



## Alaia Judging Criteria: 2011

"A surfer must perform **controlled manoeuvres** in the **critical sections** of a wave, with **speed, rhythm & flow** to maximize scoring potential.

**A variety and combination of major manoeuvres** as well as **drifting and sliding with control** and **fluid transition between manoeuvres** will be taken into account when rewarding points for Alaia surfing.

The surfer who executes these criteria above with the maximum **degree of difficulty** and **commitment** on the waves will be rewarded with the higher scores."

### Alaia Scoring Guidelines

1. The judging scale will be the normal 10 point scale with normal ISA/SA contest rules applying.
2. The aggregate of the best 2 rides will decide the final score for each surfer and interferences will be adjudicated according to the ISA/SA Surfing Rulebook.
3. It's important to note that the emphasis of certain key words and elements of the criteria is contingent upon the location of the event and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions during the competition day.
4. A surfer does not automatically score high because of wave size or quality. The surfer must still comply with most of the key elements of the criteria at the event locations to capitalise on full scoring potential.
5. It is the responsibility of every Contest Director and Judge to promote the above ideas and criteria, to ensure all competitors develop a standard approach and understanding of what is expected from an elite performer riding a Alaia surfboard.

### Alaia Surfboard Dimensions & Guidelines

The traditional solid wooden Alaia surfboard design can only be used. All Alaia surf boards competing in the Australian Surf Masters Titles must be finless and of the minimum and maximum dimensions and bottom shape as stated below.

Length: Minimum 5'2" to a Maximum of 7'6"

Width must be a minimum of fifteen (15") inches wide measured from the half way point on the surfboard

Nose width must be of a minimum of twelve (12") inches wide, Six (6) inches down from the tip of the nose.

Tail width must be of a minimum of fourteen and a half (14 ½") inches wide, six (6) inches up from the tip/s of the tail.

The Bottom configurations allowable will include flat, vee, concaves and chine's.

No hot curl bottoms or raised beads of resins will be allowed.

No chambers or hollows inside of the timber construction will be allowed, ALL Alaia surfboards will be of solid wood construction.

It is recommended that the traditional "bullet" shaped outlined be used with variations to the outline and different tails allowable.

## **Basic Maneuvers**

**The Take Off:** There are a variety of ways to take off. You can drop in straight, slide sideways, backwards, into a 360 drift, or set the edge and go backwards toward the pocket. They can be tricks as well as functional ways to get into a position in the wave to gain speed or set up for the next maneuver.

**The Cut Back:** Possibly the most phenomenal maneuver in finless surfing is the cutback at speed, way out on the shoulder. The finless board can maintain speed on a soft shoulder, giving extra currency to solid rail cutbacks that displace an amazing amount of water.

**The Rebound:** After the cut back, the finless board will head back at the whitewash with speed and acceleration. There are many possibilities for maneuvers when you rebound off the lip or the whitewash, including 360s, aerials, sliding into and then coming out of the tube. This area needs to be explored and names given to moves.

**The Tube ride:** The finless board has incredible down-the-line speed, possessing the ability to accelerate out of a deep tube as well as stall and sideslip in the tube. One variation of the tube ride is to pull into a close down tube and then side slip out in the whitewash.

**The 360 Spin:** At first glance, they look like a trick for points. But there can be a real function to the 360 spin. This maneuver can act like a coil to spring you out of an un-makeable spot. The sliding tail causes the board to flex into the wave, and the stored energy throws out a bit of extra speed at the end. A wave's energy goes in circular motions and it seems the 360 spin is a natural extension of this.

**The Lala or Side Slip:** "Lala" is the ancient Hawaiian word for alaia surfing. It is defined as the controlled slide in the pocket. The root of alaia surfing is grabbing the wave with the edge, releasing into a drift, and then gaining control again with the edge. Although this maneuver may be hard to see for the spectator, it displays the surfer's control and finesse.

## **A brief over view of the history of Alaia surfing**

The name Alaia is in respect to the length of the wooden board and level of stature in traditional Hawaiian society.

Surfing has always been called the sport of Kings, this reflects back to when a tree is first selected the first and largest piece of timber was used for the King.

These "first cuts" and subsequent surf boards were called "Olo" and were traditionally around 16 feet in length.

The second cuts were for the "commoners" and were called "Alaia" these were traditionally 5 to 7 feet in length.

The third cuts were for the children and younger men and were called "Paipo" and were shorter and used for body boarding.

Alaia surfing is ancient, and we are just discovering it again. Although we are moving away from pure Hawaiian roots, using the name will forever give the Hawaiians the respect and credit due for this style of surfing.