

United States Lifesaving Association



JUNIOR LIFEGUARD

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD COMPETITION GUIDELINES
for
NATIONAL JUNIOR LIFEGUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS

I. OVERVIEW -- These guidelines are established as a format for the Junior Lifeguard National Championships, and are approved by the USLA. The purpose is to provide for a fair and equal standard of competition between Junior Lifeguard Chapters.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. All competitors must be currently enrolled and actively participating with the chapter they represent as a Junior Lifeguard, and may NOT have received compensation for work as a Junior Lifeguard and/or Lifeguard within the chapter for which they are competing.
- B. All competitors at the National Junior Lifeguard Championships must be current members of the United States Lifesaving Association.
- C. Competition classifications:
 - "AA" Division - 16 and 17 years of age as of July 1 of the current year
 - "A" Division - 14 and 15 years of age as of July 1 of the current year
 - "B" Division - 12 and 13 years of age as of July 1 of the current year
 - "C" Division - 9 to 11 years of age as of July 1 of the current year
- D. There shall be no fee to enter the National Junior Lifeguard Competition. The host agency may charge an optional participant fee for JG competitor's lunch and event memorabilia such as a T-shirt.

III. GENERAL COMPETITION FORMAT

A. Competition Events

- 1. Shall be held in "AA", "A", "B" and "C" Divisions.
- 2. Entry is limited in certain events and competitors shall be designated prior to the commencement of the event.
- 3. Heats, if required, shall be established prior to the commencement of the event, with consideration made to keeping same Chapter competitors in separate heats.
- 4. There will be no team or regional scoring. All events will be for individual awards through ten places.
- 5. All competitors MUST wear a surf cap which represents their chapter when competing in an event. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE EVENT. Such caps shall be distinctive to the chapter and may not carry advertising slogans or logos with the exception of the manufacturer of the cap itself.
- 6. All event distances are final, as printed in Section IV - Description and Rules of Events.
- 7. Alcoholic beverage or tobacco advertising is absolutely not permitted on any Junior Guard equipment, uniforms or competition gear.
- 8. All competitors will legibly mark their designated entry numbers on both arms, between the shoulder and the elbow, with permanent black marker.
- 9. If a JG participant is found to have any questionable or offensive temporary body art, they shall be required to remove or cover the art at the discretion of officials.

B. Entry Limit

1. There is no limit to the number of events an individual competitor may enter.
2. A chapter's entries into an event are limited to the rules of that event as outlined in Section IV - Description and Rules of Events.
3. Individual events in all divisions will have both male and female events.
4. Relay events can be all male, all female or co-ed.
5. A competitor may move up in a division but not down; a competitor must remain in the division in which he/she initially competes. Exception: In the Rescue Race both competitors must remain within their actual age group.
6. For every increment of 500 USLA JG Members paid and registered per agency, that agency can enter the equivalent of one team entry on restricted relay and individual events. Multiple team entries per agency must remain on a single team.

C. Safety and Judging

1. Within each division, the following personnel should be assigned:
 - a. Starter/Head Judge
 - b. Finish Judge
 - c. Water Judge
 - d. Safety Personnel

Beach Flags - The Starter will assign four additional Judges, each from a different chapter. If one of those judges has a competitor in the finals from his/her chapter, he/she will be replaced with another official.
2. The Starter/Head Judge for each division will make all rule interpretations. Any coach who has questions regarding a decision or call must contact ONLY the Starter/Head Judge or the Finish Judge. The Head Judge's decision will be final unless an appeal is filed immediately to the Competition Committee. (see # 5).
3. Coaches entering the race course area without contacting the Starter/Head Judge may cause disqualification of their competitor(s) for that event.
4. At no time shall parents of competitors be allowed in the competition area. All rule questions, or decision clarifications will be brought to the attention of officials by coaches only. Parent interference will be cause for disqualification of their competitor from that event.
5. The Junior Lifeguard Competition Committee will appoint a 3 person appeals board to make ALL final decisions regarding questionable judging issues. The board will be made up of 3 persons, all of whom represent a different region.
6. Conduct of coaches and competitors shall be to display the utmost courtesy and high ideals of sportsmanship and fair play at all times.

