

FAT SALMON SAFETY PLAN

1.0 EVENT DESCRIPTION

1.1 General

The Fat Salmon Open Water Swim is a 3.2-mile race along the Seattle shoreline of Lake Washington. The course runs South-to-North, generally between the I-90 and 520 floating bridges. The race starts at the Day Street Boat Ramp directly beneath I-90 at 8:15 a.m. and ends at Madison Park. The last swimmer is expected to finish between 10:15 and 10:30 a.m.

1.2 Course

The race course is shown on the attached map and will be marked at roughly half-mile intervals with large inflatable buoys that identify the outer (Bellevue or east) edge of the course. Power boats will also be stationed 75 feet beyond the outer edge of the course to further define the route. The inner (shore) and outer edges of the course will be loosely confined to a 100-foot wide channel with each edge bounded by a row of paddleboards and kayaks.

Swimmers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the swim route and for remaining within the defined course throughout the event. Event volunteers will direct any off-course swimmers toward the course. Any swimmer willfully ignoring such direction will be pulled from the race and disqualified. Any swimmer passing to the right of a buoy is off course and may be pulled from the race and disqualified.

1.3 Safety

The event safety is provided by seven distinct groups or individuals including:

1. Lifeguards: More than 20 City of Seattle beach lifeguards will paddle alongside swimmers at intervals to provide in-water assistance, if necessary. A City of Seattle supervisor will oversee lifeguards from a City-owned and operated motorboat.
2. Motor Boats: Outside the swim channel, approximately 10 motor craft will be anchored outside the swim course to provide a barrier between swimmers and boat traffic in the area, and to monitor the race.
3. Kayaks: A minimum of 30 kayakers will form two lines that establish a swimming channel on either side of the swimmers. Their primary focus is to keep all swimmers headed North without spreading too wide to the East and West of the buoys. Kayaks may provide a short term 'hanging' spot if swimmers become disoriented, tired or cramped up during the swim. Kayakers will signal lifeguards and/or motor craft for a pick up if they deem necessary.
4. Jet Skis: Two non-propeller driven jet skis will be used to transport any swimmer unable or unwilling to complete the race to a motor boat. Jet skis will specifically shuttle those swimmers to boats who don't reach the 2.5-mile mark before the cutoff time. Pulled or retired swimmers will remain on motor boats for the duration of the race.
5. Harbor Patrol: Up to four City of Seattle Harbor Patrol boats will patrol the race perimeter and provide any needed emergency medical evacuation and enforce on-water laws.
6. Medics: The City of Seattle Fire Department will have two Medics, and an ambulance, stationed at Madison Park. They will be called first in case of emergency. Should the medics need to leave Madison Park, 911 will be called in case of emergency.
7. Beach Lifeguard: The beach lifeguard station at Madison Park will be staffed and available to provide basic first aid during and after the race.
8. Medical Doctor: A licensed physician will remain on standby at Madison Park during the race.

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NOTE: City of Seattle employees (i.e., Harbor Patrol, Medics and lifeguards) are not directly supervised by event personnel, and this plan cannot define specific operations of those parties. This plan is therefore limited to describing the role of the volunteer power boats, jet skis and kayakers.

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2.0 POWER BOATS

2.1 Boat Requirements

Approximately 10-12 owner-operated boats will be anchored at intervals along the race course. Pilots do not need to have first aid training, but should be comfortable operating a boat in varied conditions. Boats need to be in sound operating condition, capable of transporting at least four people, and able to be comfortably boarded from the water without risking tipping or injury to a swimmer.

General operating requirements:

- Must have current vessel registration sticker
- Must be operated by legal/registered owner with a Boater Education Card *if required*
- Functioning VHF radios desired
- Limited to one operator and one volunteer crew
- All owners must provide proof of insurance, PRIOR TO the event.

Boats must be equipped with the following:

- Skier-down or similar flag
- Four life jackets
- Charged cell phone
- Anchor with adequate rope for water depth
- Paddle or auxiliary motor
- Bucket and/or bilge pump
- Secondary motor or paddle
- Adequate fuel
- Blankets or towels for swimmers picked up during the event
- Binoculars

Optional but strongly recommended equipment includes:

- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- 50-foot throw rope
- Propeller guard

2.2 Role

Power boats are one of five types of watercraft that will oversee swimmers along the race course. The boats provide three general functions during the event:

2.2.1 Course Patrol and Communications

Power boats will be anchored at watch stations evenly spaced along the outer edge of the race course. The boaters' primary role is to (1) provide a physical barrier between swimmers and general boat traffic, and (2) monitor swimmers within a discrete section of the race course. Power boats will have a swimmer spotter and/or a volunteer Ham Radio operator riding on board who will be providing communications back to a central point of command, the Race Director and the Safety Official.

