

Risk Assessment



Date:	12 th June 2026
-------	----------------------------

Assessors Name:	Toby Peyton-Jones	Review Date:	Original
-----------------	-------------------	--------------	----------

Description of assessment	Risk assessment for River Dart WWR Race
Organisers and Experience	The event is organised by the WWR Committee. The lead organiser on behalf of the WWRC is Toby Peyton-Jones. Toby Peyton-Jones is an aspiring WWR Coach with 10 years of paddling experience and 3 years' experience running canoeing competitions.
Event Safety Officer(s)	Toby Peyton-Jones, last event Safety course completed May 2025.
First Aider	Toby Peyton-Jones, level 3 first aid outdoor level valid until 14/01/2028
Safeguarding	Toby Peyton-Jones has completed the Safeguarding & Protecting Children recognised by Paddle UK completed on the Nov 2023

Location Details	Start: Newbridge, Riv Dart, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NT (///ghosts.limped.fells) Finish: Holne Bridge, Unnamed Road, Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NR (///clutches.count.remodels) The Dart National Classic is a wild water paddle sport race over approximately 4.8km. Starting just below Newbridge and following the river along the course of the dart loop down to Holne bridge. The Dart National Sprint is approximately 350 meters, starting above triple drop in the middle of the loop and finishing at the bottom of triple drop. There is parking and public access to the site, with footpaths running the length of the course. The course will be closed to other paddlers during competition.
Safety Plan	There is no official safety on the course. It is however a requirement in the WWR racing rules that at least 2 racers remain at the finish until the next paddler completes the course. The nominated first aider is Toby Peyton-Jones
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.
Incident reporting	Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.

Risk Assessment

What are the hazards?	Who will this affect 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 Event Staff - Lack of competency may lead to the paddler swimming on the course and injuring themselves and or others	All entrants will declare that “they aware of the risks involved in the sport. they understand that they are responsible for there personal safety and declare that they are competent to paddle in this race”. Competencies are also checked with national coaches and the event safety officers in the lead up and on the day. Both national/senior coaches, event safety officer and the event organiser hold the right to remove the paddler from the race if they feel the paddler lacks the competency to the complete the course in its current condition. 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. This will also be reviewed by the event safety officers, the event safety officers reserves the right to remove the athlete from the race if they deem the athlete to not be competent to complete the course safely.	Any new competitors to the race are asked to come and speak to the organisers immediately after the briefing A briefing will take place to make paddlers aware of any hazards that they need to be aware of.	Race Organiser	Race Briefing	On the day
----------------------------	---	--	--	----------------	---------------	------------

Risk Assessment

		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. Event description clearly describes the severity of course, and the fact that paddlers need to be self-supporting on the river section.				
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers - Missing paddlers may increase drowning risk and increase the likelihood of injury's worsening.	All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared. Start list is organised as per the current rolling ranking system so those without a ranking start before more experience paddles who have a ranking and competed in other races. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal. As per WWR rules, each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water. The final 2 competitors must wait until the finisher tells them they can get off the water. Appropriate access to individual participants' Medical & Emergency Contact information. In the event that someone is declared missing follow the <u>Missing Persons Protocol</u>.	Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all expected paddlers are accounted for. Paddlers briefed as to their responsibility to others throughout the event. Paddlers/parents briefed on recommendation that no paddler under 16 should be allowed to move around the Venue for any reason e.g. taking canoes to the river, going to the toilets etc., on their own (nor be left on their own).	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	At the race Briefing	On the day

Risk Assessment

Injury to Non-Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	First Aider is available	Paddlers briefed: - not to block footpaths - take care when they move boats and equipment around the site. - boats to be secured in windy weather. Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Event Organiser Paddlers	On the day	On the day
Lack of emergency access to the bank	Paddlers Public Event Team Spectators - this may affect paddlers due to the inability of exiting the water and cause delayed emergency evacuation.	Much of the classic race course is through private land and should only be used in the case of emergency. Areas of private property which must be respected by all. There is public foot path on river left of the first 1km of the classic course. In the event of an emergency persons must contact the event organiser failing this contact the emergency services.	Reminder will be given at the briefing.	All competitors	At the race Briefing	On the Day

Risk Assessment

River access points	Paddlers Public Event Team Spectators - Slip or trip on unstable surfaces that may change nature in wet conditions.	Advice: where appropriate footwear. Wait for clear spaces to get on water Care to be taken in all conditions – including on grass or muddy banks Ensure all potential obstacles are kept out of the way i.e. paddles etc. All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet. Spray decks are mandatory. Parents, spectators etc., if on the bank and potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid. Race Officials are required to always wear a buoyancy aid. Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.	Report all hazards to Race organisers	Race organiser	During warm up and race	
---------------------	---	--	---------------------------------------	----------------	-------------------------	--

