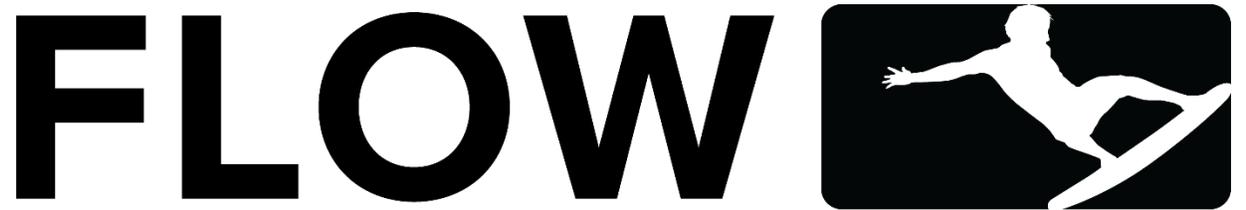


**FLOWRIDER®**



**FLOWBOARDING LEAGUE OF THE WORLD**

**TOUR17**

**OFFICIAL RULE BOOK**

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## **About the FLOW Tour**

The FLOW (Flowboarding League of the World) Tour is a FlowRider, Inc.-sanctioned international flowboarding tour. It's flowboarding's premier competitive tour featuring some of the world's best flowboarders.

Tours are held in Asia, Europe, & USA. Considered to be the grassroots of flowboarding, the FLOW Tour provides a platform for riders to enter competitions at any level and learn the fundamentals in route to the top.

The FLOW Tour allows friends, families and even friendly rivals to travel to extraordinary destinations, progress their riding skills, and build everlasting and meaningful relationships all over the globe. The competitions are open to everyone – all ages and skill levels are encouraged participate.

Flowboarding events generally run for 1 or 2 consecutive days, attracting local and traveling competitors to the predetermined FlowRider® venue for a chance to win prizes, points and showcase their riding skills in front of judges, family, friends and random spectators.

With music, announcers, professional riders, sponsor booths, prize giveaways and general nonstop action, who wouldn't want to join in?!?!?

Chances are that you already know Adam Muller, FlowRider Inc.'s FLOW Tour Coordinator, Marketing Guru and Retail Manager, but if you don't call him up (+1-619-241-2516). He can give you the full scoop on the competitions rules, regulations and opportunities to enter an event!

There aren't too many complicated rules in the sport of flowboarding, but we do have a few that are worthy of your attention if you are involved in the sport. These rules are in place to ensure the safety of the participants, the fairness of competition and, ultimately, to promote the sport of flowboarding on a consistent, competitive and exciting international platform.

See Ya on the Wave!

For more information please contact:

Tour Coordinator: Adam Muller – [Adam@FlowRider.com](mailto:Adam@FlowRider.com)

## EVENT ENTRY & FEES

- a. All competitors must fill out and sign entry form. When they do, they must pay correct fees before participating in the practice session or being placed in an official heat.
- b. All entries must be submitted prior to event practice session(s) to guarantee entry into competition and avoid late fees. Competitors are encouraged to sign up online in advance via the flowboarders.com event pages. Payments will be collected upon arrival to the official check-in table at the competition venue.
- c. The entry fee for each division is as follows:
  - Pro Divisions - \$50 (each)
  - Amateur Divisions- \$35
  - Additional Amateur Division - \$20
- d. Riders may enter multiple divisions depending on availability. A maximum of **any 2** Amateur Divisions will be accepted.
- e. Competitors may enter only in their appropriate gender or age. First exception: Master Division riders may enter more than two divisions as they are entitled to ride in Men's/Women's and Pro Divisions. Second exception: Youth competitors (12 & under) may also enter Junior Divisions in order to earn points for National Ranking.
- f. Entry fees include entry into selected divisions and complimentary practice sessions.
- g. All entries **MUST** be complete and submitted to the FLOW Tour Director or hosting venue prior to event practice. No entry fee refunds will be given if the competitor does not attend the event. This is subject to reasoning in certain cases.
- h. Competitors entering the Pro Divisions for both disciplines (Flowboard & Bodyboard) will pay the entry fee for both disciplines. This would make the total entry fee for the competitor \$100.
- i. If a competitor chooses to enter one Pro Division and one Amateur Division, competitor will pay the PRO entry fee of \$50 and \$20 for the Amateur Division. For example, Pro Flowboard and Men's Bodyboard, the total entry fee for the competitor will be \$70.00.
- j. All competitors **MUST** be signed up for the event prior to the scheduled practice and date of competition. All entries following the cutoff date will be subject to the \$10 late fee which will be added to the regular event entry fee and per event fees. A late fee will be added to each division entered. A late entry will be subject to the following:
  - The competitor will not be permitted to ride during the complimentary event practice sessions
  - The competitor will lose their event seeding and will be put in the next available heat

