

# Risk Assessment

<b>Date:</b>	25/02/2026
<b>Produced by:</b>	Neil Blackman
<b>Assessors Name:</b>	Reviewed by Neil Blackman for pre-event documentation requirements only
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	<b>15/07/2026</b>
<b>Description of Assessment:</b>	Risk Assessment for WWR J & U23 European championships, River Tay. 12 – 15 Aug 26
<b>Location Details:</b>	Aberfeldy (Beadlebain canoe club site) to below forth falls, Grandtully

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
Collision with vehicles/traffic at race start and finish car parks, and road crossing points.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Marshals present in car parks. 5mph speed limit in carparks Traffic management plan to include traffic light operated and manual Road crossing points in Grandtully village. Manned by marshals. 20mph speed limit extended to the eastern section of road approaching Grandtully village. Road side warning signs positioned on approaches to village and crossing points. Speed limit of 5 mph in the carpark at Grandtully Station Campsite.	NA	Paddle Scotland to produced briefing document for pre-event comms and pre-event Team managers meeting  Paddle Scotland to develop final traffic management plan in conjunction with local highways department	Team managers briefed verbally at team managers meeting prior to event.	

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		<p>Participant pedestrian route at Grandtully separated from traffic flow route.</p> <p>Team managers briefed via documentation sent through official event comms channels prior to event.</p> <p>Team managers briefed verbally at team managers meeting prior to event</p>				
Risk of Tick bites due to being amongst vegetation alongside the river or at the campsite with the risk of contracting Lymes Disease	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	<p>Paddle Scotland to publish advice on the risk of Ticks and direct them to the NHS Advice on <a href="#">Tick Bites</a>.</p> <p>Team managers briefed verbally at team managers meeting prior to event.</p>	NA	Paddle Scotland / Event team	Prior to event During event	
Contracting Weil's Disease from river water or river bank areas.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	<p>The risk is low on the upper Tay. Paddle Scotland to publish advice on the risk of Weils disease and direct them to the NHS Advice on <a href="#">Weil's Disease</a>.</p> <p>Team managers briefed verbally at team managers meeting prior to event.</p>	NA	Paddle Scotland / Event team	Prior to event During event	

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<p>Slips, trips, falls on rocks/loose/slippery ground, in and around riverbanks, spectator and competitor areas.</p> <p>Spectators inadvertently entering the water</p>	<p>Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public</p>	<p>Event stewards, marshals and safety staff are first aid trained and will have access to first aid kits.</p> <p>Warning signs placed and main pedestrian traffic access points.</p> <p>Water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course. Multiple teams at the larger spectator areas at Grandtully rapid..</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p> <p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each other, via radios and back up mobile phones.</p> <p>Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland to produced signage</p>	<p>Prior to the event to enable siting</p>	
<p>Environmental conditions</p>	<p>Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public</p>	<p>Weather forecasts will be monitored during the event. Any forecast weather extremes will be communicated to national team managers and event staff via dedicated event comms channels. The public may be advised via public address system where in place.</p> <p>Lightning, the event will be paused</p>	<p>Comms sent to Team Managers and event staff in the event of lightning affecting event.</p> <p>Lightning - Competitors and water-based safety teams will be removed from the water.</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland / Event team</p>	<p>Prior to event During event</p>	

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		<p>and follow the 30/30 rule apply.</p> <p>Heat – advise given to event staff to cover up, sun screen, drinking more water.</p> <p>Cold - advise given to event staff regarding likely temperatures and to wear suitable clothing/footwear Event staff advised of warm areas and</p> <p>Rain / hail - advise given to event staff to wear suitable clothing/footwear. Event staff advised of sheltered areas. .</p>	<p>Event staff will be briefed on actions to be taken.</p> <p>Heat – Additional water dispatched to water-based safety teams and event stewards/marshals. Event staff to be advised of sheltered areas if outdoors, or shelters provided.</p> <p>Cold - shift rotations reduced for outside staff if required.</p> <p>Rain - Team managers advised on likely rise in river levels. Safety teams numbers and locations to be reviewed in the event of extreme high-water forecast. Event postponed if extreme higher water levels deemed unsafe. The race course maybe altered to mitigate the risk of injury/drowning/provisio n of adequate safety cover. (Maybe a river gauge reading needs to added</p>			
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			here for clarity on what is deemed unsafe high water, TBA by Paddle Scotland/local knowledge)			
<p>Capsize, entrapment, injuries following contact with river bed, bank, trees or other obstacles, drowning</p>	<p>Race participants water-based coaches, race staff, spectators</p>	<p>Approved PFD to be worn by all competitors, water based coaches and water/bank safety teams. Air bags fitted to competitors boats, when training and racing.</p> <p>All competitors will have undergone an equipment inspection before the race to ensure the boat is equipped with airbags and are wearing CE marked PDF and Helmet</p> <p>Team managers responsible for enforcing safety rules when teams are training. (ICF WWR safety rules apply to all competitions)</p> <p>Competitors are higher competence due to nature of event and experienced in self rescue.</p> <p>All competitors must stop and render assistance to other competitors in the case of capsize. Competitors must stop and help if ordered to do so by safety teams. . (ICF WWR safety rules apply to all competitions)</p> <p>Water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course. Locations</p>	<p>If during the event the water safety team are compromised due to dealing with and incident and/or multiple capsizes a temporary suspension of starting new racers will be communicated to the starters from the safety team via either radio or mobile phone.</p> <p>Team managers and safety teams will be advised of any additional hazards identified during the event or following a daily river inspection. They will be assessed and either removed, an adjustment made to the course or further safety measures implemented.</p> <p>The river levels will be monitored during the the event and a decision will be made on whether</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland / Event team. Safety Teams</p>	<p>Prior to event</p> <p>During event</p>	

