



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Beach Triathlon Continental Cup and 2006 Elite National Championship
comes to Long Beach as kick-off for Long Beach Sea Festival
US and International World-Class Elite Triathletes to Compete**

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 have the opportunity here to host the Nation's best triathletes, and once again become a part of the process to assist in choosing America's champion triathletes, as well as also ready 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 woman athlete in the Long Beach race will automatically qualify for the 2006 World Championship in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Entry fees range from \$50 to \$95.

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.

More information about the triathlon, registering, the course, and other details are available at

www.thebeachtri.com.

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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