



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: [Todd Bequette, John Ejnik, Sherie Ejnik](#)
Name of Event: Swim of Legends
Event Location: Geneva Lake, Wisconsin
City: Fontana State: WI LMSC: [LMSC Abrv.](#)
Event Dates: 7/26/2025 through 7/26/2025
Length of Swim(s): 8 miles
Dual Sanctioned with USA-Swimming: No

Key Event Personnel

Event Director: [John Ejnik](#). Phone: 920-650-2340 E-mail: ejnikj@gmail.com
Referee: [John Ejnik](#) Phone: [920-650-2340](tel:920-650-2340) E-mail: ejnikj@gmail.com
Certified Safety Director: [Todd Bequette](#) Phone: 262-203-6414 E-mail: tbequette248@gmail.com

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

Tentative date: 7/26/2025 Time: [5:00 AM](#)
Tentative agenda: [see files submitted](#)

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

Tentative date: 7/26/2025 Time: [5:30 AM](#)
Tentative agenda: see files submitted

Course & Event Conditions

The Course

Body of water: Lake Water type: Fresh Water Water depth from: 0 to: 40 ft
Course: Open - non-event watercraft allowed near swim course
If open course, indicate the agency used to control the traffic while swimmers are on the course.
Agency name: Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol How to contact during event: radios
Expected water conditions for the swimmers: (marine life, tides, currents, underwater hazards): wind is typically from the South West, so likely a tail wind for the swimmers. No appreciable current, the course is between the no-wake buoys and the south shore. We have not encountered any underwater hazards in this lake.
Expected water temperature is 75 to 78 -F. Each swimmer will have a kayaker for feeding and guidance.

How is the course marked?

- Turn buoy(s): Height(s) none Color(s) orange Shape(s) round
- Guide buoy(s): Height(s) 2' Color(s) white Shape(s) cylindrical
- Approximate Distance between Guide buoys: 100 feet

Number of Feeding Stations: 0

Type of structure(s) used as feeding station(s): individual kayakers, resupply boats every two miles.

Number of people the structure(s) can safely hold: not applicable

Water & Air Temperatures

Expected air temp range: 70-90F Expected water temp range: 75-78F 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

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 for this lake is outstanding you can clearly see the bottom in 40 feet of water. The Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol keeps track of water quality and blue-green algae outbreaks.

Event Safety

Medical Personnel

Lead medical personnel (emergency trained) on site: GLWSP & an ambulance on shore, [Qualification](#)

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? More than 7

First Responders/Lifeguards & Monitors

Indicate the qualifications of the first responders: Equivalent water certified first responder

Number on course: 6 or more in two or more boats Number on land: 7 boats, 21 responders

Indicate their location on the Race Plan Map. The boats will be moving with the one-way course traffic from start to finish.

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. An ambulance will be at the start, then move to the one access point on the course, then wait at the finish until the last swimmer is out.

Ambulance/Emergency Transportation & Nearby Medical Facilities

Ambulance(s) onsite: radio with water safety On Call: 2622490221

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

Closest medical facility: Mercy Lake Geneva Medical Center Phone: 2622490221

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

Distance to closest medical facility: 10-20 miles Approximate transport time: 5-20 minutes

Watercraft

Motorized Watercraft:

- Owned/operated by government agencies (Coast Guard, police, fire & rescue, etc.): 2 to 7
- Owned/operated by volunteers or hired individuals: 3 pontoon boats

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: [Number](#)
- With impeller motor (jet ski, jet boat): [Number](#)
- Anchored from start to finish: 3 pontoon boats

Allocation of Watercraft:

- Safety Watercraft:
 - 1st Responders: Motorized: 2 Non-motorized: -
 - 2nd Responders: Motorized: - Non-motorized: -
- Watercraft for race officials: Motorized: 1 Non-motorized: -
- Watercraft for race supervision: Motorized: na Non-motorized: -
- Watercraft for feeding stations: Motorized: na Non-motorized: -
- Watercraft for escorted events: Motorized: 0 Non-motorized: 1 per swimmer

- Other event watercraft: Local police will be informed of the event, but are not currently active participants.

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: body marking, caps, banner on kayaker.

