

SURF



EQUITY

Coastal Commission Hearing



May 17, 2021

Mavericks Surf Awards Discriminates Against Women Athletes

Surf Equity + Sport Equity

**14 Male Finalists
2 Female Finalists**

**4 Male Prize Winners
1 Female Prize Winner**

Surf Equity + Sport Equity

In surfing, "there was always the good, aloha vibe but behind the aloha vibe was the other vibe — a locals-only, whites-only vibe."

—**Sharon Schaffer**, First Black Woman U.S. Professional Surfer

The Jonathan Club

In 1985, the Coastal Act was used to end discrimination at an exclusive, all white, men's only social club located within the Coastal Zone at Santa Monica Beach.

Thank you Peter M. Douglas and Nancy Cave.

Enviornmental Justice

The ocean doesn't discriminate.

People discriminate.

It's important that advocates for coastal access
respond accordingly.

In 2015, I asked the Coastal Commission to correct decades of gender discrimination by requiring that women be included in a big wave surf competition held at Mavericks in San Mateo County. I received support for a Coastal Development Permit condition requiring the inclusion of women going forward...

Subsequently, the Coastal Commission voted unanimously to require the inclusion of a single heat for women in 2016 and 2017.

In 2018, they unanimously supported requiring a multi-heat women's division with equal prize money at each participant level.

In October 2018, the State Lands Commission approved a lease requiring the inclusion of a multi-heat women's division and equal pay for all competitors regardless of gender. This was a precedent-setting victory for equal pay in sporting events held on state property.

In December 2019, the Coastal Commission unanimously approved CDP Waiver 2-19-1211-W for a competition at Mavericks.

In, December 2020, the State Lands Commission approved a lease to a woman owned company for future Mavericks surf competitions. One of the conditions of the new 5-year lease requires a Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission.

Keala Kennelly at Mavericks Beach

2019 Big Wave World Champion



California's Sport Equity Law

Assembly Bill 467

New Coastal Act Section 30615

On September 9, 2019, Assembly Bill 467 was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

The **“Competitions on State Property: Prize Compensation: Gender Equity”** law added a new section to the Coastal Act effective January 1, 2020.

California State Law: <https://bit.ly/3qboS8L>

California Coastal Act Section 30615: <https://bit.ly/2PWwyPa>

Coastal Act Section 30615

In 2019, the California Senate and Assembly unanimously voted for AB 467 and Governor Newsom signed the bill into law.

The law was inspired by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing, the Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission.

The purpose of the law is to prevent gender discrimination by requiring equal prize compensation for women and men at Mavericks surf competitions and other professional sports competitions.

To enforce the new law Coastal Commission staff must require a CDP or CDP waiver for sports competitions that do not provide equal prize compensation for each gendered category.

Coastal Act Section 30615

Section 30615.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Event” means a competition event within the coastal zone.

(2) “Prize compensation” includes prize or purse money, other prizes, goods, or other compensation.

(b) The commission shall require as a condition of a coastal development permit for any event that awards prize compensation to competitors in gendered categories, for any participant level that receives prize compensation, that the prize compensation for each gendered category be identical at each participant level. The commission shall not approve a coastal development permit for an event that does not comply with this condition.

(Added by Stats. 2019, Ch. 276, Sec. 4. (AB 467) Effective January 1, 2020.)

Streets and Highways Code Section 682.7

In the Spring of 2019, before the bill became a law I spent weeks in Sacramento. I lobbied for an amendment that would include streets, roadways and highways. On June 3, 2019, my advocacy resulted in an amendment to AB 467.

After many meetings, letters and phone calls AB 467 was amended to include "streets and roadways." After a three month lobbying effort, Caltrans was included along with Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission and State Parks. This was win for women in cycling who had been excluded from the original bill.

California State Law: <https://bit.ly/3qboS8L>

Recent Inequity

In 2020 and 2021, Jeff Clark violated the new law and confused the Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission.

Surf Contest Running at Mavericks without Permits

This season, the Mavericks Surf Awards ran a competition from Dec 1, 2020 to April 15, 2021. The event was held on every surfable day for 4.5 months in San Mateo County.

Men competed for 80% of the prize money and women competed for 20%.

This format lacks parity and is inconsistent with past Coastal Development Permit requirements.

