



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

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World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

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TO: CSLSA Board of Directors
FROM: Jay Butki
SUBJECT: Competition Committee Report
DATE: October 22, 2004

Discussion on pending National USLA Competition Committee Proposals

1. Require presence at all heat marshalling to be eligible for participation in Finals CSLSA supports the proposal.
2. Requiring competitors to wear the appropriate wrist band throughout the USLA national competition. -CSLSA supports
3. Preclude women from racing in Men's Open events, except where there is not a corresponding Open Women's event -CSLSA Supports
4. Addition of a Surfboat rowing leg to the American Ironwoman - CSLSA is opposed
5. Restricting a competitor to either an Open event, or their respective age group event but not both -CSLSA is opposed, continue past practice and allow lifeguards to race in Age Groups and Open events if they so choose.

Discussion on athletes aging down to race in Masters competition.

-CSLSA is of the opinion that you should be allowed to race in only one age group. If you are racing in the Surfboat or rescue races you should still only be allowed to compete in one age group - either the athlete's appropriate age group or if they are racing with a younger partner than age down to that specific age group. USLA needs to clamp down on the racing in multiple age groups.

Craft Inspections

Surf Racing equipment from Australian manufacturers: ie., Bennett, Hayden, Dolphin, Force Field -- are already stamped and permanently labeled as meeting SLSA specifications which are currently identical to USLA specs. Gear so labeled should not have to be scrutinized and rechecked which currently wastes a lot of time at Nationals. Current SLSA rules have the top three place finalist's gear checked, measured and weighed after they have raced. CSLSA recommends USLA start doing the same.

Substitutions during National Team's events

(Landline, Run relay, Rescue Race, Rescue Board race)

Team members should be allowed to be replaced during competition due to any reason, especially injury to an athlete. CSLSA recommends an open system for substitution between heats and finals, just as in US Swimming.

Ineligible Competitors

Need to clarify Specs for who can and cannot compete and appropriate consequences.

On that subject, CSLSA believes a method should be developed for talented JG's who are over the age of 16 to compete in Open events if they choose. An opportunity to allow talented members of Cadet programs, Captain's Corps., AA's, etc. to race and develop their skills. We need to develop a better transition for our younger competitors to develop their skills and learn the techniques and crafts to race successfully. The USLA had the oldest athletes of any of the National teams at Rescue 2004 partially due to the fact that in other countries they are racing surfskis and in Open events at the age 15. Four-time National team Member and CSLSA member Rob Pelkey is one of many JG's that have competed in Open competitions over the years. We should be encouraging our talented youth... not holding them back.

Regionals

Questions on team scoring: Team point totals have not been made available. We will attempt to track down the overall and publish the scores on the web site. Currently CSLSA still scores Open to 10th place and 1-5 in the 10 year age groups.

2005 Regionals-Long Beach, CA July 22 for JG's and July 23 for Southwest Regionals

Officials - We need to encourage and develop new officials for future Regionals. Any interested parties please contact Jay Butki, Rob McGowan or Bob Moore.

2006 Regionals - Api has been lobbying for some time and the consensus liked the choice of a Salt Creek Beach venue.

Discussion on the merits of awarding a site for Regionals for 2 years

History has shown that attendance at Regionals has dropped off on the second year at the last several Regional sites. The majority would like to return to the variety of having a different venue each year. This is advantageous both to encourage variety as well as promote different beaches. Also in these times of high gas prices, it would keep everyone in the state from driving all the way down to Imperial Beach (for example) two summers in a row. As the average Seasonal Lifeguard only works for a couple of years, this would allow them to race at a couple different venues during their career and also allow different chapters to get their Lifeguards to a competition. The only dissenting voices come from the Junior Lifeguard coordinators who expressed they preferred the 2 years at the same venue, however none of the dissenting voices were offering to host Regionals for 2 consecutive years any time in the near future.

We believe it will be both easier to find hosts if they only have to commit for one summer and allow for more variety. Pre-planning should not be compromised as the venue proposals would be accepted and voted on at the Spring meetings in the year prior to the event. This would allow a full 15 months for event planning. Further discussion to occur at the Spring 2005 CSLSA meeting.

Southwest Region Surfing Championships

Kyle Daniels from LA County brought up the proposal to create a CSLSA Surfing Regional Championship to include Longboard, Shortboard and Bodysurfing. These would be held at a different time and venue than the Regional surf Lifesaving Championships. Further discussion to occur at the Spring 2005 CSLSA meeting.

Questions brought up regarding insurance and who covers what for the various USLA and CSLSA events. Southwest Region would like to learn more about getting an umbrella policy to cover the individual Regionals, or chapters and / or agencies who host local surf lifesaving

competitions to foster more competitions.

2005 Competition Calendar:

Please get dates and info on any upcoming events or competitions to Jay Butki or email to the CSLSA web site.

2006 USLA Nationals

CSLSA will make the proposal for Huntington State Beach to be the site for the West Coast USLA Nationals in August 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Butki
Competition Committee Chair

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