## MEMBERSHIP FEE

- a. It is **mandatory** for all competitors that wish to obtain seeding into the 2017 FLOW Tour season competitions and receive a National Ranking for chance to become a National Champion to first purchase an official Flowboarding League Of the World (FLOW) membership.
- b. Non-Members are subject to a \$10 event fee if they wish to earn National Ranking points.
- c. Non-Members who do not pay the event fee will not receive allocated result points for that event. Event fees must be paid prior to competition to earn points.
- d. The annual fee for all divisions is \$30. This one-time fee allows competitors to enter any FLOW-sanctioned event and will give the competitor a national ranking in their specific division(s).
- e. A competitor may also choose to pay the “per event” fee. This fee is \$10 and shall only be paid in cash directly to the event director.
- f. Upon membership registration the competitor will receive a membership card and will immediately be added to the membership database to receive FLOW related rankings, discounts on Tour Apparel and Merchandise sold.

## DIVISIONS

Divisions will be arranged according to age, gender and/or skill level.

### Flowboard

Pro – All ages

Men’s – 18+

Junior –17 & under, all genders

Women’s – All ages

Masters – 35 & over, all gender

Youth – 12 & under, all genders

### Bodyboard

Pro – All ages, all genders

Men’s – 18+

Junior – 17 & under, all genders

Women’s – All ages

Masters – 35 & over, all genders

Youth – 12 & under, all genders

- a. Riders may enter multiple divisions; entries will be subject to availability. A maximum of any 2 Amateur Divisions will be accepted. You may enter only in your appropriate gender or age.
  - i. If your selected division is not available you will be entered into the next available division.
  - ii. Established Professional riders may not enter Amateur divisions.
  - iii. If a rider enters the PRO division, places in top 4 and accepts prize money, that rider will be required to remain in that PRO division for the remainder of the season.
- b. A rider must compete in their respective division on the FLOW Tour according to their age as of April 22nd, 2017. Competitors will not graduate a division if they change ages in the middle of the FLOW tour season.

- c. Rated divisions: Women's, Juniors, Men's, Masters and Pro Divisions.
- d. Any riders in the Amateur Divisions may enter a Pro Division but the Pro riders cannot go back to an Amateur Division without sitting out one (1) full competition season.
- e. The only time a Pro rider may enter an Amateur Division is if it is in the opposite discipline to their Pro discipline. For example, if Pro Bodyboard is your established division, then you may enter Amateur Flowboarding. A Pro Entry fee will be paid in full and as well as an Amateur Division entry fee.
- f. If an Amateur rider enters a Pro division with prize money and they accept the prize money as an award, whether it's a FLOW-sanctioned Prime or Pro/Am event, that rider must continue to compete in the Pro Division for the rest of the season and must forego their amateur status for the remainder of the season.
- g. If the rider chooses to decline the money, then he/she will be rewarded the points and may continue to compete in an Amateur and Pro division.
- h. If an Amateur rider accepts prize money in the Pro division, they will keep their Amateur Division points accumulated up until the current event and move forward in the Pro Division.
- i. Riders that accept prize money for first through fourth will remain in the PRO division. Rider who accepts equal 5th money may return to Amateur classes.
- j. Tour Coordinator and/or Head Judge have authority to approve or deny division entries on an individual basis.
- k. All divisions will be subject change or elimination due to the amount of entries. Refer to (i) in section (a).

