



# California Surf Lifesaving Association

Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: [www.cslsa.org](http://www.cslsa.org)

**TO: CSLSA Board of Directors**  
**FROM: Jay Butki**  
**SUBJECT: Fall 2008 Competition Committee Report**  
**DATE: October 16, 2008**

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## **Fall 2008 USLA National Board of Directors Competition Committee Meeting**

Should the Region and the USLA make the 20% adjustment to the Board of Directors to meet the US Olympic Committee's standards to become the US National Governing Body for Lifesaving? **As the CSLSA Competition Chair, I strongly believe we need to pursue the proposal and urge a yes vote by the CSLSA board.**

I undertook the task of rewriting our USLA rules in 2006 solely so we could present them to the USOC for consideration to be accepted as the NGB for Lifesaving in the USA. This would finally put the USLA equally on par with every other national team we compete against internationally. Current USLA membership is some 4,000 Lifeguards and 8,500 Junior Lifeguards, so roughly 12% of our Lifeguard membership competes at the USLA National Lifeguard Championships annually, and I'm not sure what the percentage is for Junior Lifeguards, but on a Regional level I would imagine the percentages are even higher. I see it as a positive step to allow the member athletes both a voice, and the chance to participate is a big step towards improvement of our JG and Lifeguard competitions and I'm sure that every Lifeguard competitor is equally devoted to the primary mission of the USLA. The USOC NGB idea is not to transform the USLA, or for that matter to change it in a hugely significant way, but rather to help strengthen the athletic aspect of lifesaving and to help it stand on its own two feet. By doing so, we may well be able to increase the financial and other support of lifesaving sport, while freeing up USLA general fund monies currently spent on lifesaving sport for other purposes. The association with the USOC is a huge boost to our organizations stature, and having the Olympic rings on our web site sure would be very significant and would assist in defining and lifting our Association's marketing stature. The USLA is the only national Lifesaving Association not already recognized as the National Governing Body (NGB) with their national sport and Olympic committees, the International Life Saving Federation does the same with the International Olympic Committee and has athletic representation on it's board. Lifesaving is now on par with Baseball and Softball in the IOC recognized sports. The World Games for IOC-recognized sports will be contested next year in Taiwan.

Lifesaving is on the short list of possible demonstration sports for the 2012 games in London, just as it was in 1956 in Melbourne when Bob Burnside created the NSLSA in order to represent the US, and 2001 Goodwill Games. The whole goal of the sport side of lifesaving is to increase the fitness and improve the rescue skills of the Lifeguards and Junior Lifeguards that we represent, and a USOC affiliation represents a giant stride towards that aim. The promotional and marketing impact of a nationally recognized and ranked USLA lifesaving team should not be over looked, as it has not been overlooked in our peer nations who use competition to raise both the stature of lifesaving, assist in public education and increase their fund raising and marketing opportunities. This had been ongoing in Australia and New Zealand for decades and we all have witnessed their successes in promotion and marketing. Japan, South Africa, Great Britain and Canada have already surpassed us, both in marketing, fund raising and public education.

If you believe in the concept of USLA, you believe in the concept that all we do is important. If we can find a way to better support an element of our services, whatever it may be, we strengthen the entire organization....nowhere has it been suggested to detour from the primary goal of the USLA. As CSLSA Competition Chair, I am firmly in support of the USOC NGB proposal and consider it long overdue.

Further CSLSA-proposed rule changes to be voted on at the Fall USLA National BoD meeting include:

1. Add Open Women's Taplin Relay
2. Add Open Men's & Open Women's 3 person Board Relay
3. Add Open Men's & Open Women's 3 person Surfski Relay
4. Seed Regional Champions to pole positions in the Surfboat preliminary heats.

**2008 CSLSA Regional Championships Seal Beach on July 25 & 26**

The 2008 West Coast Lifeguard Regionals were contested with great success. Thanks to the support staff of the Seal Beach Lifeguards and assistance from the Long Beach Lifeguard boat, this was by far the easiest set-up and break-down of any competition in which I have been involved. Kudos to the Seal Beach Crew. Thanks to Scott Hubbell Productions, Bob Moore & Bill Richardson and the rest of the CSLSA volunteer crew for another successful Regionals.

