

# Michigan Alpine Competition Council: Safe Return to Ski Racing



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# COVID-19 Return to Racing Procedures

Michigan Alpine Competition Council (MACC) understands the impact that ski racing has on each of our lives and we want to return to some sort of normalcy doing what we love this winter-ski racing. MACC's top priority this season is the health and well-being of our racers. Our goal is to provide the highest quality ski racing in the safest environment possible.

The MACC Board of Directors has created new procedures and implemented changes in how our races are run. The information below outlines those changes and procedures. We want to thank our racers and spectators for adhering to these procedures and maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

*Since information and government mandates frequently change, these procedures are not set for the length of our season and are subject to change. If changes are made, this document will be updated and the changes will be readily shared in our newsletter, through our social media accounts, and distributed through the Team Representatives.*

## General Procedures

Boyne Mountain has created a Winter Operation Plan that outlines requirements on their property (<https://www.boynemountain.com/what-to-expect>). Some of these requirements include: wearing a face coverings at all times in the base area, lift lines, on chairlifts, and indoors, except when seated at a table in a restaurant, and maintaining a distance of at least six feet from other guests whenever possible.

Boyne Mountain is encouraging guests to purchase lift tickets online in advance because "it is possible that lift tickets may be limited or unavailable to purchase at the ticket window on peak days." Guests will be asked to ride the chairlift with members of the group they traveled with. Additionally, Boyne Mountain is advising guests to "come prepared to boot up in their cars, and only bring items that can be carried throughout the day" because capacity will be strictly limited

inside the base lodges and gear storage and changing will not be permitted. Please review Boyne Mountain's entire Winter Operation Plan for more details.

**In addition to areas specified by Boyne Mountain, face coverings will be required to enter the Othmar Chalet, Othmar restrooms, start shacks, and finish shacks.** Please follow best practices and wear a face covering whenever you are in other public spaces. All shared surfaces, including those in the registration office, timing shacks, and used for course operations will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the Othmar and timing shacks.

Please follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidance for protecting yourself and others (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>). Activities for protection include, but are not limited to: washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with others, keeping at least six feet of distance between yourself and people outside of your household, wearing a face covering around others, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow, cleaning and disinfecting shared surfaces, and monitoring your daily health.

## Pre-Race Screening

Before joining us to race each weekend, we request that racers conduct a self-assessment. Please answer the following questions:

- 1.) Have you experienced any COVID symptoms in the last 14 days? Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste of smell, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea.
- 2.) Have you had contact with persons displaying COVID symptoms in the last 14 days?
- 3.) Have you traveled out of country in the last 14 days?

If the answer to any of these questions is **yes**, we ask that you do not join us to race.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms, please call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 or contact your healthcare provider for testing instructions.

## Protocol for Positive Cases

- 1.) Contact health department and follow guidance.
- 2.) Close contacts MAY have to quarantine for 14 days; follow health department guidance. “Close contact” is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset.
- 3.) Notify all racers involved without identifying the person involved.
- 4.) Other racers at the event but NOT in close contact should be closely monitored for symptoms and may not need testing. Follow health department guidance.
- 5.) Clean the area.

## Buildings

### The Othmar Chalet (Occupancy Limit: 10 Persons)

Due to limited space and social distancing guidelines, we are limiting the capacity of the Othmar to 10 persons. Boyne Mountain will be closing the Othmar to public traffic during our races from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. The bathrooms on the lower level of the Othmar will remain open for public use.

**The Othmar will be closed to all racers other than for official use. For example, the Othmar cannot be used to change in or out of ski equipment, as a warming hut, equipment storage, or a lunch spot.** It will be used by MACC Officers and Directors. The six Officers and Directors that will have all-day access to the building are: President, Director of Registration, Registration Assistant, Director of Computers and Results, Director of Timing and Announcers, and Director of Course Operations.

If a racer or worker needs to access the registration office, supply closet, or speak to an Officer or Director they can enter the Othmar solely for that purpose. They should complete their task as quickly as possible and not linger inside. While online worker sign-up is strongly encouraged, same day sign up will still be available in the Othmar. Racers can enter the Othmar and sign up for work assignments at the Registration desk, but must leave once sign up is complete.

Race results will be posted in the Othmar window. The upstairs deck and picnic tables will remain open for those who wish to sit outside. Please maintain social distancing of six feet while using this area.

Anyone inside the Othmar must wear a face covering at all times and maintain social distancing of six feet. Personal items such as boot bags and food cannot be stored in the Othmar, with exception to the previously mentioned MACC Officers and Directors with all-day access.

