APP WORLD TOUR RULES BRIEF OVERVIEW:

Please note that the following rules serve as a temporary rules overview as we formulate the complete rulebook over the coming month. However, the contents will form the basis of the final edition, and we welcome all athletes input into the further development of the rules as we move forward. Please note the athlete rep structure we are putting in place, alluded to below to ensure that there is a uniform and professional voice and representation of athletes interests on the APP World Tour.

General
- Board Restrictions:
  - Max Board dimensions:
    - Length: 14' maximum
  - Board Weight - No Weight Restriction
  - Fins shall be fixed in place
  - Board Design is open, except for multi hulls, which are not allowed.
  - Rudder(s) are not allowed.
  - Foil(s) are not allowed.
- At no time during the race may a competitor impede another competitor
- If it is deemed by the Race Director that one competitor purposefully impedes another, the competitor at fault will receive a 'yellow card' (much like football / soccer)
- If the same competitor is found at fault again in the same race, he will be given a red card and be disqualified from the race
- The Race Director retains the right to directly penalize a competitor by issuing a red card or disqualification should the fault be considered grave enough

Race Formats
The APP World Tour consists of two different formats for racing:
- Long Distance:
  - 10km, but can be more than this in case of a downwind run but should not exceed 18km
  - The course can either be a downwind run or course race made up of buoys, particularly in the case of flat water venues

- Course maps will be released a minimum of 30 days prior to the event taking place
- Courses are subject to change at Director's discretion, but only in the case of adverse weather conditions making the planned course unfavorable
- Sprints:
  - The APP World Tour Sprints will continue with the heat elimination format that features up to 8 athletes per heat
  - Each Elimination will feature a repechage round, allowing athletes to come back into the running after getting knocked out of round 1
  - The course will be adapted to suit the conditions (i.e. surf racing in New York or London on flat water
  - Course maps across all events will be released a minimum of 30 days prior to the event taking place
  - A standard sprint course will measure in the region of 300m
  - Some courses might be longer (for example in Maui, where surf conditions are prevalent, a longer course is preferred in order to take advantage of the variables and balance out the 'luck' component
  - Each sprint course will consist of fast, compact turns and dynamic course elements

Seeding:
- Seeding for the APP World Tour Sprints will be determined through the combination of current ranking and finish in previous year's event. This will not apply where it is a first time event, where APP World Tour standings alone will determine seeding
- Wildcards will be awarded for each event on an event-by-event basis. Consideration for a wildcard will be based on past performances on the Tour, past performances elsewhere and should be approved by the athlete rep
- At the end of each season, the Top 24 Men on the APP World Tour will qualify automatically for the 2018 season, with additional spots to be opened up for the new season, while for the women, the Top 8 will automatically qualify, again with additional spots to be opened up for the new season

Results & Calculation:
- Where events feature both long distance and sprint disciplines, winners in each respective race will be celebrated and points added to the World Rankings overall for each discipline
- The World Title will be decided from Athletes best long distance results and best sprint results, providing an overall points tabulation
- Athletes will be allowed the following discards:
  - 1 from 4
  - 2 from 6
  - 3 from 8
- The individual Event result will be an **Overall result** derived from the athletes' performance across both long distance and sprint races.

- While the two disciplines are worth equal points, in the case of tied points, the tie will first be broken by the single best result (i.e. 1st and 4th will beat 2nd and 3rd)
- Should there still be a tie (i.e. 1st and 2nd / 2nd and 1st), each event will favor one discipline over the other. Each Season, the tie-breaking discipline will be announced and be alternated through the year by venue

World Title Tiebreaker

At the end of the year, in the case of a tie for the Overall World Title and if counting back utilizing the tiebreaker weighting for specific disciplines doesn't break it, then a final race to break the tie will be introduced involving the tied athletes to determine the World Champions for the year.