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2.2.2 Swimmer Rescue

Any swimmer rescued by a paddle board or kayak will be removed from the race. Any rescued swimmer not requiring medical care will be transported out of the swim course to a Power Boat and remain on the boat for the duration of the race. The boater will transport rescued swimmers to the race finish AFTER the race concludes. See additional information below.

2.2.3 Swimmer Patrol

The Race Director, Safety Officer or lifeguards may remove a slow or unfit swimmer from the race. Pulled swimmers will be transported to a Power Boat by kayak, jet ski, or paddle board and remain on the boat for the duration of the race.

2.3 Day-of-Race Schedule

2.3.1 Launch/Arrival

Boat operators should launch boats and be at Madison Park, ready to go, by 7:15 a.m. The park has a small pier, just North of the park, capable of docking six or seven boats, more if rafted together. If weather precludes docking, boaters should expect to anchor and be ferried to shore.

2.3.2 Meeting

The boater meeting is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. for final instructions. At this meeting, each boat will have a swimmer spotter and/or a Ham Radio volunteer assigned to ride along with you on your boat, for the duration of the race. It is imperative to the event schedule that this meeting start promptly at 7:30, as any later will delay the swim starts. During this 15-minute meeting we will review procedures for:

- Communication
- Swimmer rescue
- Course patrol and boat order
- Contact information

Additionally, boats will be checked for current registration and necessary equipment listed in Section 2.0 above (i.e. life jackets, flags, blankets etc.) Any boat operator who has not provided proof of insurance for their vessel or Boater Education Card *if required* will be compelled to do so as a condition of participating in the event.

2.3.3 Before Start

At the conclusion of the meeting, all boats will move to their predetermined watch stations. Several boats will be required shuttle City of Seattle lifeguards to the race start point before heading to their watch station. All boats must be in position by 8:00 a.m. to avoid delaying the 8:15 race start.

Watch stations are located every 500-yards, beginning with station #1 located at the 500-yard mark of the course. The boating supervisor will be positioned at the last station. Each station is 75 feet outside (east) of the outer course boundary defined by the inflated buoys. Boaters should recognize that water depth at some watch stations exceeds 100 feet and anchoring may not be effective in maintaining position. Before the race starts, the command boat will verify each boat is properly positioned.

Due to recent changes in insurance coverage, *boat engines must remain off during the race.* Under no circumstance should a motor boat enter the swim course!!

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The two exceptions to this requirement are boats equipped with a propeller guard, and boats operated by the City of Seattle. All other boaters are prohibited from starting engines if a swimmer is within 500 yards of their boat. Should a boater decide to leave their watch station before the end of the race, they must wait until all swimmers and support craft have passed the next down-course watch station (e.g. the boater at watch station #3 cannot start his engine until all swimmers, kayaks and paddleboards have passed watch station #4). Boaters should then travel east until they are at least 200 yards outside of the race course.

2.3.4 Finish

The event will run for approximately 2-2.5 hours. Boaters should expect to be in their boats and on the race course until the last swimmer has exited the water, at approximately 10:30 am. Boaters are permitted to leave their watch station before the end of the race, but must follow the operating restrictions listed above, and notify the Safety Director when leaving the watch station. At the conclusion of the race, do not congregate off the shore of Madison Park, but instead tie up or anchor near the dock. Food, t-shirts, praise and gas money await you.

2.4 Specific Race Operations

2.4.1 General Course Patrol

- The primary role is to prevent general boat traffic from entering the course, and monitoring a section of the course. Boats are the boundary between the lake and the course.
- Each boat is responsible for monitoring a 500-yards section of the course. Boaters should be watching for any swimmers in distress and alert their Ham radio operator and nearby kayaks and lifeguards. Radio operator shall notify the Safety Officer/Race Director/Central Command.
- When ANY boat (power, sail or paddle) approaches from the east (Bellevue) side of the course, the nearest power boat should (1) get the boat operator's attention, (2) explain the event, and (3) tell them to keep 300 yards from the race course. If the boat operator does not respond or presents any problem whatsoever, contact Harbor Patrol. This is their job, let them do it.
- Any boat approaching from shoreline will be the responsibility of kayakers.
- Do not start your boat's engine until the race ends or otherwise permitted above.