7. All distances of events are approximations in meters. Course placement is final and will not be altered unless surf, weather, tide and/or safety dictate.

IV. DESCRIPTION AND RULES OF EVENTS

A. Individual Distance Run

1. This event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.
2. Distances:
 - "AA" Division - 2.0 K (1.2 miles)
 - "A" Division - 2.0 K (1.2 miles)
 - "B" Division - 1.5 K (1.0 mile)
 - "C" Division - 1.0 K (.6 mile)
3. Running shoes are optional.
4. The course will be on the beach with a line-up start and a funnel finish. The race will be an out and back run in the sand. A checkered flag turn marker will be set at 1/2 the total distance of the race, and each competitor will make a clockwise turn around the marker. A competitor finishes when his/her body crosses the finish line at the neck of the funnel finish.

B. Individual Distance Swim

1. This event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.
2. Distances:
 - "AA" Division - 360 M ("A-AA" Course) -swim the entire U-shaped course.
 - "A" Division - 360 M ("A-AA" Course) -swim the entire U-shaped course.
 - "B" Division - 300 M ("B" Course) - swim the two red buoys on the course
 - "C" Division - 250 M ("C" Course) - swim the two red buoys on the course
3. The course shall start on the beach with a lineup start and end on the beach with a funnel finish.
4. The swim course shall be U-shaped with competitors completing the course as defined by Division.
5. The competitor finishes when his/her body crosses the finish line at the neck of the funnel finish.

C. Rescue Board Race

1. The Rescue Board Race will be limited to five male competitors and five female competitors in each Division per chapter.
2. Distances:

"AA" Division - 600 M ("AA" Course) – paddle all three buoys on the course

"A" Division - 600 M ("A" Course) – paddle all three buoys on the course

"B" Division - 450 M ("B" Course) – paddle all three buoys on the course

"C" Division - 400 M ("C" Course) – paddle all three buoys on the course

3. Board Specifications:

"AA" and "A" Boys and Girls - 10'6" or smaller Rescue Boards as defined by USLA competition guidelines

"B" Boys and Girls - 9 feet or smaller SOFT boards

"C" Boys and Girls - 9 feet or smaller SOFT boards

4. The start of the race shall be from the water's edge at a starting line designated by the Starter/Head

5. Judge. The finish will be a line finish on the beach.

6. A competitor finishes when his/her body crosses the finish line, in the funnel, board in hand.

D. Rescue Race

1. The Rescue Race will be limited to three two-person teams per chapter in each Division. Teams may be male/female combination.

2. Distances:

"AA" Division - 260 ("A-AA" Course)

"A" Division - 260 ("A-AA" Course)

"B" Division - 200 ("B" Course)

"C" Division - 150 ("C" Course)

3. Equipment:

a. Rescue buoy (small Burnside-type buoy).

b. Swim fins (for rescue swimmers only).

c. Wetsuits (optional, for victim only)

4. Course and Race Conduct:

a. Victims shall swim to their appropriate distance off shore marked by either the flag line on the "AA" & "A" Division course or two buoys on the "B" & "C". They will hold onto the flag base "AA" & "A") or a line stretched between the buoys ("B" & "C") while staying in line with the buoys. Pulling the line toward shore and inside the buoys may result in disqualification.

b. Water Judges should be placed at each end of the marker line to ensure no infractions.

c. The Rescuer starts from the beach at the START/FINISH LINE established by the Starter/Head Judge.

- d. The Rescuer may wear their fins from the start if so desired.
- e. The Rescuer swims to the victim and returns to shore pulling the victim behind them.
- f. The victim may assist by kicking, but only while the rescuer is swimming and they MUST HAVE BOTH HANDS ON THE BUOY AT ALL TIMES.
- g. For safety purposes, when running, the victim need only keep one hand on the buoy.
- h. The team finishes when BOTH competitors cross the FINISH LINE with all equipment, i.e. both fins and the rescue buoy.
- i. The victim must cross the FINISH LINE holding on to the buoy with at least ONE HAND.

