



2021 PGDC RACE WEEKEND UPDATED FAQs

On June 1, 2020, the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association announced its intentions to move forward with planning for an in-person 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic (PGDC) Race Weekend on February 19-21, 2021.

Due to COVID-19, the Association's goal was to be completely transparent and plan for any and all contingencies, one of those being cancellation. If cancellation of the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend was deemed necessary, the only option at the time was converting to a 100% Virtual Experience.

On October 21, 2020, the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association announced its plans for an in-person 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic (PGDC) Race Weekend. Our extensive and detailed 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Mitigation Plan was reviewed and approved by the city, county, and Tampa General Hospital Infectious Disease Services Team. At the time, Hillsborough County's COVID-19 Statistics showed a COVID-19 Positivity Rate of just over 5%. We were encouraged and eager to move forward safely.

Since October, the landscape has changed dramatically. As of December, 12, 2020 COVID-19 Positivity Rates, as posted on the Hillsborough County website, are as follows:

Positive Test Percentage

14-Day Average: 7.99%

7-Day Average: 8.14%

Total of Positive Tests: 8.63%

With the above information and projected increase in COVID-19 Positivity Rates during late January/early February, it's impossible to safely hold the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Events on February 19-21, 2021.

While we are disappointed to not be able to celebrate the 44th Running of the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Events in 2021 as originally planned, we're excited to announce we've received approval from the City of Tampa for alternative dates for an in-person event!

The 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend will be held in its entirety, including the 8 On Your Side Health & Fitness Expo, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 7-9, 2021.

The health, safety, and well-being of our runners, walkers, volunteers, staff, City of Tampa personnel, and event sponsors will always be our first priority. The Association's goal has always been to produce our events with the highest level of safety. We will continue to do that while also adhering to or even surpassing new City, State, and Federal COVID-19 guidelines. The Association recognizes the new May dates could mean warmer temperatures.

If warm weather is in the forecast on either Race Day, the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend participants can trust they'll be well-taken care of with additional Aid Stations, on-course misters and ice cold towels.

As a Florida based running event organization for 44-years, the Association has faced multiple warm and humid years and understands how best to care for its participants. We've got this!

All runners and walkers already registered for one of the 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend Events including Challenges, may select one of two options:

OPTION #1

Participate in-person during our rescheduled dates of May 8–9, 2021. Runners selecting this option do not need to do anything to their registration as you will automatically be moved to this event if no action is taken.

- Deadline for decision: March 30, 2021

OPTION #2

Convert your registration to run in the Virtual 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic taking place May 1–15, 2021.

- Deadline for decision: March 30, 2021

In the coming days, those already registered will receive detailed instructions via email about how to move forward with their current 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Entry.

Can I receive a refund or defer to 2022?

Registration fees are non-refundable. 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 choosing 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 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 costs 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. 25,000 shirts are already in Tampa and being screened for distribution.

Our colorful and unique finisher's medals have been produced and are on their way to our Tampa warehouse. \$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.

Can I defer my race entry to 2022?

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 the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association. 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.

Can I transfer my 2021 PGDC Event Registration to a friend or family member?

No. Transfers are not permitted. Any runner or walker who is participating with another participant's Race Number will have their 2021 PGDC Results disqualified.

Is it possible to get a deferral or refund of my registration fees if I am unable to participate due to injury or an unforeseen circumstance?

Unfortunately, there are no deferrals or refunds if you are unable to participate for any reason.

We are a non-profit organization that exists to raise much needed dollars for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay and the Friends of Tampa Recreation, so the proceeds will go to a great cause!!

If I choose to convert to the Virtual 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend, what can I expect?

The Virtual Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend will be as close to the in-person events 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, Bud Light Seltzer Challenge, Stella Solstice Challenge.

The following 2021 PGDC Pre-Race Runner Amenities will be shipped for arrival no later than May 1, 2021:

- **PGDC Branded Reusable Publix Shopping Bag**
- **PGDC Virtual Event Specific Shirt**
- **Personalized Race Number**
- **Challenge Jacket (Challenge participants only)**
- **New in 2021 - a PGDC Branded Running Cap**

Those choosing to participate virtually will be encouraged to complete their run or walk between May 1 and May 15. Upon completion of their run or walk and once their results are posted, their 2021 PGDC Finisher's Amenities will be shipped. Shipping of finisher amenities will begin on May 15, 2021 at no charge to the participant.

Amenities will include the following:

- **PGDC Event Specific Finisher's Medal**
- **PGDC Event Specific Finisher's Towel**
- **PGDC Event Specific Finisher's Drawstring Bag**
- **Challenge Finisher's Medal (Challenge participants only)**

What if I already have hotel reservations for February, 2021?

Our hotel partners are aware of the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Postponement to May 7- 9, 2021.

On Monday, December 14, they will be ready for your calls.

What if race day weather is bad?

As with our previous 43 years, the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Events are held rain or shine. Weather forecasts will be monitored prior to the event, with special attention placed on the possibility of heavy rain, thunder and lightning, high winds and extreme temperatures. If necessary, participants will be made aware of these conditions and possible dangers that could result via the RunGasparilla.com, as well as through other means of communication such as e-mail, social media and public-address announcements.

Race officials, in consultation with the city of Tampa, National Weather Service and other officials, will monitor the weather and decide if any action will be taken to modify the race. Visible lightning will cause the race to be delayed.

If the race is canceled, it will not be re-scheduled. 2021 PGDC registration refunds and/or deferrals will not be made by the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association in the case of inclement weather cancellations.

Can I run or walk my 2021 PGDC virtual race on the official 2021 PGDC Race Course during the in-person 2021 PGDC Race Weekend?

No. The 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Bayshore Boulevard courses will be closed and open ONLY to those registered to run in-person. Virtual participants will be issued a different race number than those provided to runners participating in-person. Runners not wearing an official in-person Race Number will not be allowed in Start Area, Finish Line Area or on any of the course.

What if I haven't registered and would like to register to run or walk one or more of the in-person 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Events.

Registration remains open for the in-person PGDC 15K, 5K, Half Marathon, 8K and Michelob Ultra Challenge, Michelob Ultra Pure Gold Challenge, Bud Light Seltzer Challenge and Stella Solstice Challenge.

However, all events are capped. Registration will close on Sunday, May 2, 2021 or, once the Registration Cap is reached for an event. For additional in-person 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Registration Information, please visit RunGasparilla.com.

What if I'm interested in registering to run the 2021 PGDC virtually? Is Virtual Registration open?

Running or walking one of the 2021 PGDC Events will provide a race experience on your own time and your own course (treadmill, park, neighborhood, etc.). Registered participants can run or walk the distance they're registered for at a location of their choice between Saturday, May 1, 2021 and Saturday, May 15, 2021. While we encourage the distance to be completed in one segment, virtual participants can choose to complete their distance over multiple days.

On Monday, December 14, 2020, virtual registration will open according to the following:

- **15K - 500 Spots**
Registration Fee - \$45
- **5K - 500 Spots**
Registration Fee - \$35
- **Half Marathon - 500 Spots**
Registration Fee - \$95
- **8K - 500 Spots**
Registration Fee - \$40

Virtual Registration will remain open until March 30, 2021 or until event virtual spots sell out. For additional 2021 PGDC Virtual Race information please visit: RunGasparilla.com.

Who can participate in the 2021 PGDC Virtual Events?

Anyone can participate! We encourage your friends and family to join you in your virtual event. In fact, we hope runners and walkers from across the globe will take part in one of the 2021 Virtual PGDC Events.

What happens if the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend cannot be held in-person on May 7-9, 2021?

All registered runners and walkers will automatically be transferred to the virtual running of the 2021 PGDC Events starting on May 1, 2021.

For additional 2021 PGDC Race Weekend Event Information, please visit RunGasparilla.com.