



2021 PGDC RACE WEEKEND UPDATE - 12.14.20

Since making our 2021 Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend Cancellation Announcement on Thursday, December 10, we've been humbled by the number of comments posted on Facebook and Instagram.

The comments ranged from being supportive to those filled with disappointment and criticism. All however, communicated the passion felt by those who had looked forward to running in-person on Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21, 2021.

Today, we'll share the steps necessary for registering to run virtually and also, for those already registered in-person, instructions about converting from an in-person registration to a virtual registration, if desired.

First though, we'd like to address some of the concerns raised on Facebook and Instagram. When making the decision to cancel the originally scheduled 2021 PGDC Race Weekend and then, offer new dates, the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association placed a great deal of importance on the following:

- The health and well-being of Gasparilla's runners, walkers, volunteers, staff, City of Tampa Personnel and the Tampa Bay community.
 - With the current and projected Hillsborough County COVID-19 Positivity Rates during our winter months, hosting the 2021 PGDC Race Weekend on February 19-21, 2021, even with 2021 PGDC Race Weekend COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, is not be possible.
- This decision raised questions about refunds and deferrals. Since June 1, the Association's messaging has been consistent. If race weekend events were cancelled due to COVID-19 on February 20-21, 2021, the events would convert to a 100% virtual experience and there would be no refunds or deferrals.
 - With the event's cancellation on February 20-21, 2021, there will be no refunds or deferrals.
- For those that clearly wanted to run in-person, the Association re-evaluated offering new dates for the race weekend events. When considering this option, we consulted with city officials and Tampa General Hospital's Infectious Disease Specialists. Both felt new dates in late April/early May would provide time for a decrease in COVID-19 Positivity Rates and also, for the general population to gain access to a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Next steps were checking available dates in late April/early May. The Gasparilla Children's Parade and Gasparilla Invasion Parade were already scheduled for April 10 and April 17. April 24-25 and May 1-2 weren't available at the Tampa Convention Center and the St. Anthony's Triathlon was already scheduled for April 24-25 in St. Petersburg.
 - Though warm weather was a likely possibility, May 7-9, Mother's Day Weekend, was the earliest the Association could safely offer an in-person 2021 PGDC Race Weekend.
- With the cancellation and new May dates, those already registered and those not registered have the option of participating virtually from February 19 – May 9, 2021 or if they prefer, participating in-person on May 8 – 9, 2021.