### **Gate Storage Shack** (Occupancy Limit: 2 Persons)

**Racers are not allowed inside the gate storage shack.** MACC's gates will continue to be stored at the top of the FIS slope. Course setters may use the center room of the shack to store their course setting equipment. Face coverings must be worn at all times inside of the gate storage shack.

### **Start Shacks** (Occupancy Limit: 2 Persons)

**Racers are not allowed inside the start shacks.** The only person allowed inside the start shack is the Inside Starter. Radio communication should be utilized to speak to the Inside Starter. If necessary, the Outside Starter, Chief of Course, or a MACC Officer or Director may enter the start shack to briefly speak with the Inside Starter. Anyone in the start shack, including the Inside Starter, must wear a face covering and maintain six feet of social distancing. No racers may enter the start shack for use as a warming hut.

The equipment crew may occupy the start shack during set up and tear down. If two people occupy the start shack, face coverings must be worn, and social distancing must be maintained.

## Finish Shacks (Occupancy Limit: 2 Persons)

**Racers are not allowed inside the finish shacks.** During a race, the finish shack must only be occupied by the two-person timing crew. Radio communication should be utilized to speak with the timing crew. If necessary, the Chief of Course or a MACC Officer or Director may enter the finish shack to briefly speak with the timing crew. The timing crew and anyone entering the finish shack must always wear a face covering and maintain six feet of social distancing.

The equipment crew may occupy the finish shack during set up and tear down. If two people occupy the finish shack, face coverings must be worn, and social distancing must be maintained. Personal items such as boot bags and food cannot be stored in the finish shacks.

# Procedural Changes

## Starting Procedures

Racers must wear a face covering while in the starting gate. After the Inside Starter says “racer, go when ready” the racer may remove their face covering before starting the course. Only one racer may be in the starting gate at a time (the starting gate is considered the covered outside area immediately adjacent to the inside area). Racers in the starting line must maintain social distancing of six feet and wear a face covering. While preparing to race at the top of the hill, racers must wear a face covering and maintain six feet of social distancing.

Starters are responsible for wiping down shared surfaces with disinfectant wipes before and after each race. This includes, but is not limited to, radios, headsets, and writing utensils.

Disinfectant wipes will be placed in the start shack backpack.

## Timing Procedures

Timers are responsible for wiping down shared surfaces with disinfectant wipes before and after each race. This includes, but is not limited to, timing equipment, computers and keyboards, radios, headsets, and writing utensils. Disinfectant wipes will be placed in the finish shack backpack.

The Director of Timing and Announcers, Director of Race Timing Equipment, and Director of Computers and Results must work together to organize the set-up and tear-down of the start and finish shacks before and after each race to maintain no more than two individuals in each shack at a time.

Due to the reduced number of timers, announcing activities will be reduced. There will not be announcements of which racers are on course or individual run times. However, run times should still be displayed in the finish shack window. Timers will try to announce the class results after each run. Racers can utilize Live Timing to check their individual run times. The reduced number of timers means that fewer racers will be on course at a time and the races *may* run slightly slower than previous years.

Timers, please see the new timing procedures “COVID-19 Procedures for Timing/Announcing” for specific timing updates.

## Course Operation Procedures

Course operation workers are responsible for wiping down shared equipment before and after each work assignment. This includes, but is not limited to radios, clipboards, and writing utensils. Disinfectant wipes will be kept in the grey course operations radio bag. Additionally, all shared course operations equipment, including radios, will be sanitized every morning and evening.



When the chief of course collects the gate judge cards from the gate judges, both the chief of course and gate judge must wear face coverings. Gate judges, maintenance workers, and chiefs of course are not obligated to wear face coverings while performing their jobs, as long as their jobs are completed individually.

Course Operation crew, please see the new Course Operation procedures titled “Course Operations COVID Plan” for specific course operations updates:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTptGM81G3WtCmh4xTBMqVHvjFmdH5mYS6s6b4jWbo/edit?usp=sharing>

## Spectating Procedures

Racers and fans must wear a face covering and maintain six feet of social distancing at the bottom of the racecourse.

## Results

This season we are unable to hold our awards ceremonies in the Snowflake Lounge. With the safety of our racers in mind and additional uncertainty around the 2021 season, the MACC Board of Directors has decided not to purchase individual race awards for the 2021 season. We want to continue to focus our efforts on providing the region’s highest quality adult ski racing in the safest way possible. If the situation changes and the Board of Directors feel it is safe, we may be able to hold a post-race function outdoors to announce results and celebrate our race champions. Race results will be posted in the window of the Othmar Chalet.

