

**2013 ISA WORLD SURFING GAMES
SANTA CATALINA - PANAMA**

MEDIA KIT



About the Event

The ISA World Surfing Games is the biggest and most important surfing event for over-35 year old surfers. Once a year, athletes from around the globe gather to establish who is the best Men and Women surfer and which is the most powerful nation.

Over 150 participants from 24 nations are coming together right now at Santa Catalina, in the Province of Veraguas, to compete for the Gold in the Open Men's and Open Women's divisions, and most importantly, all the countries will fight for the top spot in the team-standings and Fernando Aguerre World Team Champion Trophy.



Photo: Philippe Demarsan

History of the event

The ISA World Surfing Games began in 1964 under the name ISF World Championships, and were run by the International Surfing Federation, the first surfing international organization in history. In 1976, the ISF became the ISA. From their beginning and until today, the contestants in the World Championship traveled to compete as a team and to represent their nation.

2011 Team Medalists

Gold: Australia
Silver: Brazil
Bronze: France
Copper: Argentina



Individual Places

Open Men's Division

Gold: Santiago Muniz (ARG)
 Silver: Mick Campbell (AUS)
 Bronze: Thomas Woods (AUS)
 Copper: Ian Gouveia (BRA)

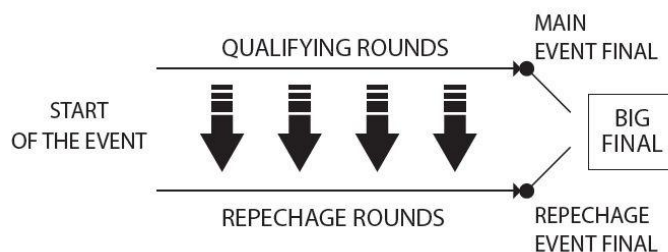
Open Women's division

Gold: Cannelle Bulard (FRA)
 Silver: Sofia Mulanovich (PER)
 Bronze: Jessi Miley-Dyer (AUS)
 Copper: Dimity Stoyale (AUS)

Event Format

This is a double elimination event, which means that surfers need to lose twice to be eliminated. All surfers start in the same bracket, and those who win make their way through what's called the Main Event.

Those who lose, fall to the Repechage. If surfers lose in the Repechage they are out of the event. As for surfers who remain in the Main Event, the further they advance, if they lose once, they will fall to the corresponding advanced round of Repechage.



At the end, the finalists of the Main Event will compete against the finalists of the Repechage to create one final to determine the division medalists.



All you need to know about the Panama ISA WSG

Olympic Spirit

The event gathers the best surfers from every continent as part of their National Teams in an “Olympic style” event. The surfers contend for medals and the honor of representing their respective countries. There are no cash prizes awarded.

Athletes compete for individual and team Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper Medals, as well as for the coveted Fernando Aguerre World Champion Team Trophy, which is awarded to the Gold Medal-winning National Team. Fernando Aguerre is the long-time ISA President, elected for the first time in 1994 and re-elected 7 times since.

This is the fourth ISA event made in Panama. The first was the ISA World Masters Surfing Championship in 2010, followed by the ISA World Surfing Games in 2011 and next was the 2012 ISA World Junior Surfing Championship, both events held in Playa Venao.

Countries and Divisions

The confirmed countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

They will be seeking for a place on the podium in the individual Open Men’s and Women’s divisions and, most importantly, in the overall team standings.

Defending Champion

Australia won the ISA World Surfing Games Team Gold Medal, and was awarded the Fernando Aguerre World Team Trophy in glassy and consistent two-to-four feet waves in Panama’s Playa Venao. Three years after their last victory in Portugal in 2008, the Aussies put their country back on top as the premiere surfing National Team in the world that year.

The Australian Team included Mick Campbell, Drew Courtney, Thomas Woods and Nathan Hedge in the Men division; Harley Ingleby and Dane Pioli in Longboard and Dimity Stoye and Jessi Miley-Dyer in the Women. Five out of the twelve medalists were from Australia.

The Venue

Panama is the southernmost country of Central America, bordered to the north by the Caribbean Sea, to the south by the Pacific Ocean, to the east by Colombia and to the west by Costa Rica. Its early status as a transit country with its famous Panama Canal, has allowed Panama to become a meeting point of cultures from around the globe.



Santa Catalina is a quiet surf town located in the Province of Veraguas and is home to several hundred people who lead simple lives, many as fishermen.

Besides surfing, Santa Catalina is also known for its sport fishing, diving and snorkeling. It's also the departure point for Coiba Island, a National Park that covers over 430,000 acres, making it one of the largest marine parks in the world.

The wave is world-class. It breaks along a shallow reef that creates a perfect right-hand powerful and hollow wave. Santa Catalina handles solid swells in the 8-12 feet range.

