

2021 DLS Swimmers:

As many of you know smoke from wildfires have been affecting air quality at Donner Lake. USMS and Pacific Masters Swimming sanction our event and have provided guidance as to acceptable air quality index (“AQI”) conditions.

If the AQI PM 2.5 is above 150 prior to the start of the race on Saturday, August 14, 2021, it will be cancelled per USMS and Pacific Masters Swimming guidance.

In an attempt to get ahead of this, if possible, we may assess the AQI on Friday morning August 13, 2021, and alert you as to the current AQI PM 2.5 and any estimates for Saturday morning. We may cancel the DLS early if AQI appears to be trending over 150 and likely to be so for Saturday morning.

If local authorities do not otherwise intercede with different requirements in this determination, we may use either PurpleAir (see purpleair.com), California Smoke Information (californiasmokeinfo.blogspot.com) and/or Airnow.gov or other relevant data to access current and/or forecast AQI.

In the USMS Liability Waiver you have previously agreed to in order to participate in this swim, we remind you that you acknowledged the inherent risks associated with the sport of swimming. Those risks and dangers, include without limitation, dangers arising from adverse weather conditions (i.e., smoke). Further, you expressly assume all such Risks and responsibility for any damages, liabilities, losses or expenses that you incur as a result of your participation in any Events, including the Donner Lake Swim.

The AirNow website lists below the basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution:

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

We very much understand your frustration with potential event cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances, especially actual cancellations in this past ~18 months due to Covid safety issues.

As stated in your Donner Lake Swim registration, “All entry fees are nonrefundable in the event the swim is cancelled for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to registered swimmer non participation, cancellation of the event at any time for any reason, or for any other reason not listed.” There is fairly similar verbiage for many sanctioned open water swims in the Pacific Masters Swimming and other regions. The Donner Lake Swim incurs nonrefundable expenses in advance to hold this event. If the DLS is canceled in 2021 due to actual or expected AQI issues, after a full assessment of costs incurred, we will take your questions and concerns to our governing Board. Irrespective, at this juncture we reiterate the nonrefundable terms of your entry fees for the 2021 Donner Lake Swim.

Friday morning, we will send updated AQI information through email, Constant Contact and post to information on Instagram and Facebook.

Let's hope for good weather this Saturday!

Donner Lake Swim
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