



2024 Central Zone Open Water Championship

Sanction# WI2024-541OW

Lake Andrea, Pleasant Prairie, WI June 13-14, 2024

Safety Information

1. Safety Authority

- Emergency Medical Services will be provided by the Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue Department.
- There will be a VOPP Fire and Rescue boat on patrol throughout the race or on call, depending on community circumstances.
- Village of Pleasant Prairie (VOPP) and RecPlex (RP) lifeguards will be located throughout the course and land areas. Ten to fourteen lifeguards will be present on paddle boards, kayaks, and the beach.
- AED's, First Aid kits, and Basic Life Support gear will be available on-site through the Fire Department. Estimated Paramedic response time is less than five minutes.
- All RP lifeguards and on-water safety personnel communicate via the Village of Pleasant Prairie closed radio network.
- Floating platforms at the turns shall be manned by Turn Officials with radios.
- There will be a RP Aquatics Safety boat on patrol throughout the race ready to provide aid if needed.
- Race Operations will be staffed by:
 - Meet Director: [Mike Mellock](mailto:mikemellock@gmail.com) – mikemellock@gmail.com – 414-687-5456
 - Meet Referee: [Mike Repko](mailto:mike.repko@dipturus.com) – mike.repko@dipturus.com – 817-739-8675
 - Administrative Referee: [Andrea Kelley](mailto:bandkell@aol.com) – bandkell@aol.com – 319-929-3985
 - Admin. Official: Sarah Olson - olsonswimming@gmail.com – 608-445--2259
 - Entry Chair: Brian Temke - temke@yahoo.com – 414-688-3475
 - RP Aquatics Supervisor: Jada Meyers - jmyers@pleasantprairiewi.gov – 262-515-3389
 - ISO: George Geanon - gdgeanon@gmail.com – 414-588-4334
- The race is held within the Village of Pleasant Prairie, operated by the Village of Pleasant Prairie Department of Public Works, the Fire and Rescue Department and the RecPlex Aquatics and Facilities Departments, protecting the course from outside boat traffic. It is sponsored by USA Swimming, USA Swimming Central Zone Committee, and Wisconsin Swimming.

2. Communications Plan

Primary - There will be two separate radio networks using two different frequency plans. The radios are not interchangeable.

Communication across radio networks will be coordinated through Race Operations. Personnel using Wisconsin Swimming VHF radios include the Race Director, Race Operations, Race Referees, Safety Officer, Course Officer, Spare vessels, Administrative Referee, Turn Judges, and event announcers.



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Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue and the Lifeguard crew will utilize their own radios and will be in contact with the following chain: Fire Rescue, Race Operations, and Lifeguards. Secondary communications between all parties will be via cellular telephones. The following positions will be issued a phone number listing:

- Meet Director: [Mike](#) Mellock – 414-687-5456
- Meet Referee: [Mike](#) Repko – 817-739-8675
- Admin Referee: [Andrea](#) Kelley – 319-929-3985
- Independent Safety Officer: George Geanon – 414-588-4334

3. THOR GUARD Lightning Prediction and Warning System

Thor Guard is the first, totally integrated advance warning system for lightning prediction. The sensor continuously monitors the atmosphere's electrostatic energy as far away as fifteen miles and evaluates the potential for lightning within an area approximately 2 miles in radius. When the system determines a hazardous condition, the air-horns and strobe light provide necessary alerts. In addition, the National Weather Service or similar site will be monitored as well.

LIGHTNING ALERT LEVELS

All Clear: Little to no significant energy, energy change or lightning threat present locally.

Caution: Possibility of lightning is increasing in the local atmosphere. Make Preparations.

Warning: Likelihood of lightning increasing as local atmospheric energy is spiking. Take Precautions.

Red Alert: Lightning is predicted and/or will be detected soon. Seek Shelter!

RED ALERT BLAST NOTIFICATION KEY

- One 15 second blast of the air horns along with strobe lights flashing will signal a severe lightning hazard, **seek shelter. All watercraft, officials, volunteers, coaches and staff will signal swimmers to head to the nearest shoreline to clear the lake and take cover.**
- Three 5 second blasts of the air horn from Thor Guard will signal it is safe to return to normal activities.
The beach remains closed, and no one may return to the sand until 30 minutes after the LAST strike of lightning is spotted or thunder is heard and Thor Guard indicates the all clear.
- **After/if an approval to resume by the Safety Officer/Authority is announced, a coaches/officials/swimmers/volunteers/staff briefing will be scheduled to announce the protocol. to resume the competition.**

Strobes will also stop flashing when safe conditions return. (Will follow the same procedure as above.)



