

right to request further information relating to a Submission and the Ride, as needed, to confirm that a Ride occurred within the Submission Window. All Submissions within the Submission Window are still subject to the 10-day requirement within Rule 7 below.

## **7. Submissions**

Photo or video content depicting a Ride will only be considered for a Big Wave Awards Category, and therefore constitute a "Submission" if:

- a. Content (image or video) was emailed and is of an Invited Surfer acknowledged by BWA Director in writing;
- b. Content is submitted in accordance with WSL requirements and directions with respect to such Submission;
- c. Content owner has signed (or agreed to via the online form) the relevant terms and conditions required by WSL (an "Entry Form");
- d. Content owner is at least 18 years of age; and
- e. In addition to the General Rules for submission, the Content submitted complies with specifications for a Category described in Part B of these BWA Rules.

In order to allow timely authentication of Submissions, actual images or video of the Ride along with completed Submission requirements should be completed within ten (10) days of the date the Ride occurs. Leniency in relation to the requirement above will be given to Submissions in the first half of the Submission Window at the sole discretion of WSL, especially in the case where Submissions are awaiting significant release in certain forms of media, but adherence will be strictly enforced beginning December 15, 2019. WSL reserves the right to disqualify a Submission (by notice in writing, email to suffice) if, in WSL's sole discretion, the photographer or videographer responsible for the Submission acts (or evidence is made available to WSL that they acted) in a way that impugns the individual's own image or WSL's image to the public.

## **8. Big Wave Awards Ceremony Attendance**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and precautions required to contain its spread, there will be no awards ceremony for 2020 and physical attendance by nominees is not required. Nominees are expected to make themselves available for an online presentation at a date and in a manner determined by WSL, which will be recorded and shared with the public through WSL platforms and WSL approved media outlets.

## **9. Judges Viewing Submissions**

Following the closing date of the Submission Window, the judging academy members will be contacted by WSL and invited to view the nominated Rides via the Big Wave Awards website or other platform designated by WSL. Judges will be expected to use their best efforts to fully review available materials and participate according to the rules and spirit of the Big Wave Awards. Judges who may have personally witnessed candidate Rides may draw on those experiences in addition to the Submission available in formulating their opinions. Judges should refrain from contacting other judges relating to a Big Wave Awards Submission or otherwise making their opinion of any Submission public without WSL approval.

## **10. Safety**

Safety of all surfers, photographers, videographers and other individuals in the ocean is of the highest priority to WSL. Any attempts that are deemed extraordinarily dangerous, discourteous or unsportsmanlike will not be considered as Submissions. All individuals involved are expected to demonstrate the same high level of dedication to safety that has defined the top level of big wave surfing in recent years. The WSL Big Wave Awards honor and reward those individuals who have demonstrated great surfing skill and will not acknowledge instances of reckless bravado. The Big Wave Awards does not encourage unqualified surfers to take risks for which they are unprepared by ensuring that only the most qualified surfers, photographers and videographers are invited to be considered in the Big Wave Awards.

## **11. Use of Personal Watercraft (“PWC”)/Jet Skis**

All users of PWC are expected to observe all applicable rules and regulations. Use of PWCs in close proximity to paddle-surfers is dangerous and if an Invited Surfer is determined by the WSL, in its sole discretion, to be acting in a dangerous or discourteous manner on or in concert with a PWC driver, they may be disqualified from the Big Wave Awards.

## **12. Multiple Surfers on one Wave**

Occasionally in big-wave surfing, multiple surfers may Ride the same wave. To encourage safety of surfers, drop-ins are discouraged when considering a Submission for the Big Wave Awards. In the case of multiple surfers on a wave worthy of consideration for a Category, only the surfer closest to the breaking part of the wave will be eligible.

## **13. Surfing Equipment**

While not meant to stifle innovation, to be eligible as a Submission, the surfer must Ride the wave in a manner consistent with recent surfing history but there is no limitation on the size or materials of the board being ridden. Both paddle surfing and tow surfing disciplines will be considered on their own merits in each Category. Only stand-up surfing will be considered. Surfing on powered equipment will not be eligible, including standing on motorized or wind-driven craft.