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

Describe different bright cap colors for various divisions (Recommended): yellow and blue

Describe method of accounting for all swimmers before, during and after swim(s): manual entry at start & Finish, tracking every two miles, double signoff at finish.

Describe method of accounting for swimmers who do not finish: swimmers and kayakers to be pulled together and transported to finish. Double verification of status.

Warm-up/Warm-down Safety Plan

Describe safety plan for warm-up/warm-down, include number and location of lifeguards and designated watercraft. Warm up at Fontana beach to be monitored by GLWSP (if any elect to warm up). Cool down at Big Foot Beach State Park to be monitored by park life guards in designated swimming area.

Swimmer Management

Maximum number of swimmers on course at a time: estimated 30 for the first year, no more than 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? Each swimmer requires a dedicated kayaker, entries to be locked one week before the event, no day of registrations will be 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? Three pontoon boats will be spaced every two miles, two to seven high-speed rescue craft will patrol up and down the length of the swimming pack. Each kayaker will have a flag and a whistle. The ambulance will be positioned as near the center of the pack as possible.

How will you deploy the safety staff to maximize rapid response to a troubled swimmer? The high-speed boats have trained first responders.

How will you alter the event if insufficient safety personnel/craft are available on the day of the swim(s)? cancelled or postponed to Sunday July 27th.

Describe your missing swimmer plan: Each swimmer will have a kayaker, and a visibility bouy. Each pair will be tracked at the 2-mile pontoon boats. Phones will be used to call the kayaker as well as visual search.

Severe Weather Plan

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

Describe your plan for severe weather or natural disaster: We will monitor the weather ahead of the event. We will not delay the start for sever weather. We may postpone the event until the following day or cancel the

event. In the event of severe weather during the event, the sirens will sound, and all pairs will exit to the south shore. Boats will be used to bring swimmers and kayakers to the finish.

Describe your course and site evacuation plan, including accounting for all swimmers and other participants: The course is the south shore of Geneva Lake. There is a walking path that parallels the course the whole way. If they need to exit the water, they are to get to shore, and we will use shuttle vehicles or boats to pick them up and take them to the finish.

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: The lake will be 75 to 78F, we will not allow wet suits, we will not require evidence of cold water experiences.

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: If the lake were to drop to 66, we would allow wet suits.

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 will have warm drinks at the finish, but cold drinks are more likely going to be desired.

Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: A dedicated ambulance will be on hand for the duration of the event, plus a half hour. The GLWSP personnel are trained first responders who would likely be the first people to reach a distressed swimmer.

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

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: If over 85F, we will cancel the event

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: Remind all participants to stay hydrated (including kayakers).

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: We will have tents and cold fluids at the finish, we would be able to bring in more GLWSP personnel.

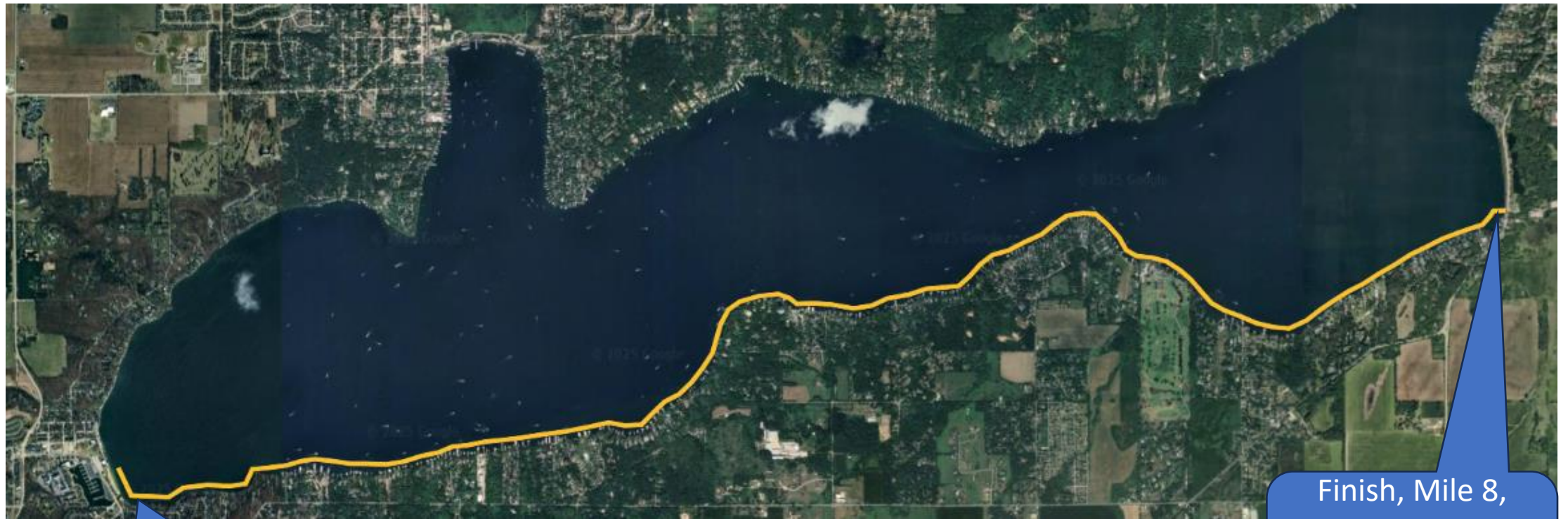
Comment on how you will be prepared to care for multiple medical issues: One ambulance on hand, and more could be called to the finish area in a matter of minutes.

