



*Chambers of Commerce and Cities of
Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance,
Los Angeles County Fire Department and Department of
Beaches and Harbors*

International Surf Festival

Chris Linkletter Women's Surf Relay Rules

Adopted: August 1, 2022

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DESCRIPTION: Chris Linkletter Women's Surf Relay (CLWSR) is a race open to the women lifeguards. The teams are organized from the various beaches. It is a 5-woman medley relay consisting of two swimmers, two paddlers, and one surf skier.

ELIGIBILITY: Lifeguard teams from Agencies/Chapters in good standing. Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division may be divided into multiple teams i.e. "A" team, "B" team, "C" team, etc. to accommodate as many teams as possible. Other agencies are encouraged to bring as many teams as possible.

GOAL: Showcase women in lifesaving and display the skills and challenges of the lifesaving profession to the general public in a competitive environment that is positive, friendly, and fair.

PURPOSE: To define the rules of the event and establish participation expectations.

DEFINITIONS:

Competition Caps – Team competition caps (aka beanies) shall be worn on the head of the Swimmers, Paddlers, and Surf Skier securely fastened under the chin at the start and finish of each event. Competitors shall not be disqualified for loss of their competition cap after the start if they complete all aspects of the event and it can be determined that they did not voluntarily remove their competition cap during the event. Failure to comply shall be subject to disqualification.

Handlers– Are team members who assist holding in place the ski and/or paddle (competitor’s choice) prior to the surf ski leg and catching ski and/or paddle (competitor’s choice) at the completion of the surf ski leg.

Start/Exchange/Finish Line – Lane markers, poles placed in a horizontal line on the beach parallel to the waterline.

Start of the Race – The Head Official/Starter will call each lane to make sure the first swimmer is ready. The Head Official/Starter will blow a whistle to indicate the race is about to begin. The Head Official/Starter will then fire the starter pistol to start the race.

Start – All competitors are to be positioned behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line before they begin their leg of the race.

Turn Flag Line – Ten distinctive colored flags stretched in a horizontal line. All buoys shall be placed by the ISF under the direction of the Head Official or their designee. Buoy placement must be done prior to the starting of the competition. Distance may vary due to tides, surf, and other conditions. The distance from Start/Exchange/Finish line to the Turn Flag Line is approximately 200-300 yards.

Turn Flag – A clockwise turn is recommended around any one of the ten flags, but not required. If making a counter-clockwise turn, the competitor must give way to another competitor who is making a clockwise turn. NOTE: Surf Skiers must round all ten flags in a clockwise direction.

Skin-to-Skin Tag – A physical touch person-to-person.

Exchange – A competitor who is completing their leg of the race MUST make a skin-to-skin tag to the next competitor who is standing BEHIND the Start/Exchange/Finish line.

Paddleboard Exchange – Using the same paddleboard, the competitor who is completing their leg of the race MAY hand the paddleboard to the next competitor who is standing BEHIND the Start/Exchange/Finish line. (This would be the only exception where a skin-to-skin tag is not required.) The other option would be a skin-to-skin tag BEHIND the Start/Exchange/Finish line.

Required equipment – one paddleboard and one surf ski per team.

Paddleboard Specifications – Must meet current United States Lifesaving Association standards.

Surf Ski Specifications – Must meet current United States Lifesaving Association standards.

Lane – The area on either side of the Team’s assigned lane pole, e.g. lane 5 is between lane pole 4 and lane pole 6.

Lane Assignments – Team lane assignments shall be made by the Head Official and shall be based on the finish order from the previous results if available.

Team Captain – The person responsible for the team and the contact for the Officials, Lane Judges, and ISF Committee. The Team Captain must be available for a Captain’s meeting prior to the start of the Chris Linkletter Women’s Surf Relay for any final instructions and/or questions. Team Captains are to submit their contact information to the ISF Official listed on the entry form along with a completed entry form. The entry form must include competitors full, legible, first and last names, and in the discipline they are competing. This team roster should be submitted no later than five days prior to the event.

