



Open Water Safety Plan Template

Addendum B, USMS Open Water Guide to Operations, Part 2: Open Water Safety Requirements and Guidelines.

Event hosts should fill out the following template and submit as their safety plan when applying for sanction. Additional documents (maps, special information, etc.) may be uploaded using the additional documents upload capability.

Attach a Google Earth Map (or equivalent) of race course. Indicate on the map the locations of the start/finish, turn buoys, intermediate buoys, all safety craft, Lifeguard/First Responders, onsite medical care, feeding stations, evacuation points, etc.

Basic Information					
Name of Host Club					
Name of Event					
Event Location		Event Date(s)			
City		State		LMSC	Zone
Length of Race(s)					
Key Personnel					
Event Director(s)					
Cell Phone	() -	Home Phone	() -	E-mail	
Referee		Phone	() -	E-mail	
Safety Coordinator		Phone	() -	E-mail	
Water Quality					
<p>It is recommended that one week prior to the event, check water quality and submit certification (or reference URL site) to the Referee. If results returned are inconsistent with the local governing body's standards, notify swimmers who participated in the event of any known exposures post-race. If an exceptional event such as heavy rain or flooding affects the water quality, the Referee or the Meet Director shall have the authority to postpone or cancel the race. It is recommended to take and retain water samples on race day and retain for reference.</p> <p>Describe your plans for checking water safety:</p>					
Technical Meeting (required)					
Tentative date/time of recommended Technical Meeting (within 24 hrs of race, athlete and/or coach/designated coach required to attend). Include a tentative agenda.					

About U.S. Masters Swimming

U.S. Masters Swimming, founded in 1970, is a membership-operated national governing body that promotes health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming. It does so by partnering with more than 1,500 adult swim programs across the country; promoting information via the bimonthly member magazine, SWIMMER, monthly e-newsletters, STREAMLINES, and website, usms.org; and by sanctioning and promoting pool, open water and virtual events and competitions. More than 55,000 adults are registered members of U.S. Masters Swimming.

Part 2: Open Water Safety Requirements and Guidelines

Basic Information
Pre-Race Officials Meeting (required)
Tentative date/time of MANDATORY Pre-Race Safety meeting (officials and safety personnel must attend). Include a tentative agenda.
Pre-Race Athletes Meeting (required)
Tentative date/time of MANDATORY Pre-Race Safety meeting (athletes must attend to participate in race). Include a tentative agenda

Event Conditions									
Race Day conditions									
Expected air temperature			Expected water temperature						
Combined air & water temperature									
Wetsuits (Check one)	Not allowed	Optional	Optional (based on race day conditions)			Required	Other		
Body of water (Check one)	Ocean	Lake	River	Bay	Other (what?)				
Water type	Salt water	Fresh Water	Course (Check one)	Closed course (not accessible by non-event boat)			Open course		
If open course, please indicate the agency used to control the traffic while swimmers are on the course.									
Agency			How to contact during event						
Water depth of course		Minimum	Maximum	Average					
Describe expected water conditions for the athletes (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards)									
Course markings and start/finish									
Turn Buoys Height		Colors	Shapes						
Intermediate Buoys Height		Colors	Approximate distance between						
Start	In Water	From Beach	From fixed platform	Other					
Finish	In Water	On Beach	Other						
Feeding Stations									

Part 2: Open Water Safety Requirements and Guidelines

Event Conditions	
Designated area that nourishment may be passed on to athletes. It is recommended that the feeding station be a boat, series of boats, or barge.	
Will you have a feeding station? (Yes/No)	
What type of structure(s) will serve as the feeding station?	
How many people can the structure(s) safely hold?	

Event Safety								
Medical Personnel								
Name of lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site								
Check One	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>M.D.</td> <td>D.O.</td> <td>EMT-P</td> <td>EMT</td> <td>NP</td> <td>PA</td> <td>Other (What?)</td> </tr> </table>	M.D.	D.O.	EMT-P	EMT	NP	PA	Other (What?)
M.D.	D.O.	EMT-P	EMT	NP	PA	Other (What?)		
Experience in extreme events (Marathon, Triathlon, etc.)								
How many medical personnel be located on site?	How many other medical personnel be located on the course?							
First Responders/Lifeguards								
Indicate the qualifications of the first responders (prefer open water experience).								
ARC Lifeguards responder _____	USLA _____ YMCA _____ Equivalent water certified first responder _____							
Number on course _____	Number on land _____							
Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map.								
Ambulance/Emergency Transportation								
Number of Ambulance on site _____	Have you spoken with the local emergency response agency regarding your event and potential emergencies? _____							
On Site Medical Care								
Describe the onsite set up for medical care, such as medical treatment tent, heating or cooling tent or facility. Indicate the location on the Race Plan Map.								
Medical Facilities								
Name of closest medical facility								
Type of medical facility (eg. urgent care, hospital)								
Distance to closest medical facility	Approximate transport time							

Part 2: Open Water Safety Requirements and Guidelines

Water Craft							
Number of motorized craft to cover the course							
Safety craft count		Non-motorized 1 st Responders		Motorized 2 nd Responders		Non-motorized 2 nd Responders	
Motorized 1 st Responders							
List additional water craft for Officials (not counted as safety craft above)							
List other water craft for race supervision (Boats, Jet Skis, Kayaks, paddle boards, etc)							
List additional water craft for feeding stations							
List additional water craft for escorted events							
Emergency Signal Flag color for all water craft							
Athlete Accountability							
Describe method of athlete body numbering							
Describe method of electronic identification of athletes (Recommended)							
Describe different cap colors for the various divisions (Recommended)							
Warm-up/Warm-down Plan							
Explain safety plan for warm-up/warm-down.							
Communications							
Primary method between Meet Officials		Radio		Cell Phone		Megaphone	Other
Secondary method							

Event Safety					
Primary method between medical personnel, first responders, safety craft	Radio		Cell Phone		Megaphone
Secondary method					
Swimmer Management					
Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time					
If more participants show up on race day, what is the procedure for adjusting the safety plan to accommodate the increased number of entries?					
How are the lifeguard staff and safety crafts distributed to supervise this event to maximize the recognition, rescue and treatment of any athlete?					
How is the safety staff deployed to maximize the rapid response to a troubled athlete?					
How will the event be altered if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available race day?					
Missing athlete plan					
Severe Weather					
Is a lightning detector or weather radio available on site?					
What is the severe weather plan?					

Event Safety

What is the course and site evacuation plan?

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