**Open Water Safety Plan**

**Application Instructions**

* Before applying for a USMS open water sanction, event hosts must review their event information and safety plans with their LMSC Sanctioning Officer. Upon approval from the LMSC Sanctioning Officer, the event host is then ready to apply for sanction.
* When applying for a USMS open water sanction, event hosts are required to submit their safety plan for review and approval by the Open Water Compliance Coordinator (OWCC) ON THIS APPLICATION through the online sanction process. We welcome additional supporting information—after all, many event hosts have developed extensive safety plans over years of hosting events—but everyone must submit this completed application to ensure that all pertinent points are covered in safety planning.
* Using a Google Earth map or equivalent, event hosts are also required to upload a map of the venue and course with the safety plan application. Maps must include locations of start & finish, guide & turn buoys, feeding stations, safety craft, lifeguards/first responders, on-site medical care, and evacuation points.
* In the best scenario, the Safety Director should assist the event host in the developing the event safety plan. If the Safety Director did not take part in developing of the safety plan (usually in the case of appointment after the sanction request or in the case of a substantially unchanged safety plan developed over years of experience), the event host must give the Safety Director a copy of the approved safety plan.
* Upon request, USMS OWCC David Miner will send you a copy of the approved safety plan. Contact David at [openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org](mailto:openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org) or 941-545-9709.

**Open Water Safety Plan Application**

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## Event Information

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| **General Information** |

Name of Host: Kingdom Games, Inc., d/b/a Northeast Kingdom Open Water Swimming Association

Name of Event: Willoughby USMS Sprint and Long Distance National Championships)

Event Location: Lake Willoughby

City: Westmore State: VT LMSC: NE LMSC

Event Dates: 8/16/2019 through 8/17/2019

Length of Swim(s): 5 Mile and 1 Mile

Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: No

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| **Key Event Personnel** |

Event Director: Phil White Phone: 802-249-9100 E-mail: phw1948@gmail.com

Referee: Peter Channell Phone: 819-434-1911 E-mail: peter@channellfamily.com

Certified Safety Director: Hayley Joseph Phone: 802-673-9370 E-mail: hpeacock\_vt@hotmail.com

| **Pre-Race Safety Meeting (required):** **all officials & safety personnel must attend** |
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Tentative date: 8/16&17/2019 Time: noon on Fri and 8:30 am on Sat

Tentative agenda: Role of Kayakers; Role of Patrol Boats; Hypothermia; Distress Signals; Evacuation Plan

| **Pre-Race Swimmer Meeting (required):** **all officials & swimmers must attend to participate in race** |
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Tentative date: 8/16&17/2019 Time: 12:30 pm (Fri) 8:00 AM {Sat)

Tentative agenda: Role of Kayakers; Role of Patrol Boats; Hypothermia; Distress Signals; Evacuation Plan

**Course & Event Conditions**

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| **The Course** |

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 1’ to: 400’

Course: Open - non-event watercraft allowed near swim course

If open course, indicate the agency used to control the traffic while swimmers are on the course.

Agency name: Note: The 1 mile course will be closed. Westmore Fire and Rescue How to contact during event: Marine Radio – Channel 10

Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): If there is a wind, there will be a slight current and push through the gap on the 5 mile course.

How is the course marked? The Start and The Finish will be marked with large orange buoys and a Finish structure. There will be no turn buoys or directional buoys on the 5 mile course. Two to three turn buoys on the one mile course

* Turn buoy(s): Height(s) 5’ Color(s) orange Shape(s) globe
* Guide buoy(s): Height(s) n/a Color(s) Enter text Shape(s) Enter text
* Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: n/a

Number of Feeding Stations: 0

Type of structure(s) used as feeding station(s): n/a

Number of people the structure(s) can safely hold: n/a

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| **Water & Air Temperatures** |

Expected air temp range: 65 - 75 F Expected water temp range: 67 – 74 F Wetsuits: Optional

