

# GB Wild Water Racing

## Site Specific Risk Assessment: Holme Pierrepont White Water course

Risk Assessment completed by: Jamie Christie

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Reviewed and updated by: Jamie Christie 3rd Dec 2024

Event Organiser Jamie Christie on behalf of the WWRC

Event Safety OFFICER Jamie Christie, BC qualified WW Coach and event safety trained, Ian Tomlinson event safety trained.

Additional Coaches, Neil Blackman, Hannah Brown and Nicky Cresser, qualified WW coaches.

First Aider Jamie Christie, Qualified First Aider, qualification approved by BC

Event Safety, by volunteers that have completed a stadium safety and rescue course.

Welfare Officer, Helen Christie

### RISK ASSESSMENT

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK (IF ANY RACE RISK DEEMED HIGH THEN RACE TO BE MOVED OR CANCELLED DUE TO BEING ADVERTISED AS SUITABLE FOR NOVICES)

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 depending on covid restrictions at the time of the race</p> <p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day.</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
EVENT 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.	L
MEMBERSHIP	Organisation and Paddlers	All competitors are required to be a current member of one of the National Associations (BC,SCA,Canoe Wales,CANI)	L

<b>COMPETENCE</b>	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 “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
<b>START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING</b>	Organisation and Paddlers	<p>All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared.</p> <p>Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal.</p> <p>Contact details will be held on entry forms if needed.</p>	L
<b>SITE SPECIFIC</b>			
<b>NON PADDLERS &amp; MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	Both	The location is part of a country park and there are often member of the public on the banks of the course. Paddlers should watch when they move boats around, paddles etc. Also, it is suggested no paddler under 16 should be allowed to move around the centre 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 race course has a public footpath along both banks of the course.	L
<b>WATER GETTING IN AND OUT</b>			
<b>GETTING IN AND OUT SLIPWAY</b>	Paddlers and spectators	<p>All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet.</p> <p>Spray decks are compulsory</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.</p>	L
<b>MUDDY BANKS</b>	Paddlers and Spectators	The banks at HPP are normally very slippery with green algae, take care getting on and out.	L
<b>RIVER CONDITIONS</b>	Paddlers	HPP is an artificial course and the flow can be adjusted, it is also dependant on the natural level of the river. Only under extremely high conditions is the course closed and this is at the discretion of the centre management.	L
<b>CONDITIONS WIND,WEATHER ETC.,</b> E.G.	Paddlers and Spectators	Review on day of Event.	L
<b>BOATS MOORED AND</b>	Paddlers	There will not be other users on the course, however if you warm up and cool	L

CHAINS/ROPES		down on the river Trent there is other river traffic and moored boats. There are a few places where boats are moored with chains, ropes etc., between them or mooring them DO NOT cut over these you can get trapped or pulled under	
RIVER TRAFFIC ON THE TRENT	Paddlers	There may be some boat traffic on the river especially other canoeists, rowers and rafts, treat other craft with respect.	L
OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES ETC	Paddlers and Spectators	No overhanging trees on the course care should be taken went on the river Trent.	L
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 racecourse 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 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 to 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</p>	L

		temperature control needs.	
<b>WEILS DISEASE</b>	Paddlers	<b>WEIL'S DISEASE</b> 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: <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> 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.	L
<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 Tomlison	
<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

<b>IN EVENT OF HIGH WATER ABOVE 2.2m at COLWICH</b>			
<b>Above 2.2m water level at the Colwich Gauge</b>	Introduction	The White water course is normally closed when the water level at Colwich reaches 2.2m. Under certain circumstances the course can still be used with additional safety measures in place.	L
<b>PADDLER CONTROL</b>	Paddlers	A briefing will take place before the event in the form of a short meeting prior to the race start.  The Briefing will inform paddlers of any amendments to the course and any additional safety precautions they need to be aware of the briefing will be detailed  Entrants or person in "loco Parentis" must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the	L

		<p>conditions and distance etc. on the day.</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>	
<b>RACE COURSE</b>	Paddlers	<p>An assessment of the course will be made one the day and the course may be shortened to account for the high river level lower in the course. Paddler will be notified before practice begins.</p> <p>The Finish will be moved upstream far enough to allow for a safe exit point to be used.</p>	
<b>GETTING IN AND OUT SLIPWAY</b>	Paddlers and spectators	<p>All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet.</p> <p>Spray decks are highly Compulsory.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.</p> <p>Exit points will be highlighted and Paddlers will not be able to go beyond a set point.</p>	L
<b>ADDITIONAL SAFETY</b>	Paddlers	<p>Paddlers start at 1 minute intervals so there will only be 1 or 2 paddler on the course at anyone time. WWR rules state the each competitor must stay on the water and wait for 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water.</p> <p>In addition to this we will have 3 National coaches (BC qualified WW coaches on site) We will also have 5 People on site that have completed the BC stadium safety and rescue course.</p> <p>If required we can have additional on the water safety cover (Qualify Coaches) an assessment will be made on the day if this is necessary.</p>	L
<b>PADDLER COMPETENCY</b>	Paddlers	<p>The competition is a National event and selection for the British team, All the paddler have been through a competence assessment which covers there white water skills. We have 35 entries at the moment, all are well know to the organisers and have had a competent assessment completed.</p>	L