

Risk Assessment

Date:	04/09/2026
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Assessors Name:	Nicky Cresser	Review Date:	Original
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: Matlock Canoe Camp and WWR Sprint
Organisers and Experience	The event is organised by Nottingham Kayak Club. The lead organiser on behalf of NKC is Nicky Cresser. Nicky has over 15 years experience in coaching and events organisation, running events in canoe slalom, canoe polo, marathon and WWR on a variety of venues from grass roots to national championships.
Event Safety Officer	Nicky Cresser, last event Safety course completed February 2025 and stadium safety and rescue course in 2024.
Safeguarding	Nicky Cresser is a current secondary Maths teacher and has recently updated Paddle UK safeguarding training.

Location Details	Matlock Sprint. The course has sections of grade 2 rapids ad is a swift flowing river. From Artists corner (many people may park here and paddle down to the start) the river flows quickly through a narrow section followed by some small waves, around a share left hand bend with a large eddy of the left had side before entering a small swift flowing rapid, after this rapid the flow slow a little and river straightens. Along the straight there are 2 large submerged rock to be avoided. At the end of the straight the WWR Sprint course starts and the river bends to the left and enters to main Matlock rapid. The rapid is easy navigate if the paddler follows the main flow, there are rock to either side of the main flow. At the end of the rapid is a short section of small waves, with the finish being where these waves dissipate. The river then begin to slow into Matlock bath and wide as the water backs up above the weir which is approximately 1800m after the Matlock rapid.
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Risk Assessment

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	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. 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. 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.	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	
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number and both starter and finisher have a list of these and have almost a full	Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all expected paddlers are accounted for.	Event team Start and Finish Team	On the day and at the Briefing	

Risk Assessment

		line of sight. The entire course is covered by the starter and finisher. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal.	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).			
Injury to Non Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	A qualified first aider will be at the race, in the event of a serious injury the emergency services will be contacted.	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*** (See notes section for specific details)	Event Organiser Paddlers	On the day	
Moving Water	Paddlers Event Team Starter Spectators	All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid and helmet. It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, spectators etc., if on the bank and	Paddler safety to be discussed at the briefing	Event Organiser	On the day at Briefing	

Commented [1]: This would be exclusive to finish, would suggest 'move around the competition venue' as an alternative

Risk Assessment

		potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid. No on the safety cover is provided at this event paddlers are responsible for their own and the safety of fellow competitors when on the water. Any competitor coming across another competitor experiencing difficulty must stop and give assistance. Each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water				
Head Injury	Paddlers Event Team	Helmets are compulsory <u>Paddle UK Head Injury Guidance</u> to be followed	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See notes section for specific details)	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	All boats must comply with the current <u>WWR safety rules</u>	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See notes section for specific details)	Event Organiser/First Aider	On the day	
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Access to the river at Artist corner is via a steep bank with steps dug into the earth and the river bank is a	Paddlers & Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks	Event Organiser/First Aider Paddlers & volunteers	On the day	

Risk Assessment

		natural rocky bank. All areas are likely to be wet and slippery, There are concrete steps at the sprint course, there are steep and can be difficult to navigate.	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See notes section for specific details)			
Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course - Trees - Boats - damaged WWC - Throwlines	Paddlers Event Team	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 increase and the risk of a paddler or swimmer being inadvertently pushed into a tree or bush the risk of becoming entrapped increases.	River conditions are assessed on the day and competitors are advised of any specific risks at the briefing. River conditions are assessed on the day of the race and the course can be shortened or an alternative course can be raced down stream which reduce the risk of entrapment in trees. River conditions are assessed on the day of the race and the course can be shortened or an alternative course can be raced down stream which reduce the risk of entrapment in trees. In very high conditions the race will be cancelled	Event Organiser	On the day at the briefing	
Cars, pedestrians spectators	Paddlers Events team	The river right bank is flanked by the A6 which is a bust road and Matlock is a tourist destination in the Peak District National park.	Paddlers will be briefed on road safety and be instructed not to block paths around the event. Designated areas will be set out for boats and car parking has been arranged for the event to	Event Organiser	At the briefing	

Risk Assessment

			avoid the long walk up to artists corner.			
Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	Water quality is not monitored, and competitors compete at their own risk.	Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water	Event organiser	At the Briefing	
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers Event Team	Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See notes section for specific details) 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	
HYPOTHERMIA / HEAT STROKE	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Event Venue is run from the Morning pub which is warm and has warm drink and food available to purchase.	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See notes section for specific details) Paddlers briefed - wear clothing appropriate to	Event Organiser First Aider		

Risk Assessment

			conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs			
High water levels	Paddlers Event Team	The river is a natural water course and river levels increase or decrease depending on weather conditions preceding the event.	Review water levels and weather conditions in the days running up to the event to prepare additional mitigations if required If conditions are not suitable the event will be cancelled	Event Organiser	On the day	
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Event Emergency Plan contains suspension and cancelation protocols Event will follow the 30/30 rule for lightning****	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 public toilets in Matlock Batch	Paddler and volunteer briefing on hazards and symptoms: Precautions: - Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water - Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day	

Risk Assessment

			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 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	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 Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	,			

Risk Assessment

Equipment Failure (Organisational Risk)	Event Team Paddle UK	Equipment maintained and regularly checked	Back-up manual system available if required			
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Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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Notes:

****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 and all will be advised to seek shelter. This will remain in place until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder and/or radars show lightning is at least 10km away. This is in line with the 30/30 rule which can be used if there is 30 seconds or less between a clap of thunder and a lightning strike that activity should stop until 30 seconds after the last clap.