



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

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TO: CSLSA Board of Directors
FROM: Jay Butki
SUBJECT: Spring 2007 Competition Committee Report
DATE: April 13, 2007

A hearty "Thank You" for the 19th Wieland Shield Tour assistance to the California Team goes to CSLSA, LACOLA, LACOLA Trust Fund, SDSLA and over 200 individual donors for their monetary donations, and to Patagonia, Surftech, Quiksilver Edition, Surftech Australia, Xcel, Bennett Surfboards, Sangria Restaurant, Surf Lifesaving Victoria, Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club, Anglesea Surf Lifesaving Club, Torquay Surf Lifesaving Club and others for their assistance with the 2007 tour.

Agenda Items for the 2007 Spring USLA National Board of Directors Meeting

Southwest Region USLA Competition Rule Change Proposals-

1. Add ILS Open Women's Board Rescue-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-this is an ILS event and raced everywhere else and our Women have been disadvantaged as it is not practiced by the USLA-Event to be held after the Men's Open Board Rescue on Day 2. Pre-lim heats as necessary on Thursday.
2. Add ILS Open Men and Open Women 3 person Surfski Relay-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-Open only held on Day 1-Friday. Prelim heats as necessary on Thursday.
3. Add ILS Open Men and Open Women 3 person Board Relay-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-Open Only held on Day 2-Saturday. Prelim heats as necessary on Thursday.
4. Establish an Open Point Score Championship-a second category in addition to the Overall-where points are accumulated only through Open events-no age groups. This would mirror ILS, and other Surf Life Saving Countries Championships.

Discuss the required changes to the current course set up in order to meet agreed upon ILS Standards.

Competition Caps- Current USLA rules state "no numbers, writing or letters" - however we have Chapters that have writing on their current caps. ILS allows writing on the caps, but no advertising. We need to adopt ILS standards and get all our chapters caps in a data base. I've been asked by the ILS and SLSA to get a final list of Competition Cap designs from all the USLA chapters. The goal

is to get them all the Cap designs from all the Chapters / clubs in the ILS member nations so they can be recognized and up on the web site. After this summer there will be no more duplication of design, only original designs / colors will be accepted by the ILS.

It's been a pet peeve of mine and I've tried over the past few National BoD meetings to get the regions to submit their Comp Cap designs, so we can set up a cheat sheet to aid the announcers at Nationals. We need to get this done and raise our game. I have a presentation to show when this topic comes up.

Discuss the Rescue Race changes-ILS Rules make this event into a 4 person open Men's and Open women's event adding two Rescuers on the beach to bring the victim on shore and across the finish line. All the other International Countries and the ILS use a Rescue Tube for this event clipping the victim in on the offshore side of the flag / buoy line, USLA currently uses a "Mini or maxi Rescue Can. Which should we be using at USLA events? Also discuss merits of adding ILS Rescue Tube Race for the Age Groups to replace the USLA Rescue Race.

Judges / Referee Clinic-only 5 officials currently from Southwest Region

Southwest Region USLA Competition Rule Change Proposals- (listed in order of importance):

1. Add ILS Open Women's Board Rescue-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-this is an ILS event and raced everywhere else and our Women have been disadvantaged as it is not practiced by the USLA-Event to be held after the Men's Open Board Rescue on Day 2. Pre-lim heats as necessary on Thursday.
2. Add ILS Open Men and Open Women 3 person Surfski Relay-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-Open only held on Day 1-Friday. Prelim heats as necessary on Thursday.
3. Add ILS Open Men and Open Women 3 person Board Relay-maximum of 4 Teams per Chapter-Open Only held on Day 2-Saturday. Prelim heats as necessary on Thursday.
4. Establish an Open Point Score Championship-a second category in addition to the Overall-where points are accumulated only through Open events-no age groups. This would mirror ILS, and other Surf Life Saving Countries Championships.

