

WATER QUALITY

Tucson Racing and the Cincinnati Triathlon are confident of the water quality of the Ohio River.

Normally the water quality in the Ohio River is well within the contact water safety margins and safe for swimming. This is particularly true during the months of July and August (our triathlon date is July 22). In fact, water quality in the Ohio River is vastly better than local lakes because the river moves water downstream.

Water quality is tested the Ohio River Sanitation Commission throughout the summer at spots up and down the River to monitor bacteria levels (see www.orsanco.org). In the downtown area, the water is tested on the Kentucky Side in the vicinity of the Purple People Bridge, at Public Landing and at the Licking River. We are fortunate that one of the testing sites is our swim finish.

Most weather events will not affect the water quality. Certainly Cincinnati's typical summer rains will not spike bacteria levels.

That being said, a sudden and intense storm, dropping a lot of rain over a short period of time in the greater Cincinnati region can spike bacteria levels. High bacteria levels take about 48 hours to dissipate. Therefore, we can absolutely count on good water quality unless there is a sudden, region wide downpour dropping several inches of rain on the Thursday or Friday before the event. Even such a rain does not rule out the swim, it merely means an increased chance of high bacteria levels.

The Ohio River will be tested weekly up until the week before the race. The week of the race the water will be tested on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Although unlikely, if we foresee any chance of poor water quality we will immediately post such information on this website.

We are very confident of good water. We would not spend tens of thousands of dollars and months planning this race if it were any other way. Each year triathlons in the Schuylkill River (Philadelphia), the Ohio River (Ironman Louisville), the Hudson River (Nautica New York), the Chicago Marina (Chicago) and the Potomac River (Nation's) and many other lakes and rivers take place with full confidence of good water. The Cincinnati Triathlon is no different and we expect great water and a great race.