

GB Wild Water Racing

Site Specific Risk Assessment: Prudhoe, River Tyne, Northumberland

Risk Assessment completed by: Andrew Crowhurst

Date: 21 Jan 2024

Review due by: Jan 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK (IF ANY RACE RISK DEEMED HIGH THEN RACE TO BE MOVED OR CANCELLED DUE TO BEING ADVERTISED AS SUITABLE FOR NOVICES)

HAZARDS	RISK TO WHOM	RISK AVOIDANCE, ACTIONS AND ADVICE	RATING IF PRECAUTIONS ETC FOLLOWED
PADDLER CONTROL	Paddlers	<p>A short briefing will be held prior to the start of the WWR race each day by a member of the organisation</p> <p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day. Or enter online</p> <p>Paddlers, spectators and parents etc. to follow instructions and safety, site etc. plans and directions from the organisers. It is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with this.</p>	L
RACE ORGANISER	Organisation	Newcastle University Canoe Club on behalf of Wild Water Racing Committee, as a British Canoeing affiliated club: Hold a £10 million third party liability insurance.	L
INSURANCE COVER CHECKS	Organisation and Paddlers	<p>All competitors will be checked for insurance cover at race entry as either having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> British Canoeing membership. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affiliated club British Canoeing membership. 	L
COMPETENCE	Paddlers	<p>Paddlers are solely responsible for their own competence, medical fitness, endurance to complete the race in the conditions present on the day.</p> <p>All entrants will complete an entry form stating competence (see separate form). For Under 18 paddlers, an adult with “Loco Parentis” for them entering and attempting the race and with knowledge of their ability will be required to sign as to their competence to race on the conditions on race day.</p>	L
SITE SPECIFIC			

EVENT TAKING PLACE IN A PUBLIC PLACE	All	The location is within a popular public space and riverside park and as such members of the public will be present around the site. Paddlers, parents and spectators should consider other members of the public and take care when moving around the site, especially when carrying boats. Any person under the age of 16 should be supervised at all times on the site.	L
MOVING VEHICLES IN THE CARPARK	All	The car park for the site is a public car park and as such there will likely be vehicles moving around the car park at all times. All paddlers, parents, spectators and volunteers should take care moving around the car park and not gather on any roadways. Any person under the age of 16 should be supervised at all times on the site. Extra care should be taken when moving boats and equipment around the carpark and no equipment should be left in a way that it blocks traffic.	L
SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS	All	The event will be taking place in an outdoor environment, with uneven and at times slippery ground conditions. Everyone attending the event should take care when moving around the site and adhere to any signage and/or instruction from race organisation. The condition of the site will be continually reviewed by race organisation and any specific hazards highlighted at the briefing and signed as appropriate.	L
ACCESS AND EGRESS FROM THE RIVER	Anyone accessing the river or assisting with those accessing or egressing the river	Anyone getting on the water at the event MUST wear a buoyancy aid and helmet. Anyone assisting with getting on or off the water in a role which requires standing in the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid and helmet. Anyone assisting with getting on or off the water in a role not requiring standing in the water is recommended to wear a buoyancy aid and helmet. The access and egress from the river are over uneven, muddy ground which can become slippery, especially when wet. Anyone accessing/egressing the river should take across the uneven muddy ground and request assistance if required.	L
RIVER CONDITIONS	Paddlers	In normal conditions, the River Tyne at Prudhoe is a grade 2 section of moving water. After periods of heavy rain, the river can rise rapidly and its characteristics change. Race organisation will be constantly monitoring the river conditions and take appropriate action as required, including but not limited to changing the race course, or cancelling the event.	L
WEATHER CONDITIONS	All	Weather conditions will be constantly reviewed in the build-up to the event and during the event, for the safety of paddlers and spectators. In the event of extreme weather conditions options include but are not limited to modifying the race course, or cancelling the event.	L
TREES AND BUSHES IN THE RIVER	Paddlers	There a number of small islands on this section of river which contain trees and bushes. In normal river conditions these are out of the water and pose a very low risk to paddlers. In higher water conditions the water can flow over these islands, creating a risk of entrapment for paddlers.	L

		The river level and conditions will be under constant review by the race organisation and any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing before racing each day.	
CAPSIZE			
CAPSIZE	Paddlers	<p>IN ALL CASES THE PADDLER TAKES PRIORITY OVER SAVING BOAT AND/OR EQUIPMENT</p> <p>WWR code of conduct requires all paddlers to offer support to other paddlers when requested or if they see someone in potential difficulty with penalty of disqualification for life from competitive canoeing unless at risk/danger themselves.</p> <p>The paddler should get to the bank as quickly as possible with their boat and paddle if they can. On the water safety will be provided in the middle of the course, below the main rapid and be available to assist with any rescues as required. If as part of a rescue the safety boat goes downstream and ends up not in position, the start of the next paddler will be held until the safety boat is back in position / another safety boat takes over the position. In addition to the safety boat provided, paddlers are required to stay on in the finish area after finishing their race for the next two paddlers to finish and to provide safety during in this time should the need arise.</p> <p>NB: If a boat is lost downstream then please let the race organisation know so emergency service can be notified to prevent any unnecessary searches being started.</p>	L
EQUIPMENT SPECIFIC			
SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT	Paddlers	Paddlers are required to ensure their safety clothing and equipment is in accordance with current safety regulations in WWR. Random checks of equipment may be made to any paddler after racing with any equipment failing resulting in disqualification.	L
CANOE FLOTATION	Paddlers	All boat must comply with the current WWR safety rules which can be found on the UK WWR website.	L
HELMETS	Paddlers	The race encompasses a section of grade 2 moving water and as such helmets meeting the required standard and carrying a CE mark are required for all paddlers and anyone else accessing the river.	L
ILL HEALTH INJURY			
ILL HEALTH / INJURY DURING RACE	Paddlers	Between the starter, finisher and safety boat the competitors will be in sight of an official for the entire race. In the event of ill health or injury, the paddler should make this known to the nearest official and if possible, get themselves	L

		to the side or safe bank area. The official will then assist and alert the event first aider if required.	
HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE	All	<p>The event is taking place in an outdoor environment with little to no shelter and as such anyone attending is advised to check the weather forecast before attending and to bring appropriate clothing, food and drink, and sun cream if required</p> <p>Anyone at the event who has symptoms of hypothermia / heat stroke or who believes someone else is suffering from hypothermia / heat stroke should report this to the event first aider or any member of the race organisation who will then be able to alert the event first aider.</p>	L
WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers and anyone else entering the water.	<p>Weil's Disease is a RARE but very serious illness which is caused by bacteria carried in the urine of rats (and some other animals). It can be contracted anywhere but especially around waterways. The descending scale of risk is: Stagnant water, canals and slow-moving rivers (particularly after flash floods), swifter streams.</p> <p>Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow-moving water • Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster • Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet <p>Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs & joints) call your doctor and tell them you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria - Contact the British Canoeing Office or see British Canoeing website for more information</p>	L
FIRST AID	All	The qualified event first aider will be advertised via posters at the event including a contact number. They will also be introduced at the briefing each day.	L
EVENT SAFETY OFFICERS	All	Event safety officer(s) for the event will be advertised before and during the event including a contact number.	L
EMERGENCY			
EMERGENCY	All	Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.	L