

## PHOTOCALL NOTICE



Event: National Beach Rescue Championships

Date: Saturday 12th September 2015

Time: 8.30am to 4pm

Venue: Spanish Point, Co. Clare

Contact: Roger Sweeney, Irish Water Safety 087 678 9601;

[rogersweeney@iws.ie](mailto:rogersweeney@iws.ie)

Directions: Spanish Point Beach, two miles from Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare

Special instructions: All cameras must be checked-in with organisers on site

Picture opportunities:

- Olympic Category 2 Sport
- Emergency rescue scenarios featuring
- Running, swimming, kayaking, paddle-board race techniques
- Surf and open water events
- 150+ competitors from nine counties
- Peak event for 113,000 certified people in Ireland in 2014

## PRESS RELEASE

Spanish Point beach in Clare will be amongst the safest in Ireland this Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September when 152 Lifeguards from nine counties test their skills at Irish Water Safety's National Beach Rescue Championships.

Simulated emergency rescue scenarios incorporating running, swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding race formats are designed to test their lifesaving skills.

These championships will see trained lifeguards compete in beach and open water events of this multifaceted sport which has Olympic Category 2 standing and is recognised by the World Sports Federation.

Irish Lifeguards won a record eighteen medals in August at the European Rescue Championships in Wales.

Competitions throughout the year see Lifeguards qualify as the top competitors in the country who now go head to head for the overall national title. The 152 competitors represent the best in a discipline in which 113,000 members of the public were certified to various levels by IWS last year.

The value of this training is reflected in the fact that 831 people were rescued from drowning by Lifeguards at Irish waterways last year.

"The sport of Lifesaving has been developed to improve the standard of lifeguarding in Ireland," commented Seamus O'Neill, chairman of Irish Water Safety's Sports Commission. "This gives us great confidence in the skills of our lifeguards on Ireland's beaches and waterways."

Ends 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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[www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie); [info@iws.ie](mailto:info@iws.ie)

Highlights Video from 2014 Senior National Championships:  
<https://www.facebook.com/IWSie/videos/758179734245283/>



## MEDIA NOTES

The sport of Lifesaving:

1. Life Saving Sport is recognised as an Olympic Category two Sport and it is recognised by the International Olympic Committee and the World Sports Federation.
2. The sport is controlled by International Lifesaving (ILS) Sport and this organisation is recognised by IOC as the controlling body for the sport worldwide. There are over one hundred countries registered as members of ILS.
3. Within Europe the sport is controlled by International Lifesaving Sport Europe a subsidiary body of ILS.
4. Irish Water Safety is recognised by both bodies as the National Governing Body for the sport in Ireland.
5. Irish Water Safety has organised the sport in Ireland since 1946. His Excellency President Sean T. O'Ceallaigh presented the President's Award to IWS in 1950 for competition between the counties of Ireland and it is competed for every year since then.
6. ILS, ILSE and IWS all subscribe to WADA.
7. The sport holds European and World Championships in addition to National Championships,
8. The Sports Commission manages the sport within IWS. Participation in competitions has been part funded by Irish Sports Council and IWS funding.
9. Life Saving Sport is quite distinct in that the disciplines in which people compete are directly related to elements of lifeguarding.

