Risk Assessment

Date:	07/10/2026
Produced by:	Ross Dempster / Mark French / Roger Holmes
Assessors Name:	Calum Urquhart
Next Review Date:	Before next year's event
Description of Assessment:	Risk Assessment for BUCS WWR event taking part on the River Tay on the 14th and 15th November 2026
Location Details:	14th November - Lower section of Grandtully rapids (River Tay) 15th November - Upstream of Wades Bridge, Aberfeldy to Aberfeldy Slalom Site

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 start or end of sprint or classic race either in the road in Aberfeldy or crossing the road at Grandtully or the car park at Grandtully Station Campsite.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Road crossing at Grandtully signposted to warn traffic on the road of paddlers crossing. All race participants to have read the safety briefing document. Speed limit of 5 mph in the carpark at Grandtully Station Campsite. Staff available to control traffic. Participants briefed via briefing document of dangers of traffic at all locations.	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document, for participants. Paddle Scotland to supervise traffic at the various locations as required	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants On the day.	

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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	Though less likely at this time of year Tick bites are still a possibility. Paddle Scotland to publish advice on the risk of Ticks and direct them to the NHS Advice on Tick Bites.	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Weil's Disease contracted by coming into contact with infected urine from rats living on the river bank.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Paddle Scotland to publish advice on the risk of Weils disease and direct them to the NHS Advice on Weil's Disease.	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Emergence of pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart conditions	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Participants asked to make race organisers aware of any pre-existing health conditions.	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Slipping on rocks/banking approaching river at start and finish of both Classic and Sprint race.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Participants briefed through Paddle Scotland BUCS briefing document to be aware of risk, especially while carrying boats. Staff and safety staff are trained and will have access to first aid kits	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants On the day	

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				Beyond Adventure is providing a first aid point on both days - located at each race course finish, during the races		
Bumps and scrapes caused by contact with rocks and riverbed after capsize	Race participants, safety staff.	Staff and on water Safety Staff will have access to first aid kits	NA	Paddle Scotland and Beyond Adventure Staff and Safety staff	On the day	
Hypothermia	Race participants, safety staff.	Paddle Scotland has produced a safety briefing document including advice on suitable clothing and equipment.	NA	Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised a Briefing document	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Drowning	Race participants, Race staff.	The river levels will be reviewed during the week prior to the event and a final decision will be made on whether there needs to be any alteration to courses used for either the sprint and / or the Classic race to avoid any particular rapid. Courses have been set for 2026 to exclude the main Grandtully rapid. This is in order to reduce the risk of capsizes, swims and potential	Water safety and rescue staff will be positioned in key locations along both race courses in order to provide safety and rescue services for anyone requiring them. Participants briefed that they should assist other competitors in the case of capsize between areas	Paddle Scotland and Beyond Adventure Staff	The week running up to the event with the final decision taken on the Friday before the event. Should the river level be exceptionally high, further adjustments to either/both Sprint and Classic courses will be	

		entrapment against the magnetic/ boat breaker rock, upstream of the Grandtully Bridge. The Sprint will start downstream of this feature and the Classic course takes place further upriver in Aberfeldy. All race participants to have watched the equipment/clothing video and the safety video If during racing the water safety team are compromised due to dealing with an 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.	where safety cover is provided The race will be cancelled if the river height makes it too dangerous to either start or continue racing. This will be based on discussions between the race organisers and water safety team. The final call will be with the water safety team from Beyond Adventure.		made. Other factors causing a review and change to the published courses include but are not limited to e.g. a tree that is in the flow of the river, causing a hazard.	
Capsize in rapids (caught in strainer, drowning, injuries caused by boulders)	All Race participants	Safety paddlers will be positioned in order to protect race participants that have capsized and require rescue assistance. All race participants will have read the safety briefing document. Race staff members will inspect the course the day prior to the race to assess risk and identify recently occurring risks e.g. fallen trees - in order to inform participants and/or modify the race course.	All participants will undergo an equipment check before racing and prior to them receiving their racing bib Participant safety briefing document warns participants of the risk and consequences of becoming trapped against rocks or other obstacles.	All race participants. Race staff. Race safety staff located in suitable locations to (1) warn participants, where necessary, to avoid hazards (2) rescue participants that are	Throughout both days of racing	

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				drifting towards or stuck on hazard		
Capsize and swim before Race start (and safety cover).	All Race participants	All participants will have undergone an equipment inspection before the race to ensure the boat is equipped with airbags and are wearing CE marked BA and Helmet Participants recommended to carry an emergency phone and number in case of swim before race start.	NA	All race participants. Race staff.	Prior to event During race days During Race day	
Collision with other river users including participants	All Race participants	Paddlers will be set off at timed intervals in order to space them out along the river. Informing other river users including local slalom clubs via email, website and social media etc. of the event taking place to minimise overlap with other river users. There is a good line of sight available through all the rapids on the river. Paddlers briefed of the need to stay clear of other participants and river users wherever possible.	NA	Paddle Scotland to advertise the event and to let regular users know it is taking place Paddle Scotland has produced and publicised Briefing document	Prior to the event Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	

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

Checked by:	**Calum Urquhart**	**Position:**	**Paddle Scotland Wild Water Racing Committee Safety Officer**	**Date:**	

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