

Niagara District Masters Swimming and Canandaigua Masters Swim Club
July 21, 2012 Open Water Swim Competition

Safety Plan

This swim competition will be held at Kershaw Park in Canandaigua, New York. It is an open water ½, 1, and 2 mile swim in Canandaigua Lake for USMS and USA members. Once the masters events are completed the USA events will be run. These races will use the City of Canandaigua public beach facilities at Kershaw Park. The 2 mile event starts at 8:30 am on Saturday, July 21, 2012. The public beach facilities are not open to the public until 10:00 am. We will have access to the facilities including, changing rooms, bathrooms, first aid room, and lifeguarding and rescue equipment. In addition we will have more than ten canoes, Kayaks, and pontoon boats with Red Cross certified lifeguards in each.

The course is straight out into the lake for ½ mile and straight return along the other side of the buoys. Two times around for the two mile event. The Ontario county sheriff's boat will monitor the race course. The main responsibility of the sheriff is to keep other boats away from the swim course. In addition we will have two motor boats monitoring the course to bring a distressed swimmer back to shore. Communication between the motor boats and the safety chairman on shore will be by cell phone. Communication from the monitors and lifeguards, to the swimmers, in case of a sudden emergency will be by way of the 5-6 air horns that will be carried on the water. The command will initiate from the shore. Swimmers will be told at the briefing that at the sound of the horns, they should take the nearest route to shore immediately, the race at that point has been cancelled. The Canandaigua ambulance has been notified of our event and will be parked at the road a hundred feet from the beach. The hospital is two miles from the beach.

We do not expect any extreme conditions. Individual escorts will not be used. The lake should be 70°F and the waves should be very small. If there is severe rain or thunderstorms we will postpone or cancel the event. We have computers available to check weather radar. The public address system can be used to communicate to people in the beach area.

The start of the race is standing waist deep in the water. The finish is on the beach within ten feet of the water line at the electronic timing pad.

The safety coordinator is Vern Hecker, who will work with the Kershaw Park Head Lifeguard, Sherriff and Canandaigua Ambulance.