# United States Lifesaving Association 



UNDER 19

## COMPETITION RULES

U19 COMPETITION RULES

NATIONAL LIFEGUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS
I. OVERVIEW -- These guidelines are established as a format for the Lifeguard National Championships, and are approved by the USLA.

## II. ELIGIBILITY

A. All competitors in the "U19" division must be currently enrolled and actively participating with the chapter they represent as a Junior Lifeguard, (aged 16 or 17), or professional lifeguards (aged 16, 17, or 18).
B. All competitors at the National Lifeguard Championships must be current members of the United States Lifesaving Association.
C. Competition classifications:
"U19" Division - 16, 17, or 18 years of age on the day of the competition

## III. GENERALCOMPETITIONFORMAT

## A. Competition Events

1. Shall be held in "U19" Division.
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 fifth place.
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 competitiongear.
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 participant is found to have any questionable or offensive temporary body art, they shall be required to remove same 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 the U 19 division will have both male and female events.
4. Relay events can be all male, all female or co-ed.

## C. Safety andJudging

1. Within each division, the following personnel should be assigned:
a. Starter / Head Judge
b. Finish Judge
c. Water Judge
d. Safety Personnel
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 thatevent.
5. The Lifeguard Competition Committee will appoint a 3 person appeals board to make ALL final decisions on formal protests. 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.

## V. DESCRIPTION AND RULES OF EVENTS

## A. $\quad 2 \mathrm{~km}$ Beach Run

This U19 event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event description

Competitors race 2000 meters on the beach in two 1000 meter legs as follows: On the starting signal competitors race along the left side of the lane to round (clockwise or right hand in) the turning pole 1000 meters distant, and return 1000 meters toward the starting pole and then race to cross the finish line.

Jostling or obstructing another competitor so as to impede their progress is not permitted.

Judges shall be placed to observe the conduct of the event as well as determine competitors' place at the finish line.

The finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line. Competitors must finish on their feet in an upright position.

## The course

The course shall be laid out on the beach parallel to the water's edge in two 1000 m lanes. The referee may set an alternate course on beaches with restricted room.

The start line shall be designated by a brightly colored synthetic cord stretched between 2 poles.

The finish line shall be an extension of the start line toward the water. The end of the finish line shall be marked by a third pole. The referee shall determine the length of the start and finish lines.

## Running lanes

The course shall be divided into 2 lanes parallel to the waterline. The lanes shall be divided by colored tape, bunting, or other appropriate material.

A flag or pole situated 1000 m from the start at the end of the lane divider shall designate the turning point.

## Equipment and apparel

Shorts and shirts, which comply with team uniform requirements, may be worn at the competitors' discretion. All competitors must wear beanies with appropriate team colors. Shoes are optional.

## Judging

The referee shall be positioned at one side of the course to maintain overall supervision.

Break judges shall be positioned about 5 m away, in line, and on either side of the starting line. If a break occurs, the break judges shall report the competitors to the starter who shall issue awarning.

Course judges may be appointed to ensure the competitors run the course without interference to other competitors.
A judge shall be positioned at each turning pole to ensure no unnecessary jostling or interference occurs.

Finish judges shall select final placings.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification: Failure to complete the course as defined and described.


2 km BEACH RUN
DISTANCE 2 km - COURSE: 1 km - down and back
(Distances are approximate)

## B. Surf Race

This U19 event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event description

With a running start into the surf from the start line on the beach, competitors swim around the 400 m course designated by buoys, around the left end \#1 White buoy of the flag line to the two black and white buoys returning to shore passing the right end of the \#10 Yellow/Blue flag buoy line to finish between the finish flags on the beach.

To facilitate the recording of placing after the finish, competitors may be positioned either:

- On a straight line drawn at approximately a 30 -degree angle from the finishing line and up the beach.
- On a series of lines 10 m behind and at right angles to the finishing line and 5 m apart.


## The Course

As shown in the following diagram, the U-shaped course shall be approximately 400 meters from start to finish. To ensure fair starts and finishes, alignment of the start line and finish line to the buoys may be altered at the discretion of the referee, depending on the prevailing sea conditions.

The Start Line - a brightly colored cord stretched between 2 poles approximately 40 meters apart shall be situated 5 m from the water's edge, centered on buoy number 1 .

The Finish Line - between 2 flags positioned 5 meters apart - shall be situated approximately 15 meters from the water's edge, centered on buoy number 10.

The Swimming Course shall be marked by buoys (as indicated on the diagram) the furthest situated approximately 170 meters beyond knee-deep water. Water distances may vary depending upon sea conditions.

## Judging

Competitors must finish on their feet in an upright position. The finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line.
Judges shall be placed to observe the conduct of the event as well as determine competitors' place at the finish line.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification:
i. Failure to complete the course as defined and described.
ii.. Any shifting or hassling for position in the finish funnel will result in disqualification.


