

Dear WSL,

This is an official petition, on behalf of the Championship Tour Surfers, asking for the mid-year cut-off format to be reconsidered and disregarded, following up on an in-depth discussion, which took place at the WPS Meeting on April 11th, 2022.

Here are some of the issues of major concern to the Surfers in relation to the mid-season cut-off:

A substantial number of the Surfers are greatly concerned that the cut this year will leave them with reduced income, after the impact this new format had on their current sponsorship contracts, with reduced prospects of re qualifying for the 2023 CT. In addition, the level of prize money on Challenger Series events is much below the levels expected when the Special Committee approved the new CT format.

The Surfers incur large costs, relative to average individual income, to compete on both CT and CS events, which makes doing so uneconomic.

Back in 2020, when the WSL negotiated with us this new format, we were told that the calendars of CT and CS wouldn't have any conflict. We would be able to finish the CT and then focus on the CS. Now, having the CT Surfers obliged to compete also in CS events, is resulting in "event congestion" for many Athletes, who have to compete in back-to-back CT and CS events, potentially adversely affecting their preparation for remaining CT events.

Also, there has been an increase in injuries this season which compounds the problem. There is no transparency regarding the future of the Surfers that got injured during/before Pipe and are unable to make the cut, with only 2 injury wildcards available. Some of them might not even have a chance to surf the Tour, after working/investing so hard to qualify. Many are still surfing/competing while injured, even with concussions, to requalify for next year's CT. It is not healthy for elite athletes to compete in too many events in such a short period. Most of them are mentally exhausted and mental health has always been our major concern. As a next step to this petition, the Surfers would like to meet as soon as possible to discuss these concerns. We understand that new formats need to be explored to make the CT sustainable. We also understand that the Margaret River event has been sold at a premium value and the "cut drama" has been built throughout the broadcast, but we don't want this cut to happen.

We feel as surfers that we have shown our willingness to work with the WSL, but the WSL hasn't shown much willingness to work with us. We tried to go back to the WSL with ideas and proposals during covid that would have been better for all of us. We have tried to help by finding solutions to save money and run events faster, by doing overlapping heats, changing the round 1/2 format to what it is now so that it brackets down from 32 at round 3, and surfing rounds 1 and 2 in poor conditions at most events so that the events can finish sooner, or on the day that the WSL decides. We have sacrificed our prize money twice in the past 5 years, when we agreed to keep the round of losers in the format back in 2018 and to avoid the cut last year. We are still recovering from what we went through last year, when

dealing with the higher costs to travel, due to last minute event cancelations, quarantine, and other logistical challenges.

We have also shown our willingness by adopting the WSL Finals concept, since we wanted to support the League to create new products to generate revenue for the business.

The mid-year cut has made being a CT surfer much harder from a mental health and financial standpoint and we do not see it as a sustainable path forward.

Thanks for your attention,

World Championship Surfers

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