**USMS Water Temperature Index for sanctioned open water events:**

**- Below 57°F (Very Cold) – heat retaining swimwear and a Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims is REQUIRED**

**- 57°F-60°F (Cold) - heat-retaining swimwear is required or a Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims is REQUIRED**

**- 60°F-66°F (Quite cool) - Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims is RECOMMENDED**

**- 66°F-72°F (Fairly cool) - Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims is ENCOURAGED**

**- 72°F-78°F (Cool) - No Thermal Plan required**

**- 78°F-82°F (Optimal) - Heat-retaining swimwear & neoprene caps are not permitted above 78°F.**

**- 82°F-85°F (Warm) - Thermal Plan for Warm Water Swims is RECOMMENDED**

**- 85°F-87.8°F (Very warm) - Thermal Plan for Warm Water Swims is REQUIRED**

**- 87.8°F-95°F (Hot) - Sanctioned open water swims cannot be held**

**- Over 95°F (Extremely hot) - Any swimming is ill-advised**

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| **USMS Water Temperature Measurement Procedure:** Using an accurate thermometer, the event host should take three to five measurements at various places on the course—12 to 18 inches below the water surface and no closer to the shore than 25 meters (if possible)—within one hour before the start of an open water swim. The host should average these measurements, post and/or announce the resulting average temperature at least 30 minutes before the start of the swim, and announce it during the pre-race staff safety and swimmers’ meetings. |

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| **Water Quality** |
| It is recommended that one week before the event, check water quality. 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 Event Director, Referee, or Safety 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. |

Willoughby is a pristine lake. We will check with the State of Vermont regarding any water quality warnings

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## Event Safety

| **Medical Personnel** |
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Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site: Newport or Glover Ambulance + Westmore Fire & Rescue, EMT

Experience in sporting events (Marathon, Triathlon, Open water swim, etc.): Yes

Will medical personnel be located on the course? Yes

The number of medical personnel will be dependent on the course layout, number of swimmers in the water,

expected conditions, etc. How many medical personnel do you plan to have on site? 4

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| **First Responders/Lifeguards & Monitors** |

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: Other

Number on course: 10 kayakers (Fri) up to 99 kayakers on Saturday Number on land: 2

Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map. On Friday they will be circulating the 1 mile course. On Saturday they will be accompanying each swimmer, one on one.

| **Onsite Medical Care & Facilities** |
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Describe onsite set up for medical care, such as medical treatment tent, heating/cooling tent or facility. etc., and indicate locations on the Race Plan Map. Ambulance will be on the beach each day

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| **Ambulance/Emergency Transportation & Nearby Medical Facilities** |

Ambulance(s) onsite: Marine Radio Channel 10 On Call: **000-000-0000**

Have you spoken with local emergency response agency regarding potential emergencies? Yes

Closest medical facility: North Country Hospital Phone: 802-334-7331

Type of medical facility (urgent care, hospital, etc.): Hospital

Distance to closest medical facility: 10-20 miles Approximate transport time: 30 to 40 minutes

| **Watercraft** |
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Motorized Watercraft:

* Owned/operated by government agencies (Coast Guard, police, fire & rescue, etc.): 1
* Owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals: 8

Will all motorized watercraft with a propeller owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals be equipped either with a propeller guard or a swimmer monitor? Yes

Other motorized watercraft:

* With propellers fore of the rudder: Number
* With impeller motor (jet ski, jet boat): Number
* Anchored from start to finish: Number

Allocation of Watercraft:

* Safety Watercraft:
* 1st Responders: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 10 (Fri) 100 (Sat)

# 2nd Responders: Motorized: 9 Non-motorized: 0

* Watercraft for race officials: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: Number
* Watercraft for race supervision: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: Number
* Watercraft for feeding stations: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for escorted events: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 100
* Other event watercraft: 0

Emergency Signal Flag Color for all watercraft: Yellow

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| **Communications** |

Primary method between event officials: Radio Secondary method: Cell Phone

Primary method between medical personnel, first responders & safety craft: Radio (separate channel from Meet Officials)

