

# Risk and Event Management Plan for Pinkston WWR sprint 29 March 2026

## Introduction

This is a GB regional and Scottish ranking race.

The event will be run in accordance with WWR rules which cover many considerations, such as type of safety equipment to be worn, required standard of equipment, competitors' responsibility for safety and assisting other competitors in difficulty. Failure of competitors to follow the rules will lead to disqualification in accordance with the rules.

Pinkston watersports centre consists of a 100m x 10m white water channel, which empties into a large, shallow basin where the flow circulates around to the pump inlet. The eddy formed by the flow occupies approx. one-third of the length of the basin, beyond this is essentially static water for the remaining 2/3 of the length, which is split into 2 canoe polo pitches with permanent goals suspended well above the water serving as reference to delineate the basin into sections. The water is enclosed within the course and basin, is continuously filtered and has been certified as bathing quality. Three floating pontoons on the centre side of the basin give access to the water for boats and swimmers, there is an extra shallow area opposite the pump inlet with a set of fixed steps to allow swimmers from the whitewater course to egress before recirculating to the pump inlet.

This document outlines the risks that have been identified, the likelihood of those risks, how the risks can be managed, and where relevant, who will be responsible for managing each risk.

## Abbreviations

wwr = wild water racing

WW = White Water, example; WW course refers to the channel that forms the rapids.

BA = Buoyancy Aid

ESO = External Site Operator

N/A = Not Applicable, example; some risk managements strategies do not require corresponding control measures.

## Document History

Revision	Description	Written by	Date	Circulation
0	Preliminary	Fraser Gormal	27/01/202 6	

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## Risk Assessment

Responsible Club: Pinkston Panthers and SCA WWR committee  
 Club Address: Pinkston Watersports Centre,  
 75 North Canal Bank Street,  
 Glasgow,  
 G14 9XP  
 Event: WWR sprint  
 Location: Pinkston Watersports Centre,  
 75 North Canal Bank Street,  
 Glasgow,  
 G14 9XP  
 Date of Assessment: 27/01/2026

### Water Specific Hazards

Identified Hazard	Who is at risk?	Risk Management Strategy	Control measures
Capsize	Competitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors must be wearing buoyancy aid and helmet as stipulated in wwr rules</li> <li>Competitors will be practiced in self rescue (rolling), or wet exit techniques</li> <li>Swimmers will normally exit the course into the basin where the flow will naturally take them to a shallow area by egress steps. Depth is suitable for rescuers to wade to assist if needed.</li> <li>In accordance with wwr rules the previous 2 boats will be waiting beyond the finish line to render assistance to swimmers in the basin and ensure they get to the steps.</li> <li>There will be a bank based safety volunteer positioned on the island with a throwline and reaching aids able to provide early assistance to help clear capsized competitors and equipment from the course to minimize delays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot checks may be made if it is not obvious that the correct equipment is being used. Non-compliance will lead to loss of entry in accordance with wwr rules.</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>In accordance with wwr rules the finisher will report any competitor not taking their turn to race control. The jury will determine whether or not to disqualify the competitors run using wwr rules for guidance.</li> <li>Safety volunteers will be dressed to be able to enter the water if necessary. With 1 or 2 pumps running the water is shallow enough for safety volunteers to safely wade in the eddies to render assistance. Centre rules for use of throwlines will be enforced, these constitute a separate hazard which is listed below.</li> </ul>

Falling in to whitewater course	Competitors, Spectators, Coaches, Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mesh barrier is in place along the pathway around the outside of the course creating a water side lane and a spectator lane. Buoyancy aids (or lifejackets) must be worn by anyone using the water side lane.</li> <li>• Only officials will be permitted onto the island. Buoyancy aids (or lifejackets) must be worn by anyone using the island</li> <li>• Persons who have fallen in to the WW course will be dealt with as for capsized competitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone found in the water side lane not wearing a buoyancy aid will be asked to move to the spectator lane. Judging positions will be in the water side lane, effectively restricting access for others. Judges will be asked to enforce the rule when practicable. Centre staff will be on site and may be checking.</li> <li>• Officials on the island will enforce the rule</li> <li>• See capsized.</li> </ul>
Falling in to the canal	Competitors, Spectators, Coaches, Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The canal around the periphery of the site is up to about 1.5m deep with steep banks (mostly walls).</li> <li>• There is a fence between the WW course and the canal, the access gate will be closed and competitors instructed to use the basin for warming up, not the canal. Accessing the gate would mean carrying boats through spectator area which will not be permitted.</li> <li>• The car park is also fenced off from the canal.</li> <li>• On the far side of the basin, and on top of the barrier that separates the canal from the basin, there is no fence so a possible risk exists. There is no need for anyone apart from officials to access these areas at any time during the event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If someone does end up in the canal, there is a shallow area with wooden platform for launching WWR and Sprint boats to the north of the gate – this is the primary egress point.</li> <li>• Warm up arrangements to be included in event info sheet.</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• Officials who may need to access these areas will be informed of requirement to wear buoyancy aid (or lifejacket) if going within 1.5m of the waters' edge, and informed where to swim to for the egress point.</li> </ul>
Falling in to the basin	Competitors, Spectators, Coaches, Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is where spectators are most likely to fall in, but rescue is also easiest.</li> <li>• Competitors on safety duty can be sent to assist any swimmer in the moving water, or polo pitch 2 areas of the basin.</li> <li>• Competitors warming up, or those on safety duty, will assist any swimmer in polo pitch 1 area of the basin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each of the 3 pontoons adjacent to the decking has a swimming pool type ladder for swimmers to exit the water.</li> <li>• As noted above under capsized</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

