

Frozen Otter 2021 COVID-19 Protocols and Changes

*We have enacted the following **BIG CHANGES** for the FROZEN OTTER 2021 in order to comply with Wisconsin's "COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Special Events and Commercial Use on Wisconsin State Park System Lands":*

BIGGEST CHANGES:

- We will be relying even more heavily on technology for our important communications this year.
- Participants **MUST** read all of the updates posted on the website and sent out via email. Racers need to be up-to-date with any and all changes and will need to comply with the "**Action Items**" as you receive them. Expect more email communications to follow.
- There will be a **pre-race component** that racers need to **complete in order to "Check In"** and to compete. Failure to do so will "disqualify" a racer from participating.
- All racers must attest to being afebrile (no fever) and asymptomatic as well as pass the CDC Screening Form (<https://www.cdc.gov/screening/paper-version.pdf>) 24 hours prior to the event.
- Racers will be required to use a mask or face covering whenever within 6' of other racers or volunteers as well as at ALL times (except if eating) while in a checkpoint.

BIG CHANGE #1: NO IN-PERSON GEAR CHECK

Racers are responsible for their own gear check this year. Please take this as seriously as we do. The lists (Regular and Extreme) can be found on the website (FatOtter.com) under "Documents". More details and information about the gear can also be found on various Facebook Pages (such as the Frozen Otter Training Group) where many veteran racers are eager to help out and share their expertise. We are very grateful for this resource. Don't miss out!

BIG CHANGE #2: NO IN-PERSON CHECK-IN

We will not be greeting all racers face-to-face this year.

Once all of the pre-race ***Action Items*** are completed, racers will be **cleared** to pick up their "registration bag" on Saturday morning. The bag will consist of race SWAG and race BIB (that is your race number and how you will be identified during the race). Remember this number! Pin it onto you in a place where it can be easily seen and will not fall off.

IMPORTANT—if the bag is picked up, it is as if you have **STARTED** the race. You will **NEED TO INFORM US** if you are not planning on participating.

BIG CHANGE #3: NO IN-PERSON PRE-RACE MEETING

All of the very important information that the race director gives at the pre-race meeting will be delivered electronically beforehand. Racers will need to provide proof that they have read and understand all of the rules, cut-off times, changes, protocols, and more!

BIG CHANGE #4: NO POST-RACE IN-SHELTER MEAL

So sorry! Trust us, we will sorely miss this as well! Our “Frozen Otter Chef”, Matt, has been flipping burgers (and more!) for you (and us!) for nearly all of the previous 14 Frozen Otters. As much as we would love to continue to provide a hot, delicious meal after the race, we need to eliminate areas where people will be congregating “indoors”. Therefore, we will do our best to provide a “grab bag” of goodies (that can somewhat tolerate frozen temps) that can be picked up along with the “Registration Bag” before the race.

BIG CHANGE #5: NO “SHUTTLES”/RIDES PROVIDED FOR RACERS THAT DNF (DID NOT FINISH)

Although we might be the only race in existence that has historically provided rides for people that drop out, that just cannot happen this year. In previous years, although it is a strain on the event, we have somehow managed to let people push themselves to the max with the comfort of knowing they can essentially “tap out” and get a ride back to their cars. Due to the risks of enclosed spaces and the amount of time these rides take, we are forced to eliminate this as an option.

Therefore, racers must be prepared to:

- 1) Provide their own rides.
- 2) Race conservatively in order to get back to Mauthe on their own.
- 3) Call 911 in case of injury/emergency.

Under no circumstances will a racer be allowed to continue if we do not believe it is safe to do so. For this reason, especially this year, every racer needs to have a ride secured that can be called at any time throughout the race. **The racer must then inform the race director that they have left the course.**

BIG CHANGE #6: NO TRADITIONAL SERVICES AT CP 1- BUTLER LAKE

Due to the fact that this Checkpoint has one of the highest number of racers, volunteers and spectators that congregate, we are eliminating it as a traditional CP. We need to give racers more time to spread out in order to safely provide what we normally do.

Racers will still **CHECK IN** and **CHECK OUT** of CP 1, but there will be **NO FIRE**, **NO WATER** (besides the on-site pump), **NO FOOD/DRINK/GOODIES**, **NO TENT** (unless needed for volunteers due to weather), and **NO SHUTTLES/RIDES BACK**(See #5).

If a racer isn't feeling great at this point, it might be a good time to turn back.

BIG CHANGE #7: RACERS TAKE MORE COURSE RESPONSIBILITY NO CHECK-IN AT MAUTHE LAKE SHELTER FOR TURN BACKS.

If, at anytime **you leave the course**, and you are not 100% sure that a volunteer is certain of, and **has written down**, your intentions, **PLEASE TEXT ROD OR KAREN!**

We **DO NOT** want to be searching for you if you are safely **OFF** of the course.

BIG CHANGE #8: LIMITED VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

We expect a decrease in volunteers this year. Support will be tight. PLEASE be flexible and understanding as all volunteers will be doing their best. Please respect everyone by following our COVID-19 PROTOCOLS.

Everyone is taking a risk—small, we hope, but still, a risk in attending this year’s Frozen Otter. We are relying on everyone to be courteous of others and to do their best under the circumstances.

BIG CHANGE #9: EXPECT FEWER FOOD AND DRINK OPTIONS AT CPs

In other words, no sausages. Sorry! Sponsors are not able to provide product this year. So again, our apologies, but no Skratz either.

Do not rely on calories we may be providing to get you through. We will have our typical individually wrapped options (ramen, oatmeal, hot cocoa, etc) available, but, again, due to limited volunteer resources or crowding at Checkpoints, you might not be able to get what you want right when you want it. Please be patient and flexible and prepared!

BIG CHANGE # 10: NO UNMANNED CHECKPOINTS

We are limiting (essentially trying to eliminate) commonly touched surfaces. Therefore, there will be no unmanned checkpoints that require punching the map.

BIG CHANGE #11: BIB TRANSFERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AFTER SATURDAY, JANUARY 9th, 2021.

BIG CHANGE #12: THE RACE WILL BE SPREAD OUT OVER 3 WAVES.

Each racer will have an opportunity to sign up for their preferred start time beginning Sunday, January 10th, 2021. If you do not sign up, a start time will be assigned.

BIG CHANGE #13: CHANGE

We get it. Change is hard. If these big changes have soured you to this year’s event, we understand. Please take the time now to try to get your bib transferred. We have the longest “want list” we have ever had. As everyone is learning to adapt this year, we will, too. We do not want to upset anyone, we just want everyone to be safe and to have a successful race, and the best experience possible under the circumstances. Thank you for understanding!

BIG CHANGE #14: OPTION TO DEFER BIB TO NEXT YEAR

We will allow racers to defer their spot in the race until next year. That event will take place on January 15th, 2022. You will only have 48 hours to make the decision once these changes are posted since we need to fast-track the rest of our orders for this year’s race.