



PDP Sport Guidelines

Sports events, their sponsors, participants, venues, suppliers and spectators increasingly wish to improve their sustainability and reduce their environmental impact. Thanks to the Ocean Recovery Allianceⁱ, and its Plastic Disclosure Projectⁱⁱ, there are now some initial steps sports events can take in this direction by minimizing their “plastic footprint”.

This document lays out guidelines to assist event organizers, including a checklist to assist with planning and a scorecard to help evaluate progress towards certification as a PDP Sport event. As you will see, these guidelines should be very achievable for most events. For events that already pride themselves on their sustainability, they should stretch further and seek ISO 20121 certificationⁱⁱⁱ.

Overall sustainability of events is important, but these guidelines focus on minimizing an event’s “plastic footprint”. Plastic is a useful and valuable resource, especially to sports event organizers. However, plastic needs to be managed properly, and doing so can be an easy, but significant, step towards a more sustainable event. Plastic is often highly visible to event participants and those that use the location afterwards, so brands and events want to be careful about the image they leave behind, and also demonstrate that they are responsible and effective



event organizers and supporters. In addition, plastic is a valuable commodity, and there are often strong economic reasons for ensuring it is not wasted. Furthermore, plastic takes decades to fully degrade, can cause ecosystem and health impacts, and is often the cause of much of the waste that is found in our racing and training environments, both on land, and in the water. This is completely avoidable, and athletes are a perfect segment of society that can be ambassadors in driving a large-scale reduction in plastic waste.

Checklist and Tips

To help move towards zero and minimize an event’s “plastic footprint”, event organizers should consider the following as develop and review their plans:

Checklist	Tips
<p>Have you made a commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle all plastics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who is going to assist in your efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle?</i> • <i>Consider a waste management/recycling committee to create partnerships and environmentally friendly initiatives between all stakeholders – facilities management, event organizers, vendors, waste services contractors, and recycling processors.</i> • <i>How will you educate your volunteers about your efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle?</i> • <i>Have you publicized your commitment to participants and encouraged their help?</i>
<p>Have you considered all the situations where plastic is provided?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consider items provided to athletes, officials, organizers or spectators</i> • <i>Remember both free and sold items</i> • <i>Remember drinks, food, prizes and event equipment/gear</i> • <i>Consider items made of, served in, or wrapped with, plastic</i>
<p>Can plastic items be replaced or substituted with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can athletes bring their own reusable bottles?</i> • <i>Can you use powdered form for flavored drinks and/or provide water via dispensers?</i>

something more sustainable?

- *Can you use sustainable wooden chopsticks instead of plastic cutlery?*
- *Can you use washable cutlery and plates?*
- *Can you supply utensils and equipment without individual plastic wrapping?*

Where plastic is provided, can favorable plastics be chosen?

- *Look for high % of post-consumer recycled content of the plastic.*
- *Use biodegradable plastic where possible (ideally with feedstock that does not come from food related crops), and even better if there is proper composting infrastructure for this material after the event.*
- *Prefer types of plastic that are readily recyclable in your area.*

Where plastic waste is generated, is it collected in an organized way?

- *Clearly designate where people should put their plastic waste.*
- *Remember to ensure collection is where the waste is generated (e.g. bottle caps near the start, bottles on the course?)*
- *Some events receive great PR if they, or the sponsor, have teams of people in branded uniforms collecting waste.*

What assistance can you anticipate from local waste management and recycling services?

- *How does your plan fit within your local waste management and recycling program?*
 - *How much waste do you anticipate? How much of this waste will include plastic?*
 - *Are waste management and recycling services already collecting at your location? Who is it?*
 - *Will they pick up materials or require delivery?*
 - *Will they provide adequate collection and recycling receptacles based on anticipated waste?*
 - *What sorting of materials do they require in order to recycle plastics (i.e., Bottles separate from cups? Bottle caps? Plastic bags? Plastic containers?)*
 - *Will they pay for materials based on quantity and quality?*
-



Where recycling is conducted, are you confident in the recycling process?

- Do you know where your recycled material goes after pick up?*
- Make sure that there is a systematic process of collection, sorting and removal, and that you don't simply rely on existing municipal waste management operations to do your job.*
- Can they provide data about how much PET or other materials they recycle?*

PDP Sport - Move Towards Zero Plastic Footprint Scorecard:

To help gauge your progress towards a minimal plastic footprint being left behind after your event, measure your event against this scorecard. For each question, score your event appropriately, and total your response. In general, if you either have no plastic, or manage plastic very carefully to minimize both reputational and environmental impacts, your event will score sufficient points to become a certified PDP Sport event.

COMMITMENT	
0	Your event has made a commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle all plastic waste and publicized it to all staff, volunteers and participants
3	Your event has made a commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle all plastic waste, with no publication to staff, volunteers and participants
5	Your event has not made a commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle all plastic waste
___ YOUR SCORE	

DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-SERVE PET BOTTLES	
0	No single-serve PET bottles are distributed (i.e., you provide water or other beverages through water bottle filling stations)
1	Single-serve PET bottles distributed, with organized and assisted collection and recycling by brand company volunteers
2	Single-serve PET bottles distributed, with organized and assisted collection and recycling by event volunteers
3	Single-serve PET bottles distributed, with unorganized collection and recycling
5	Single-serve PET bottles distributed, with no collection or recycling



___ **YOUR SCORE**

DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC OR PLASTIC-COATED CUPS

- 0 No plastic cups distributed
- 3 Plastic or plastic-coated cups distributed and actively collected by volunteers (i.e., staffed feeding stations)
- 5 Plastic or plastic-coated cups distributed, with no active collection

___ **YOUR SCORE**

DISTRIBUTION OF STYROFOAM (CUPS OR ANY OTHER CONTAINER)

- 0 No Styrofoam distributed
- 3 Styrofoam distributed and actively collected by volunteers
- 5 Styrofoam distributed, with no active collection

___ **YOUR SCORE**

FOOD OR FEEDING STATIONS (ANY CONTAINERS OR UTENSILS)

- 0 No plastic distributed
- 1 Plastic distributed, actively collected, washed and reused by volunteers
- 2 Plastic distributed and actively collected and recycled by volunteers
- 3 Plastic distributed and actively collected by volunteers
- 5 Plastic distributed, with no active collection

___ **YOUR SCORE**

EQUIPMENT OR GEAR (BIBS, CAPS, BADGES, ETC.)

