

Date:	28/01/2025
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Assessors Name:	Wendy Robinson	Review Date:	Before race
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Description of assessment	Risk assessment for River Aire WWR Race Myrtle Park to Bradford and Bingley Canoe Club
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Location Details	Bingley River Aire, W. Yorkshire, UK
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Paddler Control	Paddlers	A briefing will take place before the event in the form of a short meeting or by the issue of briefing notes. All Paddlers and parents must follow instructions and comply with any safety, plans and directions from the organisers. It is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with this.	Ensure paddlers/volunteers are aware of their responsibilities	Race Organiser	Race Briefing	On the day
Race Organiser	Organisation	Bradford and Bingley Canoe Club is a member Paddle UK either individual or as a member of a Paddle UK affiliated club: Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance.	Membership stated on entry	Paddlers and Entry cards	Prior to race	On the day

Membership	Organisation and Paddlers	All competitors are required to be a current member of one of the National Associations (BC, SCA, Canoe Wales, CANI) Or BC Club associate member of a BC affiliated Club	Checking member to the race are registered	Race Organiser	On entry	On the day
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. All entrants will complete an online entry form stating competence. 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. This section of the River Aire is grade 2(+) water.	Ensure paddlers/volunteers are aware of their responsibilities	Race Organiser	Race Briefing	On the day
Start and finish numbers matching	Organisation and paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number. The race will have a mass start. 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.	Ensure paddlers are aware of this at the briefing. Bibs to be handed in on completion and recorded to ensure all paddlers return safe.	Race Organiser	At the race Briefing	On the day
non paddlers & members of the public	Both	The location is a public park and can be full of people and children. Paddlers should watch when they move boats around, paddles etc. Also it is recommended no paddler under 16 should be allowed to move around without supervision for any reason e.g. taking canoes to river, going to the toilets etc., on their own (nor be left on their own).	Reminder will be given at the briefing.	Everyone involved with the competition	At the race Briefing	On the day

Protected land and Privately owned land	Both	<p>Much of the classic race course is through private land and should only be used in the case of emergency. Areas of private property which must be respected by all. To bridge 1 is public land.</p> <p>From Bridge 2 is public foot path on river right to the Finish.</p>	Reminder will be given at the briefing.	All competitors	At the race Briefing	On the Day
Pontoons/river access points Slippy/steep crowded	Both Slip or trip on unstable surfaces that may change nature in wet conditions	<p>Wear appropriate footwear. All paddlers at get-in and get-out to request assistance if required. Wait for clear spaces to get on water. Keep trip hazards eg paddles and boats clear of walking routes.</p> <p>All WWR paddlers racing and officials on the water: MUST wear helmet and buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Spray decks highly recommended.</p> <p>Any member of the race community on the bank and willing to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid and helmet.</p>	Report all hazards to Race organisers Marshalls at Get-on	Race organiser	During warm up and race	
Water Edge	Both Slip/trip/accident	<p>Care to be taken when operating close to the edge</p> <p>Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times Report deceased fish/animals to Race organizer</p> <p>The banks can be very slippery, smooth rock with algae and moss growing over them are usually extremely slippery and extra care should be taken. Any muddy areas close the river can be very deep, ensure you get in and out on firm ground/banks.</p>	Marshalls assisting get-on	N/A	N/A	

River Conditions	Paddlers	River Aire is reliant upon rain fall, the race will be run in low to moderate river levels. In exceptional weather conditions the river can reach flood conditions. If the level is deemed too High the race course is subject to move or the race cancelled. The race organiser will coordinate with the organiser team and communicate via verbal and social media post (website) to changes or cancellations. The River Aire is a natural river with many natural obstacles, particularly rocks in low water and trees trapped on bridge piers. It is lined with trees and other hazards. Paddlers must familiarise themselves with the race route and participate at their own risk. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing. It is known to have high levels of pollution and hygiene measures are recommended.	Inform paddlers of an specific risks. Known bridges that collect debris to be checked before race on the day. Race briefing to be posted on social media and club website.	Race Organiser	Race Brief	On the day
River traffic (other paddlers)	Paddlers	There will most likely be lots of other paddlers on the river so speaking to all and ensuring we can all work together.	Na	Na	Na	
Over hanging trees/ branches	Paddlers	Over hanging trees are normally only a problem when there is high water. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing or detailed in the briefing notes.	Na	Na	Na	
Capsize	Paddlers	IN ALL CASES THE PADDLER TAKES PRIORITY OVER SAVING BOAT AND/OR EQUIPMENT 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	Reiterate this at the briefing Safety paddlers in plastic boats following the race.	Race organizer	Briefing	On the day

		<p>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>				
Canoe/Kayak & sport equipment failure	Athlete	<p>Athletes to check all personal equipment for safety prior to going on the water.</p> <p>Any item showing damage is not to allowed on the water until it is satisfactorily repaired.</p> <p>All boats must comply with current wwr safety rules.</p>	Spot checks at start.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ill health and or Injury	Paddlers	<p>If you can pull to the side or a 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.</p>	<p>Make paddlers aware of the race First Aider.</p> <p>Sweep boat will be a First Aid qualified paddler.</p>	Race Organiser	Briefing	On the day

Hypothermia	Organiser, volunteers and Paddlers	<p>Appropriate clothing is to be worn at all times</p> <p>Remind everyone of signs and symptoms</p> <p>Close monitoring of individuals throughout the race</p> <p>Remove athletes from the race if required</p>	Na	Na	Na	
Weils Disease	Paddlers	<p>WEIL'S DISEASE 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. 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>	Na	Na	Na	

Cold Water immersion	Coach, Athlete, Volunteer	<p>Athletes to be dressed appropriately for the conditions.</p> <p>Volunteers to be dressed appropriately if there is any chance of having to enter the water.</p>	Visual checks at Start	N/A	N/A	N/A
Collisions	Athlete	<p>Water etiquette to be followed at all times- give way to upstream and always check before you start</p> <p>Paddlers have the correct skill set to avoid other paddlers.</p> <p>Easy access to Personal First Aid Equipment</p>	Mass start organised so faster paddlers set off at front.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Storms, Strong wind, adverse weather, fog	Staff and Athletes Accident/collision	<p>Change to other modality if weather risk is too severe.</p> <p>Athletes know the protocol for lightning storms if out on water. Get to land.</p>	<p>Race organizer to monitor weather.</p> <p>If lightning, wait twenty minutes from last flash.</p>	Race Organiser	Daily	On the day
Emergency	All	<p>Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Make everyone aware at the brief.</p> <p>Mobile phone signal is good in this urban area.</p>	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day

FirstAid	All Participants	Qualified first aiders will be available at the Finish site. Names posted on Finish Board.	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day and on social media
Safeguarding		Safeguarding Officer's name posted on Finish Board.				
Event Safety Officer	All Participants	Wendy Robinson and Iain Russell have Event safety course	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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