E. Swim Relay

1. Each chapter may enter only one five-person Relay Team per Division.
2. Distances:
 - "AA" Division - 240 M per swimmer - swim around the flags in the course
 - "A" Division - 240 M per swimmer - swim around the flags in the course
 - "B" Division - 200 M per swimmer - swim around one red buoy in the course
 - "C" Division - 150 M per swimmer - swim around one red buoy in the course
3. All competitors must sit in a straight line in their designated lane before and after swimming their portion of the relay. After swimming their individual leg of the relay, each swimmer shall sit in order they swam, with their surf cap pulled down around their neck.
4. The relay exchange shall be a hand tag behind the START/FINISH LINE. Disqualification will result from an early start.
5. The finish will be determined for each team when its last swimmer crosses the START/FINISH LINE.
6. Any interference to a relay team who is not yet finished, by a celebrating team who is finished, maybe grounds for disqualification.

F. Beach Flags

1. This event is limited to five female and five male competitors per Chapter.
2. Event Description: From a prone position on the beach, competitors rise, turn and race to obtain a baton (Beach Flag) buried upright in the sand approximately 20 M away. Since there are always fewer batons than competitors, those who fail to obtain a baton are eliminated.
3. Starting Position: Competitors take their allotted positions, a minimum of 1.5 M apart at the start line. Competitors lie face down with their toes on the start line, with their heels together, hands, one on top of the other, with their fingertips to their wrist and with the head up. Elbows must be extended forward so that the chest is flat on the sand. The body's mid-line should be 90 degrees to the start line. No scooping of the sand or digging, or digging in of the feet is permitted.
4. The Start: prior to the start, a marshal shall:

- a. place competitors in the order as drawn for the run-through;
- b. accompany competitors to the starting area to ensure they are positioned in the proper order.

5. The referee shall:

- a. check that all officials, judges and equipment are in position;
- b. signal the official start of each race with a long whistle indicating that the competitors should take their positions on the Start Line;
- c. signal the starter that the competitors are under the Starter's control.

6. The Starter shall:

- a. be positioned out of view of the competitors;
- b. issue the command "COMPETITOR'S READY" – competitors shall assume the starting position as described in part 2 of the Beach Flag rules.
- c. On the Starter's command "HEADS DOWN, all competitors shall – at once, without delay – place their chins on their hands.
- d. After a deliberate pause and when all competitors are stationary, the Starters shall signal the start with a whistle blast.
- e. At the start signal, competitors shall rise to their feet and race to obtain a baton.

7. Starting infringements: The following behaviors are starting infringements in Beach Flags, and shall result in a starting infringement warning:

- a. Failure to comply with the Starter's commands within a reasonable time.
- b. Lifting any part of the body from the sand, or commencing any starting motion after the Starter's "HEADS DOWN" command prior to the start signal.
 - i. After 1 starting infringement, any competitor who subsequently commits a starting infringement shall be eliminated, regardless of whether or not the competitor previously infringed the start.
 - ii. Competitors eliminated from the event shall retain the point score and/or placing as at that time of the event. If a competitor is disqualified or eliminated, the remaining competitors and batons shall be realigned with no re-draw of positions. The run-through shall continue with the current starting infringement in force until a fair start is effected.
 - iii. **NOTES:**
 - iv. Competitors are not permitted to "deliberately impede" the progress of another competitor (See Deliberate Impedance in the Disqualification section which follows).
 - v. Competitors are not permitted to pick up more than one baton.

8. Draw for positions: There shall be a preliminary draw for positions and further draws after each round. In semi-finals and finals, when contestants have been reduced in number to 8, there shall be a draw for positions after each run-through.

