

Important Paddle Triathlon Update

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Hello SMP Rochester River Challenge Participant,

Due to the extreme velocity and volume of water flow of the Genesee River, the paddle portion of the triathlon is cancelled. The event will now be a duathlon (run/bike/run) for everyone. We are informing all Day 1 participants so everyone has the proper communications and is in the know.

The Genesee Waterways, Local and County Authorities, Canal and River Experts and Kayak/Canoe Experts have reviewed the situation and we look to their water and safety expertise in making this decision.

This is the review:

With the recent rainfall, the Genesee River has exhibited exceptionally high river flow. Data has been reviewed and based on numerous factors, there is a concern for personal and public safety.

Average river flow for this time of season is 4620 cfs (cubic feet per second, which is about half a million pounds). River flow for the event last year was less than 5000 cfs. Current flow is hovering between 8500 and 9000 cfs, plus water temp is 39 degrees.

Not only is flow impressive and frigid, but there is a substantial amount of debris, trees, flotsam, etc. moving along the river some with enormous size, that also is a concern for personal safety.

Therefore, based on this data, **the paddle portion has been cancelled.** Now for the good news. **Here is the plan.**

If you are currently in the duathlon, you do not need to do a thing, but read this to understand what is happening.

If you are currently in the paddle triathlon this is what will happen and we will make all the changes for you, so no need to do anything on your part.

- If you are registered in the solo tri then you are now in the solo du.
- If you are registered as a 2 person tri team then you are now a 2 person du team.
- If you are a 3 person tri team then you are now a 3 person du team.
- If you are a 4 person tri team then you can do one of two things:
 - You can split and become 2 – two person du teams OR
 - Stay a 4 person team and the 4th person can choose not to run OR they can both run/walk the final leg together with one of them wearing the timing chip, recording the official time.
 - You will receive an email from us asking what you will choose to do. Please let us know what you choose. If it's forming a new 2 person team – we'll need to reissue bib numbers to the newly formed 2 person team.
- These are what you will be defaulted to.

Caviat: If you are in paddle tri and unable to walk or run Leg 3 (2nd 5K portion), please discuss the "RIKE" option when you pick up your packet.

All participants still must pickup their own packet with photo id as per USAT rules. It is HIGHLY advised to pickup on Friday to alleviate race day lines.

As far as awards go:

- We will award the Top 3 Male and Female Duathletes vs. Top Male and Female
- For the solo duathlon we will now award top 5 in each age group
- For the 2 person team we will now award top 4 teams
- For 3 person teams we will award top 3 teams
- For 4 person teams we will award top 3 teams

NEW Race start times: The starts will be in two waves as follows: (Note: This is different from prior communications)

7:30AM – All Solo Men will be the first wave

7:33AM – All Solo Women and Teams will be the second wave

Please continue to regularly check the website, social media and read all emails to get the most up to date information.

This decision was made for the safety of participants. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Regards,

Boots & Ellen - YellowJacket Racing