

# Brogan Open Water Classic

## 2024 SAFETY PLAN

### Timeline

<b>Check-in:</b>	<b>6:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Warm-up:</b>	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Mandatory Safety Meeting:</b>	<b>7:45 a.m.</b>
<b>First Wave:</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Awards and Social:</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. or as soon as results are printed</b>

### COVID Safety Precautions

We will adhere to all current federal, state and local regulations with regards to mask wearing, social distancing and crowd sizes. We encourage those of you who are not vaccinated to wear a mask when interacting with our volunteers and in crowded situations where social distancing is not practical.

### Swimmer Responsibility

The directors and volunteers of the Brogan Open Water Classic are committed to your safety, as well as to the success of your swim. In the best interest of all participants, the Event Director will have final authority as to whether or not to conduct the swim.

There will be situations where water conditions are not perfect, due to water temperature, weather or water quality. If the Event Director has determined that the event will proceed, it remains the responsibility of each swimmer to know his or her limitations. If you have not practiced under the conditions present on race day, you may want to consider your options.

There is no shame in scratching the event if you are not comfortable with the conditions. Additionally, you may change the distance of your swim, or switch to the wet suit category prior to the race by letting an event official know.

### Keeping Track of the Swimmers

We want to know exactly how many swimmers are in the water at all times. To accomplish this we provide positive identification of swimmers at check-in, electronic timing backed up by manual timing, multiple start waves, a brightly colored swim cap, a card with the swimmer's registration number and wave information, and each swimmer will have their registration number written on his/her right arm or cap (for wet suit swimmers) and left hand.

### ***Positive Check-in***

Each swimmer will have entered the event via on-line or paper registration. After registration closes, four days before the event, the event director will produce a spreadsheet of all registered swimmers. On the day of the event, each registered swimmer must present him- or herself at the check-in table. If check-in table volunteers do not personally know the swimmer, they will ask for photo identification. After proper identification, the swimmer's name will be checked off the spreadsheet, the swimmer will be assigned a registration number and will be given a swim cap and wave card with their registration number.

The registration number will then be written on the swimmer's right arm (or cap in the case of wet suit swimmers) and left hand. The swimmer will then receive an ankle strap that contains the electronic timing chip that corresponds to the number on his/her arm. This chip must be worn throughout the event.

Registered swimmers who do not check in by the time the mandatory Safety Meeting begins will be scratched from the event.

### ***Electronic Timing***

We use electronic timing for two reasons. One is to time the event. The other is to keep an electronic count of the number of swimmers in the water. Although the swimmers start the swim in the water, we require that they pass through the finish line chute as they enter the water on their way to the start line. There will be a rubberized electronic pad at the chute. This electronic pad records the swimmers as they enter the water and again when they exit the water. Electronic timing provides an exact count of the number of swimmers in the water at all times. It also provides a time for each swimmer.

### ***Manual Timing***

Volunteers at the finish line will have stopwatches. The times they record are intended to backup the electronic timing system.

Electronic timing will probably work perfectly. But electronic timing chips can be inadvertently knocked off or lost during the swim making a backup system necessary. As each swimmer passes through the finish line chute, a volunteer will read the number written on the swimmer's left arm and will call out that number.

Another volunteer will write that number down in finish sequence. Another volunteer will call out the time, which will then be written down next to the swimmer's number. This provides a manual count of how many swimmers have finished the event and who those swimmers are. We can then determine how many swimmers remain in the water and who they are. NOTE: If a swimmer is wearing a sleeved wet suit, the number will be written on his/her swim cap.

### ***Wave Cards***

Waves will be seeded by 1-mile pool time. Swimmers will receive a wave card that matches the color of their cap. This card shows the swimmer's name, event and wave. Swimmers will line up on the beach according to their waves. When their wave is called, swimmers will place their cards in a bucket and advance across the timing pad and into the water. Waves start 4 minutes apart. Multiple waves help prevent inadvertent bumping between swimmers and also spread the swimmers out making visual sighting of them easier.

