

BRITISH CANOEING MARATHON RACING COMMITTEE
DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER ORGANISATION



NATIONAL SCHOOLS 23



National Schools Canoe Championships 2023

Risk Assessment - Sunday 19th November

Venue:

Hawley Lake
3, RSME Regt,
Gibraltar Barracks,
Blackwater,
Camberley
GU17 9LP

Prepared By:

Gareth Scragg - Event Director - Devizes to Westminster Organisation
Holly Mobbs - Marathon Racing Committee

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Risk Assessment

*Canoeing and Kayaking are “Assumed Risk”-“Water Contact Sports” that may carry attendant risks.
Participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Likely-hood	Consequences	Score 3 X 4	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Review comments / Review date
Vehicle traffic accessing the site causing injuring to someone - particularly around minibuses and trailers.	Participants, spectators and public in vehicles or walking near vehicles.	1	5	5	Yes. All drivers of minibuses and trailers are experienced. Team leaders will take responsibility for their students throughout the event.		Review on day if necessary.
Injury caused by collision with competitors carrying boats and kit from car park to access the lake.	Public, participants, marshals and spectators	1	3	3	Yes. All parking will be in easy access of the lake – no through roads to be crossed. Care to be taken crossing the road. Team leaders will take responsibility for their students		Review on day if necessary.

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					throughout the event.		
Injury caused by litter, debris or hazardous items on or near the competitor area or Race Start.	All	1	3	6	Pre Race clean up of site and then inspection by race organisers in the morning of the event. Venue is a closed, private site, apart from car park, so should be relatively clean and tidy.		Review on day if necessary.
Injury caused by collision with competitors whilst running with boats at portages	Participants, marshals and spectators/supporters	1	2	2	Nominated marshal will be positioned at the portage to control the passage of people. The portage area will be sectioned off and will have restricted access.	Nominated marshal will supervise portage area and restrict access to supporters so it does not get too busy. All competitors are advised to exercise care and attention at portage. Support Crew advised to exercise	Review on day if necessary.

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						appropriate caution at portage.	
Competitors being injured by running barefoot at portages	Participants	1	2	2	Debris on the ground and in the water next to the portage will be cleared the day morning of the event. Competitors are encouraged to wear shoes during race briefing. There is qualified First Aiders available to assist if required	All competitors are requested to wear protective footwear.	Review on day if necessary.
Hazards due to weather conditions	Participants, marshals and organisers	2	3	6	The Race Organisers will monitor the weather forecast in the days prior to the race. Prevailing weather conditions make this risk negligible. School Team Leaders have	If the weather is so inclement (thunder / hail etc), the race organisers will make a decision to either postpone or cancel the race.	Review in run up to and on the day.

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					ultimate responsibility for their pupils, and whether or not they consider them competent to participate in racing in prevailing conditions		
Difficulty of paddler being able to access an easy point on the lake edge to get out of the water	Participants and marshals	1	2	2	Yes. Crews are in constant line of site throughout the event. Safety boats will be on the water to support crews to safely self-rescue. The banks around the lake are mostly beaches or shallow so easy to self-rescue on too.	There will be safety boats on the water to help swimmers out of the water. Throw lines will be within the safety boats and all participants will be wearing buoyancy aids and their boats will have buoyancy too.	
Problems caused by poor ability of paddlers/ inexperienced paddlers	Participants	1	2	2	Yes. Pre-race information states that "Team Leaders are responsible for ensuring that	There will be safety boats on the water to help swimmers out of the water. Throw lines will be within the safety	

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					<p>paddlers are properly equipped having taken into account the paddler's health, fitness, capability, the course, the prevailing conditions and other risks associated with this race".</p> <p>Safety boats will be on the water. In addition, all boats will be checked for adequate buoyancy to ensure that every boat competing is in a fit and proper state.</p>	<p>boats and all participants will be wearing buoyancy aids. All paddlers will be in constant line of sight with someone.</p> <p>If race organisers are concerned about the quality of a crew, they do have the ultimate power to stop that crew from returning to the lake for the afternoon session.</p>	
Hazard due to poor fitness or medical condition of paddlers	Participants	1	5	5	Yes. School Team Leaders have ultimate responsibility for their pupils.	Team Leaders of paddlers with pre-existing medical conditions that will make organisers aware. It is the	No one with covid symptoms or who have recently tested positive to covid will attend the

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					Marshals on the course will monitor for any problems with paddlers and take appropriate action	responsibility of team leaders to do this. If race organisers are concerned about the quality of a crew, they do have the ultimate power to stop that crew from returning to the lake for the afternoon session.	event until they have had 2 negative Lateral flow tests.
Paddlers requiring rescue (from capsize etc)	Participants	2	2	4	Yes. There will be safety boats on the water to help swimmers out of the water.	There will be safety boats on the water to assist any swimmers. Also the marshalling team will have appropriate safety equipment.	
Taking care of stragglers who are not in the main racing group	Participants	2	2	4	Yes. All crews will be in constant line of sight to a marshal and safety boat will follow the last boat off the course.	Marshals will be positioned along the route to assist along side the safety boat as required.	