If the water temperature is above 82° F, will you be prepared to deal with heat-related medical issues: We will be able to provide additional water & sport fluids every two miles if kayakers were to run out for themselves or the swimmers. GLWSP personnel are trained and available to assist.

Swim of Legends

Course Safety Map

Overall Course – Fontana to Big Foot Beach SP



Start, Mile 0 6:00 AM,
Fontana Beach

Finish, Mile 8,
9 to 12:00, Big
Foot Beach State
Park

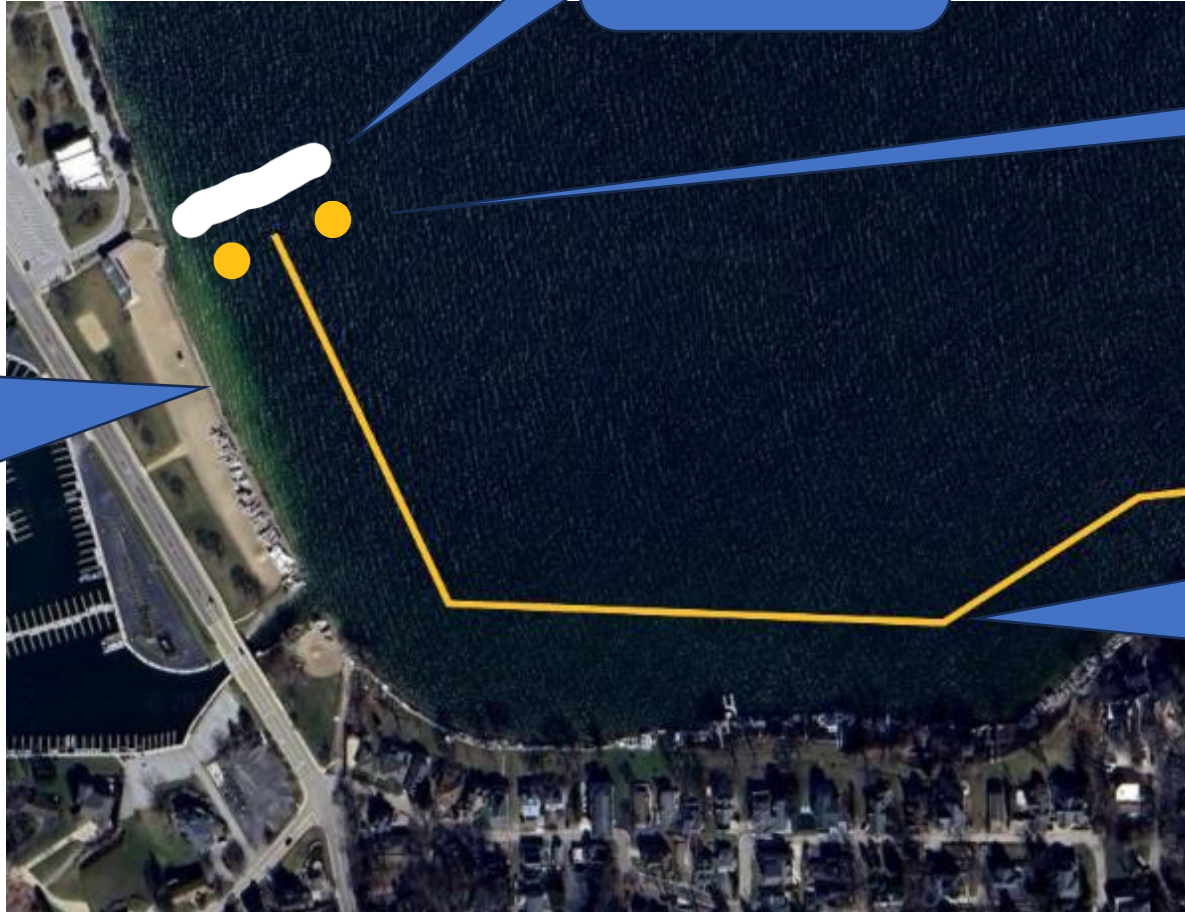
Start area (Fontana)