Mavericks Surf Awards 2021

Female Performer
of the Year

Justine Dupont
Bianca Valenti

14 Male Finalists

2 Female Finalists

Male Performer
of the Year

Kai Lenny
John Mel
Peter Mel

4 Male Prize Winners

1 Female Prize Winner

Best Barrel

John Mel
Peter Mel
Hunter Murison
Manny Resano

Biggest Wave

Grant Baker
Matt Bromley
Kai Lenny
Peter Mel

Ride of the Year

Matt Bromley
Kai Lenny
Peter Mel

“Gender Neutral” Categories Exclude Women Pro Surfers

In professional surfing “gender neutral” categories are code for excluding women and avoiding paying women prize money.

It’s a way to skirt the Coastal Act and state civil rights laws. It’s also inconsistent with Olympic standards for surfing, snowboarding and skiing as well as many other sports.

Gender neutral categories result in fewer women competitors as well as inequity in prize compensation.

Do we support a third category in pro surfing competitions for athletes who do not identify as female to male?

Yes




We support the inclusion of transgender athletes in all professional sports



“Specifically targeting transgender girls in sport continues the long history of gender discrimination and stereotyping that has hindered the advancement of all women in sport. This type of sex discrimination is a dangerous starting point for further discrimination of all women and girls in athletics at every level of play.”

– Chris Mosier, First known transgender athlete to compete in the Olympic Trials in the gender they identify in 2020

A full-page background image showing a massive, curling blue wave with white foam. A surfer in a red shirt is riding the wave. The sky is clear blue.

MALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR
FEMALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR
BIGGEST WAVE
BEST BARREL
RIDE OF THE YEAR

Equal prize money awarded for Male & Female Performer of the Year, remaining categories are gender neutral

[SUBMIT YOUR RIDE](#)

CONTEST RULES & DETAILS

GUIDELINES:

- Made Waves only
- No Tows, paddle only
- Each ride requires a separate submission for each category applicable (Mavericks Ride of the Year, Biggest Wave, Best Barrel)
- Performance of the Year categories will be judged by the surfers body of work over the season as submitted for other categories

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- I will be 18 years or older by May 1, 2020
- Release of liability: I release Mavericks Surf Awards LLC of any and all liability.
- I release this intellectual property and grant Mavericks Surf Awards and its partners license to use this content, with credit, to promote the Mavericks Surf Awards. This does not include promotion of other properties beyond Mavericks Surf Awards.

Bianca Valenti surfing Mavericks on January 10, 2021

Photo by Sachi Cunningham



The Mavericks Surf Awards is running without any permits; the event is operating without a coastal development permit and without a State Lands lease. Event organizers should be required to apply for a CDP so the Commission can review the contest to ensure that public resources within the coastal zone are being used fairly.

The Mavericks Surf Awards event has transformed the entire surf season into a multi-day contest. A website describes the event as a, "Performance Based Video Contest That Lasts All Season Long." Some may describe this as a "digital" format however the contest is an actual competition that uses State lands, State waters, county beach and public facilities.



powerlinesproductions



16,627 views • Liked by msnwhite and sharkgirlkim

powerlinesproductions Invasion 🤪

View all 70 comments

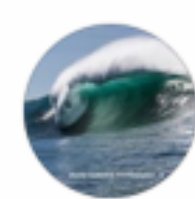
donaldmiralle @_mattbecker 100



antonio_gil_vieira Win 🤔 🤔 🤔



January 10



frank_quirarte_photo



3,587 views • Liked by seasachi and dexterzavalza

frank_quirarte_photo IMAX over Mavericks! • I had the pleasure of working with the #flyover team the past three days documenting giant #mavericks for a very cool interactive project they will announce very soon! 🚁



#euanart



Photo by Ken Pagliaro

The density and intensity of use has dramatically increased because the event runs everyday waves break at Mavericks as opposed to the traditional format that includes one contest day per winter season and requires a CDP and a State Lands Lease.

I'm disappointed that Coastal Commission staff is not enforcing the Coastal Act by requiring a CDP for the multi-day Mavericks Surf Awards.

Thank you

SurfEquity.org

SportEquity.org

The New York Times Magazine

The Washington Post

The New York Times  **HUFFPOST**

San Francisco Chronicle 

 SILICON VALLEY
BUSINESS JOURNAL

San Jose Mercury News

 Outside

The Lily

 USA TODAY

 SMA  WE LIKE
TO SURF

 THE
Inertia

KQED

 SURFER

 **Surflink**

 CALmatters™