## **HEAT FORMATS**

- a. Pro formats versus Amateur formats may vary.
  - It is the contest Director's decision on which format will be used. Different formats may be used for different divisions.
- b. Riders will be arranged by seed, in each division in 3- to 6-person heats wherein the top 2 or 3 riders advance into next round.
- c. Riders will compete one (1) at a time and be given between 30-45 seconds per ride depending on the division.
  - Each competitor will get 3 runs per heat
  - Top 2 scores will count towards official heat results
- d. Time will begin when the rider touches the FlowRider® surface.

## SEEDING

The Tour Coordinator will determine seeding of riders and heats will be arranged with highest seed riding last.

- a. Only FLOW Tour members will be seeded. A rider's seeding will be based on his/her most current and previous year's results. The first event of the season will be seeded based on the previous end-of-year ratings.
  - The competitors will be seeded according to their adjusted ratings from event to event.
  - Only FLOW Tour members will be seeded by rankings.
- b. At the half way point of the season, current season rankings will determine seeding for remainder of season.

## CRITERIA

- a. Judges analyze the following 5 elements when scoring runs:
  - Commitment and degree of difficulty
  - Innovative and progressive maneuvers
  - Combination of major maneuvers
  - Variety of maneuvers
  - Speed, power, flow and overall style
- b. The rider who performs radical, controlled, unaided maneuvers with speed, style, and variety while utilizing the entire ride and time, will be given the highest scores.
  - Did the rider show style, control & execute combination tricks during their run?
  - Did rider make use of the entire ride surface?
  - Did rider take full advantage of time clock?

## JUDGING

Judges score on a 0.1 – 10 point scale. Judges analyze the aforementioned criteria along with the following elements when scoring runs.

Based on the criteria, every rider's run is broken down further into 3 categories:

1. **Execution**
  - a. Minor Falter (Hand Check) - A slight hand check during the landing with minimal effect on the rider's momentum is considered a Minor Falter. A range of 0.1 to 0.9 points will be deducted for each Minor Falter during the run.
  - b. Major Falter (Double Hand Check or Butt Checking) - A Major Falter is if both hands and/or the rider's butt touches the ride surface during the landing with substantial effect on the rider's momentum by changing direction or event coming to a complete stop. A range of 1.0-1.9 points will be deducted for each Major Falter during the run.

- c. Wipeout (Loss of control, two feet off the board, leaves riding surface) - This is when the rider is completely separated from their board at any stage during the run. If a rider unintentionally has both feet on the ride surface, it is considered a fall. A rider is limited to 2 falls during a run. A range of 2.0-2.5 points will be deducted for each fall during the run.

## 2. **Difficulty**

- a. Tricks performed - The judge will be comparing and differentiating between each rider's tricks and separate them by technical difficulty, this includes switch tricks.
- b. Amplitude - The judge will be aware of the height the rider gets on each trick. The bigger the better.
- c. Position - The judge will be aware of where the tricks are being performed. Is trick performed across the wave? Is trick performed in the flats? Is trick performed off the rail? Did rider make use of the entire ride surface? All these are separating factors between tricks and maneuvers.
- d. Timing - The judges will take note of *when* a trick is performed during a run. Is the rider going big early? Are they holding back until the end? If a rider is showing more risk in the beginning, then they will be rewarded. Judges are also aware of the use of clock throughout the run. Did rider waste time? Did rider complete a final trick before time? Did rider take full advantage of time clock?

## 3. **Variety/Overall Impression**

- a. Style - As much as this is subjective, a judge must be conscious of a rider's style. This is not a defining factor of this category but rather a supporting category to help separate riders from one another.
- b. Variation/Uniqueness - A judge must look for variation in the riders run. Repeating tricks can seem like a crutch unless they perform a trick bigger and better than before. Are they switching up the order of the tricks and not being predictable? Is rider showing a variation tricks? Are they doing tricks that no-one else is doing?
- c. Comfort - How comfortable does the rider look? Are they riding with confidence, showing that they know where they are on the wave at all times and that they can be comfortable in every section of the wave? Does it look effortless?
- d. Transition/Combination Maneuvers - Are riders transitioning from trick to trick? A run that is methodical can hurt a rider as it looks to be planned. Did the rider show style, control & execute combination tricks during their run? The run must look "seamless" and smooth linking each trick to make the run look as perfect as it can within allowed time.