The event was scheduled to take place during the active Southern Hemisphere swell season that produces great waves for the region. Santa Catalina will provide a long right with an incredible barrel section. The main wave is located approximately 300 meters from shore, so you can get there paddling or by boat. It is a break that picks up sizeable waves in any type of swell coming mainly from the south or southwest.⁷

Events and dates

The 2013 Reef ISA WSG will officially open on May 4 with the traditional ISA Opening Ceremony, which will include the Parade of the Nations and Sands of the World Ceremony.

The Parade of the Nations is a colorful and energy-filled event, complete with teams chanting, waving flags and the cheering of the locals who come out to watch the spectacle.

The Sands of the World Ceremony symbolizes the true fraternal spirit that bonds together all members of the global surfing tribe. The union of the countries of the world in this Ceremony is symbolized through the mixing of the sands from the shores of all participating National Delegations, showcasing the ISA desire for a better and peaceful world.

Important Dates

- May 4: Opening Ceremony, Parade of Nations, Sands of the World Ceremony and Official Press Conference.
- May 5: Competition Begins
- May 12: Final day of competition, Awards Presentation and Closing Ceremony

Event wave's Forecast by the Official Forecaster Surflife.

BRIEF OVERVIEW: Plenty of contestable waves are lining up for the entire event; starting off with a solid SSW swell, then possibly ending with another good SW swell. At least for the first few days or so, conditions are looking good as well, with mornings offering the best wind with incoming tide.

Swell/Surf Outlook



Thanks to a rather large complex storm system that previously tracked across the South Pacific, a solid SW swell is currently gracing the region, offering plenty of waves for warm-up over the next couple days. Pushed out by the same system, the event will kick off with a good pulse of reinforcing SSW swell (210-190 deg), which builds in Friday and peaks on Saturday. This run of swell will then slowly ease Sunday through next week.

Look for a steady supply of head high to overhead waves at Santa Catalina this weekend, with the bigger sets pushing up to 2-3 feet overhead, especially during the more favorable tides. Saturday will see occasional waves/peaks hit double overhead. Although this swell will slowly ease next week, a couple more Southern Hemi pulses are lining up (details below). At this point, we're looking at head high sets or better for the entire event!

As the above mentioned swell fades, a new/fun size SSW swell (210-190 deg) will move in for the 9th-10th to maintain contestable surf. That may then be followed by a bigger SW swell (215-200 deg) that builds in over the 11th and peaks on the 12th with overhead+ surf. Stay posted for updates, still pending storm development over the next several days.

Wind/Weather Outlook

At this time, we are expecting a typical diurnal wind pattern to prevail through at least the weekend and the first part of next week. Therefore, look for calm to light/variable offshore wind in the early mornings, with a light to moderate seabreeze developing through the mid-late morning hours and into each afternoon. Overall, skies will be partly cloudy with plenty of sun. However, as it is the tropics, there will certainly be a decent chance for sporadic showers and thunderstorms to develop in the area, especially in the afternoons.

ATHLETES TO WATCH



Gabriel Villarán
 Peru
 2010 ISA World Surfing Games
 Silver Medalist



Wade Carmichael
 Australia
 2012 ASP Australasia Pro
 Junior Champion



Rossany Álvarez
 Venezuela
 2012 ASP South America
 Junior Champion



Shaun Joubert
 South Africa
 2010 ASP Africa Pro Junior
 Champion



Dimity Stoye
 Australia
 2011 ISA World Surfing Games
 Copper Medalist



Leandro Usuna
 Argentina
 2012 ALAS Latin American
 Champion



Sponsors

The 2013 Reef ISA World Surfing Games in Panama is made possible with the backing of the following sponsors:

Panama's Ministry of Tourism, Reef, Atlas, Squirt, Cable & Wireless Internet, Copa Airlines and Asociación Panameña de Surf.

The Media Partners are Surfline, Surfers Village, Gravedad Zero, Surfos, Pasión Extrema, Waves, Surfea Panama.

About the International Surfing Association

The International Surfing Association (ISA) is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the World Governing Authority for Surfing. It was originally founded as the International Surfing Federation in 1964 and has been running the Open Division World Championship since 1964, the World Junior Surfing Championship since 1980, the World Masters Surfing Championship since 2007, the World Bodyboard Championship since 2011, the Hainan Wanning Riyue Bay International Surfing Festival in China, and the World Standup Paddle (SUP) and Paddleboard Championship beginning in 2012. The ISA also sanctions the World Kneeboard Titles and the World Tandem Surfing Championship, and will launch the World Longboard Championship in 2013. ISA membership includes the surfing National Governing Bodies of 73 countries on five continents. Its headquarters are located in La Jolla, California. It is presided over by Fernando Aguerre (Argentina), first elected President in 1994 in Rio de Janeiro and re-elected seven times since. The ISA's four Vice-Presidents are Alan Atkins (AUS), Karín Sierralta (PER), Debbie Beacham (USA) and Layne Beachley (AUS).

More on www.isasurf.org