## **14. Cheating**

Access to digital manipulation of content (both video and photo) exposes the possibility for fraudulent Submissions. In order to eliminate the chances of a fake Ride or a Ride being enhanced in a Submission, the BWA Director may ask for additional input to assist verification, including submission of original raw digital files, source files or complete Ride sequences, and supporting documentation that a Ride within a Submission occurred during the Submission Window. Any Submissions that feature a relatively obscure location and that are not witnessed by a large number of observers may be subject to additional scrutiny prior to being accepted as a Submission in WSL discretion.

## **15. Announcement of Winners of Big Wave Awards**

A list of winners will be made available on the event website at [www.worldsurfleague.com](http://www.worldsurfleague.com) as each Category is announced, beginning on or about July 28, 2020.

Should any announcement be relevant to a World Record, such announcement will be made in consultation with Guinness World Records Ltd.1.

The Award winners will be notified by email, by the BWA Director and must acknowledge receipt of notification within 48 hours. All decisions relating to the Awards are final. All selected Winners are subject to verification of eligibility and compliance with these BWA Rules and may be required to sign a Declaration of Eligibility in order to claim the prize. If a potential Winner cannot be contacted, fails to timely claim the prize, is disqualified or if a Winner fails to timely execute and return any required forms or other documents, or if the prize notification is returned as undeliverable, WSL may select an alternate Winner from among the remaining eligible nominees based on the judging criteria or such alternate method as solely determined by WSL. Under no circumstances will more than the stated number of Prizes be awarded.

#### **16. BWA Director: Contact Details**

For any requests of additional information or if you have video or photographs you would like considered for an invite to the Big Wave Awards, please contact the BWA Director, Bill Sharp as follows:

Bill Sharp

BWA Director

E-mail: [bigwave@worldsurfleague.com](mailto:bigwave@worldsurfleague.com)

Address:

WSL BIG WAVE AWARDS

149 Bay Street, Santa Monica, CA, 90405

#### **17. Ownership of Big Wave Awards**

WSL owns and conducts the Big Wave Awards. The rules, name and format of the Big Wave Awards are owned by WSL and are protected by copyright and other forms of intellectual property whether registered or unregistered. The BWA Rules may not be copied, adapted or otherwise applied without written permission from WSL. WSL reserves the right to add to, delete, amend or adjust the rules of the Big Wave Awards as appropriate to accommodate real-life developments at its discretion, All modifications and changes to the BWA Rules will be effective and applicable to the Big Wave Awards once uploaded onto the WSL website and available for public access.

### **PART B – CATEGORY-SPECIFIC RULES**

#### **I. RIDE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Summary:** The Ride of the Year Award will be won by the individual surfer who based on review of available video images by a panel of experts demonstrates the most advanced and committed level of big wave surfing performance during a single successful Ride during the Submission Window. The Judging Criteria is described below and will be tallied from a collection of votes of a large panel of surfers, photographers and surf magazine editors and writers selected by the BWA Director. Photo Submissions are not eligible for the Ride of the Year Award.

### **Men's Ride of the Year Surfer Prize Money**

Surfer Prize Money

First Prize: USD\$55,000

Second Prize: USD\$20,000

Third Prize: USD\$7,000

Fourth Prize: USD\$5,000

Fifth Prize: USD\$5,000

### **Men's Ride of the Year Videographer Prize Money**

First Prize: USD\$3,500

Second Prize: USD\$2,000

Third Prize: USD\$1,000

Fourth Prize: USD\$1,000

Fifth Prize: USD\$1,000

### **Women's Ride of the Year Surfer Prize Money**

Surfer Prize Money

First Prize: USD\$55,000

Second Prize: USD\$20,000

Third Prize: USD\$7,000

### **Women's Ride of the Year Videographer Prize Money**

First Prize: USD\$3,500

Second Prize: USD\$2,000

Third Prize: USD\$1,000

#### **I. Limit of Rides in a Submission**

There is no limit to how many Rides an Invited Surfer may have considered for the Ride of the Year Award, although each Ride must be its own Submission and a signed Entry Form must already be completed and on file with the BWA Director.

