

Risk assessment – Gate 7 May Day Canoe Race

Location: Durham to Finchale Abbey	Assessment date: 21 st January 2025	Next review January 2026
Benefits of the activity: Canoeing enables people with a range of experience and ability to enjoy paddling in a competitive atmosphere.		
Those affected:	A: Competitors & helpers	B: Participants, some with disabilities & their carers.
		C: Non-paddling family members, helpers & spectators .

Hazards	Affected	Hazards	Affected
Drowning	A, B	Lifting injuries	A, B, C
Hypothermia/severe cold	A, B, C	Trapped fingers	A, B, C
Sunburn	A, B, C	Injury by moving vehicles/trailers	A, B, C
Falls and slips, embarkation accidents	A, B, C	Weil's disease	A, B
Underwater dangers	A, B	Medical problems	A, B, C
Overhanging trees	A, B		

Hazard (as above)	Explanatory details	Precautions taken to reduce risk	Risk H,M,L
Drowning	Canoe capsize, submersion in cold water, panicking swimmer, possible entrapment.	Buoyancy aids worn at all times by all participants. Adequate and secure canoe buoyancy. Conditions assessed on the day and activity, event adjusted or cancelled if necessary. Briefing re hazards before race if conditions dictate. Briefing re duty of care for others when on the water. Check all boats accounted for at finish.	L
Hypothermia/severe cold	Danger of hypothermia in cold, windy conditions while participating, waiting, supervising or spectating and particularly following immersion.	All to be appropriately clothed. All in vicinity to assist following capsize. Minimize time in water.	M
Sunburn	Sunburn, depending on weather.	Use of sun protection when required depending on sunshine level and probable exposure.	L