## C. Paddleboard Race

This event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event description

Competitors stand on or behind the start line on the beach with their boards 1.5 m apart.

At the start signal, competitors enter the water, launch their boards, and paddle the course marked by buoys, return to the beach, and run to cross the finish line.

Competitors are not permitted to hold or otherwise interfere with other competitors' boards or deliberately impede their progress.

## The course

The course layout shall be as detailed in the following Board Race diagram.
To ensure fair starts and finishes, alignment of the start line and finish line to the buoys may be altered at the discretion of the referee, depending on the prevailing sea conditions.

## Buoys:

Three buoys of the same color(s) and equal in size to a 50 -litre drum shall be used: two "turning buoys" shall be placed approximately 75 m apart, and a minimum 250 m distance (same for Masters) from knee-depth water at low tide mark. The third "apex" buoy shall be placed midway and approximately 16 m seaward from the turning buoys thus forming an arc with them.

## The Start Line,

Depicted by a bright colored cord, shall be situated on the beach approximately 5 meters from the water's edge. It shall be 30 meters in length and marked by two poles at either end. The middle of the start line should be aligned with the first turning buoy, but may be altered at the discretion of the referee depending on the prevailing conditions to allow all competitors a fair passage around the first buoy.

## The Finish Line:

Shall be situated on the beach approximately 15 meters from the water's edge. It shall be 20 meters in length and marked at each end by a flag on a 4 meter pole. Finish flags shall be the same color(s) as the course buoys.

The middle of the finish line should be aligned with the third turning buoy, but this may be altered by the referee depending on the prevailing sea conditions.

## Equipment

Boards: See Section 6 - Equipment Standards. The use of a replacement board is permitted provided that the competitor recommences the race from the start line.

Replacement boards may be brought to the start line by fellow team members providing they do not cause any interference to other competitors.

## Judging

Established $6-11-2 \not{ }^{1} 15$ e finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification:
Failure to complete the course as defined and described.

Control of craft: Competitors may lose contact and control of their board without necessarily being disqualified. To complete the race, competitors must have (or have regained) their board and cross the finish.


### 5.7 RESCUE BOARD RACE

## 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:
"U19" Division - 240 M
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 the flag line. 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 swimmer holds the rescue buoy and swims fins in his orher hands or places them on the shoreward side of the start/finish line.
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 upright 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.

## The Finish

The finish placings are judged on the chest of the first team member crossing the finish line on their feet in an upright position while still in contact with the victim.

## Notes:

- At the start, rescue swimmers may place the rescue buoy and fins on the shoreward side of the start/finish line or may hold their fins and rescue tubes in their hands. The rescue tube lanyard may be worn. Fins maynot be worn until victim has touched their team's appropriate flag buoy.
- Only the rescue swimmer may use the swim fins.



## E. Swim Relay

1. Each chapter may enter only one five-person Relay Team per Division.
2. Distances:
"U19" Division $\mathbf{3 0 0} \mathbf{~ M}$ per swimmer - swim around the flags 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


Swim Relay

## F. Beach Flags

## Event description

From a prone starting position on the beach, competitors rise, turn and race to obtain a baton (beach flag) buried upright in the sand approximately 20 meters away. Since there are always fewer batons than competitors, those who fail to obtain a baton are eliminated.

## Starting position

Competitors take their allotted positions, a minimum of 1.5 meters apart at the start line.
When directed by the Starter, competitors shall lie face down with their toes on the start line, heels or any part of the feet together, hands on top of each other with fingertips to wrists and with the head up.
Elbows should be extended 90 degrees to the body's midline and hips and stomach must be in contact with the sand.
The body's mid-line should be 90 degrees to the start line.
Competitors may level, flatten, and compress their starting area but no scooping or digging of the sand is permitted.

## Note: It is permitted to dig the toes into the sand at the start line

## The Start

Beach Flags start procedure is different from the procedure described in The Start. For Beach Flags, the start is as follows:
Prior to the start, a marshal shall:
Place competitors in the order as drawn for the run-through.
Accompany competitors to the starting area to ensure they are positioned in proper order.

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. The starter shall be positioned out of view of the competitors.

On the starter's "Competitors Ready" command, competitors shall assume the starting position as described.

On the starter's "Heads Down" command, competitors - at once and without delay - shall place their chins on their hands.

After a deliberate pause and when all competitors are stationary, the starter shall signal the start with a whistle blast.
At the start signal, competitors shall rise to their feet and race to obtain a baton.

## Starting infringements

The following behaviors are starting infringements in Beach Flags:
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 and prior to the startsignal.

Any competitor who commits a starting infringement shall be eliminated. Competitors eliminated from the event shall retain the point score and/or placing as at that time in 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 has occurred.