#### **II. Submissions (Video Only)**

- a. The preferred method of delivery of video clips are a full-size QuickTime file with H.264 compression sent by a large file transfer provider such as Drop Box, YouSendIt.com or WeTransfer.com, etc. (Resubmission of the original clip in maximum quality format may be required at a later time if the clip is nominated for the Ride of the Year Award). Video clips may also be delivered digitally on flash drive mailed or shipped to the BWA Director. The WSL is not responsible for delay or damage to or loss of entries while in transit or for files not received due to failure of transmission.
- b. An unedited version of a video Submission must be submitted including all available frames of the start and end of the Ride and without any embedded bugs or watermarks.
- c. There is no limit to how many Rides a videographer may submit as a Submission into consideration for the Award, although each Ride must be entered separately.
- d. Videographers shooting from the water must be experienced in handling high-surf and dangerous ocean conditions.

#### **III. Submission Specifications**

- a. Video images of the Ride will be the only evidence accepted in determining the Ride of the Year award.
- b. Personal testimonials, "expert" opinions, buoy readings or any other data purporting to establish the quality of a Ride or height of a wave will not be considered.
- c. Angles and Clarity: Preference may be given to high-definition video clip Submissions that are shot from those angles that minimize distortion of a wave's true height and maintain continuity for the longest portion of the Ride and provide evidence of the Ride's successful completion. Part of a Ride, which is not clearly visible due to loss of focus, haze, darkness, wave lumps in foreground or other visual interference cannot be fully considered.
- d. Film and Video Stock: Quality reproduction is an essential requirement of a winning video Submission and, therefore, technically superior video or motion picture formats are given preference. Rides must be originally shot on video or motion picture film to qualify for the Ride of the Year Award. Sequence montages of photographs transferred to video are not eligible for Ride of the Year Award consideration.

#### **IV. Judging Procedure**

- a. Selection of Finalist Submissions: After the closing date of the Submission Window, a qualifying panel (including representatives from the surfer and photographer communities along with the WSL Tours and Competition Office) selected by the Big Wave Men's and Women's Surfer Representatives ("Qualifying Panel") will evaluate the Submissions received and the Qualifying Panel will nominate five (5) Rides for the Men's Ride of the Year award and three (3) Rides for the Women's Ride of the Year award, which fairly depict the diversity of modern big wave riding and avoid significant redundancy. The Qualifying Panel will also select the single definitive Submission of each of the five (5) Rides, considering all factors such as sharpness, framing and completeness of the Ride from beginning to end. If multiple quality angles exist of a Ride, the featured surfer will make the final selection of the definitive Submission for the videographer award within this Category. The Qualifying Panel will determine by consensus what constitutes a "big" wave from the Submissions. The Qualifying Panel may seek input from some or all members of the larger judging panel at its discretion. Submissions involving both paddle surfing and tow surfing will be considered for the Ride of the Year Award.
- b. Selection of the Ride of the Year Award: The Judging Panel (as described below) will consider the five (5) Men's and three (3) Women's nominee Submissions selected by the Qualifying Panel above.
- c. Judging Panel: The Ride of the Year Award judging panel will consist of a blue-ribbon group of twelve (12) individuals who are respected within the big wave surfing community who will be selected by the WSL's Big Wave Men's and Women's Surfer Representatives. This panel will include veteran Big Wave competitors and photographers with significant historical involvement and familiarity with the Big Wave Awards ("Judging Panel").
- d. Methodology of Judging Panel: Following the official close of the Submission Window, the Judging Panel will be contacted and given details on how to view the nominee Submissions selected by the Qualifying Panel via the WSL Big Wave Awards website or

other designated platform. Judges are expected to use their best efforts to fully review available materials and participate according to the rules and spirit of the Big Wave Awards. Judges who may have personally witnessed nominated Rides may draw on those experiences in addition to the video in formulating their opinions. Judges should refrain from lobbying other judges or otherwise making their votes public prior to the passing of the voting deadline.

