

## **Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series - COVID-19 Mitigation Plans & Protocols**

**Event Name:** Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series

**Event Producer:** City of Steamboat Springs & Steamboat Skimo

**Event Contact:** Austin Cagaanan

Adult Sports Specialist

City of Steamboat Springs

Office: 970-871-7037 | Cell: 281-299-8459

[ehines@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:ehines@steamboatsprings.net)

**Event Locations:** Howelsen Hill Ski Area & Steamboat Resort

**Event Overview:** Beginning in December 2019, the City of Steamboat Springs, in partnership with Steamboat Skimo and Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation launched the first year of the series. The Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series provides a fun opportunity for winter recreationalists and athletes in Steamboat Springs. The Ski Ascent Series is an extension of the popular summer Town Challenge MTB Race Series. Similar in format, inclusiveness, and fun, the Ski Ascent Series consist of five to six total races spread throughout the winter at both Steamboat Resort and Howelsen Hill Ski Area. Races include four unique divisions: Junior, Sport, Sport Splitboard and Pro/Open, and typically take place on designated Thursday evenings from December through March.

Additional information about the series can be found at [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com).

### **Current Status:**

Currently there are no public health orders in place in Routt County. That being said, our country has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases, and we will continue to implement procedures deemed necessary to help protect our racers, volunteers and staff.

### **Event Capacity:**

During the 2020-2021 race series, races averaged between 50 and 75 competitors. While there are currently no capacity limitations, the Ski Ascent Series will have a maximum registration limit of 125 competitors with an additional 10 supporting staff (race officials, course marshals and ski patrol).

### **Participant Communication:**

All race scenarios include heightened communication protocols (pre-event, on-site signage, etc.). The Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series will communicate these protocols via a number of channels including, a dedicated Ski Ascent Series website, pre-race emails, required waivers (COVID-19 specific) and on-site signage at both race venues.

### **Proposed 2021-2022 Race Schedule:**

- Thursday, December 2 – Kickoff Event at Mountain Tap Brewery
- Thursday, December 16 – Howelsen Hill Ski Area
- Thursday, January 13 – Steamboat Resort
- Thursday, February 10 – Howelsen Hill Ski Area
- Thursday, March 10 – Steamboat Resort
- Thursday, March 27 – Final Race + End-of-Season Awards – Steamboat Resort

### **General Public Health & Social Distancing Guidelines (To Be Communicated):**

- Vulnerable people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should follow Stay-at-Home recommendations, which means only leaving home for medical care and essential activities.

- Maintain at least 6 feet of space between yourself, and others, at all times.
- Wash your hands/use hand sanitizer before and after you attend a race.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue, then throw the tissue away. Use your sleeve or inner elbow if a tissue is not available.
- Do not shake hands, give high fives, congratulatory hugs, etc.
- Wear a mask or face covering if you are within 6 feet of other participants
- Stay at home if you are feeling sick.

### **Social Distancing Protocols**

- Protocols will be put in place to accommodate physical distancing requirements (6 feet of space between all race participants and race staff).
- Participants will be asked to remain spread out prior to the start, and at the conclusion, of each race, and refrain from gathering in groups.
- If necessary, larger divisions will have staggered starts or be spread out at the start (additional or more specific staging and wave start initiatives will be implemented as needed based on total participant numbers).
- All racers and race staff will adhere to current social distancing guidelines.

### **Racer & Staff Health & Hygiene Protocols**

- Racers and race staff will be encouraged to wear a mask or face covering.
  - Racers & race staff can wear a mask or face covering in the start/finish area if desired.
  - Racers can remove the mask while racing, but will be encouraged to wear a mask at the start/finish, transition area, and anytime they are overtaking/passing another racer and cannot maintain 6 feet of distance.
  - If a racer arrives without a mask but would like a mask, one will be provided.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to all racers and/or racers will be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and thoroughly wash their hands before and after attending a race.
- No sharing of food or drinks. None will be provided; all racers must supply their own.
- Racers will be encouraged to refrain from spitting, shooting snot rockets, etc.
- Water/Hydration
  - No water coolers, cups, etc. will be provided at races.
  - Racers will be required to supply and carry their own water/hydration products.
- No sharing of tools/equipment – each racer must provide their own equipment and tools.