Pier not shown
in Google Earth

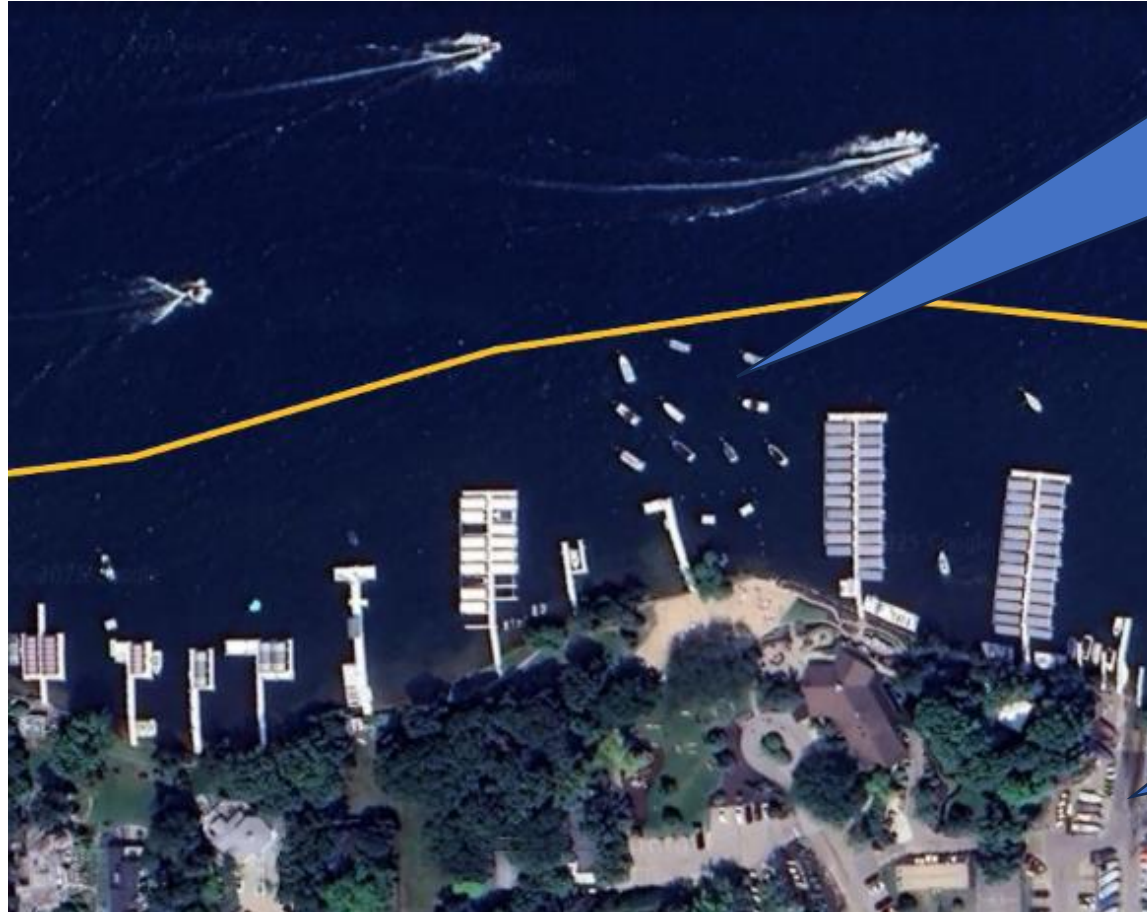
Two markers for starting the
race in between

