**The Impossible 2020**

**Covid 19 Control**

The regulations announced by the Department of Health and Human Services for sporting competitions during the pandemic are subject to change at short notice. At the time of updating this policy (6/10/20), the advice from DHHS is:

* *Outdoor non-contact sport can resume for adults.*
* *Outdoor sport (contact and non-contact) can resume for people aged 18 and under.*
* *You can exercise or do sporting activities outside with the people you live with or up to ten people (including yourself). You must be able to keep at least 1.5 metres distance between yourself and others.*

The following procedures and practices will be adopted for the Impossible surf-craft marathon.

1. **Stay away if at risk**: People who are unwell or at risk should not attend events, either as competitors, volunteers, support crew or spectators. This means staying at home if:
	1. you have flu-like symptoms or feel unwell, or
	2. you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days, or
	3. you are at high risk due to age or medical conditions, or
	4. you reside in a restricted postcode.
2. **Wash your hands**: Attendees will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol- based sanitiser before attending the event and after using the toilets or changing facilities at the event. Hand sanitiser and soap will be provided.
3. **Face Masks** will be mandatoryfor all except when paddlers are entering, exiting and on the water
4. **Maintain social distancing**: Attendees must maintain social distancing at all times (1.5 m minimum between people). This includes upon arrival, during registration, at briefing (if held, see below), during boat launching, while racing, spectating or volunteering and after racing.. Additional time and/or space will be provided to maintain social distancing during boat launching.

Paddlers will be called to their rostered starts with a maximum of ten entering the water at any one time. Signs and announcements will be made frequently to remind people of their obligations.

1. **Registration on the day**: Ground discs will be placed at intervals of 1.5m in the queue for registration. Paddlers will be allotted clear times to attend the registration area, so no more than ten people are in the registration area at any time. Officials will wear gloves when handing race numbers to competitors.
2. **Read the race briefing notes prior to race day**: Race briefing notes and start orders will be provided electronically prior to race day. A pre-race briefing will only be conducted in person immediately prior to the race should new information need to be communicated. Crew boat classes will only be conducted if allowed under state sporting guidelines.
3. **Officials**: Physical contact between officials and competitors will be avoided where possible. However, some situations, such as safety boat rescues and first aid may create close contact. Officials will report all close contact to the Race Organiser who will maintain a. Additional space will be provided at the registration desk and finish line timing tent to maintain distance between registration officials. Officials equipment (radios, folders, whistles, etc.) will be disinfected prior to issue and again upon return at the conclusion of racing.
4. **Paddler separation**: During racing, surf ski paddlers are always well more than 1.5 m apart, governed by the size of the boats and length of the paddles.

**Team boats**: Doubles surf skis, canoes and kayaks will not be allowed as the distance between paddlers is not greater than 1.5m.

1. **Starts:** There will be no more than 10 paddlers allowed in each start, with prone and SUP paddlers starting first. There will be 10 minutes between the first two starts and 5 minutes thereafter. Paddlers will be ranked by speed, based on their estimated finish time. The slowest group will start first.
2. **Capsize/rescue**: The usual risk management procedure for a capsize will be followed ie. paddler remounts and continues racing. If assistance is required by a safety boat crew (IRB, jetski or command vessel), the paddler will climb aboard unassisted (a boarding ladder will be put over the side for the command vessel). If the paddler requires assistance, and this has never happened, the rescue personal will wear gloves and mask, the rescuer will log the incident with the boat number and name of the rescued paddler.
3. **First Aid**: Should first-aid be administered, the same hygiene procedures will be followed as listed in point number 10.
4. **No equipment sharing**: Paddlers do not share equipment at ocean surf ski events.
5. **Post-race presentations** will be only be held if sufficient space exists to maintain social distance and comply with public gathering restrictions.
6. **Race Results on-line**: Results will continue to be published electronically after the race. Post-race presentations will only be held if sufficient space exists to maintain social distancing (4 m2 per person) and comply with public gathering restrictions. If conducted, presentations will be limited to announcing the names of the placegetters; medals or ribbons may be offered on a plate but will not be handed directly to placegetters or placed over their necks.

**General public management**: “Event in progress” signs will be placed at the boundaries of the event location at both start and finish areas. As the race is conducted at sea, there is minimal chance that a close encounter