9. The number of competitors eliminated:
 - a. The Referee shall determine the number of competitors to be eliminated in each run-through of each heat.
 - b. No more than 3 competitors may be eliminated in any 1 run-through.
 - c. In semi-finals and finals, no more than 1 competitor can be eliminated in any run-through.
10. Run-offs: A run-off between the competitors involved shall if two or more competitors hold the same baton, and judges cannot determine which competitor's hand grasped the baton first – regardless of the hand position on the baton.
11. The course – As shown in the following diagram, the course shall be approximately 20 M from the start line to the batons, and wide enough to provide for a minimum spacing of 1.5 M between each of the 16 competitors.
 - a. The start line shall be designated at each end by poles, 2 M high.
 - b. Batons shall be positioned in a line parallel to the start line, and so that a “perpendicular line” between any two adjacent competitors shall pass approximately through a baton.
12. Equipment and apparel
 - a. Beach Flags (batons) shall be made of tubular material approximately 250mm to 350mm in length and between 12.5mm and 25mm in diameter. They shall be colored to facilitate sighting and have a contrasting colored stripe of approximately 40mm width located some 100mm from one end.
 - b. Apparel – shorts and shirts and/or swimming apparel which comply with the team uniform requirements, may be worn at the competitor's discretion. Team competition caps shall be worn at all times.
13. Judging
 - a. The Referee or Referee's appointee shall be positioned to maintain overall supervision.
 - b. The Starter and Start Judges shall be placed at either end of the starting line to observe any starting infringements.
 - c. Course judges shall be positioned a few meters behind the line of batons, to reclaim the baton from successful competitors and to set up the batons for each successive run-through.
14. Disqualification
 - a. Each run-through or run-off shall be judged as a separate segment of this event. AN infringement in one segment shall not be carried over and counted against a competitor in a subsequent segment. A competitor eliminated from the event shall lose all standing from the event.
 - b. Deliberate impedance: any competitor who commits deliberate impedance on another competitor shall be disqualified from the event. Deliberate impedance is defined as “the deliberate use of hands, arms, feet or legs to impede another competitor's progress.

A competitor may otherwise use his or her body to improve his or her position in obtaining a flag. A competitor may negotiate the shoulder and/or body in front of an opponent, but may not use hands, arms, feet or legs to obtain or remain in this position.

- c. If a competitor legally obtains this front position and maintains normal running action, the competitor behind is obliged to go around the competitor in front.
- d. A competitor may cross over in front of a slower competitor.
- e. If 2 or more competitors are guilty of deliberate impedance, the competitor who first uses hands, arms, feet or legs will be disqualified.

G. Run-Swim-Run

1. This event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.
2. Distances:

"AA" Division 640 M (200 -240-200) (Swim shall be the flag line)

"A" Division 640 M (200 -240-200) (Swim shall be the flag line)

"B" Division 600 M (200-200-200) (Swim shall be the two red buoys in the course)

"C" Division 550 M (200-150-200) (Swim shall be the two red buoys in the course)

Course and Race Conduct

- a. The first run leg will begin on the beach with a line start. A run turn flag marker will be placed at the opposite end of the course to indicate the turn for the run segment.
- b. A swim turn flag will be placed adjacent the Start/Finish line where competitors will enter the swim leg.
- c. Each competitor must round the turn flag at the Start/Finish Line after the swim
- d. Upon leaving the water and rounding the turn flag each competitor will run to the opposite end of the course, round the run turn marker and run to the funnel finish at the original start line.
- e. A competitor finishes when his/her body crosses the funnel FINISH LINE.
- f. There will be a Judge stationed at each turn flag to direct competitors around each turn marker. There should be a water Judge at the turn of the swim to monitor for infractions.

H. Junior Ironguard

1. This event is limited to two female and two male competitors per Chapter.
2. Description: The event consists of a Swim, Run, and Paddle segments
3. Distances :

"AA" Division 1,040 Total M (240 M Swim, 200 M Run, 600 M Paddle)

"A" Division 1,040 Total M (240 M Swim, 200 M Run, 600 M Paddle)

"B" Division 1,700 Total M (200 M Swim, 200 M Run, 450 M Paddle)

"C" Division 1,500 Total M (150 M Swim, 200 M Run, 400 M Paddle)

4. The swim begins from a start line on the beach at the south end of the competition course. Competitor will swim around the red buoy at the end of the course passing the buoy on their right shoulder.
5. The run leg will begin on the beach and proceeds to a turn flag 100 M up the beach. A turn marker will be placed where competitors will turn the flag on their right shoulder.
6. The paddle segment begins behind the start line and adjacent the marker flag. Competitors will paddle a triangular course around the first red buoy and the yellow apex buoy, passing each on their right shoulder. They will then return to the beach to the FINISH LINE.
7. There will be a Judge stationed the turn flag to direct competitors around the flag. There will be a water Judge at the turns of the swim and paddle to monitor for infractions.
8. A competitor finishes when his/her body crosses the funnel FINISH LINE.

