



VENUE OPERATIONS-COVID-19

Mount Pleasant Swimming Pool

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Included for perusal, and reference, are the following supporting documents:

1. WORLD TRIATHLON COVID-19 PREVENTION GUIDELINES FOR EVENT ORGANISERS
2. COVID-19 Outbreak - Guidelines for RMDs and MDs
3. How to use WHO risk assessment and mitigation checklist for Mass Gatherings in the context of COVID-19
4. Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak
5. WHO RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL
6. Medical input for Triathlon Zimbabwe event organization-Dr. Austin Jeans.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR VENUE OPERATIONS- as of 26 May 2020

- Temperature checks on all persons entering the venue.
- Sanitising points at key points of access external and internal of venue.
- Social or personal distancing within venue.
- Wearing of face masks for spectators, officials, volunteers and non-participating athletes.
- Use of rubber gloves by staff and officials where required.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of ablutions prior to and after the event.
- Sanitising of all key equipment and surfaces where necessary during competition.
- No more than 50 spectators at the venue at any one time.
- Clearly demarcated areas to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- No sale of alcohol or “sit-down” catering facilities at the venue.

RISK ASSESSMENT

It is suggested by World Triathlon that a Risk Assessment is carried out for events to be hosted at our principle venue, Mount Pleasant Municipal Swimming Pool.

It would be our recommendation that Triathlon Zimbabwe carry this out on 1 September, which is the logical date prior to the historical and seasonal commencement of events for Triathlon Zimbabwe.

The recommended date for the start of the 2020-2021 season events would therefore be considered as 20 SEPTEMBER 2020.

Obviously, should circumstances dictate at the time, this date can be delayed or postponed.

Other venues that host events within the mandate of Triathlon Zimbabwe would also need to comply with all published venue operations in conjunction with other third parties- these would include the following venues:

- School Aquathlon events- in conjunction with stipulated regulations as agreed between the necessary school authorities and Ministry.
- Ncema (Matabeleland) and Smallbridge Dam (Manicaland) events- in conjunction with the LOC for these events and key local authorities as required.
- Borrowdale Brooke- in conjunction with stipulated regulations as agreed between the Golf Club/Estate management.
- Bonaqua Troutbeck ATU Triathlon African Cup- in conjunction with the Host Hotel and within the guidelines recommended by World Triathlon with regard to travelling athletes and the Government of Zimbabwe regulations at the time (February 2021).

PHASED OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR MOUNT PLEASANT EVENTS- SEPTEMBER TO APRIL 2021

It must be noted:

1. *The guidelines as issued by the WHO and World Triathlon have been utilised.*
2. *The Statutory Instrument 115 of 2020 Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (Amendment) Order, 2020 (No. 9) has been noted.*
3. *That the current regulations restrict spectator numbers and also if there are practical implications that impact on the events proceeding at the venue and impact on peoples' health and also affect the integrity and appeal of the sport, then a season opening will be postponed.*
4. *Our use of the Mount Pleasant facility is done under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding between Triathlon Zimbabwe and the City of Harare. Clearly, we are also duty bound to comply with the National authorities with regard to restricted/closed facilities.*
5. *In addition, we will need to work closely with the COH to ensure that there is a smooth and coordinated plan to ensure the current requirements for sanitization as well as increased hygiene for the ablutions and public areas take place. COH staff management is essential for this process.*
6. *Triathlon Zimbabwe will be responsible for the venue operations for their scheduled events BUT NOT the day to day management of this public facility.*

7. *The National authorities will determine our procedures as well as the Risk Assessment carried out to support current National amends.*

PHASE 1-SHORT/IMMEDIATE TERM:

- Restrict events to short distance races to ensure more manageable timings for events and venue controls given current restrictions.
- These would include Tri-Kidz; Tri-sport; Tri-Fun and Tri-Fit.
- Enforce on-line registration (and payments) to ease venue congestion.
- Staggered time starts for events to ensure registration and then check-in processes are manageable to ensure social distancing.
- Manage transition zone to ensure social distancing and athlete flows in/out-staggered events will assist with this.
- Restrict young athletes (Tri-Kidz category/under 10) to one parent to minimize people congestion and adhere to current restriction to 50 spectator limit.
- Limit swim start numbers from current to ensure social distancing based on width of pool- increased heat requirements then determine the above processes.

PHASE 2-MID-TERM:

- As and when restrictions ease in keeping with the National authorities regulations, introduce longer distance events to the schedule.
- This would include the same events as above, and also the introduction of Sprint, Super-sprint and Aquathlon events.
- Maintain staggered starts/registration/check-in times to continue with manageable venue management and social distancing.
- Reduce parent limit for young athletes when permitted.
- Increase start numbers but still dependent on practical social distancing (if required).

PHASE 3-LONG TERM:

- Return to normal operational processes but maintain learning's to ensure possible long-term social distancing required for athlete and spectator flows in all key areas, and if so required to continue with practical aspects of staggered registration/check-ins to manage people flows better at the venue.
- Standard distance events to be reintroduced.
- Maintain already established practices to ensure hygiene and cleanliness at the venue as a matter of course, this could include on-going sanitising points (at public venues/facilities.)