- e. Judging Criteria: The judging criteria referred to by the Qualifying Panel and Judging Panel as described above in determining the better of a Ride of the Year Award Submission shall be as follows:

*“The Ride of the Year Award will be won by the individual surfer who — based on review of available video images by a panel of experts — demonstrates the most advanced and committed level of big wave surfing performance during a single successful Ride during the Submission Window.”*

The following additional guidance can also be referred to:

*“While the determination of excellence will always be a subjective matter, the Qualifying Panel and Judging Panel are urged to reward sustained performance throughout the entirety of a Ride, including the overall quality and quantity of manoeuvres or critical positions achieved, and to value the skill of the surfer in a challenging situation above the good fortune presented purely by the unique shape of a particular wave.”*

- f. Judging Points System: Each judge on the Judging Panel will be asked to rank the five (5) nominee Rides in the order they feel appropriate from first place to fifth place. Each judge will then submit his or her ballot order of nominee Submissions to the BWA Director. The following point values will be assigned to the ranking on each selection and an overall total will be calculated from each judge’s ballot order of nominee Submissions.

1st = 100 points  
2nd = 75 points  
3rd = 55 points  
4th = 40 points  
5th = 30 points

In case of a judge assigning a tie to two or more Submissions in their order of nominees, the average score of the tied waves on that ballot will be tallied. For example, a tie between 4th and 5th would each receive 35 points.

An appropriate deadline will be set for receipt of all ballots by the BWA Director. Any ballot of Submissions sent after the deadline nominated by the BWA Director will not be counted. Individual judge’s ballots will remain confidential to ensure candid input, but the final relative scores in aggregate will be available upon request.

## II. BIGGEST WAVE AWARD

**Summary:** The Biggest Wave Award will be won by the Invited Surfer who, by any means available, catches and successfully Rides the single biggest wave during the Submission Window based on objective analysis and measurement of the available images. Both video and photo Submissions will be considered for the Biggest Wave Award.

## **Prize Money**

For Men:

The Biggest Wave Award winner will be awarded a cash amount of USD\$15,000. Each of the four (4) other nominees will receive a nominee award of USD\$1,500. The videographer who captures the winning video clip will be awarded USD\$2,500. The four other video nominees will each receive a nominee award of \$750. The still photographer who captures the definitive digital still image as decided by the judging panel will be awarded USD\$2,000.

**For Women:**

The Biggest Wave Award winner will be awarded a cash amount of USD\$15,000. Each of the two (2) other nominees will receive a nominee award of USD\$1,500. The videographer who captures the winning video clip will be awarded USD\$2,500. The remaining two video nominees will each receive a nominee award of \$750. The still photographer who captures the definitive digital still image as decided by the judging panel will be awarded USD\$2,000.

### **I. Limit of Rides**

There is no limit to how many Rides an Invited Surfer may submit to be considered for the Biggest Wave Award, although each Ride must be its own Submission and the relevant Entry Form must already be completed and on file with the BWA Director.

### **II. Submission Specifications (Photo and Video Submissions)**

- a. For a photograph or video clip to be considered for the Biggest Wave Award, the surfer featured in the image must be an Invited Surfer.
- b. Photo Submissions owners must agree to the relevant Entry Form and deliver the files by the agreed method to the BWA Director. A digital image Submission of sufficient clarity must be submitted on file with the BWA Director within ten (10) days from the date of the featured Ride. The minimum resolution for a Submission of photos is at least 2000 pixels in its longest dimension in a JPEG format.
- c. Video Submission owners must agree to the relevant Entry Form and Submissions should be submitted as full quality uncompressed QuickTime files in full resolution, with 1920 x 1080 HD preferred. Large or multiple files may be delivered by a file transfer system such as WeTransfer.com, etc.
- d. When required for verification or reproduction purposes, the maximum quality raw digital photo or video files must be submitted on request of the BWA Director. The WSL is not responsible for damage to or loss of Submissions at any time, including while in possession of the WSL.
- e. Sequential photos of the start and end of the Ride are essential to proving that the Ride was indeed successful and should be included in the Submission.
- f. Photos of the Ride will be the only evidence accepted in determining the Biggest Wave Award winner. Personal testimonials, "expert" opinions, buoy readings or any other data purporting to establish the height of a wave will not be considered.
- g. Preference may be given to photo or video Submissions that are shot from those angles that minimize distortion of a wave's true height. Submissions shot from near sea level from the shore or from a personal watercraft or boat from some distance in front of the wave are best for showing a wave's actual trough-to-crest face height. Submissions shot from high vantage points such as sea cliffs, helicopters or drones often fail to define

where the face ends and the flats begin, and such factors will be taken into consideration by the judges.

