

Bradford & Bingley Canoe Club Wild Water Race Risk Assessment

Date:	16/05/2026
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Assessors Name:	Ronan O'Connor	Review Date:	12th February 2026
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment:
Organisers and Experience	BBCC on behalf of 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.
Event Safety Officer	Ronan O'Connor
Safeguarding	Wendy Robinson & Jake Sheffield
First Aid	Iain Russell

Location Details	Bradford & Bingley Canoe Club, Wagon Lane, Bingley, BD16 1LT
Safety Plan	Safety cover provided as described 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	If the wider areas need to be evacuated it is presumed this will be co-ordinated by the relevant authorities or emergency services.
Insurance Cover Checks	All competitors will be checked for insurance cover at race entry as either having: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - British Canoeing membership. - Affiliated club British Canoeing membership.
Incident reporting	Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.
Emergency	Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.

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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?
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> <p>Event description clearly describes the severity of course, and the fact that paddlers need to be self-supporting on the river section.</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	<p>The river is open to other rivers users such as fishermen, boats owners and other recreational paddlers,</p> <p>Competitors should be aware of this and treat anyone they interact with politely and assist if</p>			

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		they come across anyone in difficulty.			
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	<p>The race is on a small site and supervised along its length. Paddlers withdrawing from the race are advised to report to Control. Where possible, a bib system will be used and bibs checked in. A missing bib will instigate a search.</p> <p>Paddlers/parents briefed that under 16s are not allowed to be left on their own - a responsible adult needs to be on site with children.</p> <p>Missing children or other vulnerable persons should be reported to control where a search will be instigated or police informed.</p>	<p>Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all expected paddlers are accounted for.</p> <p>Paddlers briefed as to their responsibility to others throughout the event.</p>	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day and at the Briefing
Injury to Non-Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	<p>The race takes place within the grounds of Bradford & Bingley Sports Club so there are likely to be participants of other sports present in the vicinity of the race. 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).</p>	<p>Paddlers briefed:</p> <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

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Moving Water	<p>Paddlers</p> <p>Event Safety Team</p> <p>Starter</p> <p>Spectators</p>	<p>All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Spray Deck are highly recommended.</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>Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.</p> <p>Each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water.</p> <p>Chaperones are allowed to accompany less competent paddlers during the race.</p> <p>Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.</p>	Paddler safety to be discuss at the briefing	Event Organiser	On the day at Briefing
Drowning	Paddlers	<p>All paddlers are required to wear and approved buoyancy aid, each paddler is responsible for ensuring the buoyancy aid is in good condition and suitable for the event.</p> <p>Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.</p>	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day

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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 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>	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day

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		<p>BBCC will provide safety boats where significant hazards exist.</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>			
Head Injury	Paddlers Organisers	All competitors must wear a helmet.	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>Other types of craft such as Sprint/Marathon, slalom, surf ski, sea kayaks and canoes must contain enough buoyancy to prevent them sinking in the event of a capsize.</p> <p>Other craft such as stand-up paddle boards, coracle or dragon boats must contain enough buoyancy to prevent them sinking in the event of a capsize.</p> <p>Volunteers and Safety Team briefed on Manual Handling</p>	First Aider is available	Event Organiser/First Aider	On the day
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	The banks are steep in places. Access and egress points are selected for ease of access. In the event of a capsize, paddles should ensure they get out on firm ground.	First Aider is available	Event Organiser/First Aider Paddlers & volunteers	On the day

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<p>Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course - Trees - Boats - damaged WWC - Throwlines</p>	<p>Paddlers Event Team</p>	<p>In low water the risk is low and most trees and obstacles are above the water, as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.</p>	<p>River conditions are assessed on the day and competitors are advised of any specific risks at the 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. Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures</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>If you can pull to the side or 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 the race first Aider.</p>		<p>Event organiser/First Aider Paddlers</p>	<p>On the Day</p>

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Hypothermia / Heat Stroke	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Given that this is a 250m sprint, there is little likelihood of this. Wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs.	First Aider is available	Event Organiser First Aider	
High water levels	Paddlers Event Team	The River Aire is a natural river lined with trees and other hazards. At low water this present little risk, however the river can rise rapidly in wet weather and as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing. We often recommend younger participants are escorted, we can sometimes help and provide escorts down the course.	Review water levels and weather conditions in the days running up to the event to prepare additional mitigations if required. E.g. live gauges upstream will be monitored https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/8056	Event Organiser	On the day
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	If there are concerns about potential storms. Lightning will be tracked using a site such www.lightningmaps.org . If lightning is within 10km of the event, racing will immediately stop, 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

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Weil's Disease	Paddlers Event Team	<p>Washing Facilities are available in the pub toilets.</p> <p>WEIL'S DISEASE</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Paddler and volunteer briefing on hazards and symptoms:</p> <p>Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow-moving water - Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster - Use footwear 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 contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria <p>Paddlers briefed to report any infection to Paddle UK incident reporting</p>	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day
Safeguarding or Welfare incident	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	<p>Paddle UK Safeguarding processes to be followed</p> <p>Trained Event Safeguarding Officer to manage concerns during the event.</p>	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	,		

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		Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed			
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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