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usatriathlon.org

March 10, 2021

Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva  
State Capitol – Room 6012  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva:

I am writing to you today in support of the re-opening of endurance and multisport events within the state of California.

The myriad endurance and multisport events and clubs across California are the foundation of the healthy and active lifestyle that helps makes the state so unique. This connection to each other and the outdoors is why California is the birthplace of triathlon, and a large percentage of our membership live and compete in the state. Additionally, USA Triathlon is planning on hosting our Legacy Triathlon in Long Beach this summer – a grassroots event that gives back to the local community through a 10-year, \$100,000 commitment and builds interest in the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games as the course is structured to mirror the Olympic Triathlon course expected for LA2028.

Endurance sports competitions, unlike indoor events, take place entirely outside to further mitigate the risk of COVID transmission. And for both triathlon and many other endurance sports, the very nature of the competition rules requires participants to keep a distance from each other for the majority of the event. Recently, two major endurance events took place in Tempe, Arizona and in Panama City Beach, Florida. With field sizes of more than 700 and 1,300, respectively, the events adhered to USA Triathlon's Safe Return to Multisport Guidelines and delivered safe, highly successful events that resulted in positive experiences for the participants and the event host communities. **And most importantly, there have been no confirmed COVID cases associated with those events.**

USA Triathlon developed its [Safe Return to Multisport Initiative](#), which is considered to include some of the most stringent measures of all Olympic sports, in coordination with experienced race directors, medical experts, certified coaches, club directors, officials, athletes and endurance sport leaders while relying on fact-based recommendations from other expert resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and utilizing sport-specific guidelines developed by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and World Triathlon.

Launched in May 2020, this comprehensive and multi-pronged approach outlines racing and training guidelines and recommendations for the multisport community to manage the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Spectrum Sports Management, along with many other event production companies and





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experienced endurance sports professionals in California, have been looked to as the leaders in our industry in implementing and refining these guidelines.

USA Triathlon has worked with its race director community and reviewed numerous event operations and safety plans to ensure they meet the National Governing Body's high standards of qualifying as a "Certified Safe Event." USA Triathlon awards the designation of "Certified Safe Event" to events that commit to implementing the best practices outlined in USA Triathlon's Safe Return to Multisport Guidelines and [Return to Racing Recommendations for Race Directors](#) — including adherence to mass gathering thresholds, physical distancing and sanitation protocols. Additionally, USA Triathlon requires its sanctioned event organizers to certify that they will adhere to federal, state and local authority directives.

The health and safety of our constituents and the communities in which events are held is our highest concern and is prioritized above all else. With that in mind we would ask that you consider allowing endurance and multisport events to safely return and reopen in the state of California.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rocky Harris  
CEO  
USA Triathlon