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<p>Risk of hypothermia</p> <p>Risk of heat exhaustion and dehydration</p>	<p>Participants, marshals and spectators</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Yes. If conditions are poor then paddlers will be advised regarding wearing appropriate clothing at the race briefing. Team Leaders and paddlers will be required to have suitable spare clothing. Survival blankets will be available at race control. Prevailing weather conditions make this risk negligible.</p>	<p>First Aiders will be available to assist if required. Marshals will have access to a basic first aid kit which will include a survival bag or blanket. Drinking water points will be available on the site.</p> <p>Competitors have support teams who are able to supply dry, warm clothing, as well as access to warm showers and facilities in Hawley Lake Sail Training Centre</p>	<p>Review on day if necessary</p>
<p>Collisions with other competitors or crafts (sailing boats, swimmers etc)</p>	<p>Participants and public</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Yes. Other river users have been informed about the race. Paddlers will be reminded to be aware of all other</p>		<p>Review on day if necessary</p>

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					users and give them space. Any users of the lake will be encouraged to stay off the racing course.		
Hazard due to aggressive swans	Participants on the water	1	2	2	The course will be checked in advance for any aggressive swans. There is no indication of aggressive swans.	If necessary, participants will be briefed on the hazard and marshals will be placed where swans are	
Overhanging trees	Participants	1	3	3	Yes. Participants will be encouraged to stay clear of any overhanging trees.	If the overhang is deemed dangerous to the participants by the race organisers then either hazard tape will be used to mark the overhang or the race will be cancelled or the course amended.	Review on day if necessary
Pollution (including animal and bird waste/excreta)	Participants and Spectators	1	2	2	Yes. Removable debris at portage areas will be cleared the morning of the	If pollution is deemed to be of such a high state or deemed dangerous	Review on day if necessary

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					<p>race. Lake is constantly monitored for pollution due to its active use as a sailing lake.</p>	<p>by the race organisers then the Event will be cancelled. No such hazards have been identified in pre-race checks.</p> <p>Water and riverbank animal/bird faeces can not realistically be removed. Therefore, all briefings will make public announcements advising people to regularly wash their hands prior to touching their face, any food item, any drink or should they touch any waste, excreta, and/or hazardous items.</p>	
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Provision of Toilets / hygiene	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. Sufficient porto-loos will be available	Toilets will be clean at the start of the day and checked a number of times during the day.	Review on day if necessary
Food poisoning	Participants and spectators	1	3	3	Yes. Food will be prepared in clean and hygienic conditions. Catering is being provided by Sail Training Centre on site.	Food hygiene regulations will be strictly adhered to at all times.	To review with cafe on the day and monitor.
Burns/scalds	Participants, organisers and spectators	1	3	3	Hot food provision is being offered by an on site cafe. Any hot food or drink will be given in appropriate packaging.	Qualified First Aiders will be available to assist if required.	Review on day if necessary
Contact details for emergency response	Participants	1	3	3	Yes. The race organiser will have access to the contact details of the emergency	The Race Organisers will have mobile phones for use if required.	

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					services, and all marshals on route. A telephone list will be prepared prior to race.	Telephone list to be distributed to marshals and officials on day prior to race.	
Access for emergency vehicles	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. There is access to the event area for emergency vehicles. This will be kept clear. Marshalls will be sent to the entrance when emergency services are called to help them navigate access.	The Emergency Services have in the past gained access to this location and are fully aware of the conditions.	
First Aid coverage	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. Marshals will be asked to bring their own personal first aid kits which must contain a survival blanket.	First Aiders will be available to assist if required	
Communication between Marshalls	Participants	1	2	2	Yes. One of the organisers has been designated to co-ordinate all the		Review on day if necessary

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					marshals and to make sure all safety issues are communicated between them. Some key personal are allocated radios to support communication throughout the races.		
Paddler and Participant Protection: (Child and Vulnerable paddler safeguarding)	All on site.	1	5	5	The site is closed and private. Team Leaders are responsible for their students throughout the day. Holly Mobbs, MRC Welfare Officer, will be in attendance on the day to support any safeguarding concerns. She will be pointed out to all at race briefing. British Canoeing Welfare/Safeguardin	Highlight to team leaders in pre-race briefings their responsibility to supervised and account for all of their paddlers (and family members).	

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					g policies and procedures will be followed if or when required.		
Equipment Risks in Race Control (e.g. wires, computer issues etc.)	Paddlers, Spectators, Marshalls and Race Control team	2	2	4	Equipment will only be kept with race control and all wires will be carefully managed throughout the day. Wires will be appropriately laid out and care will be taken when moving around the equipment.	Appropriate hazard tape and wire covers can be used if needed.	To be reviewed and monitored on the day.

LIKELIHOOD - SCORE 1–5 – the more likely it is that the hazard occurs the higher the score

CONSEQUENCES – SCORE 1–5 – the level of harm that will arise – the more harm the greater the score

Multiply the Likelihood score by the Consequences score to assess whether the risk is acceptable and the level of action required to control the risk.

Total Score = 1-6 low risk activity can take place, 8-15 medium risk put extra measures in place for activity to continue, 16-25 high risk activity should not take place as planned.

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