Officials – Individuals who VOLUNTEER their time to make sure everyone is enjoying a fair and honest competition.

Lane Judges – Individuals who VOLUNTEER their time to issue competition caps (L.A. County teams only, outside agencies must bring their own competition caps), keep track of the event progress, turn the flipcharts, and approximate the finish order of their respective team. They are then responsible to collect ALL of the issued competition caps from the Team Captains. Once ALL competition caps and competition jerseys are received, issue the Team’s T-Shirts to the Team Captain for distribution. Lane Judges are responsible for turning in and retrieving all of the issued competition caps, flipcharts, and clipboards to the ISF Committee.

Disqualification – Elimination from the competition results due to a rules infraction, unsportsmanlike conduct, or inability to complete the race. The decision to disqualify a team from the race shall be made by the Head Official and that decision is final.

“Down in Front” – The Announcer, Lane Judge, and Officials will use this term for any teams that are standing in their area and blocking the public’s view of the event. All competitors have a responsibility to ensure the spectators have an unobstructed view of the competition. Team Captain’s should assist in this endeavor.

RULES:

Each Intracrew Team consists of a 5-woman Relay Team:

2 Swimmers

2 Paddlers

1 Surf Skier

No team member may compete more than once per relay team.

No team member may compete on more than one team.

Each 5-member team is assigned a lane. ALL exchanges (skin-to-skin tags) must be in their respective lane and behind the lane marker Start/Exchange/Finish line.

The Surf Skier must Finish the race in their respective lane.

All Swim, Paddle, and Ski competitors must wear their team competition cap when competing.

Team Captains are responsible for the conduct of their team during the event. They are responsible for knowing the rules and making sure their team members follow said rules. They are responsible for all issued competition caps and for turning in ALL issued competition caps and competition jerseys to their lane judge. Team Captains are responsible for distributing their teams T-Shirts once all competition caps are accounted for.

START:

The first Swimmer shall be in their respective lane behind the Start line wearing their assigned competition cap and competition jersey. The Head Official will call out each lane to make sure they are ready. The Head Official will blow the whistle to indicate the race is about to start. The Head Official will fire the starter pistol to start the race.

COURSE:

Lane Marker Line - Start/Exchange/Finish Line

Flag Line - Turn buoy

A Competitor must start in their lane at the Start/Exchange/Finish line, go around one flag on the flag line, and execute a skin-to-skin tag (exception paddlers may skin-to-paddleboard tag) on the next competitor who is behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line in their respective lane.

The remaining swimmers, paddlers, and skier are to be in their lane behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line wearing their assigned competition cap.

COURSE EXCEPTION:

Surf skier wearing the required competition cap and competition jersey must start in their lane behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line. Once skin-to-skin tagged, they will run to the water's edge where their handler will be holding their ski and/or paddle (competitor's choice). The surf skier, from their lane, will then paddle their surf ski to the south end of the flag line and execute a clockwise turn. Then they will paddle a clockwise course on the ocean side of the entire flag line completing a clockwise turn at the north end of the flag line. The surf skier will then paddle to the beach, drop their ski, and ski paddle (competitor's choice) with their handler and run up the beach to finish crossing the Start/Exchange/Finish line in their lane.

RULES:

A competitor may NOT purposely interfere with another competitor. When rounding the flag line, all precautions must be taken to avoid any collisions.

During the race, all team members must remain seated to allow the spectators an opportunity to view the race. The Team Captain shall assist in team compliance.

Exchanges are to be a skin-to-skin tag with the next competitor standing behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line. The only exception would be in the paddleboard exchange, skin-to-board tag would be acceptable when the upcoming competitor is standing behind the Start/Exchange/Finish line.

A team member is permitted to direct a competitor exiting the water to their respective lane as long as they do not interfere with any other competitors.

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