Entrapment	Competitors, Swimmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the event of an entrapment occurring, whether in a boat or out of one, Race control will instruct whoever is closest to activate the emergency stop for the pumps, after which the course will drain within a couple of minutes. The starter is likely to be the closest official to the emergency stop, but may tell a waiting competitor to press it if that would be more expedient.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety officer to confirm that the block has been removed before pumps turned on for practice.</li> <li>All race volunteers will be made aware of how to activate the emergency stop during briefing. If the entrapment occurs in such a way that the person's head remains below water level, the safety volunteer will enter the water to provide assistance and if necessary hold their head up as the water drains.</li> </ul>
Pump Inlet	Competitors, Spectators, Coaches, Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a risk to swimmers who do not get out at the steps, and for anyone attempting to recover a boat or equipment recirculating in the eddy, or stuck against the inlet grate who falls in as a result.</li> <li>The suction against the grate is powerful enough to be alarming, but it is impossible for a person to be drawn into the pumps.</li> <li>There is a guardrail above the inlet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The competitors on safety duty should act as early as possible to make sure swimmers are towed/pushed to the steps.</li> <li>Use grating bars to move along to the west end where the eddy flow will take you away from the inlet. Others on the bank will assist, if assistance is ineffective they can call for an emergency stop of the pumps.</li> </ul>
Throwlines	Pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a throwline is drawn into a pump it will quickly seize the pump and lead to expensive damage to the pump.</li> <li>Centre rules specify that throwlines or slings must never be carried in boats when using the centre. Throwlines may be only used by bank based safety personal who are competent in their use.</li> <li>In the event that a safety volunteer is forced to let a throwline go, that volunteer must call for an emergency stop of the pumps immediately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> <li>To be included in event info sheet</li> <li>Safety volunteers will be briefed to use reaching aids in preference to throwlines whenever possible, and to call for emergency stop if a throwline is let go.</li> </ul>

Sudden Flooding	Competitors, Spectators, Coaches, Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the extremely unlikely event that there is a course failure e.g. side gate failure the organizers will make every effort to stop the pumps and the incident will be dealt with as required calling the emergency services as required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone descending into the short course to access the island must be wearing a buoyancy aid to access the island anyway</li> </ul>
Waterborne Infection	Competitors, Swimmers, Safety Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The water is captive within the basin and WW course and continually filtered to maintain bathing quality. There is therefore a very low risk of waterborne infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing rooms and toilets have hand washing facilities</li> </ul>

## General hazards

Identified Hazard	Who is at risk?	Risk Management Strategy	Control measures
Trip or Fall	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is laid out in a manner that minimizes trip hazards.</li> <li>• Boats and paddles left on shore when not in use are the main trip hazard. Boats are to be stored neatly on the decking leaving sufficient access at waterfront and to containers (access may be required during event). No boats to be stored around control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any remaining trip hazards to be marked</li> <li>• Boat storage area will be defined and communicated in event info. The centre have offered the use of mesh fencing which could be used to create a boat park, otherwise the lines of posts and columns, possibly supplemented with cones should be adequate in conjunction with signage. Race control will generally enforce correct storage.</li> <li>• Island access restricted to officials who will be made aware of the wiring</li> </ul>
Injury or Illness	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first aiders will be available on site during the event.</li> <li>• First aiders will determine if further medical assistance is required and communicate with race control who will request centre staff to call the emergency services.</li> <li>• There is no anticipated issue with access to any part of the site for the Scottish Ambulance Service in the event that anyone needs to be transferred for care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• control will nominate first aiders</li> <li>• Centre staff to be point of contact for emergency services and will use the centre procedures.</li> <li>• Nearest Hospital is Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 84 Castle Street, G4 0SF – approx. 5 minutes from site.</li> </ul>

