

Cal Surf Competition News

By Marshall Parks

CSLSA Competition Committee Chair

2002 USLA National Championships

The 2002 USLA National and Junior Lifeguard Championships were held in San Diego, August 8-10. A total of 589 adult lifeguards and 663 junior lifeguards registered to compete at this year's event. Los Angeles finished first in Division 1, followed by San Diego in second and Long Beach in sixth. Division 2 winner was Boca Raton with Del Mar finishing fourth and Laguna Beach fifth.

Top ten open division competitors from the CSLSA were:

MEN	WOMEN
#1 Blaine Morgan	#1 Maggie Hogan
#3 Anthony Vela	#4 Lindsay Hilgers
#5 Mitch Khan	#6 Micha Burden
#8 Rob Pelkey	#7 Giulia Rapone



Thanks to the assistance of the office of Councilmember Byron Wear, the San Diego Organizing Committee was able to arrange to have the event televised by Fox Sports Net West. The one hour program was aired seven times during September by the network.

2003 Southwest Regional Championships

Due to sponsorship considerations this year's regional competition was held on a Saturday, rather than a Thursday as had been recent practice. Some agencies are concerned that due to weekend staffing issues this change may impact competitors ability to attend the event and requested it be moved back to Thursday. After discussion during the CSLA fall meeting it was decided that the 2003 regional championship will take place on a Saturday.

2003 Fall USLA Board of Directors Meeting

The fall USLA Board of Directors meeting was held in Chicago, November 7-9. The following are some of the topics discussed during the Competition Committee meeting and were provided by Rob McGowan.

- During USLA National Championships, open and senior division races are normally scheduled for heats in the morning and finals in the afternoon. At the 2002 Championships, there were numerous races which had an insufficient number of competitors to warrant heats and participants were directed to come back in the afternoon for the final. It was suggested that in these cases the final be run at the scheduled heat time. This procedural change may be implemented during future National Championships if appropriate.
- Change age groups to 5 year increments; Sub-committee headed by Paul Pivec will report at Spring 2003 meeting
- Marshall Parks submitted a proposal for an International Life Saving Federation competition rule change to allow competitors to participate on relay teams with non-club members. The motion passed unanimously and was forwarded to Tom Daly for presentation at the next ILS Sports Commission Committee meeting.
- Phil Rogers proposed the addition of an "Under 18 Professional Division" classification at USLA Nationals. This would be a sub-division of the Open Men's and Women's categories, would be non point scoring, and would award a first place medal to the under 18 year old male and female competitor in the Swim, Run-Swim-Run, Rescue Board, and 2 K Run events. Junior Lifeguards are not eligible. It was agreed to recognize this age group on a trial basis at the 2003 Nationals at Cape May.
- Kim Tyson offered the facilities at the University of Texas, Austin for pool training to improve the pool performance of USLA team at the World Championships. The offer included coaching and input from professors on technique, nutrition, etc.
- Bob Dillon requests that anyone with input on the equipment list for Nationals submit them to him via Charlie Hartl's email: guard4life@aol.com
- The following rule change proposals were voted upon by members of the USLA Competition Committee:
 - #1: *Increase the women's surfboat race from one to two laps.*
YES. The change to apply to the open division, age groups to retain one lap distance
 - #2: *Eliminate the 24-hour volunteer requirement as a prerequisite for non-professional members* YES
 - #3: *Change the American Ironwomen event to same distances and disciplines as men's.*
NO
 - #4: *Adjustment of land course to single lane finish to facilitate accurate officiating.*
NO
 - #5: *Proposal of on-site Protest System mirroring the International Life Saving Federation model.* NO

2003 Competition Dates Announced

July 12, 2003: California State Games, Imperial Beach (tentative)

July 19 & 20, 2003: San Clemente Surf Festival, San Clemente

July 26, 2003: Southwest Regionals, Will Rogers State Beach

August 2, 2003: Taplin Relay, Los Angeles
August 7-9, 2003: USLA Nationals, Cape May, New Jersey

California State Games

The California State Games, which involve numerous different sports, are held every summer in the San Diego area. This year's event included Junior Lifeguard competition and the organizers apparently are interested in adding adult lifeguard competition to next year's Games. The Competition Committee Chair will investigate.

