



## Race Communications Protocols

**\*Please read in advance and add Race Phone Numbers to your Phone Contacts.\***

### Always Try Your Cell Phone First

We found cell signal on much of the race course. WT phone numbers are listed below and on the Competitor Instructions. Texting may work better than phoning if the cell signal is weak.

#### **Emergency Services – 911 (phone only, no text)**

Contact 911 for serious, urgent emergencies, e.g. risk to life or limb. Phone/text WT Head of Safety for advice if unsure.

- **Important:** Immediately after reporting your emergency to 911, phone or text the WT Head of Safety since EMS may need assistance from race organizers to locate and evacuate an injured racer.
- If you can, send an InReach satellite tracker Message to WT HQ to show your exact position unless you are certain that your location is understood, e.g. a race checkpoint or street address.
- If you can't contact Emergency Services by phone, use the InReach Tracker SOS button. (See InReach Instructions.)

#### **WT Head of Safety - Graham Rupert - 416-560-8757 (phone or text)**

Please contact WT Safety regarding medical concerns or questions, or for non-emergency injuries or illness. There is no penalty for asking a medical question.

#### **WT HQ – Barb Campbell or Amber Panchyshyn, HQ Managers – 416-524-9565 (phone or text)**

WT HQ is the Primary Contact for issues where you are not seeking medical assistance - also the backup contact if you are unable to reach WT Head of Safety.

Please notify WT HQ if your team is going to arrive at a CP after an Absolute Cut-off, if your team is dropping out, or if there is information about your condition or location that you think we should know.

#### **WT Race Director - Bob Miller – 416-735-4021**

Backup contact if you cannot reach other WT officials. Bob could answer an urgent question about rules during the race if you hit an issue that can't be addressed by the Competitor Instructions, WT Rules & Regulations or Race Volunteers.

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**Please carry this with you during the race.**

## **Carrying the InReach Satellite Tracker**

- 1) Select one teammate to carry the tracker. Keep the antenna pointed up toward the sky and the face of the device away from your body. Attach it tightly to the outside of your pack or in an outer mesh pack pocket where it will stay in position. Even if it's in a zipped pocket, attach the tracker to your pack with a carabiner (provided), strap or ziptie. There is a 2-hour penalty for losing a tracker and a significant replacement cost to your team. So please take good care of it!
- 2) Don't bury the tracker in a dry bag while you paddle. Keep it in the correct position aimed at the sky, either on/in your pack as it sits in the boat or attached to your PFD. (But don't forget it on the next leg!)
- 3) Get familiar with the tracker's functions and with WT Communications Protocols by ensuring that all teammates read the instructions before the race.
- 4) Staff will turn on your tracker before giving it to you. If your team isn't tracking properly during the race, volunteers may ask you to stop so they can check the tracker position and settings. If the InReach device is turned on, it will be tracking unless you've pressed several buttons to turn off tracking, so any issues are usually caused by poor positioning on your pack.

## **Use the InReach Tracker to send a Text Message if you can't use your Cell Phone**

Ideally, choose a place where the InReach tracker has a good chance to find satellites. The trackers work well in most Canadian Shield terrain but try to avoid thick forest, steep-sided valleys or the base of a big cliff. Ideally, point the antenna up or at least above horizontal.

If you send a message to WT HQ, we can reply so please monitor your device and listen for sounds. Send a quick message any time you feel it's important to communicate your location to WT officials, including after you have contacted 911.

Detailed instructions for your tracker model will be provided separately.

**Please carry this with you during the race.**