Parking and traffic	Competitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking on site for events is limited.</li> <li>• Race officials and disabled visitors/competitors will be permitted to park to the west of the entrance. We will endeavor to make space to park competitors trailers on site if required.</li> <li>• The adjacent streets are in an industrial zone with 30mph limit and are quiet at the weekends posing no more hazard than a quiet residential street. Parking restrictions on adjacent streets are enforced by the parking enforcement officers and police.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If in doubt, or the car park is full, officials will need to park off-site the same as competitors. Disabled bays will not be used for officials parking.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Catering	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers providing catering have been confirmed as aware of their responsibilities in respect of food handling and the risks of food allergies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event of any emergencies of this nature occurring catering will advise centre staff who will contact emergency services as above.</li> </ul>
Site specific hazards	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no special hazards identified that are particularly associated with this site. There are no reports of any significant issues on the site since the commencement of its operation as a whitewater sports site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk management has been discussed with the site management and there are not any known issues that are not covered herein. The site operator provides a member of staff to assist in site management throughout the duration of the race.</li> </ul>
Unaccompanied Minors	Under 18 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All entrants are expected to be supervised by their own parents, guardians or coaches during the race period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A welfare officer has been appointed</li> </ul>

## **Cancellation**

In the unlikely event that there is a need to cancel the event the decision to cancel will rest with the race organiser or in their absence the race controller.

The SCA WWR committee have identified adequate funds in addition to race entry fees to deal with all financial liabilities likely to accompany race cancellation. In the event of unanticipated costs application may be considered to the SCA wwr committee for their further support.

In the event of a late cancellation of the event all entrants who have provided a valid email address will be contacted.

## **Communication**

### **Before the event**

Prior to the event communication is done primarily through the social media channels and e-mail mail shots.

Race timetables and the information document make it clear when official race time and practice times are, including free practice times.

Mobile phone coverage across the site is good and there is landline facility and wireless internet access on the site.

### **During the event**

A PA system may be available for race control to keep competitors, spectators and officials updated with respect to event timings, emerging safety issues and any other announcements as required. An example would be an announcement to clear boats from an access route, or to advise if the event is running ahead or behind the times on the latest start list.

## Roles and responsibilities

Role	Lead Person	Assistants	Responsibilities
Event Organizer	Freya Pryce		Overall responsibility for the event
Event Safety Officer	Morna Campbell		Event planning and risk assessment. Monitor that the event runs according to the plan and update as required.
Race Controller	tbc		Administration of race from control
Timing	SCA WWR committee		Set up timing and communication equipment before the event and run during the event. Troubleshooting if and when required during event.
Safety Crew	Tbc??		Island based bank safety for the WW course. Once a paddler/swimmer flushes into the basin competitors on safety duty are responsible for assisting.
Jury Chair	Tbc??		Jury responsibilities as defined in UKSR
Starter	tbc		Starting competitors at correct intervals, record & report start times to control
Finisher	tbc		Record & report finish times to control, ensure each competitor remains on safety duty until 2 more boats have finished. (Latter responsibility may be passed to pre-start)
Pre-Starter	tbc		Call competitors off the warm up pool to wait immediately adjacent to start and assist in holding boats at the get in/start
Results	SCA WWR committee		
External Site Operator (ESO)	Morna Campbell		Site rules require a trained ESO to be present during private hire periods. Most of the normal ESO responsibilities are dealt with by others in the context of a slalom event, mainly leaving switching on and off the pumps. Site staff will also be on hand should there be any development that an ESO cannot deal with.
First Aiders	tbc		Treat minor injuries, hypothermia, heatstroke, stabilize major injuries/maladies until emergency services arrive
Welfare Officer	Morna Campbell		Ensure wellbeing of minors at the event in accordance with British Canoeing policy.

In the event of any nominated person (including event organizer, event safety officer and race controller) not being able to attend for unforeseen reasons, there are multiple other people listed that, with reference to this document, could step in and cover the role on the day. The permutations are too many to list and it is suggested that the remaining people meet on the morning of the race and re-assign roles appropriately.

Volunteers can be trained in most of the race related tasks on the day releasing nominated persons to cover the more complex roles if required.