- 0 No plastic equipment or gear issued
- 1 Plastic equipment gear issued, but collected and either recycled or reused (Over 100 participants)
- 2 Plastic equipment gear issued, but collected and either recycled or reused (25- 100 participants)
- 3 Plastic equipment gear issued, but collected and either recycled or reused (1-24 participants)
- 5 Plastic equipment gear issued, with no collection

___ **YOUR SCORE**

Empty light blue rectangular area for recording the final score.



PRIZES, AWARDS, OR GIVEAWAYS (INCLUDING RACE PARTICIPATION BAGS)

- 0 No plastic prizes awards, or giveaways distributed, OR those distributed made from 100% recycled material, and not wrapped in plastic by manufacturer
- 2 No plastic prizes awards, or giveaways distributed, OR those distributed made from 100% recycled material, and although wrapped in plastic by manufacturer, 100% of wrapping removed and recycled by event staff/volunteers
- 3 No plastic prizes awards, or giveaways distributed, OR those distributed made from 100% recycled material, but distributed with individual plastic wrapping
- 4 Plastic prizes, awards, giveaways distributed that come wrapped in plastic, with 100% wrapping removed and recycled by event staff/volunteers
- 5 Plastic prizes, awards, giveaways distributed with individual plastic wrapping

___ **YOUR SCORE**

APPAREL

- 0 Made from 100% recycled material (Clothing made from PET bottles help create demand for recycling plastic waste)
- 2 Made from 75-99% recycled material
- 3 Made from 50-74% recycled material
- 4 Made from 25-49% recycled material
- 5 Made from <25% recycled material

___ **YOUR SCORE**

WASTE COLLECTION

- 0 Recycling bins/containers, appropriately sized and visually distinctive, are available and well-marked at all possible plastic bottle production points, with volunteers to help with collection (*PET bottles and plastic cups are separated)
- 3 Recycling bins/containers, appropriately sized and visually distinctive, are available and well-marked at all possible plastic bottle production points, with NO volunteers to help with collection
- 5 No recycling bins/containers available

___ **YOUR SCORE**



POST-RACE WASTE COLLECTION

- 0 Volunteers retrace entire race course/event location and collect and recycle all waste
- 1 Volunteers revisit all likely waste production sites (i.e., feeding stations and spectator areas) and collect and recycle all waste
- 3 Volunteers revisit all likely waste production sites (i.e., feeding stations and spectator areas) and collect all waste
- 5 No post-race waste collection
- ___ YOUR SCORE

RECYCLING

- 0 All plastic waste is collected, sorted and recycled (You have verified and coordinated the processing of all recyclable materials with waste management and recycling services)
- 3 All plastic waste is collected, sorted and recycled, but not 100% aware or confident in the end-result of your recycling efforts
- 5 No recycling
- ___ YOUR SCORE

BONUS POINTS – If you collect more waste at an event than you create (via a beach cleanup or other), you can deduct 5 points from your score.

___ TOTAL

GOAL – 9 Points or Lower is what to be aiming for, with an ultimate goal at some point of zero. But, the point is not so much the actual scoring on the first time, but the focus, engagement and awareness of this planning process, as we know that not all parts are achievable on the first attempt or two. Your acknowledgement of the program, and reduction in the “low hanging fruit,” where that can be done, is already a good start.

We would be happy for you and your event to use our **PDP Sport** logo on your event, and we can do so when you let us know your program and what you are doing. We are happy to celebrate your leadership in this space, and hope that you can then spread the word to other events which could also benefit from being part of **PDP Sport** (and in fact, these can also be music or other entertainment events as well, not just for sports). Please contact us to self-register, along with your scorecard or plans as per the items above.



If you have any questions about these guidelines, or wish to learn more about the Ocean Recovery Alliance or its Plastic Disclosure Project, contact:

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ⁱ The focus of Ocean Recovery Alliance is to bring together new ways of thinking, technologies, creativity and collaborations in order to introduce innovative projects and initiatives that will help improve our ocean environment. This includes creating business opportunities for local communities when applicable, in order to address some of the pressing issues that our ocean faces today. One of its projects, announced at the Clinton Global Initiative, is the Plastic Disclosure Project. The group is part of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Partnership on Marine Litter. www.oceanrecov.org

ⁱⁱ The Plastic Disclosure Project is similar to that of carbon disclosure, whereby companies, organizations and events annually report their plastic use or waste accumulation. By having metrics for measurement, it is easier to then manage the use of plastic in a more efficient manner, with our communities, and the environment, as the benefactors. Five main ways of improving plastic's use include less waste in the supply chain, more recycling within the business operations, more recycled content in the material, new design, and the use of new materials. This project is operated by Ocean Recovery Alliance. www.plasticdisclosure.org

ⁱⁱⁱ ISO 20121:2012 specifies requirements for an event sustainability management system for any type of event or event-related activity, and provides guidance on conforming to those requirements. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was the catalyst behind the development of ISO 20121, which provides the framework for identifying the potentially negative social, economic and environmental impacts of events by removing or reducing them, and capitalizing on more positive impacts through improved planning and processes. See www.iso.org for more details.