- h. Image resolution: Image clarity of Submissions (video or photo) is essential to accurate evaluation and measurement of the relative sizes of wave faces, surfers, surfboards and other key elements. Soft focus, haze, darkness, limited pixel count or other visual degradation will limit the value of an image as evidence of actual wave height. Reproduction is an essential requirement of the winning image and therefore technically superior film stocks or higher resolution digital files are preferred Submissions.
- i. Digital photo submission guidelines: In the case of sequences, no more than eight (6) photos should be submitted from a single Ride. When submitted, photos should be given a unique file name, which identifies the name of the surfer, the surf break, the photographer and the position in the sequence, but contains no more than 30 total characters. (EXAMPLE: BObamaMavsSpielberg1.jpg).

Please contact the BWA Director for the latest WSL Big Wave Awards Submission Guidelines information sheet should you require further information on Submission requirements.

### **III. Judging Procedures**

- a. Selection of Finalist Submissions: After the closing date of the Submission Window, a qualifying panel (including representatives from the surfer and photographer communities selected by the Men's and Women's Surfer Representatives ("Qualifying Panel") will evaluate the Submissions received and the Qualifying Panel will nominate five (5) Rides for the Men's Biggest Wave award and three (3) Rides for the Women's Biggest Wave award. Due to space and time constraints, a maximum of one video Submission and five (5) photo Submissions by different photographers per wave will be named as Biggest Wave Award nominees, with the selection based on the best comparative sharpness, framing and overall quality of the Submissions.
- b. Objective Measurement Panel: The Biggest Wave Award Measurement Panel will consist of at least eight (8) judges and a head judge who will only vote in case of a tie (4-4). At least two Measurement Panel positions will be assigned to respected big-wave surfers who are not Invited Surfers, and another assigned to a representative from the WSL Commissioner's Office. The balance of the Panel will consist of representatives from respected media outlets selected at the discretion of WSL ("Measurement Panel"). No employees or companies involved in the sponsorship of Invited Surfers will be voting members of the Measurement Panel. The BWA Director will be the head judge, facilitate and mediate the Measurement Panel.
- c. Methodology: Following the closing date of the Submission Window, the Measurement Panel will be convened. The Measurement Panel will consider all available photos and video Submissions of each of the five (5) nominee Rides, making an effort to assign an approximate objective measurement of the height of the wave in each Submission. By using the traditional "This-Many-Times-Overhead" formula and/or any useful technique or technology at the discretion of the WSL, which extrapolates the known height of the featured surfer to determine the wave and takes into consideration the angle of the photo or video in the Submission, each of the nominee Rides will be given an estimated face height ("EFH") in feet. The EFH for each Submission will be compared and the judges will debate the merits of each nominee Ride and then a confidential ballot vote will be taken by the judges of the Measurement Panel for whom they believe is the

winner. If there is not unanimous consensus on the first vote, further analysis and discussion will take place, followed by a second vote. The nominee Submission garnering the most votes in the second ballot will be deemed the winner. While the semi-objective EFH rating will be an important tool in the discussion, the subjective opinion of the Measurement Panel will be the deciding factor for which Submission is the winner and their decision will be final and binding.

- d. **Wave Height:** The wave height to be measured will be the distance from the Lip to the Trough (both defined below) of the wave at its highest moment during the Ride as measured above and below the featured surfer. If the surfer catches the wave on the shoulder, the height of the wave at their point of entry will be counted, not the height of the wave at the peak ("Lip"). The bottom trough measurement will be taken from what is agreed to be the lowest point relative to the extended slope of the wave face to which either the surfer or the whitewater of the broken wave may ever reach ("Trough"). The vertical distance between the Lip and the Trough will be the overriding factor in deciding the winner but thickness or "heaviness" of the wave will be considered if two waves appear to be of nearly identical height.

### III. **PADDLE AWARD**

**Summary:** The Paddle Award will be won by the surfer who paddles into and successfully rides the single biggest wave during the Submission Window based on objective analysis and measurement of the available images, The Judging Procedure parts (a) and (b) described in the Biggest Wave Award to apply to this Category.

- I. **Paddling:** An Invited Surfer must have caught the wave purely by human power without mechanical or artificial propulsion. Invited Surfers cannot have "stepped off" any vessel for have been "dropped off" at a take-off position for a Ride. Whether the above apply will be determined in the sole discretion of WSL.

