Brogan Open Water Classic
2025 SAFETY PLAN

Timeline

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

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 enter 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 rubber 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 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 helps 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, but do not cross the timing pad. **Do not** leave the event early without letting event personnel know. We will search for you and worry about you. We will call your emergency contact. 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 fifteen to twenty individuals in kayaks or on paddle boards in the water. Ten of these individuals will be Metroparks 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.

Argonaut will have a rescue jet-ski positioned outside the northwest boundary of the course. This vessel will be used for rapid extraction of a distressed swimmer to the beach and the EMS ambulance.

A 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

There will be nine VHF radios distributed around the course, including the Event Director, Safety Director, and the U.S. Coast Guard vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard vessel, Safety Director and Event Director will all have cell phones.

- Event Director – Chuck Beatty, cell: 330-808-4821
- Safety Director – TBD
- U.S. Coast Guard vessel – TBD

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 EMS 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
- Support craft spacing with alternating volunteers and lifeguards
- Emergency signals
- Flag and horn start signal
- Beach finish
- Swimmers who need assistance
- Missing swimmer response (EAP)
- Questions?

Kayakers and lifeguards may be outside or inside the course. Support craft should be spread evenly around the course, including the cross leg of the half-mile race. Ideally, volunteers and trained lifeguards should alternate on 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 a kayaker witnesses a swimmer in distress go below the surface, they should repeatedly blow their whistle 3 times to attract help from a trained lifeguard and the rescue jet-ski. The kayaker should do their best to stay over the area where the swimmer went down. Volunteer kayakers should not go into the water to attempt to rescue a submerged swimmer. The Emergency Action Plan should be activated and police and Coast Guard should be alerted.

If lightning occurs during the event, the event will be canceled immediately. This decision will be communicated to the kayakers by radio, air horn and flare and to the Coast Guard vessel by radio and cell phone. The Event Director will stop the event with 3 long blasts on the air horn. All kayakers, lifeguards, and the rescue jet-ski 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.

Missing Swimmer Response

Start/Finish Line Staff

The volunteer staff working at the start/finish line are responsible for keeping track of the number of swimmers going into and coming out of the water. We use the wave cards to determine who has gone in and that information is recorded on the tally sheets for each event. As swimmers exit the water, their number is called out and their timing chip is retrieved. This information is also recorded on the tally sheets. Swimmers who do not finish should be recorded on the tally sheet as "DNF," and should not be allowed to cross the timing pad. The safety director will also be keeping count of the remaining swimmers as they finish the last leg of the course.

In the event that the in/out counts don't match and there is a missing timing chip, we must assume that a swimmer remains in the water. The volunteer staff should do the following:

- Match the chip number to a name and event (which color cap are we looking for)
- Confirm that there is a wave card for that person and confirm with the timer that the person crossed the timing pad at the start of the race.
- Contact the on-site Metroparks Ranger, the Coast Guard and the Aquatics Coordinator and alert them to the missing swimmer.
- Event Director will activate the Emergency Action Plan by repeatedly blowing the airhorn 3 times and waving the orange starting flag from the lifeguard stand.
- Volunteers will search the crowd calling the name of the missing person, in the event that they manged to bypass our tracking system.
- Call the emergency contact of the missing person.

Kayakers and Lifeguards

- The Cleveland Metroparks lifeguards will work the search pattern they have been trained to follow. In addition to shallow and deep water searches by the lifeguards, kayakers will paddle the inside and outside of the course line in search of the missing swimmer.
- At some point, police divers will take over the search. Lifeguards and kayakers will follow their instructions.

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."