



Contact: John Parks, International City Racing  
Cell: 949-290-5508  
Email: [jparks@runicr.com](mailto:jparks@runicr.com)

Kevin Wilkerson, Long Beach Sea Festival  
Cell: 310-990-4020  
[KWilkerson@aol.com](mailto:KWilkerson@aol.com)

Jason Mucher, USA Triathlon  
Cell: (719) 482-8596  
Email: [jason.mucher@usatriathlon.org](mailto:jason.mucher@usatriathlon.org)

### **Top Triathletes to Compete in Long Beach on Sunday, June 25th**

#### **The Beach Triathlon Pan Pacific Cup & 2006 USA Triathlon Elite National Championship**

The Olympic spirit returns to the City of Long Beach on June 25 when the *Beach Triathlon 2006* kicks off a three-month long series of athletic and family events known as Long Beach Sea Festival.

This Olympic-distance triathlon will allow triathletes and spectators to get an early look at who might be competing at the 2008 Olympic Games, and also show how brightly the City of Long Beach shines as a finalist to host one of the 2008 Olympic Qualifying Series triathlons (The hugely successful 2004 Olympic Swim Trials were held in Downtown Long Beach.)

"We will be hosting the nation's best triathletes as part of the process of choosing America's champion triathletes, and also readying the City of Long Beach to host the Olympic Triathlon Trials in 2008," said Chris Pook, organizer of Long Beach Sea Festival.

Athletes to watch during the *Beach Triathlon 2006* include Hunter Kemper – two-time Olympian, three-time International Triathlon Union World Cup winner, five-time U.S. pro champion, and 2005 United States Olympic Committee Sportsman of the Year – as well as Olympians Victor Plata and Andy Potts.

The Long Beach race is one of five cities this year in the *Haul to the Great Wall* series, which offers an additional \$50,000 in championship and bonus money. Additionally, the top men's and women's athlete in the Long Beach race will automatically qualify for the 2006 World Championship in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Participants can still register for the event on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Saturday, June 24, from 10am-4pm in the Alamitos beach parking lot. Entry fees range from \$50 to \$95.

**Schedule of Events:**

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

Elite Athlete Media Brunch

9 am to 11 am (Media questions at 10:30 am)

Marina Green Tent (just south of Shoreline Drive and Linden Ave.)

Approximately 80 Elite competitors will be gathered for this USA Triathlon event.

**Race Day Schedule:**

4:30 am Transition area opens

Olympic Distance Race (0.93-mile swim, 24.8-mile cycle, 6.2-mile run)

6:00 am Elite Males, U23 Males (under 23)

7:00 am Elite Females, U23 Females

Sprint Distance Race (0.5-Mile Swim, 12.4-mile cycle, 3.1-mile run)

8:00 am Elite Juniors and Elite Youth

9:00 am Age group-Males

9:05 am Age group-Females

All athletes should plan on parking in the Junipero beach parking lot. Enter the parking lot from Ocean Boulevard, taking Junipero down the hill and turning right to use the far west portion of the parking lot. Athletes will ride their bikes along the bike path approximately 0.5 mile west to the transition area (parking lot area behind Alfredo's Beach Club off Shoreline Drive) to begin setting up and preparing for the race. Please bring all race equipment you will need after parking and riding to the transition area.

The best areas for spectator viewing are near the transition area, finish line area, Shoreline Drive and the bike path. Spectators are not allowed on the course.

### **See Following for Road Closures and Times**

The following streets will be closed for the Beach Triathlon (please note that course re-open times are approximate)

Shoreline Drive from the 710 Freeway to Ocean Blvd. will be closed from 5 am to 11 am.

The Queensway Bridge will be closed going North (from the Queen Mary) from 5 am to 11 am and will only have one lane open going South with access from Magnolia Ave. only during this time.

Portions of Harbor Scenic Drive will be closed but all visitors will have access to the Queen Mary and Carnival Cruise Lines via Harbor Scenic and Harbor Plaza.

Aquarium Way will be closed from 5 am to 8:30 am. Those wanting access to the Aquarium after 8:30 am must come down Magnolia Ave. and exit on to Golden Shore Drive and circle around the back side of the Aquarium to get access from 8:30 am to 11 am. Access from Shoreline Drive will reopen at 11 AM.

For more information about the triathlon, registering, the course, and other details are available at [www.thebeachtri.com](http://www.thebeachtri.com).

The Long Beach Sea Festival is presented by the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, in cooperation with Partners of Parks, and various other event sponsors. More information is available at [www.seafestivallongbeach.com](http://www.seafestivallongbeach.com). For information about other summer activities in Long Beach, call the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department at 562.570.3100 or visit [www.lbparks.org](http://www.lbparks.org).

**About International City Racing:** Led by Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Seagren, International City Racing, Inc. (ICR) specializes exclusively in the development, management and implementation of world class endurance, health and fitness events. In addition to the Beach Triathlon, ICR also operates the Long Beach International City Bank Marathon with more than 18,000 participants, and the Dana Point Turkey Trot, one of the largest Thanksgiving Day runs in the nation.

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