2.4.2 Swimmer Rescue

2.4.2a General

- If a swimmer must be rescued for any reason, notify the Race Director/Safety Officer immediately. **DO NOT ENTER THE SWIM COURSE!!** Swimmer will be rescued by kayak or lifeguard and brought to power boat.
- After the swimmer is transferred to boat, obtain swimmer name, and number, and general condition. Relay information to Race Director/Safety Officer and Command Boat, also noting time, and boat number/watch station.
- Following the rescue, advise the Race Director/Safety Officer that rescue is complete and that swimmer has withdrawn. Restate swimmer's name, number and condition, time of rescue and boat number. Provide swimmer location transferred from power boat.
- Contact Race Director/Safety Officer and, fill out incident report at conclusion of race.

2.4.2b Non-Medical Emergency Measures (e.g., fatigue)

- Follow outline above

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- A kayak or paddleboard may notify nearest power boat by flag that a swimmer requires a non-medical rescue.
- Kayaker or paddleboard will escort the swimmer outside of the swim course for pickup, or swimmer may proceed to boat on his or her own power.
- Get swimmer into boat and comfortable. Keep swimmer on board until docked at race finish.

2.4.2c *Medical Emergency*

- The Harbor Patrol will evacuate any swimmer needing medical attention. If you witness a medical emergency or if a kayaker, paddleboard or swimmer notifies or approaches you with a medical emergency, **NOTIFY THE RACE DIRECTOR/SAFETY OFFICER IMMEDIATELY!!** This is the fastest, most reliable communication to initiate a rescue.
- Follow general rescue steps outlined above
- When Kayak or board approaches, hold it near power boat until Harbor Patrol arrives. Guide Harbor Patrol to swimmer via radio, phone, hand signals, etc.
- If Harbor Patrol anticipates a delayed response, get the swimmer out of the water if possible to do so without causing injury. Relay information to Harbor Patrol and Race Director/Safety Officer.
- Notify Race Director/Safety Officer when swimmer is transferred to Harbor Patrol.
- Follow reporting requirements described above.

2.4.3 **Swimmer Patrol**

- Power boats will receive swimmers pulled from the race as necessary to control the overall duration and safety of the event. These swimmers will be transferred to power boats by the two jet skis, paddleboards or kayaks. After a swimmer is transferred to a power boat, relay the following information to the Race Director/Safety Officer:
 - Boat Number.
 - Time of pick-up if notification delayed.
 - Swimmer name and number.
- Racers Abandoning the course:
 - If a boater sees a swimmer heading toward shore and clearly abandoning the race, notify the Race Director/Safety Officer of the location and time.
 - Attempt to get the swimmer's name and number.
 - If unable to obtain name and number, direct the nearest kayak to attempt to do so.
 - Notify Race Director/Safety Officer if swimmer's ID is unknown.
- Swimmers pulled from the race will NOT be allowed to re-enter the water under any circumstances.

2.5 **Other Tasks and Information**

2.5.1 **Communications**

- Radios – Each boat will be provided with a Volunteer Ham Radio Operator. In addition, the Race Director, Safety Officer, and several other key support staff members will have radio operators with them at all times. The lead kayaker and head life guard will use their cell phones to communicate between each other or to contact Harbor Patrol or Race Director/Safety Officer.

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- Cell Phone – Boaters are expected to have cell phones, charged and operational; and have provided those numbers to the power boat coordinator in advance of the race.
- Communication with Kayaks
 - We will try to get cell phones in the hand of every kayaker. However, even with a phone, it may not be practical for the paddler to call a power boat operator for assistance.
 - We will try to get flags in the hand of every kayaker. We have instructed kayakers to use hand signal if they need assistance with a swimmer.
 - State Law requires kayak operators to carry a whistle. However, because City Lifeguards use whistles for emergencies, whistles should only be used if the kayaker is in distress or needs assistance – NOT to get a swimmer’s attention.