#### II. **Prize Money:**

For Men:

The winner will be awarded a cash amount of USD\$15,000. Each of the four (4) other nominee Invited Surfers will receive a nominee award of USD\$1,500. The videographer who captures the winning video clip will be awarded USD\$2,500. The four non-winning video nominees will each receive \$750. The still photographer who captures the definitive digital still image as decided by the judging panel will be awarded USD\$2,000.

For Women:

The winner will be awarded a cash amount of USD\$15,000. Each of the two (2) other nominee Invited Surfers will receive a nominee award of USD\$1,500. The videographer who captures the winning video clip will be awarded USD\$2,500. The two non-winning video nominees will each receive \$750. The still photographer who captures the definitive digital still image as decided by the judging panel will be awarded USD\$2,000.

- III. **Ride:** Further to the requirement of a successful Ride being performed, an Invited Surfer must complete the initial drop down the entire wave face and maintain forward

momentum with his or her body and entire surfboard clear of the lip at its moment of impact.

- IV. **Interference:** For the Paddle Award, multiple surfers on the same wave may each be considered for an individual Submission so long as the surfers are not interfering with another surfer's Ride, as determined by WSL in its sole discretion.

IV. **BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE AWARD**

**Summary:** The Best Overall Performance Award will be won by the surfer who puts on the greatest number of outstanding big wave performances over the course of the Submission Window. Excellence in the water and leadership in safety in both paddle in and tow-in surfing disciplines at all breaks around the world will be considered. Votes of a special panel of expert judges upon review of all photos and video Submissions, based on the judging criteria will determine the winner of the award.

**Prize Money**

For Men

First Prize: USD\$10,000

Second Prize: USD\$5,000

Third Prize: USD\$3,000

Fourth Prize: USD\$2,750

Fifth Prize: USD\$2,250

6th-10th will be ranked as voted but will not receive prize money

For Women

First Prize: USD\$10,000

Second Prize: USD\$5,000

Third Prize: USD\$3,000

4th & 5th will be ranked as voted but will not receive prize money

I. **Surfers**

At the conclusion of the Submission Window, all Submissions featuring an Invited Surfer will be considered for the Best Overall Performance Award. An Invited Surfer wishing to be considered for the Best Overall Performance Award should work with any photographers or videographers to ensure that all useful imagery of any Ride is considered Submissions in the WSL Big Wave Awards in a timely basis and in accordance with Part A of these BWA Rules.

II. **Judging Procedure**

- a. Selection of Finalists: After the closing date of the Submission Window, a qualifying panel (including representatives from the surfer and photographer communities along with the WSL Commissioner's office) selected by WSL ("Qualifying Panel") will evaluate all Submissions received in all Categories and the Qualifying Panel will nominate fifteen (15) Invited Surfers, ten (10) men and five (5) women, as nominees.
- b. Judging Panel: The Best Overall Performance Award judging will be conducted by a special blue-ribbon panel of approximately ten (10) individuals who are respected within the big wave surfing community and can be relied upon to complete the due diligence required to completely

assess each nominee nominated by the Qualifying Panel in all relevant Submissions available on the Big Wave Awards website (“Performance Judging Panel”). Invitations to participate on this Performance Judging Panel will be extended to current and seasoned Big Wave Awards or Big Wave Tour (“BWT”) surfers, WSL judges from the BWT and Championship Tour, top big wave photographers and videographers along with a selection of writers and editors who regularly cover the sport of big wave surfing. The Performance Judging Panel should be sufficiently large and diverse enough so as to prevent any bias affecting the final result.

