



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 or 941-545-9709.

Open Water Safety Plan Application

Event Information

General Information

Name of Host: [SD-LMSC](#)
Name of Event: I Swam the Oahe Dam
Event Location: Oahe Dam
City: Ft. Pierre State: SD LMSC: SD-LMSC
Event Dates: 8/10/2024 through 8/10/2024
Length of Swim(s): 2.25
Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: No

Key Event Personnel

Event Director: [Jenny Hodges](#) Phone: 605-222-9413 E-mail: nifferannehodes@gmail.com
Referee: [Jeff Hodges](#) Phone: [605-222-9412](tel:605-222-9412) E-mail: funnybonehodes@yahoo.com
Certified Safety Director: [Bruce Jacobson](#) Phone: 605-280-7781 E-mail: bsonJake1@outlook.com

Pre-Race Safety Meeting (required): all officials & safety personnel must attend

Tentative date: 8/10/2024 Time: [8:45 am](#)

Tentative agenda: [Where the safety boats will be located on the course. What to do in the case of inclement weather. How to recognize a person in distress. Procedure for responding to a distressed swimmer. Importance of keeping the entire course supervised until the last swimmer is accounted for. Safety first!](#)

Pre-Race Swimmer Meeting (required): all officials & swimmers must attend to participate in race

Tentative date: 8/10/2024 Time: [9:00 am](#)

Tentative agenda: The parameters of the course, any obstacles to be aware of, how to signal a kayaker for assistance, what to do if the weather should become inclement. Anyone who is pulled off the course or elects to not finish will be returned to the start side of the course. If you have any belongings you want on the finish side put them in our tubs at the starting line. Safety first!

Course & Event Conditions

The Course

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 2 foot to: 50 foot

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: Pierre Fire and Rescue How to contact during event: on site

Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): Clear water, sometimes wavy if the wind is out of the north

How is the course marked?

- Turn buoy(s): Height(s) N/A Color(s) N/A Shape(s) N/A
- Guide buoy(s): Height(s) 4 foot Color(s) Neon Orange Shape(s) round
- Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: .25 mile

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

Water & Air Temperatures

Expected air temp range: 85-95

Expected water temp range: 72-74

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

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.

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.

Water quality check 1 month before and on race day. If there is a major rain between the 2 we will test again.

Event Safety

Medical Personnel

Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site: Paula Tronvold, EMT-P

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? 3

First Responders/Lifeguards & Monitors

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: ARC Lifeguards

Number on course: 12-15

Number on land: 2

Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map.

Onsite Medical Care & Facilities

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 Tent at end and EMT-P at start side with defibrillator.

Ambulance/Emergency Transportation & Nearby Medical Facilities

Ambulance(s) onsite: **Phone # or radio channel** On Call: 911

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

Closest medical facility: Avera St. Mary's

Phone: 605-224-3100

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

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

Watercraft

Motorized Watercraft:

- Owned/operated by government agencies (Coast Guard, police, fire & rescue, etc.): 3
- Owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals: 5

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): 4
- Anchored from start to finish: 0

Allocation of Watercraft:

- Safety Watercraft:
 - 1st Responders: Motorized: 3 Non-motorized: 10
 - 2nd Responders: Motorized: **0** Non-motorized: **5**
- Watercraft for race officials: Motorized: 2 Non-motorized: Number
- Watercraft for race supervision: Motorized: 2 Non-motorized: 15
- 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: Orange

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

Swimmer Counting & Accountability

Describe method of swimmer body numbering: Mark upper arm on non-wetsuit and cap on wetsuit swimmers

Describe method of electronic identification of swimmer (Recommended): N/A

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): Bright Pink for ladies and Bright Yellow for Men

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): Positive check-in before race, mid race check from middle, positive check-in at the end of the race

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: Any DNF will be pulled and returned to the start side of the race and safety director will contact finish line.

Warm-up/Warm-down Safety Plan

Describe safety plan for warm-up/warm-down, include number and location of lifeguards and designated watercraft. A land lifeguard will be watching a small designated area for warm-up and warm-down

Swimmer Management

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? Create waves based on gender and wetsuit or non-wetsuit

How will you deploy the safety staff and crafts distributed to supervise this event to ensure swift recognition, rescue, and treatment of any swimmer? Kayakers will be located on the perimeter of the course, and spaced so that there is complete visual coverage of the entire course. The jetskis will be roving a certain span of the course outside the buoy line and our motor boats will be stationed at regular intervals along the course. Our system is to try and keep the motorized boats outside the buoy line unless they are needed to grab a swimmer. So the kayakers locate swimmer in need and signal the closest jetski. Kayaker supports swimmer until jetski can safely enter swim area to retrieve swimmer. They would then be transported to the safety boats or start side of the race.

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? The kayakers use their flags to signal safety staff. We have EMT experienced guards on the jetskis so that they can respond immediately to a distressed swimmer.

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? Using smaller waves of people.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: If a swimmer is missing we will double check all swimmers in and out of the water. If it is confirmed they are missing we will have our Dive Search and Rescue Team activated to search the course.

Severe Weather Plan

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

Describe your plan for severe weather or natural disaster: Swimmers are instructed during the safety meeting if lightning is detected they will be instructed to swim to the shore and await a safety boat to remove them to the starting side.

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: Once everyone is out of the water safety boats will start to pick up participants and bring them to the start side of the swim. Safety kayakers will return to shore after all swimmers have been informed of the weather and led to the shore along the face of the dam.

Thermal Plan for Cold Water Swims

General Information

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**.

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: Print potential temps on registration and update participants of actual temps close to race day.

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: Encourage wetsuits for all swimmers

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: We would provide warm beverages and blankets.

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: By having multiple EMT-P's and lifeguards on hand to assist more than one person or a person with serious medical issues. I require swimmers to disclose health issues in their registration as to trouble shoot problems before they arise.

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

Swimmers will be allowed to join the wetsuit category

Thermal Plan for Warm Water Swims

General Information

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**.

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: Print potential temps in the registration info so people can be informed prior to committing to race.

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: If extreme heat we would cancel the swim.

What extra medical care will you provide to mitigate & treat symptoms of heat-related issues:
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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: We provide cold water for all swimmers and volunteers as well as shade at the finish line under a tent

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: By having multiple EMT-P's and lifeguards on hand to assist more than one person or a person with serious medical issues. I require swimmers to disclose health issues in their registration as to trouble shoot problems before they arise.

If the water temperature is above 82° F, will you be prepared to deal with heat-related medical issues: We would cancel the swim if water temps are this high.