Risk Assessment

River Conditions Paddlers	- River conditions may affect paddler in a number of ways. Poor water conditions could cause illness. Changing river levels could increase the chances of collision in high flows or capsizing.	River Dart is reliant upon rain fall, the race will be run in low to moderate river levels (between ~ 0.55m and ~ 1.5m as measured from the Dunnabridge gauge on Riverlevels.uk). In exceptional weather conditions the river can reach flood conditions. If the level is deemed to High (+2m) the race course is subject to move or the race cancelled. The race organiser will coordinate with the organiser team and communicate via verbal and social media post (website) to changes or cancellations. The river Dart is a natural river with many natural obstacles it is lined with trees and other hazards. Even at low water levels these can present a hazard of entrapment around rock or in trees. Paddlers must familiarise themselves with these risks and participate at their own risk. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	Inform paddlers of an specific risks.	Race Organiser	Race Brief	On the day
Other water users	Paddlers - Other water users could cause congestion which may increase the chances of a collision.	The river is open to other rivers users such as fishermen and other recreational paddlers. Competitors should be aware of this and treat anyone they interact with politely and assist if they come across anyone in difficulty. The event will be communicated to other paddlers via social media so ensure everyone can work together.	Paddlers to be made aware during briefing and event literature	Organiser	Before start	
Entrapment in Over hanging trees/ branches	Paddlers - Entrapment may cause drowning, crush injury's or delayed rescue attempts.	The river is a natural water course which is lined by trees, bushes and other plants, under normal river conditions these pose little risk. As the river level increases, and the flow increases, and the risk of a paddler or swimmer being inadvertently pushed into a tree or bush and becoming entrapped increases.	River conditions are assessed on the day and competitors are advised of any specific risks at the briefing. If necessary an alternative race course will be used. Course recce and course walk completed prior to event to identify additional risks. Paddlers briefed:	Event Organiser	Race Briefing	

Risk Assessment

		Paddlers are able to exit their boat easily where straps are used (C1&C2) Paddlesafer guidance will be followed Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	- DO NOT cut over chains or ropes from moored boats - Take care to avoid overhanging trees on the river The bank-side team will be on hand to help anyone out of the water on the WWC.			
Capsize out of sight	Paddlers Capsizing out of sight may increase the chances of a paddler drowning or increased the time of a rescue if a paddler sustained injuries..	IN ALL CASES THE PADDLER TAKES PRIORITY OVER SAVING BOAT AND/OR EQUIPMENT 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.	Reiterate this at the briefing	Race organizer	Briefing	On the day

		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 in 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. In the event of a boat being lost downstream then the race organiser should notify emergency services to prevent any unnecessary searches being started.				
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Risk Assessment

Canoe/Kayak & sport equipment failure	Athlete - Equipment failure may increase the chances of paddlers losing control of the boats and therefore capsizing.	Athletes to check all personal equipment for safety prior to going on the water. Any item showing damage is not to be allowed on the water until it is satisfactorily repaired. All boats must comply with current water safety rules. All event equipment checked and maintained to manufacturer specifications Paddlers (or parents/guardians in the case of under 18s) responsible for ensuring personal equipment is compliant with safety rules.	.None	N/A	N/A	N/A
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers Event Team - This may affect paddlers' control and therefore increase the chances of capsizing and further injury.	Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Paddlers briefed - pull to a safe area if possible and rest on the bank - Report to safety team/organisers or first aid look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble.	Event organiser/First Aider Paddlers	On the Day	

Risk Assessment

Hypothermia / Heat Stroke	Organiser, volunteers and Paddlers - Reduced performance, impaired judgement and collapse could cause drowning or a medical emergency.	Appropriate clothing is to be worn at all times Remind everyone of signs and symptoms Close monitoring of individuals throughout the race Remove athletes from the race if required. Warm blankets and rewarming options will be available to paddlers. Shaded areas under the trees are available and water will be provided.	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Paddlers briefed - wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs - pull to a safe area if possible and rest on the bank - Report to safety team/organisers or first aid - look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble	Event Organiser First Aider	On the day	
---------------------------	---	--	---	-----------------------------	------------	--