I. AWARDS

1. Individual medals will be awarded first through fifth place in each individual and relay event.
2. Individual ribbons will be awarded sixth through tenth place in each individual and relay event.

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Course Drawings

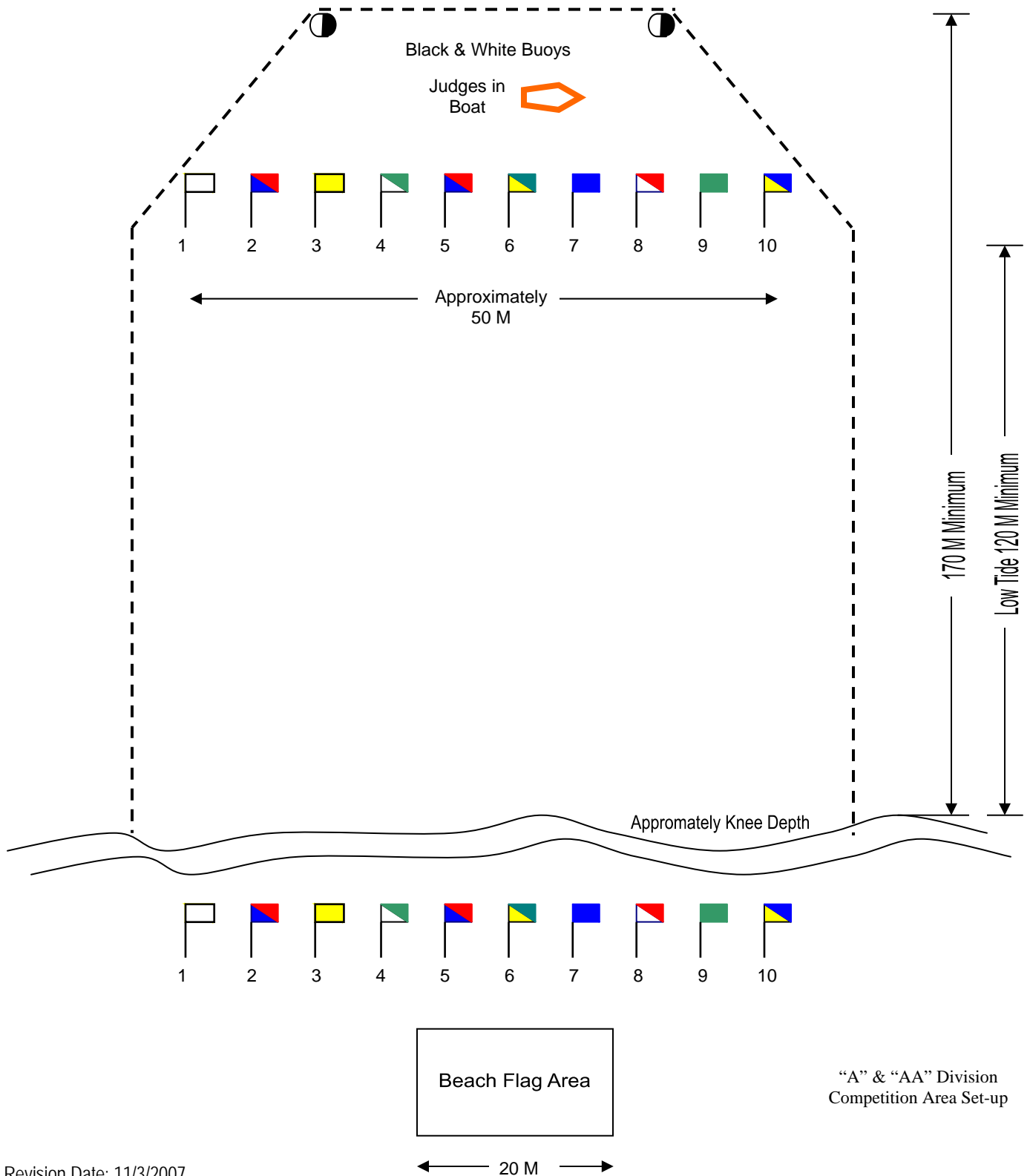
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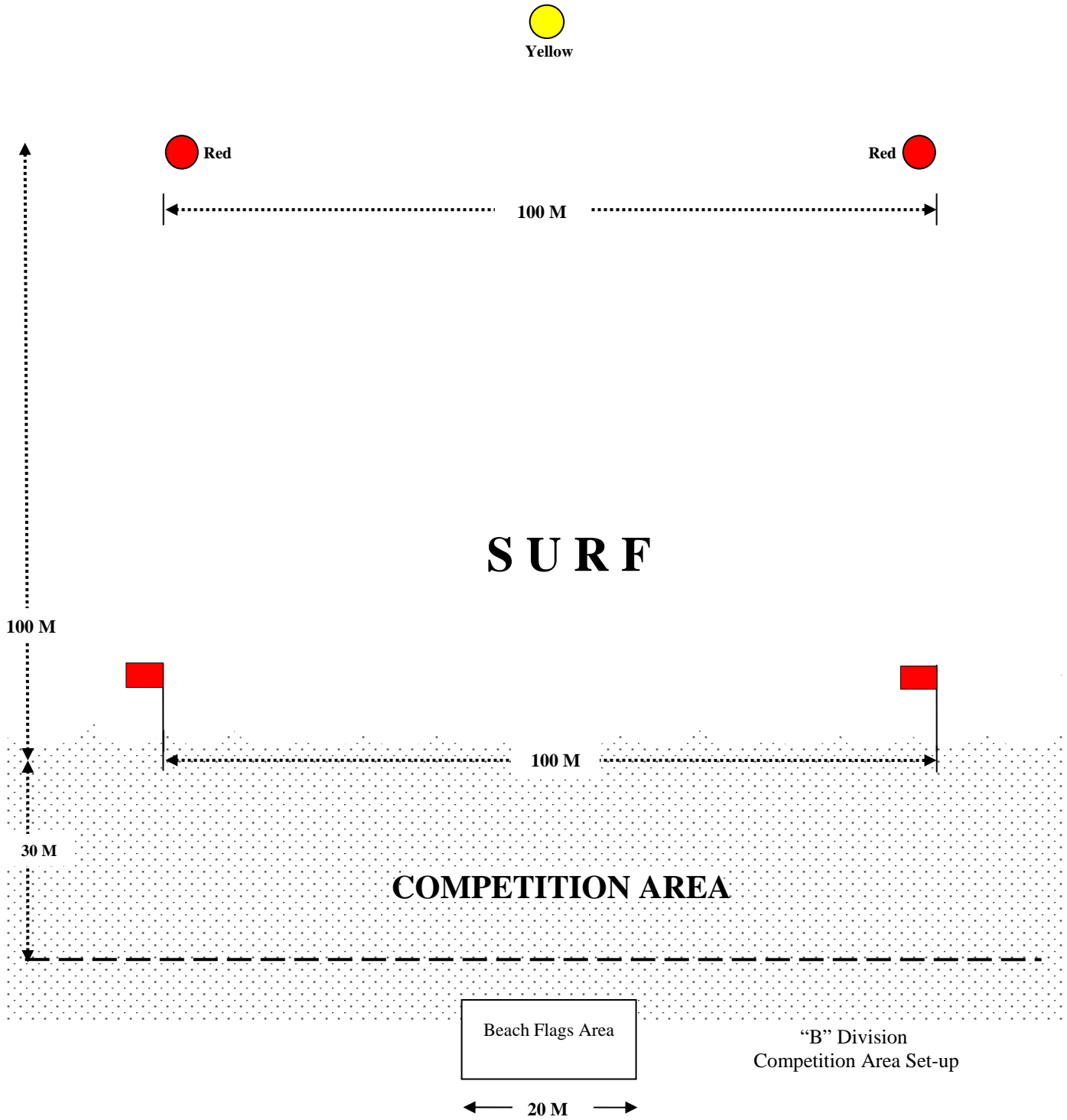


