

## **SAFETY PLAN**

### **SWIMMER IN DISTRESS:**

- **CONSCIOUS SWIMMER:**
  - If a swimmer becomes panicked or otherwise needs assistance from rescue personnel they shall raise one arm in the air and/or wave arm
  - The nearest Lifeguard paddler or RWC will engage them and give flotation
  - An assessment will be made as to the status of the patient and whether they can finish the race or not.
  - If they need to come to shore and/or need any medical assistance, the RWC will be summoned for transport.
  - This will be relayed to land unit/race coordinator along with patient name/race #
  - Lifeguards will meet patient on shore and patient will either be assisted to ambulance for further evaluation or to finish line for accountability and DNF designation.
- **UNCONSCIOUS SWIMMER**
  - If a swimmer is witnessed to be unconscious at the surface of the water, the nearest lifeguards will respond and give flotation and open airway.
  - RWC will radio in the status of the patient/race #, request paramedics and execute an emergency transport to shore.
  - Patient will be transported straight to waiting ambulance.

### **MISSING SWIMMER/COMPETITOR:**

- **WITNESSED CONFIRMED SUBMERGED SWIMMER:**
  - If a confirmed submerged swimmer is declared by a lifeguard during the race, a “Code X” hand signal will be given by the witnessing/declaring lifeguard and the Division Leader will communicate “Code X” to the IC and Land unit. The IC and Land unit will then contact the Race Director and notify the need to stop the race.
  - The Lifeguard IC will assume command of the incident.
  - All needed resources will be requested and coordinated by the IC including Harbor Patrol, Fire Dept, Helicopter, Coast Guard, Law Enforcement, Lifeguard Mutual Aid, and OC Parks.
  - All non-essential, non-emergency vessels will be cleared from the area The Land Branch will oversee the Water Evacuation Operation.
    - Water Division Leaders will acknowledge “Code X” by radio and then relay verbally and via hand signals to their lifeguards that there is a “Code X”. Upon receiving the “Code X”, all competitors in the water will be instructed by lifeguards to STOP RACING immediately and to swim straight into shore to be accounted for by the Race Director.
    - Water Division leaders will ensure swimmers in their division know to return to shore and check in with the event coordinator for accountability.
    - All paddlers on the inside of the course will ensure racers safely make it to shore and cross the start/finish timing mat to be accounted for.

- Once all swimmers have safely exited the water, the remaining lifeguard personnel will be assigned to the Search and Rescue Operation.
- The Extrication Division will standby at its designated location to receive a recovered patient.
- Once OCFA is on scene they will take over IC and OCLG will take over Water Branch
- Law Enforcement will be requested to take a report and for crowd/traffic control
- The Water Branch will oversee the Search and Rescue Operations in the water.
  - The lifeguard declaring “Code X” will mark the last scene location by triangulating landmarks and remaining in position with their paddleboard or buoy. The Water Branch Director will communicate his position.
  - Water Divisions will be assigned to the Missing Swimmer Initial Search.
  - The RWC will respond with deckhand to the point last scene to mark the location with a buoy and begin a hasty search.
  - All dive team members will report to the staging area immediately as requested by the IC and start donning dive equipment in preparation for a bounce dive.
  - The RWC will assist in transporting personnel and underwater search equipment to and from shore and will be utilized to transport a recovered patient to the Extrication Division.
  - The water search will consist of:
    - Snorkelers searching around the point last seen buoy
    - Snorkelers search in a line formation to sweep the water area where the person is likely to be submerged and/or drifting
    - Rescue SCUBA Divers searching the underwater area where the person is likely to be submerged and/or drifting
    - Helicopter searching from overhead
    - Harbor Patrol and/or Lifeguard Boat and PWC providing additional surface visual search and support.
- NON WITNESSED MISSING COMPETITOR:
  - If a competitor is reported missing to the lifeguards but the exact last seen point cannot be verified by a witness, the Race Director and IC will be notified by Radio.
  - The Race Director will immediately check the competitors race number to verify if the competitor has exited the water.
  - The competitor’s wave (heat) color and physical description including name, gender, age, hair color, eye color, clothing/race attire, will be communicated to the IC so an initial visual search can be conducted by all Divisions.
  - Law Enforcement will be requested take a report from the reporting party and to check on the competitor’s vehicle, family/friends contacts, and rule out other potential whereabouts in the Salt Creek vicinity.

- If the competitor is confirmed to have entered the water and is still unaccounted for after 15 minutes, CONFIRMED SUBMERGED SWIMMER protocols will be initiated.