### **Registration Protocols**

- Participation limits will be set based on current state and local health orders regarding group gathering size. This participation limit will also consider the number of staff needed onsite.
- To eliminate/minimize contact (registration forms, exchange of money, staff/racer interactions, etc.), racers will be encouraged to register in advance online.
- Racers will be assigned a BIB # prior to the race. On race day, BIB #'s will be laid out on a table, where racers can come and pick them up. One (1) race staff member (wearing the appropriate PPE) will attend to the table to help manage social distancing requirements and assist racers.
- All race-day activities, including registration, will take place outdoors to help further mitigate against COVID-19.
- BIB # pickup and race start times may be staggered by division to allow for smaller groups in the start/finish area and greater social distancing.

### **Race Format / Division Considerations**

- Based on the number of participants allowed under current public orders, race divisions and their corresponding courses may be changed, combined or eliminated per the race director.
- Some divisions may require participant limits to ensure that racers of all abilities have the opportunity to participate. If certain divisions do not fill by a pre-determined date, those spots may be shifted to other divisions with high demand/waitlists.
- Division start times may be adjusted to allow for longer periods of time between starts, allowing for staggered racer arrivals and departures to the race location and start/finish area.

### **Race Start / Finish Line Protocols**

- Division start times may be staggered to allow for greater social distancing.
- Divisions with larger participant numbers may be broken down into several wave starts to allow for greater social distancing.
- All racers and race staff will be encouraged to wear a face mask in the start/finish area.
- All racers and race staff will be encouraged to maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing.

### **Course Marshal Protocols**

- All course marshals will be encouraged to wear proper PPE including a face mask.
- Course marshals will be assigned to a radio and will personally disinfect that radio once the race is complete (sanitizing wipes will be provided).
- Course marshals will be assigned one 'race staff' vest which they will keep and use at all races. At the conclusion of the race(s), the vest is to be washed and returned to the race director.

### **Emergency Staff Protocols**

- Contracted emergency staff will operate under their organization's own safety protocols.
- Contracted emergency staff will be encouraged to wear proper PPE (gloves, face mask, etc.) and adhere to all current social distancing and event/race guidelines.

### **Spectator Protocols**

- The ability to accommodate spectators at Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series races will be dictated by the group size restrictions in place at the time of the race.
- Spectators will NOT be allowed to attend races when group sizes are significantly limited, and social distancing requirements cannot be met. At this time, spectators will be permitted.

### **Venue/Facility Protocols**

- Bathrooms
  - If public bathrooms are made available, the following actions will occur:
    - Soap and hand sanitizer will be made available.
    - Race staff may clean/sanitize bathrooms prior to each race.
- Port-a-Potties
  - If port-a-potties are made available, the following actions will occur:
    - Hand wipes will be provided right outside each port-a-potty door that racers can use to open/close doors and grab handles.
    - Each port-a-potty will be stocked with hand sanitizer.
    - Race staff will work with vendor to determine a process for refilling sanitizer if it runs out during the race.
    - The ratio of racers per port-a-potty will be reduced to limit lines and account for increased time for sanitization (e.g. we will order additional units).

- The physical footprint will be increased by adding more space between port-a-potties to keep lines spaced out. Cluster only a few porta-potties together.
- Hand sanitizer and washing stations provided outside of each port-a-potty.

### **Employee Protocols**

- **Health Screening & Symptom Tracking**

- All employees showing symptoms or signs of sickness, or who have been in contact with known positive cases, are required to stay home.
- Employees exhibiting any of the COVID symptoms or a fever (temperature of 100.4 or above), they will be asked to notify their supervisor and return home.
- Employees must remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours and at least 10 days have passed since their first symptom, unless they have a clear alternative diagnosis from a medical provider or a negative COVID-19 test result after the onset of symptoms.
- If two or more employee cases are reported within a specific work group, RCPH will be notified for further instruction.

- **General Health Safety Protocols**

- Employees will be encouraged to frequently wash/sanitize their hands, and hand washing stations and hand sanitizer will be provided and readily available for staff.
- Employees will be encouraged to wear a face covering.
- Employees touching common surfaces will be encouraged to wear gloves.
- When possible, employees will be encouraged to maintain a six-foot distance from other employees and racers to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Employees will be tasked with performing routine cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces.

### **Case Reporting/Contact Tracing**

- Any case linked to the Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series will be immediately reported to county health officials. Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series staff will work with the county to ensure all contact tracing is completed with accuracy and efficiency.
- All participants must provide their contact information in order to register for a race. Registrations include, but are not limited to, first and last name, e-mail address and phone number.