



Policy for the potential cancellation of the event: what factors are to be considered; who is to be consulted; who makes the final decision?

MMAD SWIM

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

Ray Flanagan

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Policy for the Cancellation of the Event

Rationale

The MMAD swim is an open water event held in high summer. As such, it is subject to extreme variations of climatic conditions and other emergency situations on both land and sea. The safety of swim participants, life guards, spectators and race personnel is paramount. As a result the Mount Martha Life Saving Club (MMLSC) has determined that the following protocols will be observed in the determination of whether the race will proceed or be cancelled.

Significate Personnel involved in the Cancellation of the Event

- **Event Organiser:** the person who has overall responsibility for the organisation and conduct of the event.
- **Water Safety Organiser:** the person who has overall responsibility water safety during the event.
- **Club President:** President of the Mount Martha Life Saving Club
- **Water Craft Organiser:** the person who has the responsibility of coordinating the life guards operating all lifesaving water craft used during the event.
- **Medical Officer:** the person who has responsibility for first aid during the event.

Who is responsible for the decision to cancel a particular race or the entire event?

If the emergency situation is **water related**, the decision to cancel a particular race or the entire event will be made by the **Water Safety Organiser** in consultation with the MMAD Swim's Event Organiser, the Water Craft Organiser, the Medical Officer and the Club President. The ultimate decision for the cancellation of the event will be made by the Water Safety Organiser.

If the emergency situation is **land related**, the responsibility to cancel the event lies with the **Event Organiser** in consultation with the Water Safety Organiser, the Water Craft Organiser, the Medical Officer and the Club President. The ultimate decision for the cancellation of the event will be made by the Event Organiser.

When will this committee consult?

This committee will consult at 4pm on the day before the event; at 6am on the day of the event: and again at 10am on the day of the event. In the event of a change in weather, sea conditions, perceived threat by sea animals, fire alert or severe weather warning, the committee will consult during an actual race.

What factors will be considered in deciding whether a particular race or the entire event is to be cancelled?

1. Warnings from relevant authorities: Life Saving Victoria (LSV), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Police, Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Weather Bureau issued on the day before the event or on the morning of the event. This may include bush fire risk,

instructions to evacuate the area, extreme winds and extreme temperatures, water quality, shark sightings etc.;

2. Wind strength of 15 knots or above from the direction of south-west, west, north west;
3. Wave heights of 1 metre and above;
4. Inadequate numbers of life guard personnel or craft available to guard the event (according to LSV stipulations).

When will swim participants be informed of a decision to cancel a particular race or the entire event?

As soon as the Water Safety Organiser or Event Organiser has made the decision. Participants will be notified via the MMAD swim website, Facebook and by the event announcer on the day.

Could a decision be made to cancel the event or race during the course of the event or race?

Yes. Should the Water Safety organiser or Event Organiser decide that swimmers and life guards, race personnel or spectators are potentially at risk then a race or the entire event will be cancelled.

Examples of this **on water** could include: a change in the weather; a change in sea conditions; a change in water quality; a shark sighting. Under these circumstances the Water Safety Organiser will ensure that:

1. IRB and RWC personnel are informed immediately of the decision by radio. They will, in turn, communicate this policy to all other life guards;
2. All swimmers are asked to leave the water by life guards;
3. The emergency evacuation flag (red and white quartered) is prominently displayed;
4. The alarm bell or siren is sounded continuously until everyone is out of the water.

Examples of this **on land** could include: bush fire alert; severe weather warning. Under these circumstances the Event Organiser will ensure that:

1. IRB and RWC personnel are informed immediately of the decision by radio. They will, in turn, communicate this policy to all other life guards;
2. All swimmers are asked to leave the water by life guards;
3. The emergency evacuation flag (red and white quartered) is prominently displayed;
4. The alarm bell or siren is sounded continuously until everyone is out of the water.
5. All spectators, swimmers, life guards, MMAD Swim Officials and any other members of the public are asked to evacuate the area.

In the event of a cancellation of a particular race or the entire event, will the participants be entitled to a refund?

No, the Mount Martha Life Saving Club will not refund an entry fee in the event of a cancellation.