

SURFBOAT SPECS AND RULES

5.11 SURFBOAT RACE

- 1. Course** — The Surfboat Race shall round all buoys three times beginning on the left side of the course (see Figure 5.11). Ten surfboat teams per heat shall be allowed. Lane placement of all teams shall be determined by random draw prior to start of the race. The center lane will be established prior to the race. Surfboats will be positioned equally on both sides of the center lane. Lane 1 will be that lane furthest to the left looking seaward.
- 2. Equipment** — Surfboats shall conform to the USLA specifications. Helmets shall be worn by all rowers.

Two Man Surfboat Specifications:

- a) Length is not to exceed 20 feet 6 inches.
 - b) Length bottom is not to exceed 16 feet 6 inches, including any rocker.
 - c) Beam is not to exceed 72 inches at gunwale.
 - d) Width is not to be less than 35 inches at the widest outside bottom measurement across the chines.
 - e) Gunwale Height (freeboard). When calculating gunwale height, surfboats will be placed at level on a flat plane. Gunwale height will be the measurement taken from the top of the gunwale to the plane, at 90 degrees to that plane. At no place shall the gunwale height be less than 21". At the bow, and within one foot of the bow, at the gunwale, the gunwale height shall not be less than 34". At the stern, and within one foot of the stern, at the gunwale, the gunwale height shall be no less than 30". These measurements pertain to Schock-type dories only.
 - f) The "crown" of surfboat bottom will be allowed a tolerance of plus or minus one inch.
 - g) The minimum weight, including thwarts and oar locks, shall not be less than 300 lbs.
 - h) The span between oar lock centers at the oar well centers will be determined by the individual.
 - i) Construction material is to be left to the builder's preference.
 - j) Non-binding foot straps will be permitted, however, sliding seats will not be allowed.
 - k) Oars can be of any construction and may be individually shaped or formed as desired.
 - l) 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.
 - m) Surfboats in competition since 1960 not meeting these standards will be allowed to continue racing as long as they meet minimum weight.
- 3. Special Instructions for the Officials** -- The Clerk-of-the-Course shall be responsible for the check-in of all registered rowers at the race site. He shall use a public address system to call all participating surfboat crews together 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the race. At the pre-race meeting the clerk will explain the course, the starting commands, and conduct the draw for lanes. The clerk should conduct the lane draw for each heat at the pre-

race meeting. After that there should be no more meetings or lane draws. Any crew which does not have at least one of its members present for the lane draw will be disqualified. Under certain mitigating circumstances, such as being involved with another competition, the Course Clerk has the right to waive the disqualification, provided that prior notification has been given.

4. **Start** -- The Starter shall stand in the direct center of the starting line of surfboats, in a position to be clearly visible to all participants, and by use of an audio hailer indicate to the rowers that the race is about to begin. The Starter issues the command "Rowers, you are in the hands of the Starter". At any time following that command, the gun may be fired. The Starter will serve as an Official Judge of touch lines and the funnel finish, and may enlist additional judges as they are needed. The bowman must be out of the surfboat and must hold the boat stationary. At the sounding of the Starter's pistol the bowman may enter the surfboat. The sternman must be behind the starting line until the Starter's gun is fired. At that time, he may hasten to join his partner in the surfboat and proceed with the race. There shall be no "holder-pusher".
5. **The Race** -- The surfboats will proceed through the surf until reaching the first buoy. They will round it and continue over the designated course until they return to the beach. Upon reaching the surf line, one member of each crew must leave the surfboat and run up the beach to the touch line. Any part of their body may make contact, after which they may return to the surfboat to begin their second lap. The touch line shall be a continuous imaginary line between two specified points. The second lap travels in reverse of the first lap, and the same procedure is required for the completion of lap two.
6. **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.
7. **Seniors and Masters Events** — Seniors and Masters events will be two laps only. Both events will start and finish at the finish line area. Same as lap two and lap three in the open event.
8. **Veteran Event** -- The Veteran event will be one lap.