Super Vets Division

It was pointed out by one of our more *experienced* competitors that at the 2002 regional competition there were no awards for the Super Vet Division even though there were Super Vets competing. This issue was addressed during the CSLA fall meeting and it was agreed upon that at future regional competitions awards will be presented to all age groups.

World Lifesaving Championships

The next World Lifesaving Championships are scheduled to take place September 13-28, 2004, in Viareggio, Italy. Open water events will be held in the Congress Centre "Principe di Piemonte" and pool events in the 50 meter pool of Marina di Massa, located 18 kilometers from Viareggio.

This international championship, held every two years, is comprised of several competitions including events for national teams, club teams and masters competitors in events such as ironman/ironwoman, board rescue, rescue medley, taplin relay and many more ocean, beach and pool events.

For more information please visit www.ilsf.org/sport/rescue2004.

2003 Wieland Shield Team Selected

The following provided by Jay Butki, Wieland Shield Team coach.

The Wieland Shield represents a long-standing relationship between the Los Angeles County Lifeguards and Surf Life Saving Victoria Australia. The exchange of ocean lifesaving knowledge, skill and techniques has continued unbroken for the past five decades.

Upon the invitation of the Australian Surf Life Saving Association (SLSA), the LA Lifeguards participated in the first International Surf Life Saving Carnival which was held in conjunction with the 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Participating LA County Lifeguards included Greg Noll, Mike Bright, Bud Stevenson, Bob Burnside, Sheriden Byerly, Chick McIlroy, Tom Zahn and Herb Barthels Sr.

Los Angeles County Lifeguards hosted the first Australian SLSA team to tour the USA in 1965 and presented the team to the LA County Board of Supervisors.

In 1967 LA Lifeguards participated in an educational and competition tour of Australia and New Zealand. The tour included a return to Melbourne from Feb. 21 to 28, and competitions were staged at Portsea and Ocean Grove. The Australian responsible for hosting the Americans was George Nutbeam. The manager of the USA team was LA County Lifeguard and Surf Lifesaving Association of America President Bob Burnside.

As a result of the 1967 tour, George Nutbeam established a biannual exchange where one country would tour the other every two years. A perpetual trophy sponsored and named for the US Consul General to Australia, Mr. Wieland, would commemorate the competition.

The 2003 competition will be held at Ocean Grove Beach just outside of Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay entrance on January 25. 2003 marks the 17th Wieland Shield competition and the scoreboard shows California with five victories and Victoria with eleven

The 2003 California team included:

Manager: Buddy Bohn – LACOFD Rescue Boat Section Chief
Coach: Jay Butki –Paramedic Rescue Boat Captain- Zuma
Assistant Coach: Scott Diederich - Laguna Beach Lifeguard Lieutenant
Educational Officers: Dave Story-LACOFD Beach Captain -South Bay
Bill Robinson-LACOFD Rescue Boat Captain- Baywatch Malibu
Jaime Orr -LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard Specialist- Central

Athletes

Tim Gair - LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard Specialist- Central
Craig Hummer – LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard -South Bay
Mitch Kahn – LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard- South Bay
Blaine Morgan – LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard -South Bay
Rob Pelkey – LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard Specialist -So Bay
Jeremie Simkins – LACOFD South Bay Ocean Lifeguard
Anthony Vela – LACOFD Ocean Lifeguard -South Bay
Maggie Hogan - San Diego City Lifeguard
Alison Terry- San Diego City Lifeguard



Wieland Shield Surf Race, January, 2003

When hosted in Los Angeles, the Wieland Shield is held in conjunction with the International Surf Festival held in the South Bay Beach Cities. The Victorian Surf Life Saving Association of Australia team will be touring Southern California in August 2004.



2003 California Wieland Shield Team