

Independent Safety Officer Post-Event Report 6/19/2024

2024 Central Zone Open Water Championship
Sanction# WI2024-541OW
Pleasant Prairie RecPlex / Lake Andrea Beach
Central Zone Open Water Clinic: Thursday, June 13, 2024
Competition: Friday, June 14, 2024

I. 2024 Water Quality Testing Results for Lake Andrea

A. Measurement of Coliform bacterial concentration.

	5/23	5/29	6/5	6/12	6/19
cfu/100 ml	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0

i. cfu/100 ml = colony forming units/100 ml

B. Village of Pleasant Prairie thresholds for water testing results:

- i. 0-235: Safe
- ii. 236-1000: Swim Advisory
- iii. Over 1000: Beaches Close

C. Water quality remains in the safe zone, 5 days post-event.

II. Central Zone Open Water Clinic: Thursday, June 13, 2024

A. Clinic from 3:30 – 5:00 PM and Athlete Registration 5:00 – 6:30 PM

B. Air and Water Temperatures

Time	Water 1	Water 2	Water 3	Water Ave.	Air	Combined	WBGT*
0700	71.5	----	----	----	74.0	145.5	
1015	73.4	----	----	----	90.0	163.4	
1200	72.6	----	----	----	91.4	164.0	
1300	72.1	----	----	----	98.1	170.2	24.6 G
1400	72.5	----	----	----	99.0	171.5	27.1 Y
1500	72.4	73.6	73.4	7.31	94.6	167	24.4 G
1600	73.2	----	----	----	94.3	167.5	23.4 G
1700	73.2	----	----	----	91.0	164.2	22.5 G

*WBGT: Wet bulb Globe Temperature -threat levels for increased risk of heat illness.

G = Green, Low Threat (<76.1°F, <24.5°C)
Y = Yellow, Elevated Threat (76.3-81.2°F, 24.6-27.2°C)
O = Orange, Moderate Threat (81.1-84.0°F, 27.3-28.9°C)
R = Red, High Threat (84.2-86.0°F, 29.0-30.0°C)
B = Black, Extreme Threat (>86.2°F, >30.1°C)

C. Weather Threats

- i. At 7:02 AM, ISO lightning detection device revealed lightning within 5-10 miles of the venue.
- ii. Lightning and the threat of thunderstorms resolved by 9:00 AM.
- iii. The weather forecast predicted 40-45% chance of rain at 3:00 PM.
- iv. 1:30 PM, two hours prior to clinic start: Spoke with a National Weather Service meteorologist.
 1. Severe weather and lightning trending towards zero probability in Pleasant Prairie/SE Wisconsin, most likely to target Northern IL.
 2. The risk of precipitation in the Pleasant Prairie area decreased to 20%.
 3. Meteorologist could not 100% rule out lightning but approaching zero probability.
 4. Discussed weather conditions with Meet Referee, Meet Director and facilities personnel and decision made to proceed with the OW clinic at the lake venue (with indoor clinic at the RecPlex Aqua Arena available if indicated).
 5. Two brief light showers occurred between 3:30 – 6:30 PM, with no evidence of lightning and/or thunder (visually, audibly or by electronic surveillance).

D. Lifeguards: 12 on kayaks and the Lifeguard Supervisor on an electric boat.

E. Boats: 1 electric boat in use, 3 more available, and one motorized boat.

F. EMS on call (with less than 5-minute response time)

- i. No injuries occurred.
- ii. EMS was not summoned.

b. Accounting of athletes

- i. All athletes received and presented a clinic ticket prior to entering the water.
- ii. All clinic tickets were retrieved by the athletes after exiting the water.
- iii. All Athletes accounted for.

c. Air Quality

- i. In moderate (yellow) zone for ozone, and good (green) zone for particulate matter.
- ii. No issues with air quality.

III. Central Zone Open Water Competition: Friday, June 14, 2024

A. Air and Water Temperatures

Time	Water 1	Water 2	Water 3	Water Ave	Air	Combined	WBGT*
0630	73.2	73.6	73.1	73.4	72	145.4	16.26G
0730	73.4	----	----	----	86.4	159.8	20.0 G
0845	73.8	----	----	73.8	89.8	163.6	21.8 G
0940	73.9	73.8	----	73.9	91.4	165.3	----
1030	74.3	----	----	74.3	82.4	156.7	20.1 G
1130	75.0	73.8	74.5	74.4	79.1	153.5	18.4G
1230	75.7	----	----	75.7	80.9	156.6	17.86G

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B = Black, Extreme Threat (>86.2°F, >30.1°C)

B. Weather Threats

- No weather threats were encountered during the competition.
- Air/Water/Combined temperatures within USA Swimming requirements at all times.

