

# JUNIOR LIFESAVERS

## 200 compete in skills match at Jones Beach

About 200 junior lifeguards paddled, ran and, of course, swam yesterday in a sand and surfside tournament at Jones Beach that tested the skills they've learned as Long Island lifesavers.

Despite what was at stake — a chance to go on to regional and national competitions and bragging rights — a wave of esprit de corps flowed from contestant to contestant, organizers said.

"They're just ecstatic," said Jay

Liegey, a lifeguard at Field 4 in Jones Beach and an organizer of the Junior Lifeguard Competition. The grueling, annual extravaganza has in its 14-year history become a rite of summer to lifeguards. "When you're an athlete, you like to compete. You're showing your prowess and how good you are."

The contestants, aged 9 to 17, belong to five Island-based junior lifeguard programs. They are based at Smith Point,



PHOTO BY ED BETZ

The tournament included a paddleboard competition.

## Jr. Lifeguard Comp 2011

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The rescue race competition gets under way yesterday at the Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Tournament.