## Notes:

- Competitors are not permitted to "deliberately impede" the progress of another competitor (See Deliberate Impedance in Disqualification.)
- Competitors are not permitted to pick up more than one baton.


## Draw for positions

There shall be a preliminary draw for positions and further draws after each round. In semifinals and finals when contestants have been reduced to eight, there shall be a draw for positions after each run-through.

## Number of competitors eliminated

The referee shall determine the number of competitors to be eliminated in each runthrough of each heat.

No more than three competitors may be eliminated in any one run through.

In semi-finals and finals, no more than one competitor can be eliminated in any runthrough.

## Run-offs

A run-off between the competitors involved shall be called 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.

## The Course

As shown in the following diagram, the course shall be approximately 20 meters from the start line to the batons, and wide enough to provide for a minimum spacing of 1.5 meters between each of up to 16 competitors. The start line shall be designated at each end by poles, 2 meters high.

Batons shall be positioned in line parallel to the start line, and so that a "perpendicular line" between any two adjacent competitors shall pass approximately through a baton.

## Equipment and apparel

Beach flags (batons): See Section 6 - Equipment Standards.
Shorts and shirts, which comply with team uniform requirements, may be worn at the competitors' discretion

## Judging

The referee or referee's appointee shall be positioned to maintain overall supervision.
The starter and start judges shall be placed at either end of the starting line to observe any starting infringements. Course judges shall be placed on either side of the course to observe run-throughs and participation infringements.

Finish 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 the next run-through.

## Disqualification

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 retain the point score and/or placing as at the time in the event. However, a competitor disqualified from the event shall lose all standing from the event.

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification:
a. Failure to complete the event as described and defined.
b. Deliberately impeding the progress of another competitor.
c. Picking up more than onebaton.

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.

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.

A competitor may cross over in front of a slower competitor.
If two or more competitors are guilty of deliberate impedance, the competitor who first used hands, arms, feet or legs will be disqualified.


## G. Run-Swim-Run

This U 19 event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event description

From the start line, competitors run to pass around the turning flag and enter the water to swim out to and around the buoys. Competitors swim back to the beach to again run round the turning flag before running to the finish line.

## The course

As shown in the following diagram, the course shall be laid out so that competitors run approximately 150 m , swim approximately 300 m , and run approximately 150 m to finish into a funnel finish. Any competitor that impedes or fails to complete the entire course will be disqualified.

## Run

The competitors will run parallel to the water's edge from the Start line to the turning flag placed approximately 75 meters distant. After rounding the turning flag clockwise competitors will run back towards the Start to the other turning flag, round that clockwise and enter the water.

## Swim

The competitors will swim clockwise around the White swim \#1 flag buoy and along the flag line to the Yellow / Blue \#10 flag buoy turning clockwise and returning to shore.

Run
When exiting the water the competitors must run up to and around the turning flag clockwise and complete the 150 meter run course running parallel to shore back towards the Start, round the turning flag and run to the Finish line.

## Judging

Competitors must finish on their feet in an upright position. The finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line.
Judges shall be placed to observe the conduct of the event as well as determine competitors' place at the finish line.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification: Failure to complete the course as defined and described.


## H. Ironguard (Run-Swim-Paddle)

This U19 event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event Description

Competitors cover an approximately 800-meter course that includes 2 beach sprints, a swim leg, a board leg.

## Starting positions

Competitors must commence the all legs from the correct allotted beach positions.
The starting positions are reversed for the Start and Board legs.
For example, in a 32-competitor race in which a competitor has drawn position 1: the competitor commences the initial run leg from position 1 but commences the other board leg from position 32.

## Handler

A member of the competitor's team assists the competitor. With the referee's approval, a non-team member may act as handler provided he or she is a member of the USLA, and is registered to participate at the championships in some capacity.

- wear a cap identical to that of the competitor.
- make every effort to ensure that they and their craft do not impede other competitors (otherwise disqualification may result).


## The course

Buoys shall be laid out for the swim and board legs as indicated in the following diagram.
To ensure fair starts and finishes, alignment of the start line and finish line to the buoys may be altered at the discretion of the referee, depending on the prevailing sea conditions.

## Buoy distances

Swimming buoys shall be positioned at a minimum of 120 meters from knee- depth water at low tide mark. The board leg buoys shall be positioned approximately 50 m behind the swimming buoys. The board leg buoys should be approximately 15 m apart.

## Flag layout

Two flags located approximately 20 meters from the water's edge and 38 meters apart designate beach turning marks. One shall be positioned in line with swim buoy \# 2, the other in line with the swim buoy \# 9.

Two flags 5 meters apart mark the finish line. They are positioned at right angles to the water's edge and approximately 50 meters from the first turning flag.

