

GB Wild Water Racing

Site Specific Risk Assessment: Symonds Yat

Risk Assessment completed by: Alex Sheppy

Date: 10th October 2024

Reviewed and updated before race

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	Paddlers 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.	L
RACE ORGANISER	Organisation	Canoe Avon, represented by Jacob Holmes, on behalf of Wild Water Racing Committee as part of British Canoeing either individual or as a member of a British Canoeing affiliated club: Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance. It is a BC requirement that the event has a designated safety officer who has completed the "BC event safety course". Jamie Christie has met the requirements and will be the designated safety officer.	L
INSURANCE COVER CHECKS	Organisation and Paddlers	All competitors will be checked for insurance cover at race entry as either having: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ British Canoeing membership. ▪ Affiliated club British Canoeing membership. 	L
COMPETENCE	Paddlers	Paddlers are solely responsible for their own competence, medical fitness, endurance to complete the race and issues and welfare undertaking the race in the conditions present on the day.	L
START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING	Organisation and Paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number. Start and finish numbers will be compared. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal. Contact details will be held on entry forms if needed.	L

SITE SPECIFIC			
NON PADDLERS & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC		The location is popular with hikers, cyclists, dog walkers and other water users, so there can be plenty of people in the vicinity of the race. Local clubs and committee's have been made aware of the intention to run a race.	L
PROTECTED LAND AND PRIVATELY OWNED LAND		The whole sprint course and most of the classic course has a footpath alongside. Competitors will be briefed on this and a note will be made to the public nature of this path & a reminder to be considerate of other members of the public will be given.	L
WATER GETTING IN AND OUT			
GETTING IN AND OUT	Paddlers and spectators	<p>All WWR paddlers and spectators or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Spray decks are highly recommended, but not essential.</p> <p>It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, etc., if on the bank and potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required, although there are steps at the get in and out. These steps are access points so may be busy. They may also be slippery when wet and are in parts uneven. Notes of these access points will be made at the briefing, with competitors reminded to be careful upon entry and exit of the river.</p>	L
RIVER CONDITIONS	Paddlers	<p>The River Wye is a natural river lined with trees and other hazards.</p> <p>There are two grade 2 rapids on the river (one at Symonds Yat (location of the sprint course and start of the classic course) and one further along the classic). Both of these rapids are alongside an island, which, at exceptionally high water levels this would present an increased risk of entrapment due to trees.</p> <p>In these circumstances the race would be cancelled.</p>	L
CONDITIONS E.G. WIND,WEATHER ETC.,	Paddlers and Spectators	Review on day of race. Option includes course changes or cancellation.	L
RIVER TRAFFIC	Paddlers	Symonds Yat is a popular paddling spot. Competitors are reminded to treat all other water users with respect.	L
OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES ETC	Paddlers and Spectators	In low water the risk is low and most trees and obstacles are above the water, as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled/entrapped and other hazards increases. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	L

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 canoe and paddle if they can. If they need help they MUST stop the next paddlers by calling for help from them. The water current may be strong and some paddlers may have difficulty in swimming against this. The finished paddlers must be alert to the paddlers on the race course and go to help immediately. Experienced paddlers will be asked to stay on the water (if they agree) to assist with safety in addition to the two finish paddlers on standby.</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
BOAT SPECIFIC			
SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT		Paddlers are required to ensure their safety clothing and equipment is in accordance with current safety regulations in WWR.	L
CANOE FLOTATION	Paddlers	All boat must comply with the current wwr safety rules	L
HELMETS	Paddler	The race is on a natural river with potentially shallow sections. All paddlers are expected to wear helmets in any craft.	
ILL HEALTH INJURY			
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers	If you can pull to the side or safe bank area, or an area you can beach boat or hold on safely to something if you can get out and rest on bank. Call for help in any situation and report to the race organiser for first aid or treatment on site or wider help. Contact to race first Aider.	L
HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE	Paddlers and spectators	<p>Paddlers can withdraw from race by attracting other paddlers' attention.</p> <p>Wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs.</p>	L
WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers	<p>WEIL'S DISEASE</p> <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:</p>	L

		<p>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 him/her you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria - see your Yearbook Contact the British Canoeing Office for more information – see for standard handout please.</p>	
WATER QUALITY	Paddlers	Paddlers will be advised to wash and shower after paddling and to wash hands often and before eating.	
FIRST AID	All Participants	Nicky Cresser (07983 316 444) is one of the qualified first aiders on site for the event.	
WELFARE AND SAFEGUARDING	All Participants	Nicky Cresser (07983 316 444) has welfare and safeguarding training and will be on site for the event.	
EMERGENCY			
EMERGENCY	Paddlers and Spectators	Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.	L