

Description of Event

Mad Martha: Cliffs of Aquinnah is a triathlon event which we would like to hold September 11, 2011 on the island of Martha's Vineyard. This event would combine the individual legs of a 1 mile swim, a 24 mile bike, and a 6.2 mile run into one race which would span the island from Edgartown to Aquinnah. This is considered an *Olympic* (or *International distance*) triathlon, which is a sport exploding in popularity across the United States. We anticipate 500 to 800 competitors over the age of 18. In a triathlon, the end of each leg, where the next leg begins, is called a ***transition point***. There are two transition points in a triathlon called T1 and T2. Competitors keep belongings pertinent to the next leg in designated ***Transition Areas*** along the race route. The swim to bike transition (T1) area would be at the parking area of the Public Boat Launch at the end of Town Lot Road, Edgartown. Here, competitors' bikes will be corralled in numbered areas. T2 (bike to run transition) would be at the intersection of South Road and State Road in Chilmark.

Competitors would be required to pick up registration packets the day before in Oak Bluffs, and would set up their bikes the eve of the race. They would then setup the remaining equipment for T1 the morning of the race. Racers would be brought via shuttles and ferry to the starting point at the east edge of Katama Bay. Parking would be along Atlantic Avenue. Belongings for T2 would be brought in numbered bags by event staff and set up at T2 while competitors were brought to the start. The start time is estimated to be 8 am EST so setup would run from approximately 6:30am to 7:30am. The start of the race sees competitors leave in waves according to sex and age groups from the east edge of Katama Bay. Competitors swim to the opposite beach and move to T1. Once on bikes, competitors move out of T1 to continue along the race route to T2. Appropriate event staff, local police, and volunteers would provide safety and direction to competitors, control of spectators, and control of local traffic. Water stations would exist at T1, T2, and every 1.5 miles of the run portion to the finish.

Competitors would leave their bikes at T2, and these would be brought in batches by event staff back to T1 for later pickup, while competitors completed the run leg of the race. The event would finish at the Aquinnah Circle, where a tent would be setup for post race refreshments, music, and socializing. This would also serve as the awards area, and the shuttle pickup area for competitors to be returned to T1 and parking.

The first finishers usually complete the race in just over two hours. There would be a time limit on the swim of one hour twenty minutes, at which point remaining competitors would be cleared. There would be a bike time limit of two hours, so competitors would be clear of the bike portion by 10am. The run course would be closed at 12am.

We anticipate this event to fill quickly, as similar events do. This is especially true given the natural beauty and competitive terrain offered by Martha's Vineyard. There would be a significant boost to the local economy from increased lodgings; many competitors and spectators likely choosing to remain on the island before and beyond race day. We would also anticipate this event becoming an annual event, and rapidly become one of the most popular triathlons in the country.