**KATS Masters Open Water Safety Plan**

**Flathead Lake Swim Series**

**July 18, 19, & 20, 2014**

**USMS Sanction # (pending)**

 With the Flathead Lake Swim Series being KATS Masters’ first attempt at hosting an open water swim, we propose the following safety plan and will accept any suggestions from the Montana LMSC or the USMS Open Water Safety Committee as to how to improve upon this plan.

**I. Basic Information**

**Name of Host Club:** KATS Masters

**Name of Event:** Flathead Lake Swim Series

(benefit for the Enduring Waves Foundation, a Montana Non-Profit that assists with children’s medical expenses)

**Event Location:** Big Arm State Park **Event Date(s):** July 18, 19, & 20, 2014

**City:** Big Arm **State:** Montana **LMSC:** Montana **Zone:** Northwest

**II. Key Personnel**

**Event Director(s):** Katie Schulz (during event) **Cell:** 406-261-2208

 **Email:** K.F.Schulz@gmail.com

Emily von Jentzen (pre-event) **Cell:** 406-529-2830

 **Email**: Emily.vonjentzen@gmail.com

**Referee:** Tony Popp, USA Swimming Certified Official

**Cell:** (406) 314-1001 **email:** drpoppkats@gmail.com

**Safety Coordinator:** Karen Bouda, USA Swimming Certified Official

 **Cell:** (406)471-1537 **email:** kbouda@digitialbroadway.com

**III. Water Quality**

The water quality of Flathead Lake has historically been very good and is monitored by a number of agencies. To the best of our knowledge this body of water has not had any significant concerns regarding the safety of the water quality in the past decade. However, KATS Masters will ensure that water quality will be tested 1 month prior to the event, 1 week prior to the event and the first day of the event. We will coordinate the testing through Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

**IV. Technical Meetings and Pre-Race Meetings:**

A volunteer/event staff meeting will take place Thursday July 17th in Kalispell from 5:30-6:30 (specific location to be announced at a later date). An athlete meeting will take place from 6:30-7pm with packet pick up from 6:30-8:30 pm.

*Agenda for volunteer/event staff meeting:*

 *-*Race timelines

 -Duties of volunteers

 -Review of Course Map and positioning of volunteers/event staff

-Review of Safety Plan, specifically for distressed swimmers, missing swimmers, evacuation procedures and inclement weather plans

-Contact list for key personnel

-handout of volunteer shirts

 *Agenda for athlete meeting(optional meeting)*

-Race timelines

 -Review of Race Courses

 -Review of what to do if athlete needs assistance during race

 -feeding stations (for 10K and 5K only)

A pre-race meeting for each race will take place 20 minutes prior to race start time on the day of the race.

*Agenda for Athlete pre-race meetings (day of swims-this meeting mandatory)*

-Review of race course

 -Review of rules

 -Review of what to do if athlete needs assistance during race

-finish procedures (to ensure all athletes times are recorded and all athletes are accounted for following the race)

 *Agenda for Official’s pre-race meeting (day of swims-mandatory)*

-Review of race course

 -Review of rules

 -Disqualification procedure

-Review of safety plan, specifically for distressed swimmers, missing swimmers, evacuation procedures and inclement weather plans

**V. Basic Race Information**

Friday evening: 5K race 6:00 pm, pre-race officials mtg 5:20pm

 pre-race athlete mtg at 5:40pm

Saturday morning: 10K race 8:00 am, pre-race officials mtg at 7:20am

 Pre-race athlete mtg at 7:40am

Sunday morning: 1 mile race 8:00 am, pre-race officials mtg 7:20am

 Pre-race athlete mtg at 7:40am

 ½ mile race 9:30 am, pre-race athlete mtg at 9:10am

 \*\*see section IV for all agendas for meetings

**GPS Race Coordinates of turn around buoys:**

 START:  N47° 48' 41.374" W114° 18' 36.032"

             47.811492848168236 -114.31000881129876

             N47° 48.68957 W114° 18.60053

5K buoy:  N47° 50' 7.746" W114° 15' 11.869"

               47.83548507511988 -114.25329700112343

               N47° 50.1291 W114° 15.19782

2.5K buoy:  N47° 49' 24.184" W114° 16' 53.373"

                  47.82338454594379 -114.28149238228798

                  N47° 49.40307 W114° 16.88955

1/2 mile buoy: N47° 48' 54.878" W114° 18' 2.741"

                     47.81524391247579 -114.30076137185097

                     N47° 48.91463 W114° 18.04568

1/4 mile buoy: N47° 48' 48.005" W114° 18' 19.233"

                      47.81333464109266 -114.3053425848484

                     N47° 48.80008 W114° 18.32055

**VI. Event Conditions**

**Race Day Conditions**

 **Expected Air Temperature:** between 70 and 85 degrees

**Water Temperature:** between 60 and 70 degrees

 **Wetsuits permitted?**

There will be a wetsuit and non-wetsuit division for each race.