VENUE OPERATIONS-MOUNT PLEASANT SWIMMING POOL

A complete overhaul of our current operating procedures at Mount Pleasant Swimming Pool has been discussed and is tabled as follows:

OVERALL VENUE:

- Pre-season meeting with Safeguard Security on venue operations security and controls.
- Pre-season meeting with CIMAS, as a sponsor, to negotiate screening stations/gazebos for venue entry points.
- Pre-season meeting with Introwise Catering to discuss take-away catering and on-site regulations specific to their business, within Covid-19 restrictions.
- Pre-season meetings with COH on the overall management of Mount Pleasant Swimming Pool and also for Triathlon Zimbabwe events (this includes closure to the public on event day to ensure sanitization and population numbers on site specific to Triathlon Zimbabwe).
- Sanitising of ablutions and public areas, specific athlete areas, spectator areas/benches via knapsack sprayers prior to event opening (0800) processes, and post event prior to public opening of the facility (1200).
- Key areas to be adequately secured with barriers and ground marking to ensure social distancing.
- Appropriate venue signage is to be produced for key areas-access/registration/sanitizing zones/social distancing/spectator-athletes only etc.

VENUE ACCESS:

- A single spectator/non-athlete access into the venue which is controlled with thermometers and sanitising equipment for screening all persons.
- A dedicated entrance for athletes into the venue which is controlled with thermometers and sanitising equipment for screening all athletes.
- A dedicated entrance for all staff and officials which is controlled with thermometers and sanitising equipment for screening all persons. This will also double as an alternative exit for athletes on completion of their events owing to the width of this area.
- Masks will be worn by all persons entering the venue.
- A separate venue exit is planned to ease flow based on staggered events.
- No vehicle permitted in to the venue except Operations and Medical- to ease congestion on site.
- On-site staff to be supplied with masks and rubber gloves.

REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN ZONES:

- Revised on site location to enable a better flow of athletes and to support social distancing.
- Appropriate signage, sanitising equipment on hand, barrier chutes to control movement.
- On-line registration and payments are preferred and encouraged.
- Only 1 x athlete or parent at a time.
- Body marking of athletes to be self-service. One number per athlete per season regardless of event or category.

- Flow from registration zone to transition check-in zone is continuous with clear entry and exits.
- Bike checks limited to a visual check- rubber gloves and sanitising equipment available.
- Referrals to separate bike mechanic for mechanical issues- equipment as above.
- All athlete bags to be stored in athlete's transition area- this is possible owing to increased space allocation per athlete being increased (as per social distancing) OR removed to personal vehicle (off-site).
- Masks to be worn by all persons in these areas.

TRANSITION ZONES:

- Zones are to be planned for staggered events to therefore fill and empty as events are completed without interference from other categories and to limit flows per event.
- Personal space to be increased as per ITU recommendations.
- Sanitising equipment to be available for athletes and officials.
- Officials to wear gloves where required.
- Officials to wear masks at all times.
- Athletes to wear masks when not competing.
- Athletes to handle and touch only their own equipment.
- Bike racks to be sprayed/sanitised prior to and post event.
- No spectators allowed into these areas at any time.

SWIM START & EXIT:

- Barrier zone for swim start to ensure correct number of start athletes within this zone.
- Start line is restricted to athletes 1m apart.
- No officials required in this area.
- No spectators permitted in this area.
- Swim exit- barrier zone- no officials or spectators- only athletes to move directly into transition zone.
- For Phase 1 swim distances do not require counters/recorders.

BIKE COURSE:

- All officials to wear masks and gloves when dealing with athlete mechanical or similar problems while on the road/bike course.
- Portable sanitising equipment to also be supplied for all handling of event and athlete equipment.
- Ambulance/Medical staff to follow pre-subscribed instructions in dealing with any casualties while on site.

RUN COURSE:

- Lap bands not to be used for run laps- reduce race distances to assist with this, athletes to be responsible for their own lap counting.
- For PHASE 1 this would be a maximum of 2 laps for TRI-FIT event.
- Aid stations- sanitised water sachets/bins for on-course self-service consumption.
- Staff to wear rubber gloves and masks for all of these operations.

FINISH AREA:

- **Probably the most sensitive area for the entire event.**
- Re-design of Finish area to limit athlete crowding after run section.
- Athletes pass through this zone into a post-race area that is secured and open where they can receive sealed water bottles (sanitised and self-service).
- Officials and staff to wear masks and rubber gloves at all times.
- No finish discs given to athletes- visual and video recording by officials, athletes are ushered into a chute with adequate space to allow social distancing while moving through the finish area.
- Staggered starts and reduced swim start numbers per heat will assist in a reduction of athlete pressure in this area.
- No spectators permitted in the finish and post-race zones.

SEE SUPPORTING SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS OF VENUE SITE PLAN.

