**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: Milford Athletic Club

Name of Event: Irene’s Dream Memorial Open Water Swim

Event Location: Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

City: Waterford State: MI LMSC: MICH

Event Dates: 6/20/2021 through 6/20/2021

Length of Swim(s): 5k, 2k, 1k

Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: Yes

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| **Key Event Personnel** |

Event Director: Dave Roberts Phone: 2488919686 E-mail: woodydave60@yahoo.com

Referee: TBD Phone: 000-000-0000 E-mail: Click to enter e-mail address

Certified Safety Director: Jamie Freese Phone: 7346371289 E-mail: Jamie\_freese@yahoo.com

| **Pre-Race Safety Meeting (required):** **all officials & safety personnel must attend** |
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Tentative date: 6/20/2021 Time: 8:15am

Tentative agenda: Safety personnel must attend one of the two available safety meetings. At these meetings safety certifications will be checked and additional training provided as needed. Minimum certifications required will be Lifeguard Training, with Waterfront Lifeguarding preferred.

Topics will include,

* EAP
* Communications
* Course layout, zone and backup responsibilities. Including dangerous areas
* Search and Rescue techniques
* Weather and other evacuation emergencies
* Lifeguard and responder safety such as sun protection and hydration and
* Other topics such as chain of command and introduction to officials.

| **Pre-Race Swimmer Meeting (required):** **all officials & swimmers must attend to participate in race** |
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Tentative date: 6/20/2021 Time: 5k 8:45am, 2k 9:45am, 1k 10:45am

Tentative agenda: Review Course-including color markers and length; Safety Personnel locations; Swimmer help signals; Start and finish procedures; Introduce Meet Referee; Water Conditions-Temp, depth, marine life; Severe weather policy (if needed); Check out procedure; Location Race results posted & awards.

**Course & Event Conditions**

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| **The Course** |

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 0 to: 30

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: Oakland County Sheriff marine patrol may be onsite if needed How to contact during event: Phone # or radio channel

Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): sandbars and seaweed

How is the course marked?

* Turn buoy(s): Height(s) 5’ Color(s) Orange Shape(s) Pyramid
* Guide buoy(s): Height(s) 24” Color(s) Yellow Shape(s) Sphere
* Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: Enter distance

Number of Feeding Stations: 0

Type of structure(s) used as feeding station(s): NA

Number of people the structure(s) can safely hold: NA

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| **Water & Air Temperatures** |

Expected air temp range: 70-85 Expected water temp range: 68-75 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. |

Pontiac Lake is tested weekly by local health authorities. We will be monitoring their results using their website in the weeks prior to the event:

<https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/BeachDetail.aspx?BeachID=751>

https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/BeachDetail.aspx?BeachID=751

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## Event Safety

| **Medical Personnel** |
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Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site:Ann Ward, RN NP ,

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? 3

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

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: ARC Lifeguards

Number on course: 7 Number on land: 1

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. First Aid Station in shelter – noted on map. Local EMS parked in the parking lot.

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

Ambulance(s) onsite: Designated radio channel On Call: 911 and personnel cell phone day of event

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

Closest medical facility: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr, Commerce, MI 48382 Phone: 2489373300

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

Distance to closest medical facility: 5-10 miles Approximate transport time: 15

| **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: 1

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): 1
* Anchored from start to finish: 3

Allocation of Watercraft:

* Safety Watercraft:
* 1st Responders: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: 6

# 2nd Responders: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 12

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

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: Cell Phone

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| **Swimmer Counting & Accountability** |

Describe method of swimmer body numbering: Caps, both upper arms, upper back. Wetsuit swimmers must have markings on hands and caps.

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

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): 5k Orange 2k Pink 1k Yellow

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): Entry list checked off as swimmers enter the water in waves. Swimmers exiting the water will be checked off the entry list and highlighted in pink as they exit.

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: Those swimmers that DNF or NS will be highlighted in yellow.

| **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. Warm up/warm-down will be located parallel to the beach in the swimming area. Lifeguard on beach will be responsible for those in that area. Swimming area is marked by buoys and swimmers must stay within the buoys during warm-up/warm-down.

| **Swimmer Management** |
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Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time: 200

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? There are no race day registrations allowed

How will you deploy the safety staff and crafts distributed to supervise this event to ensure swift recognition, rescue, and treatment of any swimmer? See course map – safety staff and crafts are spread over the course to be able to recognize and reacted to any swimmer in need of help.

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? Lifeguards will employ an overlapping zone coverage with backup assignments all zones will be less than a 30 second response time for the lifeguard assigned to the zone and the backup guard assigned to provide coverage if the primary guard is engaged in the rescue. Also see attached EAP

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? Zones may increase in size to cover the course, in no case will a zone be larger than a 30 second response time for the assigned lifeguard.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: Remove all swimmers from the water. In shallow water responders will form a line with linked arms and walk the course feeling with their feet In deep water, trained responders will perform safety patterns wearing fins and snorkles. See attached EAP

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| **Severe Weather Plan** |

Is a lightning detector or weather radio available on site? No

Describe your plan for severe weather or natural disaster: Direct all swimmers to exit the water at the nearest shore. Have them gather at a sheltered rally point. See attached EAP

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: In the event of severe weather, all participants will be required to swim directly to the beach and escorted by support personnel. Upon departure from the water, all swimmers will be directed to Finish judge for accountability. Swimmers and volunteers will be directed to their vehicles for shelter and exit from the park if necessary.

## 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: Not applicable

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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: Wetsuits will be allowed for all participants. If water temperature is below 66 websuits will be required. If water temperature is below 60 the race will be cancelled.

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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: Blankets and warm showers will be available on site

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: EMS will work with the Medical Officer and Lifeguards to care for multiple medical issues. If needed, additional EMS may be called for support.

**If the water temperature is below 72° F, will you be prepared to deal with cold water medical issues:** Wetsuits will be recommended for water temperatures under 72. Additional blankets will be available, race distances may be modified on the day of the event. We will monitor lake temperature daily in the two weeks prior to the event and communicate recommendations to all participants.

## 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: Not applicable

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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: All of the above if necessary

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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: Water and ice and cool showers are available on site

**Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues:** EMS will work with the Medical Officer and Lifeguards to care for multiple medical issues. If needed, additional EMS may be called for support.

**If the water temperature is above 82° F, will you be prepared to deal with heat-related medical issues:** Wetsuits will not be allowed. Course may be shortened if necessary.