**20<sup>th</sup> Wieland Shield –Aug 1, 2 Hermosa Beach & Torrance Beach**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Wieland Shield tour began at the San Clemente Ocean Festival and dinner at Mitch Kahn's house overlooking Cotton's point, followed by a pounding on Bruticus Maximus at the Surf House and tours of the USOC facilities at Chula Vista, then continuing with a surf session, a TJ tour hosted by IB's Rich Hidalgo, a Laguna adventure with Lt. Scott Diederich, a 2 day jaunt circling Catalina Island on board Baywatch with Captain Rob Pelkey, a full day of racing at Seal Beach Regionals, and then the main event.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Shield was marked by one significant injury: During warm ups for the surf race, Australia's top swimmer threw an accidental elbow while bodysurfing and partially ruptured the eardrum of their top ironwoman. As only the top woman scores in each of the women's events, that hurt the depth of our California side against the tourists. Along with Victoria's Board & Ski dominance, the combination proved to be our undoing.

Despite winning the Surf Rescue Relay and the Women's Taplin under the lights at the International Surf festival and coming out on top on Day 2, California lost to Victoria and the Shield heads back Down Under until we return to reclaim her in January 2010.

	Victoria	California
Day 1 Total	29	21
Day 2 Total	29	31
Final Score	58	52

California's Team:

Tracy Crothers, Tandis Morgan, Cori Raffaelli, Micah Carlson, Chad Carvin, Pat Cary, Kyle Daniels, Tyler Morgan, Brian Murphy, Mike Murphy-LA County, Micah Burden-Huntington Beach.

Manager: Jay Butki, Coaches: Scott Diederich, Rob Pelkey

**2008 USLA National Lifeguard Championships and Junior Lifeguard Championships August 7, 8 & 9 South Pier Manhattan Beach**

I was too intimately involved to be objective, but I heard it was the best Nationals ever and I'll accept that compliment on behalf of the organizing committee, Scott Hubbell Productions, LACOLA and the Officials and Volunteers...

**2008 Duke's Oceanfest Waterman Challenge**

August 23 & 24, 2008 Waikiki

A team of 8 LA County Lifeguards defeated Hawaii's best watermen in the SeaHawaii Waterman Challenge, consisting of 500m, 1000m, and 2000m swims, plus stand-up paddle and a 6-man Outrigger Canoe relay.

The same team finished an equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Duke's Surf Plo Tournament at the Hilton Hawaiian Lagoon.

**2008 Sanyo Bussan International Lifesaving Cup Sept 7, 2008**

The USLA was invited to have a US team compete at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sanyo Bussan at Onjukyu Beach. The Sanyo Bussan is based around a made for television competition program conducted to promote Lifesaving and the performance of the Japanese athletes, which includes rescue relay, board, surf ski and beach events. An overall point score is kept with the winner being declared the Champion of the 6 team 13 event competition.

USLA Team: Tracy Crothers, Tандis Morgan, Pat Cary, Brian Murphy, Micah Carlson-LA County, CA , Caroline Marani-Capitola, CA, Kristen Purdey, Garrett Thibodeau-Smithpoint, NY, Dustin McLarty-Volusia County, FL, Emily Ward-Hampton, NY, Manager / Coach-Jay Butki- LA County, CA

The US Team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall-the first time a US team has place top 3 overall in a competition since 1992! Nine of the 10- USLA athletes ended up medaling!!

Final Results:

- Australia
- Japan A-Open
- USA
- Japan B-Under 23
- South Africa
- Great Britain

Thanks to all the USLA athletes for their commitment to excellence, and to the USLA for it's support , and a special thanks to Patagonia for the uniforms and clothing. All of the USLA National Team members showed great spirit and skills.

#### Future Events

**March 27-29, 2009 -Six Nations /3<sup>rd</sup> International Surf Rescue Challenge**-Durban, South Africa

**May 22, 2009- Lifeguard Relays, Dory Race, Pier to Pier Paddle**- Hermosa Pier

**June 13, 2009- Ed Perry Lifeguard Regatta**-Venice

**July 18, 2009-San Clemente Ocean Festival**

**July 24, 25, 2009 -CSLSA Regional Championships**-Seal Beach

**July 31, Aug 1-International Surf Festival**- LA County Intracrew Relays, Taplin Relays-Manhattan Bch.

**August 6, 7, 8, 2009 -USLA National Lifeguard Championships** Ft Lauderdale, FL ??

**Aug 22, 23, 2009- Duke's Oceanfest Waterman Challenge**, Waikiki

**Sept 2009 -Sanyo Bussan International Lifesaving Cup**

**October 10, 11, 2009 -World Masters Games**, Sydney Australia

**Jan 2010 21<sup>st</sup> Wieland Shield**-Victoria, Australia

**June/July 2010 ILSF Rescue 2010 Lifesaving World Championships**-Cornwall, Great Britain

**2010 CSLSA Regional Championships**-?

**2010 USLA National Lifeguard Championships**-? Southwest Region hosts?

**2011 4<sup>th</sup> International Surf Rescue Challenge**-New Zealand

Respectfully submitted,

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