## Changeover line

The changeover lines shall be approximately 30 m in length, centered on the swimming flag buoy \# 1 approximately 5 meters from the water's edge, and marked by a flag or pole at either end.

## Start

The start will be at the right end of the course facing down the beach. The start line shall be approximately 30 m in length, The competitors will run down the beach 50 meters to a turning flag, round the flag clockwise, and enter the water for the swim.

## Run Course

Runs consists of three legs: the first leg is 50 meters, the second leg is 50 meters, and the third run is with the board up 15 meters from the water's edge and across the finish line

## Swim Course

Swim approximately 300 meters clockwise around all the swim flag buoys (White to Blue/Yellow) and run up and round clockwise both beach turning flags.

## Board Course

Board paddle approximately 400 meters clockwise from the changeover line to pass the White flag \#1 buoy on the outside; round the two Black and White Surf Race course buoys; return to the beach passing Blue/Yellow \#10 buoy on the outside; and run with your board from the water's edge up and across the finish line.

## Finish

The finish line shall be situated on the beach approximately 15 meters from the water's edge. It shall be 20 meters wide and marked at each end by a flag on a pole.
Competitors must cross the finish line in an upright position.

## Equipment

All boards shall conform to USLA Rules. Handlers must wear a team cap.

## Equipment removal

To assist with the safe conduct of the event, team members and/or handlers may remove damaged or abandoned equipment from the course during the event provided the progress of other competitors is not obstructed.

## Judging

The finish is judged on the competitor's chest crossing the finish line. Competitors must finish on their feet in an upright position.

Judges shall be placed to observe the conduct of the event and to determine competitors' place at the finish.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification: Failure to complete the course as defined and described.

## Control of craft:

Competitors must be in control of the board up to and including the last course buoy. Competitors shall not be disqualified if they lose control of the craft on the return journey from the buoys. Competitors may lose control on the way out without penalty provided they regain the craft and round the last turning buoy of each leg in control of the craft and complete the course.

5.11 Ironguard

## I. Surfski Race

This U 19 event is open. Chapters may enter as many competitors as they wish.

## Event description

Competitors steady their skis in line in knee-deep water about 1.5 m apart. Competitors must obey directions from the starter or check starter concerning ski alignment at the start.

On the starting signal, competitors paddle their skis around the apex course marked by three red buoys in a clockwise direction and return to finish when any part of the ski crosses the in-water finish line - ridden, gripped, or carried by the competitor.

Competitors may lose contact and control of their ski without necessarily beingdisqualified.

To complete the race competitors must have (or have regained) their ski and paddle and cross the finish line from the seaward side while maintaining contact with the ski and paddle.

Competitors are not permitted to hold or otherwise interfere with other competitors' skis or deliberately impede their progress.

## Dry start and finish:

If conditions are such that the starter cannot provide a fair start, a dry start and/or dry finish (where the ski is left at the water's edge as in the board race) shall be used.

## The course

The course layout shall be as detailed in the following diagram.
To ensure fair starts and finishes, alignment of the start line and finish line to the buoys may be altered at the discretion of the referee, depending on the prevailing sea conditions.

## Buoys:

Three buoys equal in size to a 50 liter drum shall be used: two "turning buoys" shall be placed approximately 75 m apart, and a minimum of 300 m paddling distance from knee depth water at low tide mark. The third "apex" buoy shall be placed midway and approximately 16 m seaward of the turning buoys thus forming an arc with them.

## The start line

Need not necessarily be identified, but if required it shall be marked by two poles and positioned so that the center of the start line is aligned with the first turning buoy.

## The finish line

Shall be between 2 flags mounted on stands or poles or other suitable

The Flags should be 35 meters apart in knee-deep water on the other end of course.

The center of the finish line is usually aligned with the third turning buoy (allowing for prevailing surfconditions).

## Equipment

Surf skis: See Section 6 - Equipment Standards.
Replacement skis or paddles for a competitor are permitted and may be brought to the water's edge by other Chapter Team members providing such replacement does not cause any interference to other competitors in the race and further provided that the competitor shall recommence the race from the original starting area.

## Judging

Judges shall be placed to observe the conduct of the event and to determine competitors' place at the finish.

## Disqualification

In addition to the General Rules the following behavior shall result in disqualification: Failure to complete the course as defined and described.

5.8 SURFSKI RACE

## UNDER 19

 COMPETITION
## RULES

## Course Drawings

## U19 COMPETITION RULES

United States Lifesaving Association U19 Competition Rules



2 km BEACH RUN
DISTANCE 2 km - COURSE: 1 km - down and back
(Distances are approximate)


BEACH FLAGS

5.5 SURF RACE


### 5.7 RESCUE BOARD RACE



5.6 RUN-SWIM-RUN


Swim Relay

5.8 SURFSKI RACE

