

COURSE SHOULD BE KEPT CLEAR

Riders in Small Surf Run Big Risk When Course Is Not Clear.

Something will have to be done about the riders in the malihini surf. If they will not take the advice of the Outrigger Club and keep clear of the course, somebody is going to be badly hurt and then the great Hawaiian sport will get a black eye from which it will take years to recover.

Out in the big surf, where the experts nearly always go, there is practically no danger. Those who can hoe for nearly a mile and then come back standing on their boards before the immense breakers, may be trusted to look after themselves but, in the small surf, conditions are entirely different.

The small surf—and it is not always so awfully small—breaks and runs in over a stretch of sand directly in front of the Seaside hotel. The breakers are sometimes long and heavy, sometimes converging to an apex and sometimes mere bluffs on account of the back-wash that hits them.

Nearly every afternoon there are at least twenty-five surfers in the small surf and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons there are as many as a hundred and even more than that. The returning surfer walks back again or hoes according to how he feels. Many of them are youngsters who are none too apt in the management of a board. Instead of bearing well to the Ewa side of what may be termed the course—that area over which the surf is breaking strongly—they return the same way they rode in.

The consequence is that sometimes ten riders will come bearing down on as many returners, all bunched together. Ducking and the good Angel that holds the fool-killer back, have prevented any serious accidents so far, but there have been enough minor ones to make it worth while for parents, whose small kiddies go out in the surf, to give them explicit instructions to go out to the surf out of the course.

Half a dozen minor accidents that have kept the victims out of the surf since the accident, could be named. A board with an average rider weighs more than two hundred pounds and, when you get a body weighing two hundred pounds going along at twenty miles an hour, about the speed attained on a large wave, anybody who stops it is going to get dented somewhere.

The whole thing is so needless, too. If people would only take the trouble to keep out of the way. Since the hint was given in the Advertiser about people lounging in the road of the surfers, the swimmers have taken the tip and kept clear. Now it is up to the surfers to get wise and make a point of always going out to their starting point to one side of the course. The water is shallower there and it is easier walking so that it is mere thoughtlessness that makes people chase out in the direct path of half a dozen unstoppable boards coming along at a high speed.

The officers of the Outrigger Club can only express their sentiments, nobody has any actual jurisdiction in the matter, but if parents of small boys and girls would make them promise to keep clear of the course, a deplorable accident may well be averted.