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3.0 KAYAKS

3.1 Boat Requirements

Experienced kayakers should come equipped for up to two hours of slow paddling. The kayak must be seaworthy. Life jackets are required. Please bring the following if you have them:

- Red or orange flag
- Cell phone
- Extra life jacket

3.2 Role

You are here for the following three reasons:

1. Keep swimmers on course,
2. Watch for swimmers in distress, and
3. Help transport or at least enable any swimmers withdrawing or needing rescue to hold on to your boat while awaiting transport to a power boat or Harbor Patrol boat.

You are NOT here to escort a single swimmer or small group of swimmers, nor are you to provide them with food or drink during the event.

3.3 Day-of-Race Schedule

3.3.1 Launch/Arrival

Many places to put in boats:

- Mt. Baker Park at 2521 Lake Park Dr S, about ½ mile south of I-90.
- Madison Park Beach (registration and finish) over 3 miles north of I-90.
- Madrona Beach at 853 Lake Washington Blvd E, about 1½ mile north of I-90.
- Denny Blaine Park at 200 Lake Washington Blvd E., approximately 2 miles north of I-90.
- If you wish to put in at Day Street Boat Ramp, be sure to arrive very EARLY, due to the lack of parking. It will be best if you can have someone drop you off so that parking is not an issue though. Thanks!

3.3.2 Meeting

All kayaks must be at the Day Street Park (1400 Lakeside Ave S) by 7:30 a.m. The mandatory kayak volunteer meeting is 7:45 a.m. During this 15-minute meeting we will review procedures for:

- Communication
- Swimmer rescue
- Course patrol and boat order
- Contact information

The meeting will also be used to verify that kayaks are equipped with flags and life jackets, and that all operators possess cell phones. Kayakers lacking minimum safety equipment (life jacket and flag) will not be permitted to support the event.

Kayaks will be in the water by 8:00, and the race starts at 8:15.

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3.3.3 Actual Paddling

- One boat will lead the swim and should be approximately 100-feet in front of the swimmers at the 8:15 start. Maintain that gap through the duration of the swim. The lead kayak must not be too close to the lead swimmer or else we entertain complaints that the winner was paced or escorted.
- Divide remaining boats into two groups; one will patrol the east half of the course, the other the west half. Keep the two rows of kayaks within 100-feet of each other.
- As the race proceeds, each group of kayaks spreads out into a column along the length of the swimmers. East (Bellevue) side boats are between the swimmers and the power boats. Faster kayakers should go with the lead group of swimmers. Designate one boat to bring up the rear. Do not bunch up along the course and do not plan on paddling next to anyone.
- Adjust positioning as directed by lead kayaker, harbor patrol and head lifeguard.

3.4 Course Policing

3.4.1 General

- If you see a swimmer heading off course, use your flag, paddle or shout to get their attention. Do not be shy about herding them back onto the course, but please try your best to not harm the swimmer in your attempt to redirect them.
- Swimmers that are in line with the anchored motor boats are OFF COURSE and they should be directed to their left (west) toward shore.
- Avoid following swimmers off the course unless necessary to redirect them *back* to the course. In other words, don't keep moving out just because they are. Swimmers will follow you, right or wrong. Be a good guidepost for swimmers, encourage (and/or herd) the errant swimmers back on course.
- If someone wants to abandon the race, please ask them to hold on to your boat and escort or direct them to a motor boat for pick up. Do not allow them to swim to shore if at all possible. If they insist, please try to get their name and race number and relay that to a motor boat, again, if at all possible.
- Please remember that you are watching all the swimmers in your area. Do NOT follow an individual swimmer, you are not a personal escort.
- In past events, some swimmers have insisted on having a kayak accompany them along the entire race course. This is not allowed. It jeopardizes everyone's safety.

3.4.2 Pulling a Swimmer

- When to pull a swimmer:
 - If a swimmer demands you paddle next to them.
 - If a swimmer is incapable of staying on course and you are spending all of your time corralling one individual
 - A power boat will be on hand to oversee stragglers and determine if the last swimmer needs to be pulled.
 - Use your discretion.
- How to pull a swimmer
 - Clearly explain your decision. Tell, don't ask. And don't argue.
 - Direct the swimmer to follow you outside of the course to the nearest power boat.