Divisions

1. Each APP World Tour event will feature both Men's and Women's divisions (unless designated a specialty event with specific parameters introduced and approved by the APP World Tour (i.e. Red Bull Heavy Water).
2. Where relevant and applicable, a Na Kama Kai Youth Division (U16) will be held.
3. We are introducing a World Qualifier Series division in 2019, that will allow up and coming / aspiring athletes the chance to qualify for the APP World Tour by competing through the season. These athletes will have the opportunity to:
   a. Accrue points towards qualification for the following year's season
   b. Gain awareness and notoriety to set them up for wildcard opportunities in the current season
4. Each event (where applicable) will feature Open / Amateur Class Racing, with 6km / 3km and 1km courses providing plenty of opportunity to participate

Starts

There are multiple different types of starts:

- Beach Start: athletes line up between 2 marks / flags and will be under starters orders for the actual start itself until the horn sounds
- Water start: between two buoys or distinct marks – again under starter's orders until the sound of the horn
  - Athletes to be kneeling or sitting until start gun is sounded, at which point they can stand up
- Ramp start: new are looking to introduce this at some point through the 2022 season and will ensure that all athletes get ample time to train on this new system. This will be used in flat water venues to provide an additional technical element to the racing and the fairest starts possible
- Ramp starts are used only for sprint racing and in flat water locations

Buoy turns
- Course details and buoy turn directions will be provisionally announced online prior to each event, but finalized prior to the briefing on race day itself (as conditions can force course changes)
- Where possible, buoy turns will provide an equal amount of right and left hand turns, but different courses might well force more of one kind of turn than the other, so please take note
- Event officials will supervise buoy turns and any wrong turns will result in disqualification

Finishes
- Beach finishes:
  - Finishes on land will consist of a very short sprint from the water's edge to the finish line.
  - Each APP World Tour event will have a Finish arch, and the finish line itself will be the line directly under the Arch for clarity
  - This is not a multi-sport contest, so sprints will be minimal in length – just a board dismount and then short run across the line
  - Athletes will dismount and need to cross the line with paddle in hand
  - Any shifting or hassling for position in the funnel will result in disqualification.
- Water finishes:
  - Water finishes will again be under our inflatable arches, with the line directly under the arch marking the finish to avoid discrepancies
  - Event staff will be on hand with video capturing all finishes to ensure there are no discrepancies
- All athletes must cross the finish line area to receive a finish time and placing
- Competitors must not leave the finish area until their place, name and number has   been recorded by the scorer / beach marshal.

Course completion
- Any competitor failing to round all designated buoys will be disqualified from the race.
- Paddlers must complete the designated course

5 Five Stroke Rule:
- If you fall, you have 5 strokes to get back on your feet and stand up. This rule is in effect so a paddler does not achieve an advantage by not standing up.
- The only exception to this rule is in the surf zone, where more leeway will be given to athletes caught in the impact zone – however this exception is within reason and Race Director will maintain overall discretion if it is considered that athletes were in a position to stand up and paddle out

- The yellow card rule will be implemented in this situation except that Race Director will be allowed to award 2 yellow cards before the Red card and disqualification
- You must complete the course standing upon your board.

Officials
- Beach Marshall: Shall be responsible for managing event start and finish
- Course Director: Shall be responsible for officiating the race and operating the start procedure

Protests
- Must be filed within 15 minutes of the last competitor finishing the event. Protests must be filed with either the Beach Marshall or Course Director. The Beach Marshall, Course Director and associated event officials shall determine the outcome of any protest filed.

Athlete representation
- An athlete rep for both men and women will be elected by vote to represent athletes' interests on the APP World Tour
- This athlete rep will be included in all major decision making regarding race and event development, and athletes rights and interests
- We will still hold an athletes meeting for all athletes prior to every event, and details and exact timing and location of these meetings will be released a minimum of 7 days prior to the event
- We have set up a private facebook group for direct athlete communication moving forward. Please visit and join to keep up to speed with direct communication from the APP World Tour: https://www.facebook.com/groups/159810167856891/