

GB Wild Water Racing Event Specific Risk Assessment: Great Britain Wild Water Racing Kick Off Camp, Barrow, HPP and Lee Valley

Date:	13 th November 2025
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Assessors Name:	Hannah Brown	Review Date:	16/09/2026 Reviewed by Emma Christie
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: National Training Camp 3 rd and 4 th October 2026 – focus WWR Sprint training Including competition at the Barrow Race Series 2026 and training on Lee Valley (Please see individual event RA for greater event details)
Organisers and Experience	The event is organised by the WWR Committee. The lead organiser on behalf of the WWRC is Jamie Christie. The event organising team comprises, Jamie Christie, Current White-Water Coach with 40 years paddling experience and 20 years' experience running canoeing competitions, Nicky Cresser Current White-Water Coach with 30 years paddling experience and 10 years' experience running canoeing competitions
Event Safety Officer	Jamie Christie, last event Safety course completed January 2025
Safeguarding	Helen Christie, is a retired primary school teacher and has completed the PUK Safeguarding training courses as identified and a Scouting Safeguarding course that is accepted by Paddle UK.

Location Details	The weekend will run from multiple venues the exact format will be confirmed closer to the time based of water availability & conditions Barrow Race series. The race runs from the Moorings Pub in Barrow on Soar, and requires a short 500m paddle along the canal, a portage at the weir onto the river. The race starts below the weir, and participants race around the barrow loop back to the pub. Under normal river conditions the river has a very gentle flow, is narrow and starts with some tight turns and weedy sections before the river straighten and widens and the flow lessens. Approximately halfway along the course the river narrows again the flow increase slightly and over hanging trees encroach the river. After this section the river widens again until you reach the pub and the finish. The location is run form the Mooring Pub which is open to the public and members of the public will be using the pub and sit Holme Pierrepont White Water Course, Adbolton Ln, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU Lee Valley White Water Course. Station Road, Waltham Cross EN9 1AB 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 dur ing competition.
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	The location is part of a country park and there are often members of the public on the banks of the course.
Safety Plan	Safety cover will be limited to the race specific safety provided. The nominated first aiders will be Jamie Christie, Billy Blackmen and Nicky Cresser
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	CHECK event specific Site Rules
Incident reporting	Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.

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 A briefing will take place The white-water section of the course will be covered by qualified white water safety personnel.	Event Organiser and competitor Event Organiser Safety lead	At the briefing Before start During event	
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	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.	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	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day During event	

		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.	etc., on their own (nor be left on their own).			
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Injury to non-paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	First Aider is available	Paddlers briefed: • not to block foot paths • 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	
Moving Water	Paddlers Event Safety 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 potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid. Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance. 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.	Paddler safety to be discussed at the briefing Only paddlers, officials, water safety personnel and designated photographers are permitted over the barrier at the WWC. Anyone else is encouraged to vacate the area. Anyone inside the barrier at the WWC must wear a Buoyancy Aid/Life Jacket and have received a safety briefing. Competent water safety team* on hand on WWC to rescue from the water where necessary. * (See Safety Plan section at start of document for specific details)	Safety Lead Safety Lead Safety Lead Safety Lead	On the day On the day On the day On the day	
Drowning	Paddlers	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. Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Head Injury	Paddlers Organisers Safety Team	Helmets are mandatory at this event. Paddle UK Head Injury Guidance to be followed Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Safety Team briefed on Head Injury Protocol and how to inform race control	Event Organiser Safety Lead	On the Day On the Day	

			Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See Safety Plan section for specific details)			
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	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	
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	The River Soar, River Trent and HPP are open to the public, normal care should be taken Public and Spectators informed via signage not to approach the edge	Paddlers & Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Event Organiser/First Aider Paddlers & volunteers	On the day	
Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course - Trees - Boats - damaged WWC - Throwlines	Paddlers Event Team	The river (Classic Course) 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. White Water course designed to avoid entrapment 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	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: • 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.	Event Organiser Event Organiser Event Organiser Event Organiser Safety Lead	On the day On the day On the day On the day On the day	
Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	NWSC site monitors water quality & will close course if levels are exceeded or make additional mitigation recommendations Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Review water quality to prepare additional mitigations if required Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water and if it is preferred, to drink Coke	Event organiser Event organiser	Before event At the Briefing	