

# Huntington Beach, California Will Host 2023 ISA World Para Surfing Championship

*Para Surfing Continues to Grow as ISA Awaits IPC/LA28 decision on Paralympic Inclusion*

*April 25, 2023* - The ISA is excited to announce that the 8th edition of the ISA World Para Surfing Championship (WPSC) will be held in Huntington Beach, California, November 5-11, 2023.

The highly successful and record-breaking 2022 edition of the event in Pismo Beach, California saw over 180 athletes representing 28 national teams competing across 9 different Para Surfing Sport Classes. The 2023 WPSC will no doubt see more records broken as the ISA furthers its mission to see Para Surfing included in the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.



*Huntington Beach Iconic Pier / Photo: ISA*

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In coordination with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Para Surfing is currently under consideration by the Los Angeles 2028 Organizing Committee

(LA28) for inclusion as an additional sport for the LA28 Paralympic Games. In January, the IPC Governing Board confirmed that Para Surfing has demonstrated the competitive viability and integrity of the sport, as well as the strategic benefits to the Paralympic Games.

Para Surfing has experienced substantial growth since the first ISA World Para Surfing Championship in 2015 (originally titled the World Adaptive Surfing Championship). During that period, the ISA has continued to refine the Para Surfing Classification system in line with IPC requirements and encouraged its network of 113 member nations to host national and regional competitions.

Women's involvement has been increasing at a significant rate each year, making up a full third of the field in 2022. Gender equality is a pillar of the ISA's mission, and the organization is invested in further promoting gender equity in each surfing discipline.

Huntington Beach has played a historic role for the sport of surfing, having hosted many major surfing events. The 2023 ISA World Para Surfing Championship will be the eighth major ISA event held in 'Surf City USA' after the city hosted four editions of the ISA World Surfing Games in 1984, 1996, 2006, and 2022, as well as the ISA World Juniors in 2005, 2018 and 2019.

**ISA President Fernando Aguerre said:**

"Our biggest hope and dream is to celebrate Para Surfing's inclusion in LA28 Paralympic Games during the World Championship".

"I am so excited to see the world's best para surfers in the iconic Surf City USA for the very first time. It will be amazing to see the level of energy and joy that Para Surfing can bring to the Paralympics at such an ideal stage".

"Para Surfing continues to grow every year as we run this amazing and important Championship. Athlete participation grows and the level of performance and competition increases at such a phenomenal rate".

"Our mission at the ISA to create 'A Better World Through Surfing' is so strongly seen through each and every one of the Para Surfing athletes. The life-changing effect that the ocean has is undeniable and surfing has played a key role in the healing of mind, body and spirit for so many in the Para Surfing community".

**President & CEO of Visit Huntington Beach, Kelly Miller, said:**

"Visit Huntington Beach, the official destination marketing organization for the city, is ecstatic to build on the success of past ISA events here in our city. By hosting the ISA World Para Surfing Championship in early November 2023 at the historical HB Pier, our entire community is demonstrating once again our

commitment to not only the ISA, but to the dreams of world class Para Surfing athletes who will travel from around the world to compete for medals in Surf City USA. If you haven't witnessed firsthand the life changing experience of watching these incredible athletes compete, mark your calendars. This is a must attend competition for everyone."

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**About the International Surfing Association:**

The International Surfing Association (ISA), founded in 1964, is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the World Governing Authority for Surfing. The ISA governs and defines Surfing as Shortboard, Longboard & Bodyboarding, StandUp Paddle (SUP) Racing and Surfing, Para Surfing, Bodysurfing, Wakesurfing, and all other wave riding activities on any type of waves, and on flat water using wave riding equipment. The ISA crowned its first Men's and Women's World Champions in 1964. It crowned the first Big Wave World Champion in 1965; World Junior Champion in 1980; World Kneeboard Champions in 1982; World Longboard Surfing and World Bodyboard Champions in 1988; World Tandem Surfing Champions in 2006; World Masters Champions in 2007; World StandUp Paddle (SUP, both surfing and racing) and Paddleboard Champions in 2012, and World Para Surfing Champions in 2015.

ISA membership includes the surfing National Federations of 113 countries on five continents. The ISA is presided over by Fernando Aguerre (ARG). The Executive Committee includes four Vice-Presidents Karín Sierralta (PER), Kirsty Coventry (ZIM), Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA) and Barbara Kendall (NZL), Athletes' Commission Chair Justine Dupont (FRA), Regular Members Kimifumi Imoto (JPN) and Jakob Færch (DEN) and ISA Executive Director Robert Fasulo as Ex-officio Member.

For more information, please visit [www.isasurf.org](http://www.isasurf.org).

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