 **Body of Water:** Lake

 **Open or Closed Course:**

A permit will be requested for a closed course.

 **Water Depth of course:**

Min. 4ft, Max. 60ft

**Expected Water Conditions for Athletes:** Water conditions will likely be calm as Big Arm Bay is fairly protected from wind. Athletes will not likely encounter any disruptions from wildlife, aside from the occasional fish.

 **Course markings and start/finish**

 **Turn bouys (height and color):** Yellow 7ft triangles

 **Intermediate buoys (height and color):** 2ft circle orange

**Start:** in water near the dock. The courses for all races are out and backs.

 **Finish:** On beach

**Feeding Station:** 5K and 10K feed stations will be an anchored floating dock at the turn around buoys or a boat with inboard motor and a swim spotter on board. No feeding stations on 1 mile or ½ mile races.

**Description of feeding Station:** Feeding station will be anchored on a floating dock (or a boat with an inboard motor with a swim spotter on board) just passed the turnaround buoy on the 5K and 10K courses. Athletes will provide their own water bottle/nutrition to race personnel prior to the race and it will be placed on the floating dock (secured by string or placed in a basket) to be monitored by a race volunteer during the race.

**Event Safety**

 **Medical Personal**

 **Lead Medical personal (emergency trained)** Dr. Jose DeSouza

 **Experience in extreme events:**

Experienced open water swimmer and triathlete.

 **How many medical personnel onsite? 2**

 **How many medical personal on course? 1**

Kayaker to swimmer ratio should 1 to 10, in addition we have 4 lifeguards, one emergency responder on course, one emergency responder on land

 **First Responders/Lifeguards**

There will be 2 ARC lifeguards on course and 2 ARC lifeguards on land.

 **Ambulance/Emergency Transportation**

There will be one onsite ambulance (if available) and local emergency response will be notified of the event.

 **On Site Medical Care**

There will be an onsite medical treatment tent.

 **Medical Facilities**

Closest medical facility: St. Joseph’s Medical Center,

 6 13th Ave E. Polson, MT 59860

 Type of medical facility: hospital

 Distance 13 miles Apprx transport time 15 minutes

 **Water Craft**

 **Safety craft Count**

Motorized 1st responders (with inboard motor and swim spotter): 1

 Non-motorized 1st responders: 2

 Motorized 2nd responders (with inboard motor and swim spotter): 1

 Non-motorized 2nd responders: 2

 1 additional officials boat (with inboard motor and swim spotter)

 Emergency signal flag for all water craft Bright Pink Flag

**Athlete Accountability**

Body marking will be with temporary tattoos

 Will we be utilizing RaceSpltr for timing

 Men will have green caps women will have pink

Warm up and warm down will be in designated areas (off race course)

**Communications**

Primary method of communications between officials cell phone

**VII. Swimmer Management**

Maximum number of swimmers on course will be 50. If more participants show up on race day, races will be adjusted to form wave of no more than 50. Motorized boat will be at end of course with non-motorized supports evenly distributed on the course.

**Safety plan to deploy rapid response to troubled athlete?**

Whistle alert(three short blows) by spotter/kayaker, closest will (whistle until rescue buoy has been provided to athlete), then red flag to deploy motorized boat to remove athlete from course if necessary.

Event will be altered if insufficient safety personnel are unavailable race day by running heats of lesser number of athletes

**Missing athlete plan?**

Upon notification of missing athlete, finish roster would be reviewed to confirm athlete did not in fact finish (search and rescue contacted), perimeter of course would be swept by 2nd responder to locate possible athletes in distress.

If at end of race any athletes are unaccounted for, search & rescue would be contacted, all volunteers would sweep the course, and tapes would be reviewed.

**Severe Weather**

There is no lightening detector onsite. The severe weather plan will be to delay race as weather requires. If race is delayed more than 2 hours races for that day will be canceled with no refunds but athletes will be given a 50% off coupon for next years swim.

**Event Safety**

**What is the course and site evacuation plan?**

If safety requires the course to be cleared, an air horn will be deployed and all course monitors will sound long whistles and all swimmers will be instructed to exit the water immediately. Once on shore if safety requires participants will be instructed to move to higher ground.