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- When swimmer is on the motor boat, move back to your place on the edge of the course.
- If a Personal Watercraft is visible, transfer swimmer to watercraft. They will shuttle swimmer to a Power Boat.
- Dealing with tired swimmers
 - A rest is different than needing help. Ask the swimmer if they need a rest or need help.
 - Allow swimmers to hang onto the bow (preferably) or stern (but not the sides) if a short rest is needed. If you find yourself doing this more than a couple times for the same individual, they probably need to be pulled and you should signal a lifeguard or escort them to a power boat.

3.4.3 Swimmer Rescue

- If a swimmer is panicking or appears in trouble, signal a lifeguard and paddleboard.
 - Harbor Patrol is permitted to enter the swim course and is there to pick up and transport medical emergencies.
 - Volunteer power boats are not permitted to enter the course or operate their engines within 500 yards of the race. They will wait for a rescue at the east edge of the course.
 - Lifeguards are intended to be the first response to rescues if they are available.
- If a lifeguard is unable to reach the swimmer, quickly approach the swimmer, direct them to a power boat if reasonable, toss a life jacket if available.
- As a last resort, allow the swimmer to hold onto your boat. Use caution, a panicked swimmer can dump a kayak easily and quickly. Get them to the stern and tow them to the east edge of the course and transfer them to a power boat.
- Return to normal place along course edge.
- If a swimmer was rescued (NOT pulled or withdrew), contact the Race Director/Safety Officer at the end of the race. It may be necessary to fill out an incident report.

3.5 Communications

- Bring a cell phone if you have one to contact the Race Director/Safety Officer. Both can contact boats immediately by radio.
 - Safety Officer, Toby Coenen: 425-894-5791
 - Race Director, Liz Rosen: 206-973-9075
- Flags and paddles. Use them to flag down errant swimmers. Also use them to get the attention of power boats, other kayakers and lifeguards on paddleboards.

3.6 Finish

At the race conclusion, please come to shore. Food, drink, praise and t-shirts await you.

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4.0 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKIS)

4.1 Boat Requirements

Two owner-operated jet-skis will be used to shuttle swimmers to power boats as necessary toward the conclusion of the race. The personal water craft must be equipped with a jet drive (i.e. no propeller) and the operator should be comfortable operating their craft in varied conditions. Boats need to be in sound operating condition, accommodate a seated swimmer, and be comfortably boarded from the water without capsizing or risking injury to a swimmer.

General operating requirements:

- Must have current vessel registration sticker
- Must be operated by legal/registered owner with a Boater Education Card *if required*.
- Owner must provide proof of current Watercraft Insurance policy, PRIOR TO the event.

Personal watercraft should arrive with a full fuel tank, and the operators should be prepared to spend one hour on the water. Operators must have a readily accessible watch or other means to tell time. If on-board storage is available, operators are encouraged to carry an extra life jacket.

4.2 Role

The personal water craft will serve as a shuttle between the swim course and the anchored power boats for those swimmers who either voluntarily withdraw from or are pulled from the race. The personal watercraft are not intended for swimmer rescue. They are expected to operate primarily during the second half of the race.

4.3 Day-of-Race Schedule

4.3.1 Launch/Arrival/Meeting

Jet Ski operators should be at the race start by 8:00 and wait until after the race to come to shore at the Day Street Boat Launch. The Safety Officer and Boating Coordinator will conduct a brief meeting to review procedures for:

- Communication
- Swimmer transport
- Race timeline
- Contact information

Additionally, Jet Skis will be checked for current registration and operators will be checked to ensure they possess life jackets. Any Jet Ski operator who has not provided proof of insurance for their vessel or Boater Education Card *if required* will be compelled to do so as a condition of participating in the event.

4.3.2 General Operation

Personal Watercraft are not required to immediately follow the swim race but will join while the race is in progress no later than 9:15. At that point, Personal Watercraft will remain near the rear of the swimming pack.

As the race progresses, Personal Watercraft should periodically drive to the front of the swimmer pack, moving from power boat to power boat, before returning to the rear of the pack. Observe swimmers, and alternate to ensure one watercraft remains at the rear of the swimmer pack at all times.

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4.4 Pulling Swimmers

Personal Watercraft will shuttle swimmers who are pulled from or withdraw from the race to a power boat. Do not transport swimmers to any other location except Power Boats.