Fontana Beach
will not have life
guards at 6AM.
GLWSP craft will
monitor any
swimmers wishing
to warm up

Kayakers guide
each swimmer
from "No-Wake"
to "No-Wake" buoys



Navigating around obstacles



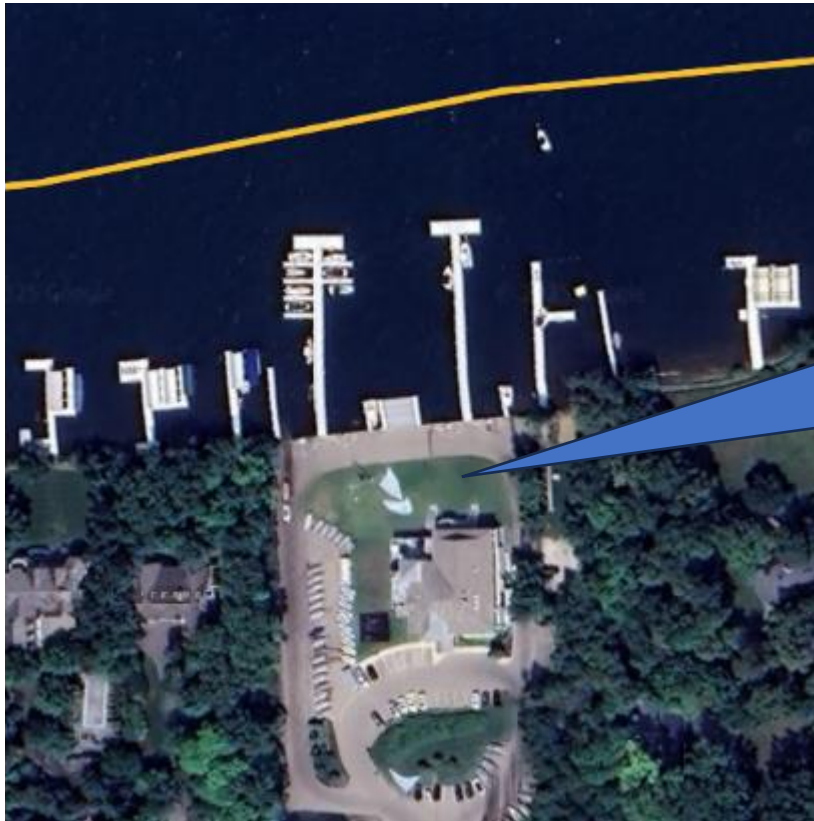
Buoyed boats may require temporarily going outside of the No-Wake buoys. We will have additional craft in these three locations.

Abbey Springs Yacht Club will be notified in advance of the event

Navigating around obstacles

- Personal floating piers, boats, and toys will be in different locations than last summer. We will swim, and kayak the course multiple times in the weeks leading up to the event to identify if any of these will pose an issue to the kayaker/swimmer teams.
- We have never found any underwater obstacles along the course that would pose a danger to deep draft boats, much less a swimmer or kayaker.

Lake Geneva Yacht Club



The Lake Geneva Yacht Club will be notified of the event in advance so that the boaters know to take extra care in the morning of the event

Linn Boat Launch



The public boat launch will have a notice of the event posted. This will also be an emergency first responder location

