

Risk Assessment: Nene White Water Race

Date:	30/07/2025
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Assessors Name:	Philip Brown	Review Date:	30/07/2026
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: Nene race – 18/10/2025
Organisers and Experience	Kevin Bowerbank – Senior coach at Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club 30 years in the sport at multiple levels and multiple coaching positions Philip Brown – coach at Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club – 10 years experience in paddle sports and Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club
Event Safety Officer	Kevin Bowerbank, - new Safety course booked on 18/9/2025
Safeguarding	Kevin Bowerbank and Philip Brown have completed Paddle UK safeguarding courses that are provided by Paddle UK They both, as well as all coaches at WYCC, have valid CBR checks.

Location Details	The Nene is a grade 2 man-made white water course. It is a sprint race – 1 to 2 minutes in length.
Safety Plan	No safety cover is provided other than the provision details below.
Emergency Plan	In the Event of an Emergency or suspected emergency the organisers should be notified and the emergency services called.
Welfare and Safeguarding Plan	The event adopts the Paddle UK policy for welfare and safeguarding, in the event of a suspected incident the organisers should be notified, and the emergency services will be contacted if required.
Evacuation Plan	Race control will be located at the course. If course evacuation is required paddlers will be asked to leave the course/stop joining the course and move to a safe location as directed.

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Incident reporting	Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Lack of Paddler Competence	Paddlers	<p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating the paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day.</p> <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 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>	Any new competitors to the race are asked to come and speak to the organisers immediately after the briefing	Event Organiser and competitor	At the briefing	
Other water users	Paddlers	The course is only open to individuals that are organising or entering the race and no other water users will be present.				

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Missing Paddler(s)	Paddlers	The Nene White Water course is a short course and can be fully viewed by all individuals and paddlers. It is also unlikely that there will be more than 10 paddlers on the race course at any one time and none will be out of the line of sight.	Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all paddlers are accounted for. Paddlers briefed as to their responsibility to others throughout the event.	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day and at the Briefing	
Injury to Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	First Aiders will be available	Paddlers briefed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not to block footpaths - take care when they move boats and equipment around the site. - boats to be secured in windy weather. 	Event Organiser Paddlers	On the day	
Moving Water	Paddlers Event Safety Team Starter Spectators	All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. Paddlers MUST wear a helmet and recommended to wear a spray deck. Paddlers MUST wear water shoes. It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, spectators etc., if on the bank and prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid. No on the water safety cover is provided at this event, but individuals with throwlines will be placed around the course to	Paddler safety to be discussed at the briefing	Event Organiser	On the day at Briefing	

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		<p>provide rescue assistance as required.</p> <p>Each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water.</p>				
Drowning	Paddlers	All paddlers are required to wear an approved buoyancy aid, each paddler is responsible for ensuring the buoyancy aid is in good condition and suitable for the event.	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Head Injury	Paddlers Organisers	<p>Helmets are mandatory at this event.</p> <p><u>Paddle UK Head Injury Guidance</u> to be followed</p>	First Aider is available	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	<p>All WWR canoes and Kayaks must comply with the current <u>WWR safety rules</u></p> <p>First aiders will have been briefed on Manual Handling</p>	First Aider is available	Event Organiser/First Aider	On the day	
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators		<p>Paddlers & Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks</p> <p>First Aider is available</p>	<p>Event Organiser/First Aider</p> <p>Paddlers & volunteers</p>	On the day	

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<p>Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course</p>	<p>Paddlers Event Team</p>	<p>The river is a man-made course and as is pump fed is consistent in its river flow.</p> <p>Safety officers and trained volunteers will have access to throw lines. Will be placed at obvious places where capsize might be expected – bigger drop.</p> <p>Paddlers will be watched as they complete the course with safety on stand.</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>Event Organiser</p>	<p>On the day at the briefing</p>	
<p>Poor Water Quality</p>	<p>Paddlers Event Team</p>	<p>Water quality is not monitored, and competitors compete at their own risk.</p>	<p>Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water</p>	<p>Event organiser</p>	<p>At the Briefing</p>	
<p>ILL HEALTH and or INJURY</p>	<p>Paddlers Event Team</p>	<p>Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures</p>	<p>First Aider is available Paddlers briefed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report to safety team/organisers or first aid - look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble. 	<p>Event organiser/First Aider Paddlers</p>	<p>On the Day</p>	
<p>Hypothermia / Heat stroke</p>	<p>Paddlers Event Team Spectators</p>	<p>Event Venue is warm and has warm drink and food available to purchase. Also, First Aiders and other volunteers will be available to assist as required.</p>	<p>First Aider is available Paddlers briefed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily 	<p>Event Organiser First Aider</p>		

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			temperature control needs			
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	If there are concerns about potential storms paddlers will be removed from the water as quickly as possible and all will be advised to seek shelter.	Monitoring of lightning in place	Event Organiser	On the day	
High Winds	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Boats and paddlers equipment secured when not in use	Review conditions on the day	Event Organiser	On the day	
Weils disease	Paddlers Event Team	Washing facilities are available in the changing rooms	Paddler and volunteer briefing on hazards and symptoms: Precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - 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 	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day	

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			contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria Paddlers briefed to report any infection to Paddle UK incident reporting			
Safeguarding or Welfare incident	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Paddle UK Safeguarding processes to be followed. Trained Event Safeguarding Officer to manage concerns during the event.	U18 or vulnerable paddlers to be the responsibility of & supervised by parent / coach / club throughout the event	Event Organiser	Monitored during the event	
Equipment Failure (Catastrophic)	Event Team Paddlers	All Competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment is fit for purpose and meets manufacturer specifications				
Equipment Failure (Organisational Risk)	Event Team Paddle UK	Equipment maintained and regularly checked	Back-up manual system available if required			

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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