Risk Assessment

Weils Disease	Paddlers - Cause illness post competition	WEIL'S DISEASE 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. Precautions: • Avoid capsizing 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 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 contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria - see your Yearbook Contact the British Canoeing Office for more information – see for standard handout please.	Paddlers Briefed at the start of the event. Paddler and volunteer briefing symptoms and precautions: • Avoid swallowing water • Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster • Wear appropriate foot-wear • Wash or shower after activity • Should illness develop post paddling within 2-19 days with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs & joints) call your doctor to inform them you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria Paddlers briefed to report any infection to Paddle UK incident reporting	Race organised	Race Brief	
---------------	--	--	---	----------------	------------	--

Risk Assessment

Cold Water Immersion / Cold Water Shock	Coach, Athlete, Volunteer - Causing the gasp reflex, panic, loss of function, hypothermia and drowning.	Athletes to be dressed appropriately for the conditions. Volunteers to be dressed appropriately if there is any chance of having to enter the water. All Event staff, paddlers and volunteers who will be near the water and at risk of falling in should wear a buoyancy aid (as per the rules) to help mitigate the effects of cold water shock as a result of an unexpected immersion. Foil blankets available will be available in the event first aid kit.	Make Event staff, paddlers and volunteers aware of this at the briefing.	Event organiser	Race briefing	N/A
Collisions with other paddlers	Athlete - Cause failure of equipment, therefore leading to capsize and possible drowning.	Water etiquette to be followed at all times give way to upstream and always check before you start Paddlers have the correct skill set to avoid other paddlers. Easy access to Personal First Aid Equipment	.None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Storms, Strong wind, adverse weather, fog	Staff and Athletes Accident/collision	Monitoring of the weather in the lead up to the event and during the event. Athletes know the protocol for storms if out on water. Get to land. This will also be mentioned during the race briefing.	Race organizer to monitor weather	Race Organiser	Daily	On the day

Risk Assessment

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. The 'Rule of two" will be followed at all times unless it's unavoidable in a medical emergency. Coaches, and Volunteers to work at all times in compliance with Paddle UKs Safeguarding Policies, and specific event safeguarding policies (G10 - Paddlesafe Events), the <u>Coaching Code of Conduct</u> Coaches and Volunteers to have an appropriate DBS check (see Paddle UK's DBS Guidance Flowchart here), relevant Safeguarding & Protecting Children training as required by Paddle UK's Safeguarding Training Requirements here (3 yearly refreshers as required) and the <u>associated elearning</u> for Coaching Code of Conduct. Ensure the correct reporting procedure is followed based on Paddle UK guidelines	U18 or vulnerable paddlers to be the responsibility of & supervised by parent / coach / club throughout the event	Event Organiser SG Officer to be mentioned at the briefing	Monitored during the event	
Equipment Failure (Catastrophic)	Event Team Paddlers - Equipment failure may increase the chances of paddlers losing control of the boats and therefore capsizing. Extreme causes leading to drowning.	All event equipment checked and maintained to manufacturer specifications All Competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment is fit for purpose and meets manufacturer specifications Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	Scrutineering checks will be carried out on the day.	Event Organiser	On the day	

Risk Assessment

	Event Team Paddle UK - Event doesn't run smoothly.	Equipment maintained and regularly checked	Back-up manual system available if required			
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team - Strains, sprains, falls, crush injuries.	All WWR canoes and Kayaks must comply with the current WWR safety rules Volunteers and Safety Team briefed on Manual Handling	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Safety Lead & First Aider	On the day	
Parking at the start and finish	Paddlers Event Team Spectators - Injury, hit by car	Parking at the start is within a designated car park, caution should still be maintained whilst among moving vehicles. Parking at the finish is in a layby at the side of the road with car often driving fast. It is a single track road. All users must park and move safely around the layby. Juniors must be accompanied at all times.	All users will be reminded of this risk at the race briefing .	Event organiser	On the day	

Risk Assessment

Communication along the course with poor signal	Paddlers Event Organising team - Increase emergency response time.	Paddlers are set off in reverse order from the British WWR ranking list. This ensures that the paddlers behind you is likely to be more competent that you and will be able to provide you with help if you were to require it. Paddlers will be disqualified if they do not help someone in difficulty.	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day
Emergency	All	Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.	Make everyone aware at the brief	Race organizer	Race Brief	On the day

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Sampled by	Hannah Jackson	Position:	Event Safety Officer	Date:	01/07/25
------------	----------------	-----------	----------------------	-------	----------

Risk Assessment



Notes: