



2021 PGDC COVID-19 FAQ's

Before reading the FAQ's below, please know that the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association is committed to planning a successful **in-person** 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend. We're also looking forward to welcoming you to the 8 On Your Side Health & Fitness Expo and greeting you at each of the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Start and Finish Lines on February 20 & 21, 2021!

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Association's goal is to be completely transparent and plan for any and all possible contingencies. 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Registration will open on June 1. *However, before we accept your registration payment, we want you to be fully aware of any potential outcomes due to possible future COVID-19 outbreaks or guidance.*

If cancellation of the 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend is deemed necessary, you can trust it will be done with great sadness and with the knowledge that the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association has a responsibility to deliver the best Virtual Run event possible. Postponement nor the refunding of registration fees will be an option.

• Why isn't postponing the 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend an option?

During the months of January through April, the city of Tampa is a major destination for special events, industry trade shows, and conferences. For this reason, the convention center and Tampa downtown hotels are not able to support alternate dates. Also, many local running events are scheduled around the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend. We wouldn't want to impact their events in a negative way. Additionally, the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend requires tremendous event sponsor support and critical resources provided by Tampa General Hospital and City of Tampa Personnel, including the Tampa Police Department, Tampa Fire Rescue, and Solid Waste and Transportation. It's not possible to reallocate these necessary event sponsors and community resources to a later date. After considering all of the variables involved in the year-long process of planning the 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend, it became clear that postponement would not be an option.

• Why aren't you able to offer refunds?

In 1978, the Gasparilla Distance Classic 15K & 5K was created with one mission ... to raise much needed dollars for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa. Today, 43 years later, the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend has evolved and grown beyond what could have been imagined in 1978. The organization's mission, however, remains the same. Since 1978, \$5.9 million has been donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay and the Friends of Tampa Recreation and several additional youth charitable organizations.

This means that the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that places a great deal of emphasis on keeping registration fees at a manageable amount for all that choose to participate. It ensures, from beginning to end, that our runners' experience is top notch and worthy of their hard-earned dollars. The Gasparilla Distance Classic Association relies heavily on income generated from registration, event sponsorships, and our Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend Events. Organizing an event the size of the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic

Race Weekend, and preparing the best possible experience for every single runner, requires many of our expenditures to be made months prior to Race Weekend. This starts with the essential cost of runner amenities for all of our events, marketing and advertising dollars that are spent prior to Race Weekend, and many additional, unrecoverable expenses which are crucial to putting on a quality event worthy of your choice.

The bottom line is that the majority of our expenses are paid between three to six months prior to the actual Race Weekend. For example, our annual 30,000+ shirt order is placed in July. For delivery in November, it takes 90-120 days to produce and ship the shirts to Tampa. Upon arrival, our local screen printer begins the three-month process of screening the fronts and backs of shirts.

Our colorful and unique finisher's medals are ordered in October. They, too, take 90 days for production and for delivery to Tampa in early February. By November, \$600,000 has already been expended on PGDC shirts, finisher's medals, finisher's towels and Challenge jackets. This amount, combined with the weekend's \$400,000 pre-paid operations costs, make it impossible to offer a refund or deferral to the following year.

Some races are produced by for-profit companies that don't have the same mission as the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association. On a per-runner cost basis, we spend a much higher percentage on our runners and their experiences without making a profit. Any profit goes to the organization's charities. Our focus has always been on quality, covering all costs associated with producing the events, and after, donating the dollars that remain.

• Can I defer my race entry to 2022?

Unfortunately, no. The funds received from registration are used to fund expenditures needed to host Race Weekend for the current year and to assist in the viability of our organization. Offering deferments to next year's race would mean we would not take in enough registration funds to cover the expenditures required to host the 2022 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend.

• What was the process for decision making?

Should the need arise, the collective decision to cancel the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend was made with the intent of being transparent and forthcoming as to what our participants can expect. Our current situation with COVID-19 has created an air of uncertainty as to where we'll be in February 2021. To accept your 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic registration dollars without advising you of a potential outcome would be unreasonable and irresponsible.

• What can I expect with a virtual 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend?

Over the next eight months, we'll be addressing the best way to convert to a virtual event if necessary. For now, you can count on the following:

- A virtual event will be as close to a traditional Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend as is possible.
- Using Race Roster and the free ASICS Runkeeper app, virtual results platforms will be offered for the 15K, 5K, Half-marathon, 8K, Michelob Ultra Challenge, Michelob Ultra Pure Gold Challenge, the new Bud Light Seltzer Challenge, Stella Solstice Challenge (formerly the Bud Light Orange Challenge), USAA Military Challenge and Raymond James Team Challenge.
- Once the decision is made to go virtual, every registered participant will receive an email asking that they opt-in or opt-out to run virtually. Depending upon their selection, another email will follow with next steps.
 - Opt-In – Next Step email will provide explicit instructions as to the details of receiving their runner amenities, completing their distance(s), reporting their virtual results and receiving their finisher amenities.
 - Opt-Out – Next Step email will provide explicit instructions as to the details of receiving their runner amenities.

• How about the 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic finisher's amenities (finisher's medal & finisher's towel)? Will I be required to complete my virtual distance or distances?

Yes.

- **If I registered for the Michelob Ultra Challenge, Michelob Ultra Pure Gold Challenge, Bud Light Seltzer Challenge or Stella Solstice Challenge, will I still get my Challenge jacket and Challenge finisher's medal?**

Absolutely, and according to the above 2021 PGDC Runner & Finisher's Amenity information.

- **Will awards be mailed (overall, military, age group)?**

Unfortunately, no. With a virtual event, we depend on an honor system. Thus, there's lots of room for reporting errors and no way for us to 100% confirm that results reported were, in fact, correct.

- **How about the B2B2B Challenge and Treasured Chest Challenge?**

As both of these Challenges require participation in other events, we'll need to consult with their management.

- **Will the Kellogg's Stroller Roll Kids receive their medal?**

Absolutely! Depending on their registering adult's selection, their finisher's medal and Stroller Roll race number will either be mailed or prepared for pick-up.

- **What if the race is held, but due to COVID-19, travel into the US from other countries isn't allowed?**

In this case, you will complete your run virtually and all 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Runner & Finisher Amenities will be shipped.

- **Does the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association have event cancellation insurance?**

Yes. Unfortunately, race cancellation insurance doesn't cover COVID-19. This is sadly no different than how the event insurance world drastically changed after the 2013 Boston Marathon. Perhaps insurance coverage will change in the future to cover "cancellation in the event of a disease pandemic". However, because this is an unprecedented situation, it is not something that is currently offered through insurance.

- **I purchased registration fee coverage when I registered online. If the race is cancelled due to a pandemic, may I submit a claim and receive a refund?**

Unfortunately, no. The available registration fee coverage insurance covers 17 reasons why you might not be able to attend race weekend. The race being cancelled due to a pandemic is not one of the reasons.

- **I received a free entry as a prize, through a giveaway or auction, or as part of an event sponsor asset, but I don't want to race virtually. Can I defer that registration to 2022?**

No. However, you will be entered in the 2021 PGDC virtual race and enjoy all of the traditional amenities associated with a 2021 PGDC race entry.

- **Can I run my 2021 PGDC virtual race on the official 2021 PGDC race course?**

We discourage you from running on any of the official 2021 PGDC Bayshore Boulevard courses due to safety concerns, as the roads will not be closed. You are welcome to run on the Bayshore Boulevard sidewalk, but please keep safety and, if applicable, physical distancing top of mind.

In closing, we're aware that as the months pass, there will be additional questions and concerns. If you have a question, please feel free to send them via email to information@rungasparilla.com.