4.4.1 When to Pull a Swimmer

- While patrolling the course perimeter, you may encounter a kayak or lifeguard with a swimmer withdrawing from or being pulled from the race.
- Any swimmer that falls more than 100 to 125 yards behind the second-to-last swimmer will be pulled from the race. This stretches swimmer pack over too great a distance.
- Any swimmer clearly not capable of staying on course will be pulled.
- Any swimmer who fails to reach the 2.5-mile mark before the prescribed cut-off time will be pulled from the race.

4.4.2 General Procedure

- Approach to ensure visibility by swimmer and, if present, kayak/paddleboard.
- Shut off engine.
- Clearly explain your decision. Tell, don't ask. And don't argue.
- Help swimmer aboard.
- Start engine and proceed slowly to nearest power boat. DO NOT CROSS SWIM COURSE, instead drive to rear of swimmer pack and proceed to the nearest power boat.
- Remind boat operator to notify Race Director/Safety Officer that a swimmer was pulled.
- When swimmer is on the motor boat, resume course patrol.

4.4.3 Slow Swimmer Cut-Off

- All swimmers must complete the race in two hours. This time may be increased slightly by the Race Director/Safety Officer to reflect day-of-race conditions, but in no case will the projected finish time exceed 2 hours 10 minutes.
- Swimmers must reach the 2.5-mile mark within 95-minute to complete the swim in two hours. This may be increased if the Race Director/Safety Officer extends the projected swim finish time.
- Personal Watercraft should be at the 2.5 mile mark 90 minutes after the start. A boat will be stationed near the 2.5-mile mark and communicating with the Race Director/Safety Officer who will give the direction to pull swimmers.
- When directed by the 2.5-mile boat to begin pulling swimmers, the Personal Watercraft should approach swimmers nearest the 2.5-mile mark and instruct them to swim to the pull boat. Alternately, shuttle the swimmers to the boat, before returning to the next swimmer until all remaining swimmers are on the pull boat.
- If the pull boat becomes full and unable to accommodate additional swimmers, shuttle swimmers to the next nearest boat. DO NOT shuttle swimmers to the finish area or other location where their location cannot be relayed to the Race Director/Safety Officer.

4.5 Finish

At the race conclusion, please come to shore. Food, drink, praise and t-shirts await you.

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5.0 SWIMMER ACCOUNTING

The success of Fat Salmon requires a detailed and systematic accounting of all swimmers as they enter and leave the water to verify the same number of swimmers both start and finish the event. Accurately counting swimmers is critical to event success. Fat Salmon uses a chip timing system as the primary means to count swimmer entering and exiting the water, and a manual count for redundancy.

5.1 Start Count

Swimmers are assigned timing chips when signing in and instructed on the use during the pre-race meeting. At the event's start area, swimmers cross a sensor that emits a beep when a timing chip is detected. The sensor's automated signal registers each passing chip, catalogs the each swimmer's unique start number, and provides a real-time count of swimmers as they enter the water. Two people assist swimmers across the sensor to verify the timing chips have not been lost, and that they activate the sensor. The entry count is supported by additional efforts including:

- Two additional volunteers manually count each wave of swimmers as they cross the sensor. Their counts are compared to each other and the automated count.
- Start volunteers observe the start area to confirm all swimmers cross the start sensor and do not inadvertently enter the water without their starting chip being registered in the automated count.
- Start volunteers and the safety director observe the start area to prevent non-registered swimmers from entering the water.

5.2 Finish Count

The finish area configuration funnels swimmers across a second and third timing chip sensor. Most swimmers finish the race with their timing chips intact and functioning, and trigger one of the two sensors. Additionally, there are two volunteers who are manually keying race numbers of each finisher into a backup device. This establishes a finishing time and provides a comprehensive list of each finisher's number. Discrepancies with the start list are typically associated with lost or malfunctioning timing chips, or swimmers who did not complete the race. These are accounted for as follows:

5.2.1 Non-Finishers

When swimmers voluntarily withdraw or are removed from the race, their chip numbers are relayed to the safety director who informs operators of the timing service. Those numbers are manually entered into the finishers data to (1) remove them from race results, and (2) account for the swimmer. The safety director verifies the names and unique race numbers at the conclusion of the race to confirm an accurate accounting of all non-finishers.

5.2.2 Lost or Malfunctioning Chip

Swimmers regularly lose timing chips and a small number may not be read when crossing the finish sensors. Two measures address for these circumstances:

- Two volunteers at the finish are equipped with manual 10-key recorders. Each is responsible for entering the number of every finisher as they cross the finish line.
- Two additional volunteers remove timing chips from swimmers' ankles by cutting the plastic bands holding the chips. Missing chip numbers are recorded and relayed to both the safety director and the timing service operators.

