

DCP

Site Specific Risk Assessment: The River Dee (Chainbridge rapid section), Llangollen, Wales

Risk Assessment completed by: James Wingfield/Mark Williams
Date: 18th July 2023

Reviewed and updated by: James Wingfield/Mark Williams 18th July 2023

Race Organiser. Dyffryn Conwy Paddlers

RISK ASSESSMENT

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK

HAZARDS	RISK TO WHOM	RISK AVOIDANCE, ACTIONS AND ADVICE	RATING IF PRECAUTIONS ETC FOLLOWED
PADDLER CONTROL	Paddlers	<p>A briefing will take place before the event in the form of a short meeting or by the issue of briefing notes.</p> <p>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.</p>	L
RACE ORGANISER	Organisation	Dyffryn Conwy Paddlers as part of Canoe Wales either individual or as a member of a Canoe Wales affiliated club: Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance.	L
MEMBERSHIP	Organisation and Paddlers	<p>All competitors are required to be a current member of one of the National Associations (BC,SCA,Canoe Wales,CANI)</p> <p>Or BC Club associate member of a BC affiliated Club</p>	L
COMPETENCE	Paddlers	<p>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.</p> <p>All entrants will complete an online entry form stating competence. For Under 18 paddlers, an adult with "In 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

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.	L
SITE SPECIFIC			
ORGANISATION, PADDLERS, AND SPECTATORS	All	Everyone, especially Juniors are advised to be careful in all car parks and when crossing roads.	L
ORGANISATION, PADDLERS, AND SPECTATORS	All	Take particular care if the footbridge from the top car park is wet and there are fallen leaves. When carrying boats it is advised that athletes double up and carry two boats, taking care when passing other bridge users. Wear appropriate non-slip footwear. Parents will be asked to support juniors. When carrying boats and other equipment over the footbridge everything is to be kept over the footbridge so it can't fall onto anyone below.	L
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).	L
PROTECTED LAND AND PRIVATELY OWNED LAND	Both	The Serpent's tail sprint course has public access along the river left footpath.	L
WATER GETTING IN AND OUT			
GETTING IN AND OUT	Paddlers and spectators	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.	L
MUDDY AND SLIPPERY BANKS	Paddlers and Spectators	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. If the rocks are washing over on the Serpents tail take particular care because of large pot-holes	L

RIVER CONDITIONS		Paddlers	River Dee under normal circumstance is a reasonably safe white water river with few serious hazards for experienced white water paddlers wearing an approved buoyancy aid and helmet. In higher water this changes and the risk over being trapped by overhanging trees increases dramatically, conditions will be monitored on the day and the race may be cancelled in high water conditions. The Dee is a natural river with many natural obstacles it is paddlers responsibility to familiarise themselves with these risks and participate at their own risk. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	M
CONDITIONS WIND,WEATHER ETC.,	E.G.	Paddlers and Spectators	Review on day of race. Option includes course changes or cancellation. NB As this is an event aimed at newcomers to wwr who need to be able to safely paddle down to the get out at the rock slabs above the serpent's tail it is likely that in anything other than low water the above options may be implemented.	L
RIVER TRAFFIC		Paddlers	There may well be other canoeists and rafts on the river, treat other craft with respect at all times even when racing.	L
ENTRAPMENT ON ROCKS/STOPPERS. IMPACT ON MAJOR OBSTACLES		Paddlers and Spectators	Chainbridge rapid is assessed as low risk, paddlers to ensure that they exit river left above the Serpent's Tail rapid. Safety cover will be provided from on the water kayaks and on the bank support. When water levels are changing, dynamic risk assessment will alter the structure of sessions or competitions to control hazards.	M
OVER HANGING BRANCHES ETC	TREES	Paddlers and Spectators	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.	M

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	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
ILL HEALTH INJURY			
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers	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 the 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</p>	L

		<p>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 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>	
FIRST AID	All Participants	Penny Wingfield 07845 128109 is the qualified first aider on site for the event.	
EVENT SAFETY OFFICER	All Participants	Penny Wingfield and Jonathan Davies have completed the BC Event safety course	
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. The nearest hospital is Wrexham Maelor hospital approximately 10 miles/25 mins away.	