C. Technical Meeting completed on evening of 6/12/2024.

D. Race day Officials, Coaches and Mandatory Athlete Meetings all occurred as scheduled.

E. Boat captain/lifeguard meetings completed.

F. Lifeguards: 12 on kayaks and two on the beach (to monitor warmup/cool down area.

G. Lifeguard Supervisor and the Director of Recreation Programming for the RecPlex on the water in a motorized safety boat.

H. Village of Pleasant Prairie Dive and Rescue/EMS were present on the water throughout the entire competition.

I. Boats

- 3 electric boats used; fourth boat was not operational.
- 5 motorized boats present; one would not start; another ran out of gas (during event 3). Three deployed for officials.

J. Air Quality – in the good zone (green) for ozone and particulate matter.

K. Accounting of athletes

- All athletes received and presented a race ticket prior to entering the water.
- All athletes recorded with cell phone video prior to entering the water.

- iii. All race tickets were retrieved by the athletes after exiting the water following completion of their race or upon arriving on the beach following abandonment.
- iv. All Athletes accounted for.

Event	Athletes Registered	Scratched	Total Entering Water	Race Start	Abandoned Race*
1 Boys 5K	54	529,534	52	8:29	0
2 Girls 5K	76	655,670, 675	73	8:34	626
3 Boys 13-14 2.5K	53	306,311, 323,335, 353	48	10:14	0
4 Girls 13-14 2.5K	63	422,435, 463	60	10:19	0
5 Boys 11-12 2.5K	27	0	27	11:08	0
6 Girls 11-12 2.5K	50	0	50	11:12	0
7 Boys 10 & Under 1.25K	16	Race #2	15	12:00	#3 and #4
8 Girls 10 & Under 1.25K	26	0	26	12:04	#6

*Abandoned Race number/reason

- 626 – completed 3 laps, did not swim fourth: no injury, “I’m done”.
- #3 – swallowed water: no injury, asymptomatic, no intervention.
- #4 – kicked in head and neck: no injury/physical findings (except some redness right cheek, no abrasions or lacerations), asymptomatic (no pain, dizziness, etc.), briefly discussed concussion symptoms.
- #6 – splashed in face by a wave (water choppy due to wind), swallowed water: no injury or symptoms.

L. Injuries

- i. **No athlete** injuries occurred requiring EMS evaluation or transport to a hospital, ER or Urgent Care.
- ii. Spectator Injury
 1. One parent tripped and fell on the cement while running to take a photograph: abrasion on right hand treated by lifeguard.
 2. Did not strike head or have any other injuries, complaints, or concerns.

IV. Independent Safety Officer Recommendations for Future Meets

A. PA system and Announcer

- i. Neither one was available during the meet.
- ii. The small handheld battery-operated megaphone was inadequate to effectively communicate with athletes and spectators.
- iii. The competition/athletes were not adversely affected, and no emergencies occurred during the competition.
- iv. A PA system and Announcer are important for proper communication with athletes and spectators during mandatory beach meetings for the athletes and for spectators in the event of an emergency.**

B. Rake cement ramp at the finish:

- i. Remove vegetation that can make the ramp slippery for athletes exiting to the beach at the finish. Check to see if facility maintenance can complete this task.
- ii. No falls or injuries were observed/reported on this ramp.

C. ISO to place cones/safety flags to restrict access to two hazardous beach locations:

- i. Area of the beach adjacent to the fence near the beach house with exposed tree roots, some of which are jagged, which can lead to a trip/fall or a penetrating foot injury for athletes and/or spectators.
- ii. Area near the start, by the volleyball court fence, with exposed and broken plastic drain tube that poses risk to athletes with bare feet.
- iii. Check with RecPlex and Village of Pleasant Prairie maintenance to see if these two areas can be repaired/rehabilitated.
- iv. No falls or injuries were observed/reported at either location.

Meet hosts, Meet Management, Officials, RecPlex personnel and Village of Pleasant Prairie personnel all worked well together and with the ISO to ensure a safe open water clinic and competition opportunity for the Athletes of the Central Zones. The safety plan was followed, effectively implemented and appropriately adjusted to meet real time conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
George Geanon
Independent Safety Officer
June 20, 2024