Rule Change Proposals for the USLA National Board of Directors Meeting Chicago Competition meeting:

4 Competition Committee Proposals-

2007 Spring USLA Rule clarification / edit proposals from the Southwest Region:

- 1.9 Comp Categories,
- 4.3 Comp Caps,
- 4.4 Heats / Final numbers, and
- 5.10 Surfboats

1.) Edit USLA Competition Category 1.9 definitions and insert the following:

1.9 Competition Categories

USLA competition events shall be conducted as one of the 5 following age group / gender categories:

Open-Any bona fide and certified member of a USLA Chapter may compete

Open Men-Open to only bona fide and certified Male members of a USLA Chapter

Open Women-Open to only bona fide and certified Female members of a USLA Chapter

Masters Men: Restricted to 30 years plus Male age groups in 5 year increments to 65 (30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 and above)

Masters Women: restricted to 30 years plus Female age groups in 5 year increments to 65 (30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 and above)

2 Open Events:

1. Landline Rescue Race-4 Teams per Chapter
2. Taplin relay-4 Teams per Chapter

12 Open Men's events-

1. Surf Race
2. Run-Swim-Run
3. Rescue Board Race
4. Ironman
5. American Ironman
6. Surfski Race
7. Surfboat Race
8. 2 Kilometer Beach Run
9. Beach Flags
10. Beach Relay-4 Teams per Chapter
11. Rescue Race-4 Teams per Chapter
12. Board Rescue race-4 Teams per Chapter

12 Open Women's Events:

1. Surf Race
2. Run-Swim-Run
3. Rescue Board Race
4. Ironwoman
5. American Ironwoman
6. Surfski Race
7. Surfboat Race
8. 2 Kilometer Beach Run
9. Beach Flags

10. Beach Relay- 4 Teams per Chapter
11. Rescue Race- 4 Teams per Chapter
12. Board Rescue Race- 4 Teams per Chapter

9 Masters Age Group events:

1. Surf Race
2. Run-Swim-Run
3. Rescue Board Race
4. Ironman / Ironwoman
5. American Ironman / Ironwoman
6. Surfski Race
7. Surfboat Race
8. Beach Flags
9. 2 Kilometer Beach Run

4.7 GROUPS

All Open Men's, Open Women's and Masters age groups events will be run independently of each other.

Masters age groups may be run together and are run as **FINALS IN THE MORNING**. Other groups can be combined only with the consent of the affected competitors, or when two groups combined total no more than 16 competitors for craft events, and 42 for Surf Race or Run-Swim Run. (see 4.4 "Heats / Finals Competitor Limits").

All groups will always be placed and scored separately.

The usual order will be: Open Men first, Open Women second, 30-34, 35-39 Men third, 30-34, 35-39 Women fourth, 40-44, 45-49 Men sixth, 40-44, 45-49 Women seventh, etc."

2.) Edit USLA Comp rules 4.3 definitions and insert the proposed verbage:

HISTORY:

Competition Caps-

Current USLA rules state "no numbers, writing or letters permitted" -however we currently have Chapters that have writing on their caps.

ILS allows writing on the caps, but no advertising.

We need to adopt ILS standards and get all our chapters caps into a USLA Competition Cap data base.

I've been asked by the ILS and SLSA to get a final list of Competition Cap designs from all the USLA chapters. The goal is to get them all the Cap designs from all the Chapters / clubs in the ILS member nations so they can be recognized and up on the web site.

After this summer there will be no more duplication of design, only original designs / colors will be accepted by the ILS.

It's been a pet peeve of mine that the USLA has no record of Chapter Competition Caps and I've tried over the past few National BoD meetings to get the regions to submit their Comp Cap designs, so we can set up a "cheat sheet" to aid the announcers at Nationals. We need to get this done and raise our game.

CURRENT VERBAGE:

4.3 BEANIES/HELMETS/JERSEYS" -- Each individual Chapter will be responsible to designate a color that will represent their Chapter. The Chapter's designated beanie must be worn on the head of the competitors at the start and finish of each event. Competitors must wear their current OFFICIAL Chapter's_beanie, not that of any other Chapter. Beanies will be required in every event except the Surfboat event. In the Surfboat event helmets MUST BE WORN, color not important, due to boat identification. Designation of Chapter beanies, colors and design shall be subject to approval of the USLA Competition Chairman. Chapter beanies shall have no numbers, writing, or letters. Exception is made for chapters that wish to number beanies on the back with a height of no more than one inch. Competitors must wear their respective Chapter's beanie. All finalists must wear competition jerseys, if provided, in all events except the Surf Swim, Run-Swim-Run, Rescue Race and Landline swimmer.

