

Risk Assessment – Shepperton Wild Water Race: Triple Challenge Weekend 2025

Event: Shepperton Triple Challenge – Wild Water Racing (WWR)

Date: Saturday, 24th – Monday, 26th May 2025

Location: Shepperton Weir, River Thames

Organised by: The Sharks Canoe Club

Assessment Completed by: Grant Underwood

Assessment Date: Monday, 14th April 2025

1. Event Overview

The WWR event includes sprint and classic races on moving water at Shepperton Weir. The course will be clearly marked, with safety personnel stationed both bank-side and on the water throughout all race activity.

2. Key Hazards & Controls

Hazard	Risk	Who is at Risk?	Controls / Mitigations
Fast-moving water at weir	Capsize, entrapment, collision	Paddlers	Safety kayakers and bankside marshals deployed at key locations; clear course briefing
Cold water	Hypothermia	Paddlers	Wetsuits/drysuits encouraged; paddlers to be checked for suitable kit
Obstructions (trees, debris)	Collision, injury	Paddlers	Pre-race river inspection; course inspection by organiser prior to event
Slips/trips on bank	Minor injury	Paddlers, volunteers, spectators	Event area kept clear; access points monitored; signage where needed
Congestion at start/finish	Collision, confusion	Paddlers	Controlled starts, clear spacing instructions, designated finish area
Inexperienced paddlers	Misjudged navigation, panic in water	Paddlers	Safety briefings mandatory; coaches on site; encouragement to self-assess capability
Equipment failure	Loss of control	Paddlers	Paddlers responsible for checking equipment; random checks by officials possible

Weather changes	Reduced visibility, increased risk	Everyone	Forecasts monitored; activities paused or modified as required
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3. Safety Measures

- Fully briefed safety team with radios and throw-lines.
- PaddleUK qualified first aiders on site.
- Emergency access maintained to bankside at key points.
- Competitor briefing before each race.
- Minimum competency required to paddle the course. Event team reserves right to withdraw paddlers.
- Signage and marshals to guide spectators and participants safely.

4. Emergency Plan

- In Water Incident: On-water safety rescues paddler; bankside marshal calls medical if needed.
- Serious Injury: First aid administered, emergency services contacted.
- Evacuation Route: Via main event access route, maintained and unobstructed at all times.