### ***Swim Caps***

Each swimmer must wear the event swim cap provided at check-in. Brightly colored swim caps facilitate visual spotting of swimmers in the water. Caps help the timers, kayakers, lifeguards, coast guard, and safety director follow the movement of the swimmers. Swim caps make an actual headcount possible if necessary.

### ***If You Must Exit the Race Early***

Swimmers who return to shore before completing the event distance must proceed to the finish line area and alert event personnel. Turn in your timing chip. **Do not** leave the event early without letting event personnel know. We will search for you and worry about you. Finish line personnel will be asked to watch for swimmers who come ashore before they finish the race.

### ***Warm-Up***

Warm-Up starts at 7 a.m. At least two kayaks must be in the water before warm-up can begin. All swimmers must exit the lake by 7:40 a.m. and attend the mandatory safety meeting.

## **Emergency Response on the Water**

### ***Physical Presence***

Kayakers and lifeguards may be outside or inside the course. We expect to have twelve to fifteen individuals in kayaks or on paddle boards in the water. Most of these individuals will be trained lifeguards. If a swimmer needs assistance from a kayaker, he/she should grab the kayak at the bow. Per USMS Rule 303.9.5, swimmers may make contact with a kayak or other physical feature, as long as they do not make forward progress on the course during contact. If the swimmer chooses to leave the race, the kayaker should paddle the swimmer to shallow water. The swimmer should exit the water and walk to the finish line so he/she can be counted. If the swimmer is in distress and the U.S. Coast Guard vessel is closer than shallow water, the kayaker may take the swimmer to the Coast Guard boat.

Due to the shallow depth of the water close to shore, the U.S. Coast Guard vessel will be on the lake side of the course. The purpose of the U.S. Coast Guard vessel is to keep the race course clear of unauthorized boat traffic. If a swimmer is brought to the U.S. Coast Guard vessel, the Captain of the Boat should determine how best to respond to the situation. Options include waiting until after the conclusion of the event before bringing the swimmer to the USCG station dock or bringing the swimmer to the dock immediately. The Event Director must be kept informed so he can account for the swimmer and call 911 if necessary.

### ***Communications***

The U.S. Coast Guard vessel, Safety Director and Event Director all have cell phones.

- Event Director – Chuck Beatty, cell: 330-808-4821
- Safety Director – Mark Marshfield, cell: 716-598-3364
- U.S. Coast Guard vessel – not known at this time, cell:

Communications should concern urgent matters about the swimmers or about the course. If a swimmer requires emergency medical treatment, notify the Event Director or the Safety Director immediately so 911 can be called and treatment can be available by the time the swimmer is brought to shore.

## **Emergency Response on Land**

### ***EMS***

Cleveland EMS will be on site between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. during the swim. In the case that a swimmer is taken to a nearby hospital, directions to that hospital will be available. Depending on the situation, a swimmer may be transported to Lutheran Hospital or Metrohealth Medical Center. Lutheran Hospital is located at 1730 W 25th St, Cleveland, OH 44113. It is about 2.1 miles from Edgewater. Metrohealth Medical Center is about 5 miles from Edgewater. Metrohealth Medical Center is a Level 1 Adult Trauma Center.

### ***Emergency Information***

The Safety Director or the Event Director will have a list of each swimmer's emergency information. Also included will be any significant medical information that was provided as part of a swimmer's registration. Depending on the nature of the medical information, a kayak may be assigned to follow the swimmer around the course.

## **Mandatory Safety Meeting**

Two days prior to the event, the Safety Plan and the course map will be emailed to each registered swimmer.

On race day, there will be a mandatory safety meeting. Attendance will be taken. No one will be admitted to the race without attending the pre-race safety meeting.

