**Swim Hobbs Island Inclement Weather Plan**

**Prepared** **by**: Eric Broyles and Ali Meeks, Race Directors (Eric Broyles 256.417.2373) or (Ali Meeks 2***0***6.779.9425, please note this is area code two-zero-six)

1. **COMMUNICATION PLAN:**
	* + - This plan will be shared pre-race via email and phone call with the race committee, kayak coordinator, US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG-A), and Huntsville/Madison County Rescue Squad (HSV Rescue).
			- This plan will be read and discussed with vessel captains and passengers at the 7am vessel briefing at Ditto Landing.
			- All swimmers and kayakers will be read this plan during the race briefing, and will be reminded that race cancellation without refund is always a possibility.
2. **RACE START PLAN:**
	* The race plan is to start the 5-mile race at 8:30 am and the 2 mile race at 8:45 and the 1 mile race at 9:00. However, the race will not be started unless the radar (via WeatherBug or WHNT app) indicates at least a 3.5 hour window storm-free. If this window is not available at 8:00 am, a 25-minute delay will be implemented and then re-evaluated at its conclusion. There will be two such delays and then the race will be cancelled. Only two delays are planned because Ditto Harbor is closed from 8-9 am for kayaker and boater safety.
3. **EVACUATION PLAN:**
	* Mike Tyler (256.426.7871) will be the designated land-based weather watcher and will be using WeatherBug or WHNT weather apps to systematically check the radar at scheduled 15 minute intervals. If cells are building and/or moving toward the area, Mr. Tyler will notify the Race Director(s) (RDs) (Eric Broyles 256.417.2373 or Ali Meeks 206.779.9425).
	* The specified mass evacuation radius that Mr. Tyler will use for storm cell tracks or lightning activity is 20 miles. This means that if there is activity appearing as expected on the storm radar (WeatherBug app or WHNT weather app), or lightning activity is occurring within this 20-mile radius (WeatherBug app Spark Lightning indicator), this evacuation plan will be implemented.
	* The RDs will inform HSV Rescue Vessels primary contact Joe Donoghue (256) 759-1490 or secondarily David Young (256) 990-3567; and USCG-A Josh Kelly (256.603.4123) via walkie-talkie radio and/or cell phone, who will communicate with the other powered vessels to pick up swimmers.
	* A group text will be sent out to all 5-mile kayakers that the evacuation plan is activated.
	* Kayaks will paddle to the swim exit (same as swim entrance), and once vessels have transported swimmers, powered vessels will return to retrieve kayakers.
	* Because storms may be unpredictable, each powered vessel captain is expected to use best professional judgment as to whether it is safe to come back to port after swimmers and kayaks are loaded or whether they should shelter in place on shore.
	* It is extremely unlikely that a mass evacuation of 1 and 2 milers will be necessary because the race will not be started unless a very large storm-free time window is anticipated, and these swimmers should be complete within one to two hours. However, in event an evacuation is needed, the protocol will be the same as above, including the group text to all kayakers.
4. **SHELTER IN PLACE PLAN:**
	* In the unlikely event that a swimmer/kayaker becomes subject to a fast-moving unanticipated storm, they shall go to shore and seek cover under low-growing vegetation/not tall trees.
	* 5-mile kayakers shall call their emergency numbers on their laminated lanyard cards to notify race staff that they are sheltered in place (Cards read: IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: Kayak Coordinator Cam McCaulley (256-698-0395) | Official Race Boat Operator Tony Osani (256-509-5759). These numbers are the kayakers’ direct connection to both land-based and water based assistance. Mr. Osani and Ms. McCaulley will notify the RDs if one such call is received, and RDs will notify evacuation vessels.
	* If kayakers cannot reach a person at these phone numbers, they may text and will receive a response as soon as possible.
5. **SHORE CHECK-IN PLAN:**
* If the evacuation plan is activated, kayakers and swimmers will check in at the campground covered pavilion where check-in staff with rosters will be present to ensure that all participants are accounted for.