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4. Swimmer in Distress

Village of Pleasant Prairie and RecPlex Lifeguards will activate their water rescue protocols. Any swimmer withdrawing from the race must report to the nearest lifeguard for identification. A lifeguard will radio the race admin team with the competitor number and direct the swimmer to return to the start area if able to do so. A First Aid station is located in the Wruck Pavilion which is connected to the beach on the lake front in the Start/Finish area, staffed by the lifeguard staff. Swimmers needing emergency medical care will be administered to by Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department and Village of Pleasant Prairie RecPlex Lifeguards. Swimmers requiring evacuation via ambulance will be transported to one of four Hospitals or clinics listed here:

- a. Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital-9555 76th St., Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158 (7 minutes away) (262) 577-8000 Open: 24 hours
- b. Aurora Medical Center Kenosha Hospital and Urgent Care-10400 75th St., Kenosha, WI 53142 (9 minutes away) (262) 948-5600 Open: 24 hours
- c. Froedtert Kenosha Urgent Care-6308 8th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53143 (16 minutes away) (262) 656-2011 Open: 24 hours

5. Missing Swimmer

All swimmers shall be numbered with their competitor's number during the registration process. All swimmers will be required to provide a personal cell phone contact and a coach/handler cell phone contact at registration. All swimmers will be videotaped during the final inspection/accounting prior to the start. If a swimmer is reported missing and was last seen in the water, Race Operations will activate their under-water search and recovery protocol. Concurrently, meet operations will attempt to contact the LSC Representative named during the check in process. Meet Operations will also review the start list, withdrawal list, site race tickets and view the pre-race video tape to confirm the swimmer started the race. RP Lifeguards will follow the protocol for a missing person search according to the Lake Andrea Emergency Action Plan. The beach and race venue shall be evacuated and all athletes, spectators, and coaches, except those associated with the missing swimmer, will be temporarily relocated to the pool facility until the situation is resolved. All swimmers are reminded at the mandatory Pre-Race Meeting prior to the race start that they must report to the nearest lifeguard if they withdraw from the race. All swimmers who depart from the water will be identified by their race number.



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6. Support Vessels

The following vessels will be used: a combination of 4-6 Referee & Course Judge motorized/electric boats (1) Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department boat, (1) Village of Pleasant Prairie RecPlex Aquatics Department boat, and 6-8 or more Water Safety Personnel Kayaks and/or paddle boards.

All vessel Captains will be required to attend a briefing by the Meet Referee or Meet Director. EMS vessels will remain clear of the racecourse zone unless summoned on to the course by the Referee, Independent Safety Officer, or Event Staff. All boats will be equipped with VHF radios on the race control network.

7. Parameters for Abandoning the Race

Where emergency conditions require a race to be halted before it is completed, the race shall be restarted at the earliest possible time and the full distance completed. A Meet Committee will be convened if needed. Any one of the following individuals are empowered to independently order the race abandoned due to unsafe course or other conditions:

Meet Referee: Mike Repko

Meet Director: Mike Melloch

Independent Safety Officer: George Geanon

If the race is to be abandoned for whatever reason, Race Operations will relay via radio to all vessels to signal abandonment. Simultaneously, the RP Lifeguard Supervisor will signal via VOPP radio network to signal abandonment. The abandonment signals will be:

- Officials Boats – 5 short blasts followed by one long blast.
- Lifeguards – 5 short blasts of the whistle followed by one long blast.
- Beach – 5 short blasts followed by one long blast.

Swimmers are to:

- Discontinue swimming.
- Look for directions from the Officials or water safety personnel.
- Once safe on the lakefront, proceed to the starting area and check-in or to the RecPlex Aqua Arena if directed by the Officials or the Lifeguards.

8. Contingency Plan

Due to venue restrictions, it is unlikely any change to the shape of the course will occur. If weather conditions require, all on-water personnel will work together to clear all athletes from the water to the closest shoreline, all people on the beach will retreat to a nearby enclosed building or vehicle for safety.

Reviewed and Revised 5/8/2024, George Geanon, ISO