### ***Instructions to Swimmers on the Beach***

- Welcome
- Permits from Cleveland MetroParks, United States Coast Guard, Sanctioned by USMS
- Ask for No-shows
- Course layout
- In-water start – tread water
- Beach finish
- Flag and horn start signal
- Electronic Timing
- Manual timing
- Kayakers and lifeguards
- How to touch a kayak
- If you must come ashore before completing the swim, tell us.
- Water conditions; lightning in the area
- Air Horn
- Questions?

### ***Instructions to Kayakers and Lifeguards***

- Course layout
- In-water start
- Beach finish
- Swimmers who need assistance
- Flag and horn start signal

Kayakers and lifeguards may be outside or inside the course. If a swimmer needs assistance from a kayaker, he/she should grab the kayak at the kayak's bow or stern end. Per USMS Rule 303.9.5, swimmers may make contact with a kayak or other physical feature, as long as they do not make forward progress on the course during contact. If the swimmer chooses to leave the race, the kayaker should paddle the swimmer to shallow water. The swimmer should exit the water and walk to the finish line so he/she can be counted.

If lightning occurs during the event, the event will be canceled immediately. This decision will be communicated to the kayakers by air horn and flare and to the Coast Guard Auxiliary boat by cell phone. The Event Director will stop the event with 3 long blasts on the air horn. The kayakers will tell the lifeguards. All kayakers, lifeguards, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary boat will be asked to direct swimmers to the nearest point of land. Swimmers will be asked to walk to the finish line so they can be counted.

Swimmers who are close to finishing after 90 minutes will be allowed to complete the distance. Swimmers who are not close to finishing after 90 minutes will be "pulled" from the water and assisted to land by a kayaker. The Event Director will determine which if any swimmers get "pulled." Kayakers will be asked to bring the swimmer to the finish line.

## **Potential Decisions *(These decisions will be made by the Event Director.)***

Weather or water conditions may cause the race to be shortened, delayed or canceled. Cleveland Metroparks personnel may also elect to cancel the event due to inclement weather or poor water quality.

### ***Waves***

Waves and rip currents can be an concern in the shallow waters around Edgewater Beach, especially when the wind is from the north. If the National Weather Service issues a beach hazard advisory, the race will be canceled.

### ***Water Quality***

Water quality information will be available to swimmers at <https://pa.water.usgs.gov/apps/nowcast/>. This page is updated daily during the swimming season. The Event Director will make swimmers aware of any water quality issues during the pre-race safety meeting.

### ***Shorten the Distance***

Once around the course is a distance of approximately 1 mile. By moving the western-most buoys toward the finish line, the course can be shortened to approximately 3/4 of a mile. Prior to the start of the event, the Event Director will determine which course to present to the swimmers during the Pre-Race Instructions.

### ***Delay the Start***

If weather conditions make swimming unsafe but if the weather shows signs of improving, the Event Director may delay the start of the event. This could delay the completion of the event past the time allowed by the permit from Cleveland Metroparks. The maximum delay would be about 30 minutes and the course would have to be shortened.

### ***Cancel the Event Prior to the Start***

If there is storm lightning in the area, the event will be canceled prior to the start. In addition, the Event Director may cancel the race due to high wave conditions or poor water quality.

### ***Cancel the Event After the Start***

If storm lightning occurs during the event, the event will be canceled with the swimmers in the water. This decision will be communicated to lifeguards, kayakers and the Coast Guard vessel by cell phone. The Event Director will also blow the air horn three times to indicate the event has been stopped. All kayakers and lifeguards will be asked to direct each swimmer to the nearest point of land. Swimmers will be asked to walk to the finish line so they can be counted.

### ***Strictly Enforce 90 Minute Time Limit***

Swimmers who are close to finishing after 90 minutes will be allowed to complete the distance. Swimmers who are not close to finishing after 90 minutes will be "pulled" from the water and assisted to land by a kayaker. The Event Director will determine which if any swimmers get "pulled."