- c. Judging Criteria and Guidance: The criteria to be referred to by the Qualifying Panel and the Performance Judging Panel in determining the Best Overall Performance Award shall be (“Judging Criteria”):

*“The surfer who puts on the greatest number of outstanding performances over the course of the Submission Window will be ranked based on all available Submissions to the Big Wave Awards or other evidence of Rides. Excellence in the water in both paddle in and tow-in surfing disciplines will be considered along with a global diversity in big wave venues challenged and leadership in safety.”*

- d. Judging Points System: After becoming familiar with all Best Overall Performance Award nominee Rides, each judge of the Performance Judging Panel will be asked to consider the Judging Criteria and guidance and rank the ten (10)/five(5) nominee surfers in the order they feel appropriate from first to tenth/fifth. Each judge will then submit his or her ballot by email to the BWA Director. The following point values will be assigned to the ranking on each ballot and an overall total will be calculated from all ballots submitted:

Men:

1st = 100 points  
2nd = 75 points  
3rd = 55 points  
4th = 40 points  
5th = 30 points  
6th = 25 points  
7th = 20 points  
8th = 15 points  
9th = 10 points  
10th = 5 points

Women:

1st = 100 points  
2nd = 75 points  
3rd = 55 points  
4th = 40 points  
5th = 30 points

In case of a judge assigning a tie to two (2) or more surfers in a ballot, the average score on that ballot will be tallied. For example, a tie between 4th and 5th would each receive 35 points.

An appropriate deadline will be set for receipt of all ballots by the BWA Director. Any ballots submitted after the deadline will not be counted. Individual ballots will remain confidential to ensure candid input, but the final point scores in aggregate will be available upon written request to the BWA Director.

## 5. WIPEOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Summary:** The Wipeout of the Year Award is an informal honor meant to acknowledge the most spectacular wipeout of the season that was incurred without significant injury to the surfer. Only a Submission by an Invited Surfer attempting a Ride will be considered. No intentional wipeout can be considered. For a Ride to be considered for the Wipeout of the Year award, the surfer must not have sustained a significant injury as a result of the outcome of the Ride. The Judging Procedure described in the Best Overall Performance Award apply to the selection of nominees in this Category. The nominees will then be posted on the WSL website and the final winner of the Category will be determined through a fan vote as set out in these Rules.

### **Prize:**

The Invited Surfer who is deemed winner of this Category by the fan vote will be awarded an amount equal to USD\$5,000. Each of the other four (4) nominees will receive a nominee award of USD\$1,000. The videographer who captures the definitive video clip of the winning Ride in their Submission will be awarded USD\$3,000. The other four video nominees will each receive an award equal to \$750.

### **Fan Voting Rules**

Nominee videos will be posted on the WSL website, [www.worldsurfleague.com](http://www.worldsurfleague.com) on July 20, 2020.

The voting window will open when the nominees are posted on or about 6:00 AM PDT on July 20, 2020 and will close at 6:00 PM PDT on July 23, 2020 ("Voting Period").

To vote for your favorite "Wipeout of the Year" nominee, you must register with a valid email address. There is one (1) vote for each email address. The nominee video that receives the most votes during the Voting Period will be deemed the winner. In the event of a tie, the BWA Director shall cast the final deciding vote in its sole discretion. During the Voting Period, video views generated by a script, macro or other automated means will be disqualified. The Winner of the Wipeout of the Year Award shall be announced on or about July 24, 2020.

WSL reserves the right, to void suspect entries, or to modify, cancel, or suspend part or all of the fan vote for the Wipeout of the Year Award ("Fan Vote") should virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes beyond the control of the WSL corrupt or impair the administration, security, or fairness or proper play of the Fan Vote. If cancelled or terminated early, WSL shall determine the eligible nominees receiving the most Votes by tallying the Votes that the WSL finds to be valid at the time of termination or cancellation. WSL may prohibit a participant from taking part in the Fan Vote or disqualify a participant's vote if it determines that said participant is attempting to undermine the legitimate operation of the Fan Vote by cheating, hacking, deception, or other unfair playing practices (including the use of automated quick entry programs) or intending to annoy, abuse, or threaten any other participant or representatives of WSL. WSL assume no responsibility for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers, or providers, including, but not limited to, computer equipment, software, failure of any entry to be received by the WSL on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any web site, any combination thereof, or otherwise, whether caused by WSL, participants, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the promotion or by any technical or human error which may

occur in the processing of submissions which may damage a user's system or limit a participant's ability to participate in the promotion. Rules and procedures are subject to change as determined by the WSL without notice. All personally identifiable information provided during the Fan Vote process will be treated in accordance with the [WSL Privacy Policy](#). By participating in the Fan Vote, you agree to the WSL privacy policies and to the decisions of WSL which decisions shall be final and legally binding in all respects.