MACC does plan to award World Cup trophies as we have done in the past, but they will be distributed to the recipients after the season has ended.

## Banquet

Since Executive Orders and guidelines are constantly changing, we have not made plans for the 2021 banquet. If it safe to do so, we will work with Boyne to plan a banquet as the season progresses.

## Refund Policy

Racers who pay their registration fee, in full, prior to the start of the season will be entitled to a refund if they decide not to race for any reason and notify the Director of Registration by email prior to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Refunds may take up to 2 weeks to be processed.

If a racer decides not to race on or after January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, refunds will not be granted unless the Board of Directors votes to cancel all or part of the season.

Refunds will be issued automatically if the Board of Directors votes to cancel the entire season or part of the season as outlined below:

- **Prior to Season Start:** If the season is canceled before January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 the full registration fee will be refund to each racer.
- **Mid- Season:** If the season is cancelled between January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 and February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 a partial registration fee refund will be issued to each racer.
- **End of Season:** If the season is canceled after February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 no refunds will be issued.

**Bib Refunds:** If at the point of cancellation, a new bib was paid for but not received, a refund will be issued for the cost of the bib. If a new bib was paid for but already received, a refund will not be issued for the bib.

# Frequently Asked Questions

[What is acceptable as a face covering?](#)

A face covering must cover your nose and mouth. Cloth face covering should be made of tightly woven fabric. Winter neck gators are acceptable with two layers of materials, or folded over to make two layers, and cover both mouth and nose. In Boyne Mountain's Winter Operation Plan, they suggest keeping an extra face covering on you in case one is lost or you find your primary face covering freezing up and getting too uncomfortable.

## Where must I wear a face covering?

Face coverings must be worn:

- In the base area of the mountain.
- In lift lines and on chairlifts.
- While in the starting gate. After the Inside Starter says "racer, go when ready" the racer may remove their face covering before starting the course.
- When standing in the starting line.
- While preparing to race at the top of the hill.
- When the chief of course collects the gate judge and worker cards from course workers.
- At the bottom of the racecourse. This applies to both racers and fans spectating the race.
- Inside all buildings, including the Othmar Chalet, Othmar restrooms, starting shacks, and finish shacks.

## Where should Social Distancing be maintained?

Six feet of social distancing should be maintained at all times between yourself and people outside of your household. Social distancing should be maintained inside and outside.

## Will there be any type of warming hut at the top or bottom of the hill?

No. There will be no warming huts at the top or bottom of FIS or Superbowl for our racers or the general public to use. Due to COVID-19 there are restrictions to the number of individuals allowed inside of a building. Because of this, we have had to close the Othmar Chalet, Starting Shacks, and Finish shacks for use as warming huts. Boyne Mountain has advised their guests to use their vehicles to gear up and warm up. The parking lot at the base of FIS and Superbowl will remain open throughout the season.

MACC advises all racers to consider this factor before signing up to race with us.

### Will there be any special considerations given when the temperature and wind chill are extremely cold?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any warming huts for our racers. Boyne Mountain has recommended personal vehicles to gear up and warm up.

The safety of our racers is our first and foremost concern. MACC will take the absence of warming huts into consideration when determining if a race should be canceled due to extreme cold weather.

### Will tents be allowed at the race hill?

Tents without sides are permitted.

### Will I be able to sign up for a work assignment in the Othmar?

Yes, the Othmar Chalet will be open to racers who need to sign-up for a work assignment. You must wear a face covering and maintain six feet of social distancing inside of the Othmar. Once you have finished signing up for your work assignment you will need to leave

the Othmar. MACC strongly encourages racers to sign up for their work assignment online (<http://maccracing.org/macc-jobs/index.php>).

## Will the Othmar Chalet be open to racers?

Yes and No. The Othmar Chalet will have a restricted occupancy of 10 persons. To maintain MACC operations, six individuals (MACC President, Director of Registration, Registration Assistant, Director of Computers and Results, Director of Timing and Announcers, and Director of Course Operations) have all-day access to the Othmar Chalet. All other individuals who need access to something or someone in the Othmar Chalet can enter the Othmar solely for that purpose. They should complete their task as quickly as possible and not linger inside.

The Othmar Chalet will not be open for use as a warming hut, lunch spot, or gear storage.

## Can I guest race?

Unfortunately, there will be no guest racing for the 2021 race season.

## External Links

Boyne Mountain's Winter Operation Plan can be found at:

<https://www.boynemountain.com/what-to-expect>

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 please visit the following pages:

US Centers for Disease Control: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html)

State of Michigan: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>