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		<p>identified as potential capsize, entrapment or known river hazards.</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p> <p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each other, via radios and back up mobile phones. Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p> <p>Daily river safety inspections will take place during the competition period to ensure the course is safe for competition that day.</p>	<p>there needs to be any postponement or alteration to the race course.</p>			
Head Injury	Race participants water-based coaches, race staff, spectators	<p>Competitors and water-based staff must wear approved crash helmet. Safety equipment to be checked prior to competition for competitors.</p> <p>Water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course in case of collision injury. Locations identified as potential capsize, entrapment or known river hazards.</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p>	NA	Paddle Scotland / Event team. Safety Teams		

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		<p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each other, via radios and back up mobile phones. Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p>				
<p>Capsize and swim between pre start and race start.</p> <p>(This is very unlikely)</p>	<p>Race participants, water-based team staff.</p>	<p>Start team will have throw line available.</p> <p>Competitors are higher competence due to nature of event and experienced in self rescue.</p> <p>All competitors will wear a CE approved and marked PDF and their boat is equipped with airbags.</p> <p>All competitors must stop and render assistance to other competitors in the case of capsize. Competitors must stop and help if ordered to do so by a race official. . (ICF WWR safety rules apply to all competitions)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Start team</p> <p>Race participants, water-based team staff.</p>	<p>Prior to event</p> <p>During event period</p>	

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<p>Collision with other river users including participants</p>		<p>There is a good line of sight available throughout the entire race course.</p> <p>During training Team managers will be advised regarding etiquette/agreements when passing fisherman / rafts / other river users etc.</p> <p>During the event, the race is run in a time trial format. Competitors are set off at timed intervals in order to space them out along the river. Collision between competitors is very unlikely.</p> <p>Water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course in case of collision injury. Locations identified as potential capsize, entrapment or known river hazards.</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p> <p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each other, via radios and back up mobile phones. Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p>	<p>The Event team will liaise with and inform other river user groups (fishing groups, rafting companies, other commercial groups etc) that the event is taking place to minimise overlap and disruption with other river users.</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland</p>	<p>Prior to the event</p> <p>During the event</p>	
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<p>Injury or medical emergency (Competitors/ coaches on the water)</p>	<p>Race participants, water-based team staff.</p>	<p>For the duration of the competition period a water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course. Locations identified as potential capsize or known river points.</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p> <p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each other, via radios and back up mobile phones. Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p> <p>First aid trained stewards and marshals will be present in off water areas of the event.</p> <p>A larger first aid kit and treatment area will be available at the Race HQ buildings at Grandtully campsite</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland</p>	<p>Prior to the event</p> <p>During the event</p>	
<p>Injury or medical emergency (Land based race staff, supporters, members of the public)</p>	<p>Land based race staff, supporters, members of the public.</p>	<p>For the duration of the competition period a water and bank-based safety teams will be in various locations along the race course. Locations identified as potential capsize or known river points.</p> <p>First kits will be available at each location.</p> <p>The safety team will be in contact with race HQ, start finish and each</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Paddle Scotland</p>	<p>Prior to the event</p> <p>During the event</p>	

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		<p>other, via radios and back up mobile phones. Each location has the means to call emergency services.</p> <p>Location and emergency services access details will be carried by safety team.</p> <p>First aid trained stewards and marshals will be present in off water areas of the event.</p> <p>A larger first aid kit and treatment area will be available at the Race HQ buildings at Grandtully campsite</p>				
Poor water quality		<p>Competitors are generally aware of the health issues associated with competing on water, and that poor water quality can exist.</p> <p>Event team will maintain a watch of any known sewage discharge points or pollution alerts during the event period.</p> <p>Team managers informed of any know water quality hazards via official comms channels.</p>	If a high level pollution hazard is observed/advised, the event will be stopped/postponed or course amended.	Paddle Scotland Event Team	Prior to the event During the event	
Lost / missing persons	Competitors, Team Staff, event staff, supporters.	Clearly marked Lost Child / Person Point. (This will be located at the campsite buildings, Race HQ)				

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		<p>Identified safeguarding point and lead within event team</p> <p>Stewards and event staff to wear high-visibility identification.</p> <p>An event missing persons process has been developed. This will be followed by the event staff should a person be reported missing.</p> <p>Stewards / marshals briefed</p>				
Safeguarding	Competitors, Team Staff, event staff, supporters	<p>A trained safeguarding lead will be appointed for the duration of the event. They will be a member of the event team. The Safeguarding Officer will manage any incident.</p> <p>Paddle Scotland Safeguarding processes to be followed</p>	U18 or vulnerable paddlers to be the responsibility of & supervised by parent / coach / club throughout the event	Paddle Scotland Event team	During the event	

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

<b>Checked by:</b>	<b>Neil Blackman</b>	<b>Position:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<b>25/02/26</b>
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# Risk Assessment

**Notes:**

**This Risk Assessment will be reviewed four weeks before the event based on the conditions at the time and long range forecast.**