

# GB Wild Water Racing

## Site Specific Risk Assessment: The River Dee, Llangollen, Wales

Risk Assessment completed by: Jamie Christie  
Date: 26th December 2022

Reviewed and updated by: Jamie Christie 18th December 2023

Race Organiser Jamie Christie on behalf of the WWRC

### 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
<b>PADDLER CONTROL</b>	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.	L
<b>RACE ORGANISER</b>	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.	L
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	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	L
<b>COMPETENCE</b>	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.	L
<b>START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING</b>	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	L

		first reporting their withdrawal. Contact details will be held on entry forms if needed.	
<b>SITE SPECIFIC</b>			
<b>NON PADDLERS &amp; MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	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
<b>PROTECTED LAND AND PRIVATELY OWNED LAND</b>	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. The Sprint course has public access along the river left footpath.	L
<b>WATER GETTING IN AND OUT</b>			
<b>GETTING IN AND OUT SLIPWAY</b>	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
<b>MUDDY AND SLIPPERY BANKS</b>	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. Any muddy areas close the river can be very deep, ensure you get in and out on firm ground/banks	L
<b>RIVER CONDITIONS</b>	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 very 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
<b>TOWN FALLS</b>	Paddlers	The race is not longer run over Town Falls due to adverse safety reports. Paddlers are not advised to shoot Town Falls	L
<b>CONDITIONS WIND,WEATHER ETC.,</b>	E.G. Paddlers and Spectators	Review on day of race. Option includes course changes shorter or circular nearer to the start or cancellation	L
<b>BOATS MOORED AND CHAINS/ROPES</b>	Paddlers	N/A	L
<b>RIVER TRAFFIC</b>	Paddlers	There may be some boat traffic on the river especially other canoeists and rafts,	L

		treat other craft with respect at all times even when racing.	
<b>OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES ETC</b>	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
<b>CAPSIZE</b>			
<b>CAPSIZE</b>	Paddlers	<p><b>IN ALL CASES THE PADDLER TAKES PRIORITY OVER SAVING BOAT AND/OR EQUIPMENT</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></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><b>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.</b></p>	L
<b>BOAT SPECIFIC</b>			
<b>SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT</b>		Paddlers are required to ensure their safety clothing and equipment is in accordance with current safety regulations in WWR.	L
<b>CANOE FLOTATION</b>	Paddlers	All boat must comply with the current wwr safety rules	L
<b>ILL HEALTH INJURY</b>			
<b>ILL HEALTH and or INJURY</b>	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 to race first Aider.	L
<b>HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE</b>	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
<b>WEILS DISEASE</b>	Paddlers	<p><b>WEIL'S DISEASE</b></p> <p><b>Weil's Disease is a RARE but very serious illness which is caused by bacteria</b></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"> <li>• Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water</li> <li>• Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster</li> <li>• Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet</li> </ul> <p>Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs &amp; 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>	
<b>FIRST AID</b>	All Participants	Jamie Christie 07736 959396 is the qualified first aider on site for the event.	
<b>EVENT SAFETY OFFICER</b>	All Participants	Ian Tomlinson and Jamie Christie have completed and BC Event safety course	
<b>EMERGENCY</b>			
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	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