Secondary method: Cell Phone

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| **Swimmer Counting & Accountability** |

Describe method of swimmer body numbering: Cap, Arm, and Kayaker Bib (Sat)

Describe method of electronic identification of swimmer (Recommended): None

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): Pink for all

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): They enter a corral and are checked off, watching kayaks and swimmers during the swim, checking them off when they exit (either at finish or if pulled)

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: When swimmers are pulled they are reported to the Director’s boat and reported to the timer, who maintains an ongoing list of who is out of the water and who remains in the water. Swimmer Count during one mile swim at each turn buoy.

| **Warm-up/Warm-down Safety Plan** |
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Describe safety plan for warm-up/warm-down, include number and location of lifeguards and designated

watercraft. none

| **Swimmer Management** |
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Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time: 100

If more swimmers show up on the day of the swim(s), how will you adjust the safety plan to accommodate the increased number of entries? We do not allow registrations after August 1st.

How will you deploy the safety staff and crafts distributed to supervise this event to ensure swift recognition, rescue, and treatment of any swimmer? On Friday, kayakers will circle the course, 20 feet wide of the swimming lane and motor boats will be following the flow another 20 feet out, We will have one motor boat at each turn buoy counting the swimmers. On Saturday, we will assign each boat to 10 to 15 swimmers as they stretch out

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? If a swimmer is pulled, each boat will have warm water and warm clothing. If the swimmer is in serious distress, Westmore Fire and Rescue will be called.

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? We would offer a second heat.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: Each Swimmer is accompanied by a kayaker who has a cell phone. We would call. On Friday, if we experience a missing swimmer, we will slowly circle the course and call in a team of state police divers.

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| **Severe Weather Plan** |

Is a lightning detector or weather radio available on site? Yes

Describe your plan for severe weather or natural disaster: We would cancel or postpone the swim. If it develops during the swim, we would issue three sustained blasts of an air horn to signal the need to clear the lake.

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: We would issue three blasts of an air horn. Patrol boats would pick up swimmers, kayakers will be instructed to paddle to shore on the east side of the lake. We will check them off as they are pulled, We would call the cell phones of any kayaker who is unaccounted for.

## Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims

| **General Information** |
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| Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims: USMS Rules for Open Water Swims state:  302.2.2A (1) A swim shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 60° F. (15.6° C.), unless heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers or a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place.  302.2.2A (2) A swim in which heat retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 57° F. (13.9° C.), unless a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place. |
| Remember that the average masters swimmer does little or no acclimatization to cold water, so even a small drop in water temperature—especially in the colder ranges—dramatically increases the odds of thermal issues: Cold Shock Response, Cold Incapacitation, Hypothermia, and Circum-rescue Collapse). Be Prepared! |
| - If your swim course has a remote chance of water temperature less than 60° F., you are **REQUIRED** to complete the thermal plan below, showing your specific commitment to increased swimmer preparation before the event, reduced swimmer exposure during the event, and maximize mitigation & treatment of thermal issues during & after the event.  - If your swim course has a chance of water temperature between 60° F & 66° F., a thermal plan is **RECOMMENDED**.  - If your swim course has a chance of water temperature between 66° F & 72° F., a thermal plan is **ENCOURAGED**. |

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| **How will you assist swimmer preparation before the event:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Emphasize & stress on entry information of possible cold water swim conditions.

2. Require prior cold water swim experience.

3. Require swimmer cold water preparation plan.

4. Refuse entry if swimmer is not acclimated to cold water swimming.

What method(s) of swimmer preparation will you take: Click here to enter text.

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| **What action will you take to reduce swimmer exposure to thermal issues:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Cancel the swim(s).

2. Shorten swim(s) or institute/shorten time limits.

3. Encourage wetsuits for all swimmers.

4. Require wetsuits for all swimmers.

Explain your plan of action: Click here to enter text.