United States Lifesaving Association Jr. Guard Competition Guidelines



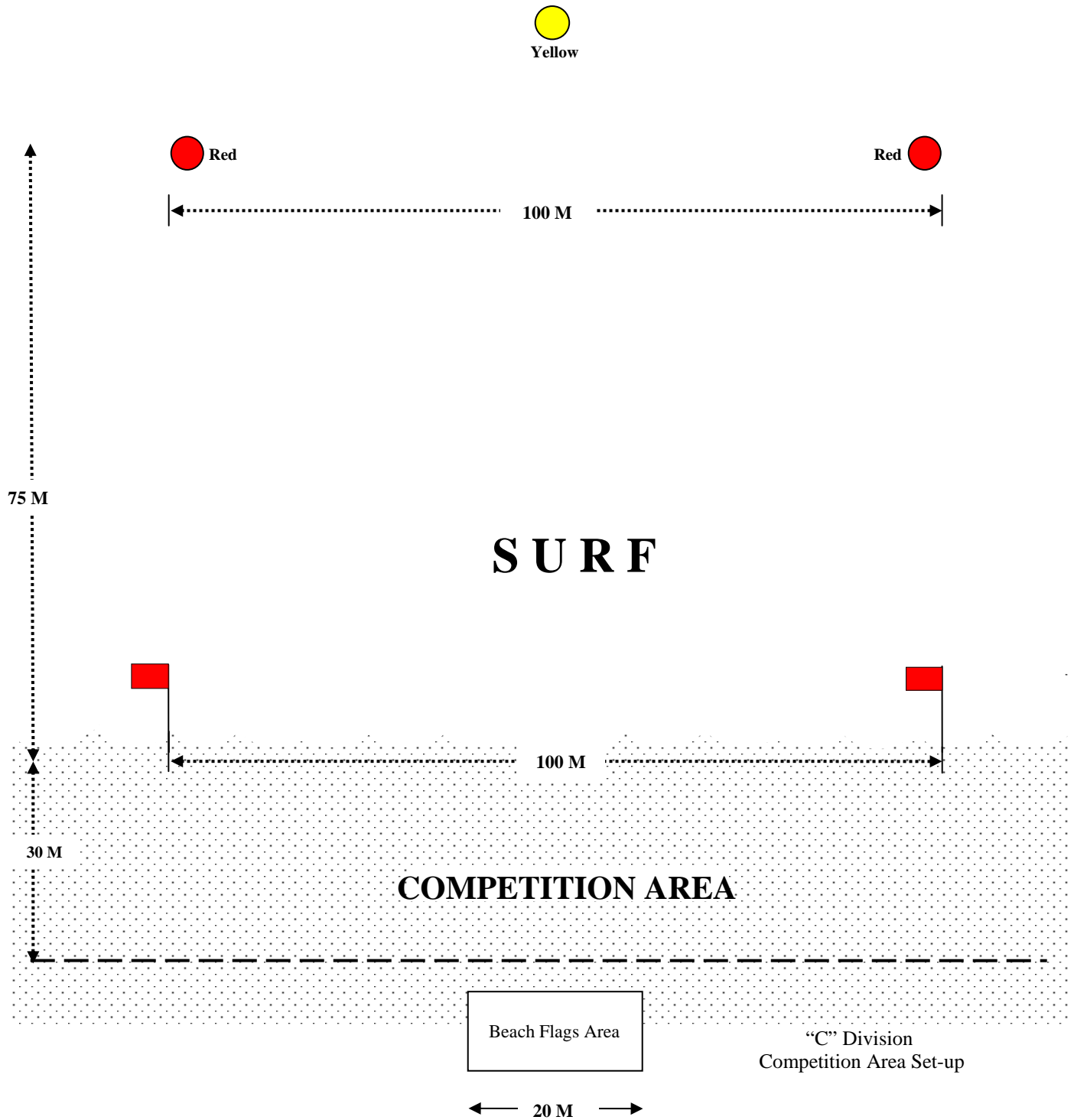


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