## **SCORING**

Judges will submit a score (0.1-10) for each individual rider after each run.

Judging scale:

[0.0 — 1.9: Poor]

[2.0 — 3.9: Fair]

[4.0 — 5.9: Average]

[6.0 — 7.9: Good]

[8.0 — 10.0: Excellent]

Judging scoring scale will reset for each heat.

- Once the rider has had their 3 runs, their top 2 scores will be added together to give a final score out 20.
- The rider with the highest combined score will be in first followed by second highest and so on.
- Results will be determine by final placings from all 3 judges
- The rider with the lowest combined placing results will be the winner, followed by second lowest and so on.

**NOTE:** A tiebreaker will only be required if there is a tie on the master tally sheet.

**Rule 1** – The rider that has the highest single score out of the tied riders, based off the sheet from the judge who has them tied, will be placed higher.

**Rule 2** – The rider that has the highest total sum of their top ride score based off all three judges, will be placed higher.

**Rule 3** – The rider that has the highest total sum of their top 2 ride scores from all three judges, will get the higher placing.

**Rule 4** – If there is no other way a tie can be broken then the tied riders must have a flow-off

## **JUDGING/SCORING PROTESTS**

- a. Riders may review judges score sheets up to 10 minutes after results have been announced.
- b. Written protests may be submitted to Head Judge or Contest Director only.
- c. Head Judge or Contest Director will have sole discretion regarding all protests.
- d. All judging or scoring protests may ONLY be submitted to the Head Judge and/or Contest Director.
- e. ONLY the competitor that is involved in that particular heat may submit a protest. (No relatives or friends may submit on the rider's behalf).
- f. A scoring/judging protest may be submitted within 15 minutes after the result has been announced. This is subject to the availability of the Head Judge and/or Contest Director.

## **PROTEST PROCEDURE:**

The procedure for a protest is as follows:

1. Approach the Head Judge and/or Contest Director to view the judge score sheets within 10 minutes of results announcement.
2. The heat sheets may only be viewed in or around the judging compound and may not be taken to be viewed independently or viewed without the Head Judge and/or Contest Director present.
3. The first item that the Head Judge and/or Contest Director will check the math. If a mistake was made when adding up the scores it will be corrected immediately. If there is no mistake then we will move on to the next step.
4. The next step is to see if the results were unanimous from all the judges. If the result was unanimous, then NOTHING can be done or changed. If it is not unanimous then it is the Head Judge's decision on whether or not to take it further.
5. If there are no mathematical errors and if the result is unanimous, then that is the final decision. NOTHING CAN OR WILL BE CHANGED!!!!

***NOTE: WHEN MAKING A PROTEST, THE RIGHT PROCEDURES NEED TO BE FOLLOWED OTHERWISE THE EVENT DIRECTOR/ CONTEST DIRECTOR/ HEAD JUDGE MAY CHOOSE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS.***

## **JUDGE'S SELECTION**

Since flowboarding is a grassroots sport, there's not much bandwidth to have a consistent judging staff. Often times the most experienced competitors are the most qualified to judge the events and end up jumping into the role. However, those riders are first and foremost there to compete and focus on the tour title chase.

Whether it's a professional or amateur sporting event, unbiased officiating is paramount to ensure that all the rules are followed and the competitive field is fair across the board. The good news is that as our sport grows, the amount of individuals gaining experience and knowledge for the rules, regulations and judging criteria is growing!

- a. Head Judge/Contest Director will be responsible for the judge's panel.
- b. Head Judge/Contest Director will determine appropriate qualified personnel to serve on panel.
- c. Head Judge/Contest Director will be responsible for pre-event meeting to review all panel rules.
- d. All new judges/officials shall be subject to pre-event practice judging under the supervision of the head judge/Contest Director
- e. Head Judge/Contest Director will have final say on all scoring decisions.
- f. Head Judge/Contest Director is the only person who can give exact agenda schedule times during event.

