

Emergency Action Plan



2025 Georgia Swimming Open Water Championship

Laura S. Walker State Park

Waycross, Georgia

VENUE: Laura S. Walker State Park is a 626-acre (253 ha) state park in the U.S. state of Georgia. Located near Hoboken and the Okefenokee Swamp, the park is named after Laura S. Walker, a Georgia writer, teacher, civic leader, and naturalist (she is most famous as the latter). The park's location near the Okefenokee makes it home to many exotic plant and animal species.

PERSONNEL:

Georgia LSC Open Water Chair: Meredith Green

Emergency Trained Medical Personnel: Ware County EMS

Meet Director: Kevin Sullivan

Meet Referee: Jason Frankel

Other Credentialed Officials: Kelly Griendling, Gretchen Vergara, Stacey Frankel

Independent Safety Monitor: Maddox Hall

Hospital/Medical Center: Memorial Satilla Health is located 15 minutes from the lake with EMS on site at the lake.

Emergency Medical Services EMT: Ware County EMS and Ware County Fire Rescue will be at the race Venue race venue.

Phones or radios: There will be 15 to 20 radios along the course given to safety personnel and officials on the same frequency

Plan for weather/emergencies will be posted at the start/finish area and will include audible air horn/visible flag signaling and procedures assigned to appropriately trained personnel.

Cancellation decision will be made by the meet committee comprised of medical, safety, meet referee. If unsafe conditions exist any of the above may cancel the swim unilaterally.

Course evacuation and plans for same will be shared with all race personnel at the pre-meet safety meeting. Evacuation of swimmers will be signaled by an air horn blast 3x. Swimmers will be guided by personnel on the course to the fastest exit location or brought aboard the vessel and brought to safety. The start and finish are at the same location and will be the main evacuation point.

Pre-race safety brief for swimmers will take place 10 minutes prior to the race and include course layout, swimmer signaling for assistance, rules and regulations and evacuation plans.

Swimmer Evacuation and accountability will occur in the event of unsafe conditions or at swimmer request. There will be four cap colors based on age groups for identification. In addition, each swimmer will be numbered on the shoulder blade, arm and hand in numeric order and a record of same will be maintained by meet director. Upon evacuation all swimmers will be guided to the safety area where an accounting of each swimmer will take place.

Course safety and safety resources will include the presence of the Ware County Sherriff's Marine Safety personnel and the DNR to block and/or regulate any commercial or recreational vessels from entering the course. We will also have 5 lifeguards on the course.

Course Comms will include 15 to 20 radios on shore and on the water and air horn signaling

Staffing will include 25 individual volunteers/staff who will be in charge of registration, cap distribution, numbering of same sex swimmers, finger nail checks and remediation, timing system operation, concession, hydration, etc.

Rescue procedures will involve swimmers in distress/ at risk and rescue personnel on the swim course and on land, which will include the local Sherriff motorized boats, and certified lifeguards and volunteers in kayaks. All parties will have radios on the same frequency. Rescues will proceed as level of expertise and training protocols demand.

Water temperature. April water temperatures range between 75 and 80 degrees.

Technical meetings will be held on a regular basis 30 days out, the day prior and morning of the competition.

Air temperature. The average high/low air temperature in April is 80/71 degrees.