Data from these different sources are compiled and compared with the start list. If discrepancies are noted and concern exists over a lost swimmer, the swimmer would be summoned by public address.

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EVENT CANCELLATION

5.3 Prior to the event start

- The Race Director and Safety Officer are responsible for determining and announcing event cancellation.
- Check in the athletes and hand out any caps and shirts.
- Announce plans for rescheduling if possible.
- If cancellation is due to something completely beyond the control of the event hosts (i.e. weather), no refund will be due.
- If the cancellation is a result of the host's organizing (or lack of), a reasonable refund, or credit toward the next race will be made.

5.4 During the event

- The Race Director and Safety Officer are responsible for determining and announcing event cancellation. Race Director and Safety Officer will also determine alternative finishing area as necessary.
- Notify Harbor Patrol and Power Boat pilots immediately by radio and/or cell phone that the event has been canceled.
- Boaters shall notify kayakers and lifeguards immediately.
- Kayakers and lifeguards shall inform swimmers of cancellation and direct swimmers to the alternative finish line.
- If possible, Race Director, Safety Officer and on-shore support will relocate the finishing area at the alternative site. If time permits, the chip timing scan-in at the alternative finish area will be set up as well. If time prevents relocating, shuttle people back to the Madison Park finish area for chip scanning.
- Verify that all swimmers who checked in and entered the water have been accounted for.

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6.0 SWIMMER RESPONSIBILITIES

The event's success requires the swimmers accept certain responsibilities. In addition to recognizing the risk inherent to exercise in cold water (e.g., heart attack, hypothermia, drowning), every participant is expected to abide by the following:

- No guide is available. The kayaks, jet skis boats and paddleboards are there for the safety of the group, *not as individual escorts or safety marshals*. Expect to follow the course with the help of adjacent swimmers, buoys, and sighting off of anchored motor boats on the outer (East) edge of the course – not with the personal aid of any boater.
- Do NOT swim in the proximity of the power boats, **THEY ARE OFF COURSE**.
- DO keep an eye out for your fellow swimmers. Help them stay on course.
- Again, please do keep an eye out for your fellow swimmers. If you see another swimmer clearly in distress, please summon a kayak or paddleboard and stay in contact with the swimmer until they are being attended to by a lifeguard or boater.
- If you decide to abandon the event midway, DO NOT swim to shore. Notify a kayak, jet ski or paddleboard and they will escort you to a power boat.
- If you are tired or injured and need assistance, summon help from a kayak or paddleboard; this is why they are here.
 - When a paddleboard, jet ski or boat approaches, clearly explain the nature of your problem. Be accurate when assessing your condition or circumstance. Don't sugarcoat it, don't cry wolf.
 - If you are injured or have a medical emergency, enlist the help of a paddleboard. They are piloted by lifeguards with first aid and lifesaving training. If unable to do so, explain your situation to the nearest kayak or swimmer. If urgent, BE VERY EXPLICIT.
 - If you need a rest or simply want a break, look for a kayak.
 - Listen to whatever direction or instructions are provided by kayak, paddleboard, jet ski or boat operators.
 - If injured or needing medical attention, you will be transported to a Harbor Patrol boat. If uninjured but withdrawing from the race, a kayak or jet ski will escort or transport you to one of the power boats.
- If you are showing signs of distress, are obviously unable to follow the course, or will clearly finish outside of the 2:00 hour time limit, you will be pulled from the event.
 - If you are pulled, do not argue with boat, kayak, jet ski or paddleboard operator. They are looking after the safety of 350 people, not one.
 - You will be transported or escorted to a boat by a jet ski, kayak or paddleboard as appropriate.
- If transported or escorted to a power boat or harbor patrol, you will remain on the boat until that boat is authorized to return to the finish area. When you return to the finish area, **you must check in with the Race Director/Safety Officer or finishing crew** and return your electronic timing chip.
- If you start the race but do not finish and do not check in at the finish, we will conclude you are still on course. If the race is over and your time chip has not been returned, we will assume the worst and Search and Rescue will be called.
- If injured but able to remain at the finish area, notify the Race Director/Safety Officer. You will be expected to complete an incident report describing the nature of your accident, illness or condition.