Town of Linn Boat Launch



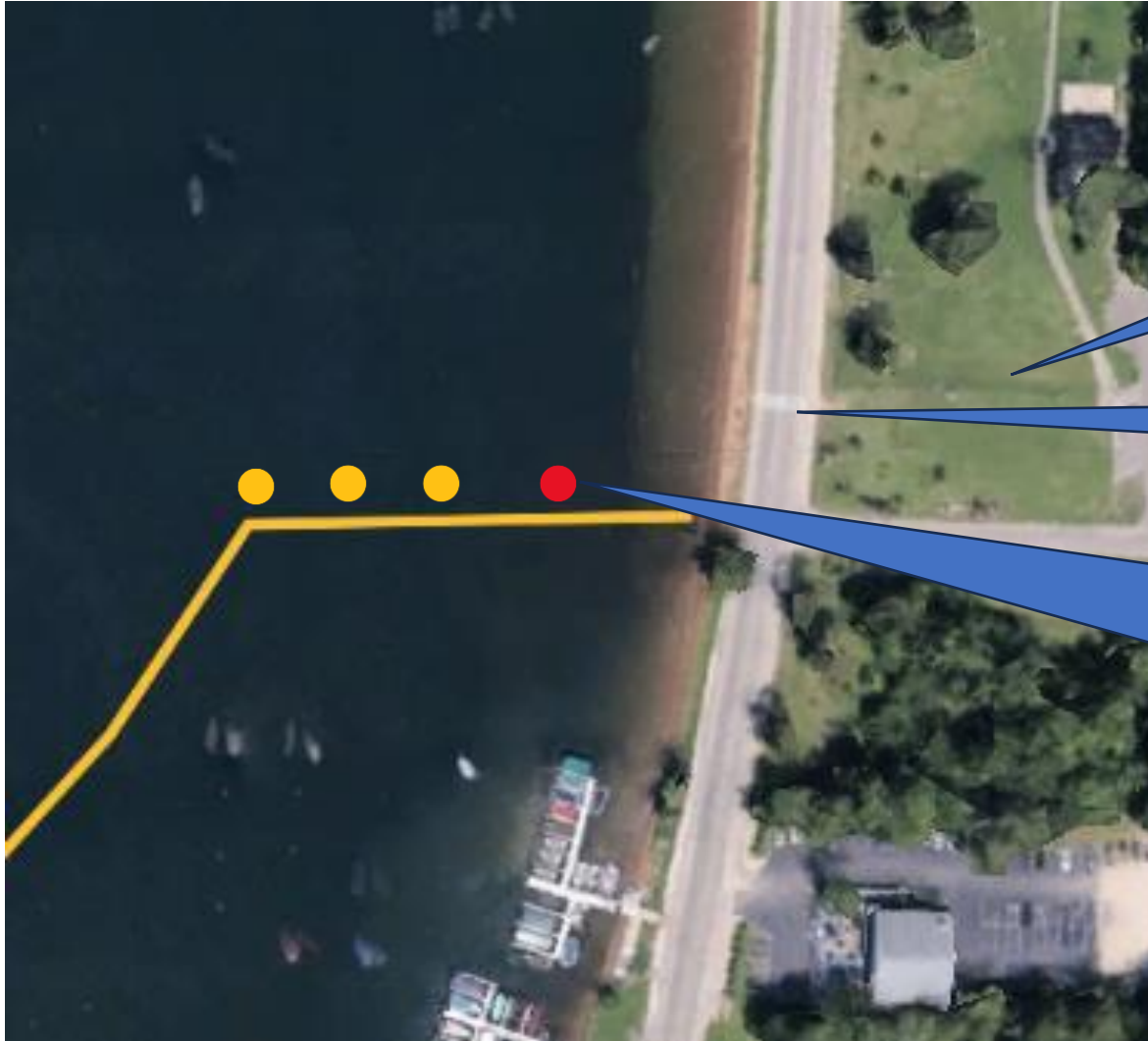
The public boat launch will have a notice of the event posted. This can also be accessed if needed.

Windward Marina Slips & Buoys



The marina near the finish will be notified of the event.
Swimmers may be crossing this area between 9 and noon.

Finish Area



Registration packet pickup area pre-race. Awards and meal area after the race. First responders located in this area as well.

Crossing guards to assist kayakers and swimmers across 2-lane highway.

Three guide buoys will direct swimmers to the Red finish marker that will be in shallow water. We will be using the last 20 feet or so of the beach to exit swimmers. State Park Life Guards monitor the beach for swimmers wishing to cool down.

