



California Surf Lifesaving Association Competition Committee

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COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT April 25, 2003

2003 Southwest Regional Championships

It was announced that the location of the 2003 Championships has been changed. The Lifeguard Championships will take place at Zuma Beach on Saturday, July 26, 2003 and the Junior Lifeguard Championships will take place at Dockweiler Beach on Friday, July 25, 2003.

2004-2005 Southwest Regional Championships

An offer by the Long Beach Lifeguard Association to serve as host of the 2004 and 2005 South-west Regional Championships was accepted.

A request to reconsider the issue of changing the day of lifeguard competition from a Saturday to a Thursday beginning in 2004 was raised by Eric Sandy of Del Mar. It was agreed that the Competition Chair and the President of the CSLSA will discuss the issue with the events sponsor.

Beach Run Distance and Configuration

The beach run is to be a 1 lap, 2 K event.

2003 USLA National Championships

The 2003 USLA National and Junior Lifeguards Championships are scheduled to take place in Cape May, New Jersey, August 7-9, 2003. Repeated efforts to obtain more information about the Championships from the Cape May Host Committee have proved fruitless and there was some concern expressed regarding the events status.

A San Diego Surf Lifesaving Association spokesman announced that their club has rooms reserved in Cape May for the Nationals which may be available to CSLSA competitors in need of a place to stay. Equipment transportation was also discussed.

2004 USLA National Championships

The 2004 National Championships are scheduled to be hosted by the Northwest Region of the USLA. In the event the honor is declined, the County of Orange Lifesaving Association has offered to stage the event. During discussion it was suggested this could be a collaborative effort on the part of several Orange County lifeguard agencies. COLA's offer to host the 2004 National Championships will be presented at the 2003 Spring USLA meeting in the event the Northwest Region declines.

5 Year Plan Proposal

The Committee discussed a proposal made at the 2002 fall USLA National Board of Directors meeting to change competition age group categories from 10 year to 5 year increments. The following feedback from the Committee's discussion on the issue will be presented to the National Competition Committee.

Background:

The majority of sports which have age group competitions use 5 year categories. This is done, in part, as an effort to minimize the impact aging may have on competitors and thus make for a more level playing field. The ILS Masters Individual World Lifesaving Championships are conducted in 5 year age categories beginning with age 30.

Proposal:

- Open age group to remain as is.
- The 5 year plan would begin with the current Senior age group and extend to accommodate all competitors; 30-34, 35-49, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, etc.
- Awards and points to top three finishers in each 5 year age group.
- Replace current age group descriptions; Senior, Master, Veteran and Super Veteran, with age group numbers; 30-34, 35-39, etc.

Impact:

Number of Awards

Awarding medals to the top three finishers per 5 year group instead of the current practice of the top five finishers per 10 year group, would increase the number of medals issued per gender by one every 10 years. This would result in an increase of up to eight medals per event.

Number of Points

Currently, points are scored in age group categories, Senior and above, as follows: 1st - 7pts, 2nd - 5 pts, 3rd - 3 pts, 4th - 2 pts, 5th -1 pt, for a total of 18 points per 10 year age group.

Under the 5 year plan, 1st would receive 5 pts, 2nd - 3 pts, 3rd -1 pt, for a total of 9 points per 5 years, no change from the current number of 18 points available per 10 years.

Number of Races

Because heats are already used in some Senior events to accommodate the large number of competitors, it may not be necessary to add additional races to accommodate the 30-34 and 35-39 categories.

For the most part, categories 40-44 and 45-49 could continue to race as one group, as would categories 50-54 and 55-59, and categories 60-64 and up, thus no increase from the current number of races.

Recommendation: The Competition Committee of the Southwest Region supports the 5 year plan proposal as presented above.

Respectively Submitted,
M. Stanley Parks
Southwest Region Competition Committee Chair

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