PROPOSED NEW VERBAGE:

4.3 COMPETITION CAPS / HELMETS

Competition cap colors and designs must be approved and registered with the USLA Competition Committee. Designation of Chapter Caps, colors and design shall be subject to approval of the USLA Competition Chairman. Only registered colors and caps shall be permitted to be worn.

Competitors shall wear identical official Chapter competition caps in each event. The use of such caps assists in identification of competitors and teams and in event judging. In ocean events, caps are securely fastened under the chin and must be worn on the competitor's heads at the start of each event.

In all Surfboat events, competitors must wear safety helmets with the same conditions as Competition caps. Helmets may be of the same color and design as the Chapters competition cap and must be worn throughout any Surfboat event.

A competitor shall not be disqualified if the cap is lost after the start of an event provided that officials can identify that the competitor correctly completed the event.

Competition caps must not be removed from the head of the competitor until finish placings have been recorded, or permission is given by the Referee of the finish of the event.

In relay events this paragraph applies only to the final competitor of each team."

3.) Edit USLA Comp rules 4.4 definitions and insert the following:

4.4 Heats / Finals Competitor limits

The referee shall decide whether events shall be conducted in heats, semi-finals, or finals providing that the maximum number of competitors in a heat, or final race, shall

not exceed the following while also taking into account safety and the prevailing conditions:

Surf Race - 32 competitors

Run-Swim-Run - 32 competitors

Rescue Race - 10 teams of 4 competitors, 40 total per heat

Board Rescue - 10 teams of 2 competitors, 20 total per heat

Landline Rescue Relay - 10 teams of 4 competitors, 40 total per heat

Beach Flags - 16 competitors

Beach Relay - 10 teams of 4 competitors, 40 total per heat

Beach Run- 2 km - 50 competitors per heat

Surf Ski Race - 16 competitors

Surfboat Race - 10 teams of 2 competitors, 20 total per heat

Rescue Board Race - 16 competitors

Ironman / Ironwoman - 16 competitors

American Ironman / American Ironwoman - 16 competitors

Taplin Relay - 16 teams of 4 competitors, 64 total per heat “

4.) Edit USLA Event 5.10 “Surfboat” definitions as defined below:

Recommended Surfboat Rule Clarifications:

1. Boat Markings

Current Rules state:

“Boat markings: lettering and numbers on boats are required. Letters and numbers must be placed on the bow of the boat in block style and of a contrasting color. Minimum sizes--16 inches high, 12 inches wide, 3 inches in thickness.”

This rule statement needs to either be enforced, or edited, or deleted.

2. Control of surfboats near or at the Finish of the race

Current Rules state:

Finish - At the completion of the third lap, the surfboat must pass the last buoy, after which time any member of the crew may complete the lap. One member of the crew must leave the surfboat and run up the beach, and pass through the funnel finish in an upright position.”

ISSUES:

No mention is made of control of the surfboat.

In every other surf racing craft discipline, control of the craft and contact are an implicit part of safely and correctly finishing / completing the course.

In the surfboat, both members of the crew can flip the surfboat, abandon ship and let the Surfboat “ghost ride” into the shore break. Safety and control of the craft must be part of the discipline.

The Surfboat Race is historically derived from the old US Lifesaving Service and should mirror their rescue efforts to remain upright, and in control, and safely bring their Surfboat to the Shoreline.

A statement should be added to the Finish rules such as:

One Member of the crew must remain in contact with the Surfboat and attempt to maintain control of the Surfboat until after his/her teammate has passed through the funnel and across the Finish line.”

Future Competition Calendar - check updates at www.CSLSA.org

Seal Beach to be a possible site for the 2008 CSLSA Regional Competition and Junior Lifeguard Regionals-July 25 & 26

ILS World Championships, Warnemunde Germany-July 18-August 2, 2008

20th Wieland Shield Competition, at So Cal venues to be announced-August 1,2 2008

USLA National Championships at Venice Beach-August 7, 8, 9 2008

Respectively Submitted,

Jay Butki
CSLSA Competition Committee Chair