Indiana Sports Corp’s Indy Ultimate is a non-competitive run/walk that features unique experiences and activities in and around Indianapolis’ most iconic sports venues, arts and cultural organizations, and historic city landmarks. The course is roughly 5.5 miles in length, using a combination of closed traffic lanes (minimal full road closures), wide sidewalks, and urban walking trails/paths. Participants sign up for waves leaving the start line every five minutes over two hours.

Indiana and Indianapolis allow events larger than 250 people provided the county health department accepts a COVID-19 mitigation plan submitted by the event.

The following is a summary of the changes we made as part of our COVID-19 safety plan.

**EVENT REGISTRATION**

- A virtual event was available along with the in-person event registration
- Packet Mailing was available as an additional cost option
- Relaxed participant deferral requirements ensured a lower risk and reduced incentive for a participant who was feeling ill
- Participant and volunteer waivers were modified to include language about COVID-19

**PACKET PICKUP**

- Doors to the venue were propped open to prevent touching of the doors
- Packet pickup tables were spaced out from each other with one volunteer working each table
- Plexiglass shields were used to provide additional protection for the packet pickup volunteers
- Occupancy limits, temperature checks, and masking requirements were enforced per venue if different from event requirements
- No event-day registration or on-site packet pickup
COMMUNICATION

- Participants were encouraged to maintain social distancing in Indiana Sports Corp pre-event communications and during the event.
- Additional signage was located throughout the start/finish area and along the course to remind participants to maintain social distancing and safety practices.
- Participants were encouraged to stay masked until they entered the social distant start corral. Current health department rules allowed people exercising to not wear masks.

START/FINISH AREA

- No gear check was available for participants.
- Spectators were not allowed at the event.
- Start waves were reduced from 105 to 65 participants.
- Participants were requested to arrive no earlier than 20 minutes prior to their starting time.
- Start line corral was designed with three lanes. Each lane had room for participants to be 6’ apart side by side and at least 6’ away from anyone standing outside the fence line. The length of the corral allowed participants to be 6’ away from each other front to back. A total of 66 spots were available in the corral.
- Entry into start corral was via single person gates.
- Time-trial like starting procedure was used to provide spacing between each participant on course. The three lanes were started at the same time at the beginning of the wave. Next participant in line started when the person in front of them passed a fixed distance from the start line vs. a set time between participants. Initial spacing was set to 32’ between participants at the start. This exceeds the best practices recommended by various sporting organizations and was intended to increase the spacing between participants at the on-course activations.
- Next wave waiting area: Three lines of 11 cones were use to create a social distant waiting area for the next wave. Cones were used due to the prohibition of marking the street in the start/finish area. Staff with megaphones checked on waivers and filled spaces as groups of participants did not equally fill the waiting lines.
- Finish chute was split into two separate lanes. Participants were directed to alternate lanes.
- Post-event participant items were pre-bagged, including medal, bottle of water, hand sanitizer packet, and snack. Bags were placed on multiple tables with spacing between tables. Individual bags were spaced out on tables to reduce the chance of inadvertent contact by participants.
- Post-event beer garden/party was eliminated.
ON COURSE

• Course activities were modified to be as touchless as possible
• Course activities were also modified to reduce the amount of time spent doing activity to reduce the possibility of lines forming
• Photo opportunities are part of the event. An event photographer was assigned to the more popular locations to reduce the selfie photos with downloads available after the event
• Aid stations used bottled water, no open cups. Aid station tables were separated by at least 6'. Bottles were spaced out on tables to reduce the chance of inadvertent touching by participants.

GENERAL

• PPE use was required by all Indiana Sports Corp and VEM staff and volunteers
• Additional PPE was available for volunteers and participants
• Hand sanitizer was available throughout the start/finish area and on-course at the aid stations and activations
• Individual packets of hand sanitizer were available for staff and volunteers
• A professional cleaning company was contracted to do continuous cleaning of the start/finish and pre-event tent area. The cleaning company also cleaned at specific activations on items like footballs and bike-share bicycles.
• Port-o-let units had increased spacing. There was an increased number of hand wash stations in the start/finish area.
• Staff and volunteers were required to submit a COVID-19 screening questionnaire on the first day of on-site work at the event.
PRELIMINARY POST EVENT ANALYSIS

EVENT DAY ATTENDANCE

Because the event was not timed and the event site was not access controlled (other than the start corral), we did not collect information on the actual number of participants on event day. With the exception of three late waves, based on registration, most waves were 84-107% filled (six overfilled waves were due to early registration, prior to the COVID-19 lockdown in Indiana). We attempted to move participants to non-filled waves where possible prior to the day of the event. Based on the in-person packet pickup, 300 packets out of a total registration of 1450 participants were not picked up.

START VIDEO ANALYSIS

Based on a limited video of the first few waves, the following was seen:

• The first few waves were only 63-70% filled.
• Anecdotally, there was a higher no-show rate than implied by packets not picked up throughout the morning, continuing the trend of the confirmed numbers from the first few waves
• A start corral of 41-46 people took 65 to 107 seconds to clear the start line.
• Participants were allowed to stand in the start corral and start as self-declared partners or couples (Participants were not paired by the event).
• A number of participants wore masks up to the point where they started running with a few walking while wearing masks

While participants were encouraged to arrive at the start area no earlier than 20 minutes prior to their wave time, reports from the staff working the next wave area indicate that many of the participants arrived in the area near the next wave lines about 10 minutes prior to their wave time vs 20 minutes prior.

The last three waves had registration numbers of 4, 0, and 64. The start line procedure was modified to allow any participant in the last three waves to start once they arrived at the start (vs. waiting for their wave’s start time). The start line was held open for an additional 10 minutes after the last wave time for any late participants.

There were several indoor activities. Anecdotal feedback said that many participants masked up just prior to entering some of the indoor venues.

We are currently getting feedback from the staff that worked the event. This feedback will be critical to any future COVID-19 plans.
2020 Indy Ultimate Start Line Setup Guide

Setup Order:
1. Set Structure
2. Set outside fencing along curb
3. Set middle fencing in front of structure
4. Measure 12' from center of start side to locate middle fence behind structure
5. Set inner fencing in line with outside edge of bollards or outside edge of inner tower
6. Set 1 piece of fence under structure to locate each flagging line per measurements listed.
7. Set runner services tables, locate first tables at about 50' behind finish line.
8. Set fencing around tables
9. At end of start chute, setup entry gates
10. String flagging, use combination of single fence pieces and stanchions.
11. Mark standing locations, first row starts 1'-2' behind towers.

Reminder: Entire start/finish area is on a curve! Each line of barricade or pennant flagging will be longer as you move from inside to outside of the Circle.
Corral Entry
Gates & Waiver
Checkpoint

Next Wave
Meeting Area

Traffic Cones
Please use Alternate Lanes

5 pieces
6 pieces
7 pieces
17 pieces
19 pieces

8 pieces
4 pieces
3 pieces

3 lanes; 22 rows = 66 Participants 6' apart

Indiana Ultimate
2020

Next Wave Meeting Area
Corral Entry Gates & Waiver Checkpoint

Traffic Cones
Please use Alternate Lanes

August 25, 2020