- g. No Judge shall discuss with any competitor their scores during event. Rider will always be directed to Head Judge.

## **AWARDS**

- a. Medals to be given to top 3 in each rated division (See 3d).
- b. Prize money will be awarded to Pro Divisions in both Bodyboard and Flowboard.
- c. Overall Tour champions – National Tour champs will be crowned in Women’s, Juniors, Men’s, Masters and Pro Divisions.
- Adjusted Ratings: Overall Tour Champions will be determined by adding the individual competitor’s top 6 Prime and FLOW Sanctioned events event point totals.
  - In case of a tie breaker, we will add a 7th result.
  - If still tied after 7th result, we will count the overall sum of all events entered.
- d. USA FLOW team will consist of the overall tour champions for the Pro Women’s Flowboard, Pro Bodyboard and Pro Flowboard Divisions. These champions will be determined by adding the individual competitors top 6 Prime event point totals.
- e. FLOW Tour Pro division Champions and Team USA representatives will receive a roundtrip ticket to the World Flowboarding Championships.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- a. Riders may ride boards provided by park or use your own venue/FLOW Tour approved boards.
- b. All boards must be FlowRider- or Venue-approved.
- c. All boards subject to inspection from Tour Coordinator, Head Judge & venue personnel upon request.
- d. Head Judge will make final call with venue management’s input & approval.

## **CONDUCT**

- a. Any rider or spectator who causes willful destruction or damage to property or damage to FLOW’s (Flowboarding League Of the World) image and sport through poor sportsmanship or ill behavior will be subject to disciplinary action. This also applies to any threats or bad behavior towards participants and officials, which include judges, event staff, contest directors and venue managers/owners.
- b. Any parent or relative of any rider/competitor, who causes willful destruction or damage to property, or damage to FLOW’s (Flowboarding League Of the World) image and sport through poor sportsmanship or ill behavior, will be subject to disciplinary action. This also applies to any threats or bad behavior towards participants and officials, which include judges, event staff, contest directors and venue managers/owners. If a situation occurs, parents or legal guardians of the competitor will be required to read and sign the official Parent Code of Conduct sheet.

- c. Any coaching or assistance from a coach/parent/friend must be conducted in a good sportsmanship manner. If a rider requires coaching or assistance during competition, they will need to do so from outside of the FlowRider riding area. No coach/parent/friend will be allowed on the FlowRider walkways/ nozzles/ exit area or ride surface during competition.
- d. Penalties of proper conduct will include score deductions and/or event suspensions.
- e. The Tour Director will enforce score deductions and tour suspensions in severe circumstances.

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

### FlowRider FLOW Tour Prime event

A FlowRider FLOW Tour Prime event will have a minimum of a \$2,500 prize money pool. This prize money is to be split between the Pro divisions. Payouts may be determine based on division participation.

These events will also have a weighted point system which will be awarded to the competitors according to their final placings in their respective divisions. The top 6 Prime point totals for each competitor will be added together to determine the overall tour champions in each division. The top 3 finishes in each rated division will also be acknowledged and awarded at the end of the season.

### FlowRider FLOW Tour Pro/Am events

A Pro/Am event does not have a guaranteed prize purse offering. A prize money pool of the venue's choice may be offered. Competitors, those who are FLOW Tour Members, will be awarded event points based on their final placing that will contribute to their National Rankings (FLOW Tour Members ONLY). These events are to create competition awareness and grow the ridership in their respective areas.

## POINT ALLOCATIONS

After each event, competitors are awarded points based on their respective placing and the better the results, the more points they earn.

<i><b>PRIME Event</b></i>		<i><b>Pro/Am Events</b></i>	
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
1st	1000	1st	500
2nd	860	2nd	430
3rd	731	3rd	365.5
4th	614	4th	307
=5th	503	=5th	251.5
=6th	440	=6th	220
=7th	377	=7th	188.5
=9th	267	=9th	133.5
=11th	221	=11th	110.5
=13th	174	=13th	87.0
=17th	104	=17th	52.0