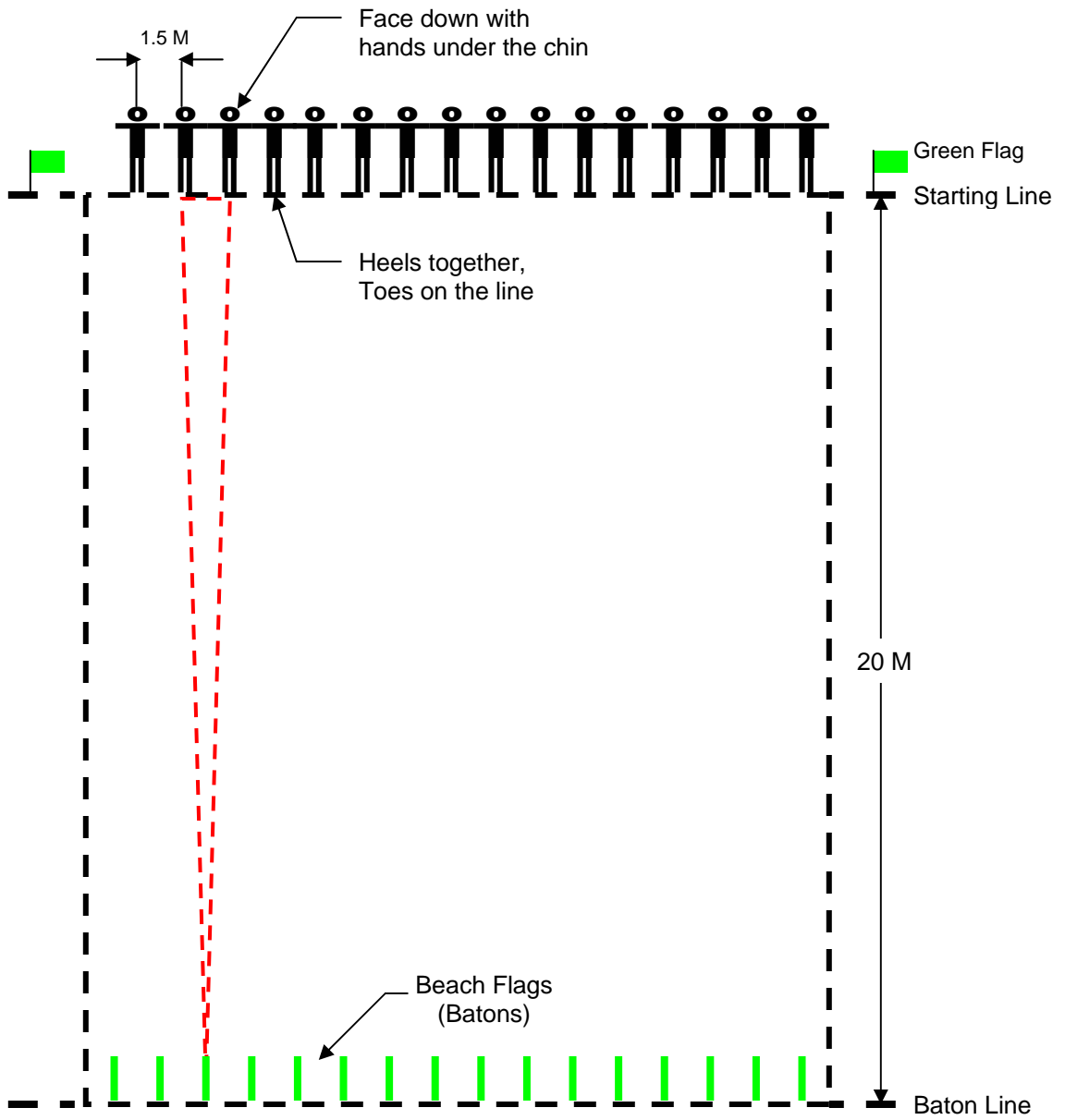


United States Lifesaving Association Jr. Guard Competition Guidelines





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BEACH FLAGS