

Risk Assessment Template



Date:	29/10/2023
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Assessors Name:	Toby E. Peyton-Jones	Review Date:	08/03/2025
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Description of assessment	Risk assessment for River Dart WWR Race
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Location Details	River Dart, Newbridge, Devon, 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	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.	Na	NA	Na	Na

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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	Before the paddler gets onto the water.	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.	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 and start time allocated. 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.	Ensure paddlers are aware of this at the briefing	Race Organiser	At the race Briefing	On the day
non paddlers & members of the public	Both	The location is a tourist attraction 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	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. There is public foot path on river left of the first 1km of the classic course.	Reminder will be given at the briefing.	All competitors	At the race Briefing	On the Day

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<p>Pontoons/river access points Slippy/steep crowded</p>	<p>Both Slip or trip on unstable surfaces that may change nature in wet conditions</p>	<p>Advice: where appropriate footwear. Wait for clear spaces to get on water Care to be taken in all conditions – including on grass or muddy banks Ensure all potential obstacles are kept out of the way i.e. paddles etc. All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet. Spray decks are highly recommended It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, spectators etc., if on the bank and potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid. Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.</p>	<p>Report all hazards to Race organisers</p>	<p>Race organiser</p>	<p>During warm up and race</p>	
<p>Water Edge</p>	<p>Both Slip/trip/accident</p>	<p>Care to be taken when operating close to the edge Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times Report deceased fish/animals to Race organizer 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>	<p>None</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

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River Conditions	Paddlers	River Dart 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 to 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 Dart is a natural river with many natural obstacles it is lined with trees and other hazards. Even at low water levels these can present a hazard of entrapment around rock or in trees. Paddlers must familiarise themselves with these risks and participate at their own risk. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	Inform paddlers of an specific risks.	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 competitive canoeing unless at risk/danger themselves.	Reiterate this at the briefing	Race organizer	Briefing	On the day

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		<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>	None	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>	Make paddlers aware of the race First Aider	Race Organiser	Briefing	On the day

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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	

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Cold Water immersion	Coach, Athlete, Volunteer	Athletes to be dressed appropriately for the conditions Volunteers to be dressed appropriately if there is any chance of having to enter the water	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Collisions	Athlete	Water etiquette to be followed at all times- give way to upstream and always check before you start Paddlers have the correct skill set to avoid other paddlers. Easy access to Personal First Aid Equipment	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Storms, Strong wind, adverse weather, fog	Staff and Athletes Accident/collision	Change to other modality if weather risk is too severe. Athletes know the protocol for storms if out on water. Get to land.	Race organizer to monitor weather	Race Organiser	Daily	On the day
Emergency	All	Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day

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FirstAid	All Participants	Toby E. Peyton-Jones 07594533157 is the qualified first aider on site for the event.	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day
Event Safety Officer	All Participants	Jamie Christie has completed and BC Event safety course Toby E. Peyton-Jones is due to complete on 19/05/2025 so will also be by the time of the race	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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