

2013 US Windsurfing National Championships

Los Angeles, San Pedro, CA

07/16/2013

The **2013 US Windsurfing National Championship** is being held in Los Angeles, CA at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro August 5th through the 9th. This is the first time that US Windsurfing has sanctioned an Event here in Los Angeles area. Although the 80's and 90's saw World Cup and other World Class Windsurfing Events here, this is the biggest windsurfing event here in 20 years. The experienced, *Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club* was the main reason they are bringing it here.

The **National Championships** have been held almost exclusively on the West Coast for many years now, but mostly in San Francisco Bay and Hood River, Oregon. This entire event now is being organized by the *Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club* and *US Windsurfing* volunteers over 5 days. About 75-100 National & World Class competitors will be coming from all around the United States and outside the US.

Locally, Cabrillo Beach has hosted a local Southern California figure eight slalom race here for the past few years, that was visible off the beach for the audience. That too was organized by the *Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club*. Both the CBYC and US Windsurfing Association are non-profit, 501c3 organizations. All events are free to watch starting at about 2pm daily.

The **2013 US National Championships** will be holding *4 different National Events: Course Racing, Long Distance Racing, Off-the-Wind Slalom and Freestyle competition*. All of the Events will be announced from shore on the surf side of Cabrillo Beach to describe the action taking place. Only the Long Distance Race will just be visible for the Start and Finish only, taking about 2-4hours to complete racing on the Outside of the LA/Long Beach Breakwater. All the Events are wind-dependent. The winds will increase to sufficient strength usually around 2 pm lasting to 6 pm. Winds are expected to be 18-28 mph. The *Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club* will be in charge of the starting, finishing and recording all the races.

The new, exciting, *Windsurfing Freestyle* competition will be held on Wednesday afternoon. This is an acrobatic display of a competitor on a windsurfer doing flips, leaps, rotations, inversions and complicated tricks with the equipment in hand moving at the same time.. Experts at this specialty will be coming from all over the Western Hemisphere. It is very entertaining to watch.

Off-the-wind Slalom is a zigzag course of buoys where about 20 windsurfers start outside on the start line, racing for the inside-outside-inside-outside marks and finishing toward the beach. All of it happening fast and furious with easy eyesight of whom is ahead and lead changes are frequent and avoiding crashes or falling in is very important to maintain your position in this fast action Slalom event.

Course Racing will be happening first every day except on Long Distance race day. A minimum of two races will be completed for all windsurfing race classes before Off-the-Wind Slalom racing is started. Slalom Racing will consist of 6 heats daily maximum or 2 per racing class.

Long Distance Racing will be very grueling. It is starting off Cabrillo Beach surfside and heading for the Pt Fermin Buoy area and then downwind all the way to the end of the Long Beach Breakwater, about 10 miles down wind. Then the Racers will have to sail up wind for the same 10 miles to finish off Cabrillo Beach to complete the race. Although it is straight line

course, windsurfers must maintain boat speed while angling off the wind both downwind and upwind. So with that in mind they are adding about 5 miles more to their trip than just the straight line, (which they cannot do anyways).

Awards Ceremony will be at the Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club Friday Evening. Sponsors for this event are: Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, US Windsurfing Association, Capt Kirks Windsurfing, Whale and Ale Restaurant, Seadog Brewing Company, Shipyard Brewing Company.

For more information: <http://www.2013windsurfingnationals.com/>

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