**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: Masters of South Texas

Name of Event: 2021 USMS National Open Water Championships

Event Location: Boerne City Lake

City: Boerne State: TX LMSC: So Tx

Event Dates: 5/15/2021 through 5/16/2021

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

Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: No

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| **Key Event Personnel** |

Event Director: Susan Ingraham Phone: 210-859-2859 E-mail: Aquatex101@aol.com

Referee: Charles Michaels Phone: 210-659-4034 E-mail: c-michaels@sbcglobal.net

Certified Safety Director: Martha Towers Phone: 210-632-5734 E-mail: mtowers25@gmail.com

| **Pre-Race Safety Meeting (required):** **all officials & safety personnel must attend** |
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Tentative date: 5/15/2021 Time: 7:00 am

Tentative agenda: Assigned areas of responsibility. Description of communication to Safety Director during and after each race. Race description including start and finish procedures. Safety protocols. Emergency communication and reaction to specific scenarios.

| **Pre-Race Swimmer Meeting (required):** **all officials & swimmers must attend to participate in race** |
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Tentative date: 5/15/2021 Time: 7:30 am

Tentative agenda: Confirm NS’s. Detailed race procedures including start, race navigation, and finish. Describe protocols for needing assistance. Clarify location and description of Safety Staff.

**Course & Event Conditions**

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| **The Course** |

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 0 to: 35 feet

Course: Closed-only event watercraft allowed

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

Agency name: Click here to enter agency. How to contact during event: Phone # or radio channel

Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): Fish and Turtles. No notable current/tide or underwater hazards.

How is the course marked?

* Turn buoy(s): Height(s) 4 feet Color(s) Orange Shape(s) Round
* Guide buoy(s): Height(s) 4 feet Color(s) Orange Shape(s) Round
* Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: ¼ mile

Number of Feeding Stations: 0

Type of structure(s) used as feeding station(s): Click here to describe feeding stations

Number of people the structure(s) can safely hold: Click here to enter number.

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| **Water & Air Temperatures** |

Expected air temp range: 70-90 (its Texas!) Expected water temp range: 72-78 Wetsuits: Not allowed

**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 City of Boerne regularly checks the quality as this lake supplies water to the city. Public Records are maintained on their website.

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## Event Safety

| **Medical Personnel** |
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Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site: Bob Byard, EMT

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? 2

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

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: ARC Lifeguards

Number on course: 8 Number on land: 2

Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map.

| **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 Treatment area will be placed under covered picnic table area located near the start/finish line of the race.

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

Ambulance(s) onsite: **Phone # or radio channel** On Call: **000-000-0000**

Have you spoken with local emergency response agency regarding potential emergencies? No

Closest medical facility: Methodist Boerne Medical Center Phone: (830) 331-3000

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

Distance to closest medical facility: 5-10 miles Approximate transport time: 13 minutes

| **Watercraft** |
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Motorized Watercraft:

* Owned/operated by government agencies (Coast Guard, police, fire & rescue, etc.): 0
* Owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals: 0

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: 0
* With impeller motor (jet ski, jet boat): 2
* Anchored from start to finish: 0

Allocation of Watercraft:

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

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

* Watercraft for race officials: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for race supervision: Motorized: 2 - Jet Ski Non-motorized: 8 - Kayaks
* Watercraft for feeding stations: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Watercraft for escorted events: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 0
* Other event watercraft: Click here to enter text.

Emergency Signal Flag Color for all watercraft: Yellow

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| **Communications** |

Primary method between event officials: Cell Phone Secondary method: Megaphone/Bullhorn

Primary method between medical personnel, first responders & safety craft: Cell Phone

Secondary method: Other

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| **Swimmer Counting & Accountability** |

Describe method of swimmer body numbering: Manual body marking on arm and leg

Describe method of electronic identification of swimmer (Recommended): Ankle worn timing chip

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): Gender and AG Waves

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): Two volunteers will record athlete numbers as each enters the water. In addition to the chip timing system, athlete numbers will be recorded manually as the swimmer exits. This provides back up to the electronic system (in case of failure) as well covers any athlete who lost their chip on the course or did not activate the timing pad at the finish.

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: Swimmers are asked to self-report. Any pulled athlete will be reported by Rescue Staff. Verification will be made thru manual timers.

| **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. Area to the right of the course will be roped off to allow swimmers to warm-up prior to the event.

| **Swimmer Management** |
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Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time: 160

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? Not applicable

How will you deploy the safety staff and crafts distributed to supervise this event to ensure swift recognition, rescue, and treatment of any swimmer? Kayaks will be positioned on the “inside” and the “outside” of the circular course in staggered positions to provide vision of the swimmers on both sides of the pack. Jet skis will be located on the outside of the pack and along the far side of the course to have the best visual of swimmers and kayaker and be able to respond timely without having to cross the course/swimmers.

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? Swimmers in need of assistance are to raise their arm and signal for the nearest kayaker. Noodles (on every kayak) will be available for the swimmer. Swimmer may continue when rested or ask the kayaker to be evacuated. Kayaker will make contact for a jet ski to transport swimmer back to shore. Race officials/medical personnel reserve the right to remove any participant from the course for the safety of the athlete or other athletes.

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? One mile can easily be covered by less kayaks. 5K course can be modified by removing last long corner and making the race a two-loop course to keep swimmers in a smaller visual area.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: Communication will be attempted to athlete’s phone number and emergency contact name and phone number. The city of Boerne requests that any occurrence be immediately reported to send City Rescue Personnel. The Safety Director will contact all safety craft to review the course and search the shore. A review of the manual timing records will be made to verify if athlete opted not to attempt the swim or was removed from the water. A bull horn notice will be made to attempt locating the swimmer in the immediate area.

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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: Lightning/Thunder is a possibility. The race will be delayed if lightning is detected in the area. If needed, Saturday events will be moved to Sunday.

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: If lightning should occur after the race begins, all safety craft will direct swimmers to exit the lake at the boat ramp or shoreline located along ¼ mile of the north side of the lake. All swimmers will report to race officials to ensure all athletes are accounted 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: Specify

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:** Click here to enter text.

## 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.