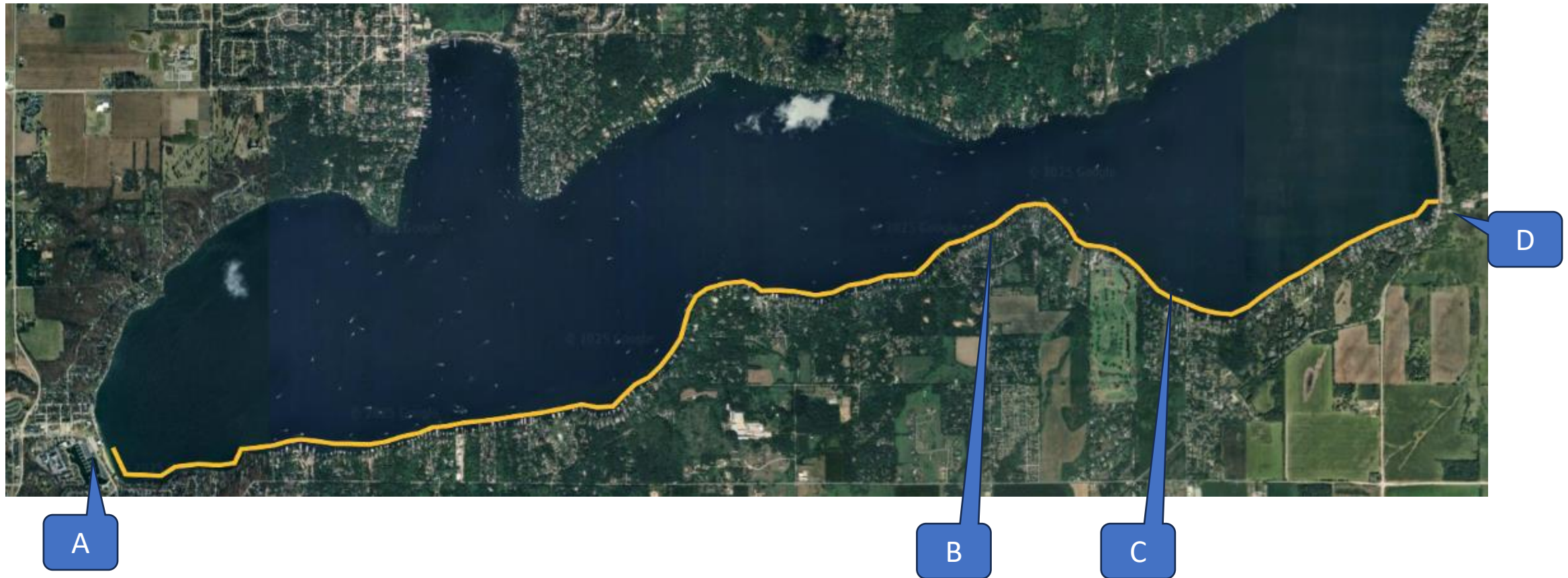
Relay Boats – 12 person pontoon boats



Relay Boats

- Three relay boats will be spread every 2 miles and will be able to hold up to 11 relay teams. Boats will be anchored just outside of the no-wake markers.
- Each boat will have an event volunteer with a radio and phone to the GLWSP.
- Each boat will carry extra drinks and food for kayakers and swimmer, but are not intended to be used as a fueling stop.
- Each volunteer will act as additional eyes on kayakers/swimmer teams.
- Each boat will document swimmers finishing and starting relay legs.
- Swimmers will use the ladder to exit and enter the boats (no diving or jumping allowed).
- All relay boats will load swimmers at Fontana, and drop them off at the Finish. They will remain on station until all relay teams are accounted for.

Ambulance Locations



Ambulance Locations

- The ambulance will have access to private property to allow first responders access to any location on the walking path that goes around the entire lake.
- Start location A – The ambulance will be at the start of the race, and remain there for one hour (6 to 7 am)
- Location B – from 7 to 9am, the ambulance will be at Linn Landing.
- Location C – Town of Linn Boat Launch – access for ambulance, but not stationed here.
- Location D – Finish - 9 to 12:30 (30 minutes after race finish)

Hospital

- Mercy Lake Geneva Medical Center
- 350 Peller Road, Lake Geneva WI 53147
- (262) 249-0221
- 2.8 miles from finish, 8 minutes.



Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol

- The swim will be to raise money for Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol.
- This group will be used to ensure safety during the event, and to assist in planning as well.
- [Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol - Water Safety Patrol](#)