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| **What extra medical care will you provide to mitigate & treat symptoms of thermal issues:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Bring in more emergency trained medical personnel and/or ambulances.

2. Bring in more volunteers to assist medical personnel.

3. Bring in more emergency craft and first responders on the course.

4. Increase warm beverages before the swim and at feeding stations.

5. Have special procedures (different than normal) for removing swimmers from the water & venue.   
6. Increase warm beverages after the swim.

7. Increase thermal treatment gear (blankets, hot water bottles, etc.)

8. Make warm showers available on-site.

9. Make warming facilities (buildings, tents, vehicles, etc.) available on-site.

10. Other: Kayakers will be instructed on the signs of hypothermia and how to signal to patrol boats in the event of a swimmer in distress. Each will be given an American Flag to wave, All patrol boats will carry a thermos of warm water, Gatorade, some clif bars, some warm clothes, and a sleeping bag. Swimmers who are pulled in distress with signs of hypothermia will be transported immediately to the EMTs at the Finish.  They will have the capacity to gradually warm a hypothermic swimmer, with fluids, blankets, sleeping bags and transport the swimmer to the hospital if necessary. All swimmers who complete will be briefly assessed as they exit the water and offered warm fluid, Gatorade, and a power bar.  Those in hypothermic distress will be referred to the EMTs on the beach and Ambulance for gradual warming.

Specify what extra listed items you will provide: Click here to enter text.

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: Click here to enter text.

**If the water temperature is below 72° F, will you be prepared to deal with cold water medical issues:** Yes. See above.

## Thermal Plan for Warm Water Swims

| **General Information** |
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| Thermal Plan for Warm Water Swims: USMS Rule 302.2.2A(3) for Open Water Swims states:  “A swim of 5K or greater shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 29.45° C. (85°F.). A swim of less than 5K shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 31° C. (87.8°F.).” |
| Remember that the average masters swimmer does little or no acclimatization to warm water, so even a small increase in water temperature—especially in the warmer ranges—dramatically increases the odds of thermal issues: Dehydration, Heat Stroke, and Hyperthermia. Be Prepared! |
| - If your swim course has a chance of water temperature from 85° F to 87.8° F, you are **REQUIRED** to complete the thermal plan below, showing your specific commitment to increased swimmer preparation before the event, reduced swimmer exposure during the event, and maximize mitigation & treatment of thermal issues during & after the event.  - If your swim course has a chance of water temperature between 82° F & 85° F., a thermal plan is **RECOMMENDED**. |

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| **How will you assist swimmer preparation before the event:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Emphasize & stress on entry information of possible warm water swim conditions.

2. Require prior warm water swim experience.

3. Require swimmer warm water preparation plan.

What method(s) of swimmer preparation will you take: Click here to enter text.

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| **What action will you take to reduce swimmer, official, and staff exposure to heat-related issues:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Cancel the swim(s).

2. Shorten swim(s) or institute/shorten time limits.

3. Remind all participants to stay well hydrated.

4. Remind swimmers to select appropriate pace.

5. Make swim caps optional or use Lycra swim caps.

Explain your plan of action: Click here to enter text.

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| **What extra medical care will you provide to mitigate & treat symptoms of heat-related issues:** |

**The following methods are among the ways you can do this:**

1. Bring in more emergency trained medical personnel and/or ambulances.

2. Bring in more volunteers to assist medical personnel.

3. Bring in more emergency craft and first responders on the course.

4. Increase cool beverages before, during and after the swim (for swimmers and staff, including extra cool beverages on watercraft and feeding stations)

5. Increase heat exhaustion and heat stroke treatment gear (iced water, ice chips, cold water bottles, misting tents/fans, etc.)

6. Make cool showers available on-site.

7. Make shade and cooling facilities (buildings, tents, etc.) available on-site.

8. Other: Specify

Specify what extra listed items you will need to provide: Click here to enter text.

**Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues:** Click here to enter text.

**If the water temperature is above 82° F, will you be prepared to deal with heat-related medical issues:** Click here to enter text.