**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: Dogged Perseverance, Inc.

Name of Event: Finger Lakes Open Water Swim Festival

Event Location: Clute Park, Seneca Lake

City: Watkins Glen State: NY LMSC: Niagara

Event Dates: 9/21/2019 through 9/22/2019

Length of Swim(s): 10, 2, 1 .5 mile(s)

Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: No

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| **Key Event Personnel** |

Event Director: Bridgette Hobart. Phone: 8624320357 E-mail: bhobart@ptcllc.com

Referee: Bob Janeczko Phone: 9734641498 E-mail: rjaneczko@ptcllc.com

Certified Safety Director: Rob Perkins Phone: 607-341-3905 E-mail: [reperkins@hotmail.com](mailto:reperkins@hotmail.com)

| **Pre-Race Safety Meeting (required):** **all officials & safety personnel must attend** |
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Tentative date: 9/20/2019 Time: 5pm

Tentative agenda: Review rules, safety plan, regulation, kayak escort meet up, social

| **Pre-Race Swimmer Meeting (required):** **all officials & swimmers must attend to participate in race** |
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Tentative date: 9/20/2019 Time: 5pm and 15 min before each distance on Sunday

Tentative agenda: Review rules, safety plan

**Course & Event Conditions**

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| **The Course** |

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 1’ to: 200’

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: Schuyler County Sherriff Dept How to contact during event: Channel 6

Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): It varies and is dependent on wind forecasts for the day.

How is the course marked? See Safety Plan, varies by distance

* Turn buoy(s): Height(s) 4’ Color(s) Yellow Shape(s) round
* Guide buoy(s): Height(s) 4’ Color(s) Orange Shape(s) round
* Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: 220 yds

Number of Feeding Stations: 0

Type of structure(s) used as feeding station(s): NONE

Number of people the structure(s) can safely hold: NONE

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| **Water & Air Temperatures** |

Expected air temp range: 50 to 80F Expected water temp range: 58-75F 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. |

The event director coordinates with readings performed by NYS Parks & Recreation.

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## Event Safety

| **Medical Personnel** |
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Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site: Yes

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

Will medical personnel be located on the course? No

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? 1

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

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: Equivalent water certified first responder

Number on course: 6 lifeguards on Sunday Number on land: 1 on Sunday, on course in boat on Saturday

Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map. Rotating course on 10mi, in kayak on shorter distances.

| **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. Medical, first aid, warming area setup in park pavilion. Pavilion is equipped with power, water and able to maintain warm beverages for cooler temps. The pavilion is a closed building and protects the swimmers from the elements. For the 10 mi, a 46’ cabin cruiser rotates on the outer course and is equipped with bathrooms and a cabin, and ability to store and make warm beverages. The turning point for the 10 mi is at a cottage, which is equipped with easy exit for any swimmers. The cottage is open and event resource man the turn for accountability and swimmer’s in need.

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

Ambulance(s) onsite: Channel 6 On Call: (607) 535-7273

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

Closest medical facility: Schuyler Hospital Phone: (607) 535-7121

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

Distance to closest medical facility: 2-5 miles Approximate transport time: 9 min

| **Watercraft** |
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Motorized Watercraft:

* Owned/operated by government agencies (Coast Guard, police, fire & rescue, etc.): None
* Owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals: 3-4

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: 3-4
* With impeller motor (jet ski, jet boat): 0
* Anchored from start to finish: 2 (on Sunday)

Allocation of Watercraft:

* Safety Watercraft:
* 1st Responders: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: 1

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

* Watercraft for race officials: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for race supervision: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for feeding stations: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for escorted events: Motorized: 2 Non-motorized: 25 – one for each swimmer
* Other event watercraft: Click here to enter text.

Emergency Signal Flag Color for all watercraft: orange

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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: Megaphone/Bullhorn

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| **Swimmer Counting & Accountability** |

Describe method of swimmer body numbering: Cap.

Describe method of electronic identification of swimmer (Recommended): Chip timing – Sunday only

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): Bright cap colors – selected closer to event, but likely Yellow, Orange, Red – change for each distance.

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): Check off swimmer number on entry, and exit. Chip timing on Sunday as backup.

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: Radio in swimmer number, check off when clear water.

| **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 for 10 mi; Sunday distances – within Clute Park (more closed course)

| **Swimmer Management** |
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Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time: 25 for 10 mi, 200 per permits for Sunday – generally less than 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? Safety plan per max allowed on permits. We will not allow over max.

How will you deploy the safety staff and crafts distributed to supervise this event to ensure swift recognition, rescue, and treatment of any swimmer? 10 mi swimmers have dedicated kayak escort with marine radio, safety boats monitor outer course; Sunday – kayakers have radios, safety boats on outside of course.

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? Kayak then to safety boat.

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? The event won’t be held.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: 10 mi are along shoreline with dedicated kayak escort to monitor and radio for help; Sunday – in clute park- more shallow water and many kayakers on course, if swimmer is not accounted for at end of event then we’ll confirm on shore, and then launch search and rescue efforts using local agencies.

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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 monitor weather pre event using multiple sites that have proven to be reliable. We’ll alter course or cancel if conditions warrant us to do so. If weather hits unexpected during the 10 mi event then we instruct them to go to the shore – they are swimming the shoreline. Sunday is at the park with a covered area so we can easily clear the water and bring all to safety.

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: For the 10 mi swim, the swimmers and their kayaker go to shore can radio in. the shore line is lined with easy access points for safety and many homes. We can also pick them up on a safety boat. For the Sunday shorter distances, it is a 1 mi loop in mostly shallow water. We have on water kayakers with radio to call in issues, swimmers can easily get to the shore line or an outside support boat. All swimmers are numbered and called in when pulled prior to proper exit. Upon return to shore the swimmer is evaluated to determine if additional medical assistance is needed.

## 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: #1

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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: #2

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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: Stroke count monitoring, use 1 mi loop course for 10mi event to monitor swimmers and provide warm feeds on each loop and closer to the pavilion for medical care, warming station, wind protection. Mylar blankets are available on exit as well as within in kayak. Safety boats carry warm feeds for the 10 mi event, and warm feeds are available upon exit for the shorter distances.

Specify what extra listed items you will provide: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 , 10

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: Call local EMS as needed who can also be present during the event, if elected. Event Referee (also going for Safety Director) is a certified first responder with many certifications including CPR, water rescue.

**If the water temperature is below 72° F, will you be prepared to deal with cold water medical issues:** Yes, we handled cold air and water in 2018 event, and Seneca is known for colder water on a good day as it clearly states in the entry form.

## 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: In the history of Seneca Lake, we’re lucky if we see 75 water so this is not expected to be an issue.

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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: 3

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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: 7

**Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues:** Call local EMS as needed.

**If the water temperature is above 82° F, will you be prepared to deal with heat-related medical issues:** Yes, but it would also be a historical record on Seneca Lake. Colder water, air could be our main issue. In 2017 we have low to mid 70s water, 80 air in Sept; in 2018 we had mid 50s to 64 water and 50 air. Conditions vary significantly from year to year, week to week but overheating should never be an issue on Seneca Lake. Our efforts will be focused on cold water.