



## Retro Division Equipment Criteria & Judging Criteria – Season 2026 (Committee Approved 11/03/2026)

The "spirit of the retro division" is to celebrate surfing's heritage, focusing on classic single and twin fin short board designs from the 1970s and 1980s, embracing a style of surfing that emphasizes flow, style, glide, and fun.

Competition requires participants to ride boards that adhere to the original shortboard design specifications of the era 1970 to 1983 being single and twin fin surfboards built during that time or replicas / reproductions faithful to the design principles of the time. See Board Specifications below.

### **Board Specifications**

**Board Dimensions:** For Single fins must be no shorter than 5'0 to and no longer than 7'0. For Twin fins no shorter than 5'0 and no longer than 6'8 reflecting size ranges of the period.

**Classic Outline:** Boards must feature classic outlines and foils, which means being wider and thicker with a fuller nose (sometimes "beaky"), little to flat rocker, and increased volume for better glide and paddling.

**Rocker:** Moderately flat entry rocker transitioning to a flat section through the middle, with slight lift in the tail.

**Materials:** To ensure an authentic feel and performance characteristic of the era, boards must be constructed with traditional materials as follows. **Polyurethane (PU) Foam:** A PU blank with polyester resin lamination

**Note:** Epoxy/EPS/ or similar blanks are not considered true to the retro, replica or reproduction criteria.

### **Fin Set Up**

**Single Fin:** Board must have a single fin, The fin may be fixed or have a period correct style fin box with removable fin and must be generally large and positioned deeper, near the tail.

**Twin Fin:** Board must have two fins only and must glass in fixed side fins only. The fins used must be fibreglass in their construction, standing large and upright reflecting the characteristic of the late 1970s and early 1980s designs used.

**Note:** Removable side fins with any fin systems for twin fins are not considered true to the retro, replica or reproduction criteria and cannot be used in competition.

### **Reproductions or Replica's**

Boards from the period are preferred, however in recognition of the limited availability of these boards, replicas or reproductions are allowed.

The reproduction criteria for surfboards requires them to be faithful replicas of classic designs from the 1970s and 1980s, focusing on traditional outlines, foil, fin designs and materials as mentioned above.

**Note:** The contest director reserves the right to determine suitability of replicas and reproductions in conjunction with the retro competitor's collective group to determine if they are true to the spirit and criteria set out above. See examples of the criteria page 3 & 4.

## Judging Criteria

Judging for "retro shortboard" surfing events typically uses the same general criteria as modern surfing competitions (speed, power, and flow) but places a specific emphasis on **style and drawing classic, flowing lines** that utilize the unique design features of vintage boards, rather than radical, vertical manoeuvres.

### General Scoring Criteria

Waves are scored on a scale of 0 to 10 points (or 0 to 100), with the following quality levels:

<b>0–1.9:</b> Poor	<b>2–3.9:</b> Fair	<b>4–5.9:</b> Average
<b>6–7.9:</b> Good	<b>8–10:</b> Excellent	

### Detailed Judging Criteria (with Retro Emphasis)

Judges evaluate each ride based on the following key elements, considering the functional characteristics and historical style of the retro equipment (single fins, twin fins, etc.):

Criteria	Retro Shortboard Emphasis
<b>Commitment and Degree of Difficulty</b>	Committing to high lines, long drawn-out arcs, and speed-generating trim lines that suit the board's design.
<b>Innovative and Progressive Manoeuvres</b>	Appreciating style and flow inspired by pre-1983 designs; less emphasis on aerials or hyper-modern tricks.
<b>Combination of Major Manoeuvres</b>	Smooth, fluid transitions between classic, carving manoeuvres; avoiding choppy, modern 'pump-and-hack' surfing.
<b>Variety of Manoeuvres</b>	High scores for demonstrating control and style specific to single or twin fins (e.g., nose riding for the brief era it appeared on early shortboards, or holding a high line through a barrel).
<b>Speed, Power, and Flow</b>	Emphasizing the <i>flow</i> and <i>trim</i> of the ride. The ability to "set your lines early" and maintain effortless speed is paramount.

### Note to Judges

The primary goal is to reward surfers who can effectively ride their chosen vintage equipment in a way that is true to its design characteristics and the aesthetic of its era. This often means rewarding long, clean carving lines and style over the vertical, stop-start manoeuvres common on modern high-performance shortboards. Judges should focus on how well the surfer utilizes the board's unique feel and flow.

Examples – Single Fin Period Correct & Replica's (Fixed or Fin box allowed)



**Examples – Twin Fin Period Correct & Replica's – (Fixed Glass in Fins Only)**

