

Independent Safety Officer Pre-Event Report

June 29, 2023 9:35 AM

Notice of Cancellation

Great Lakes LSC Open Water Championships
Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin
Thursday, June 29th, 2023

1. The thunderstorms forecasted for last night did not occur. Following the thunderstorms, air quality was forecast to improve, but they did not occur.
2. Air quality index at 7 AM was 167, and at 8:50 AM, 168. Both are in the red zone and if this persists, the event cannot take place.
3. Air quality index for Kenosha County was 96.3, in the orange zone, Unhealthy for sensitive groups.
4. Local airports state visibility is expected to decrease from 1.5 to 1.0 miles over the next 24 hours, due to wildfire smoke.
5. The air quality forecast for today is in the Moderate or yellow zone, however there is no way to predict when or if that will happen.
6. The Air Quality alert that was issued on Monday, June 26, is set to expire at noon today. It is unknown if they will issue a new one, what time that may happen, or if the forecast for today will change.
7. Here at the venue, there is a definite haze, better than it was 2 days ago, but no improvement over the past 2.5 hours.
8. The potential for rain is 30% at 3 PM and 38% at 6 and 7 PM.
9. There remains a chance of thunderstorms in the late afternoon to evening, some may be severe, but expected to be brief.
10. Since 7 AM here at the venue, there have been 3 brief episodes of light rain, lasting 5 minutes or less, no lightning or thunder.
11. Water and Air temperatures this AM:

	Air	Water	A+W
0700	70	73.7	143.7
0850	76	74.1	150.1

12. Combined temperatures are within USA Swimming rule book parameters.
13. At 9:30, a conference call occurred between Mike, Amanda and me (Meet Referee, Meet Director, ISO respectively) to review the data and forecasts. Due to the Air Quality Index stable this morning in the Unhealthy (red) zone, the remote likelihood of that changing by noon, and the potential for thunderstorms (some of which may be severe) during the competition, **the decision has been made to cancel the competition. The decision was made due to the continued Unhealthy air quality and for the safety of the athletes, spectators, coaches and volunteers.** Making the decision now will hopefully prevent unnecessary travel as well.

Mike Mellock
Meet Referee

Amanda Schleede
Meet Director

George Geanon
Independent Safety Officer