Risk Assessment Barrow Race Series

Date:	02/04/2025

Assessors Name:	**Jamie Christie**	**Review Date:**	30/10/2026
Approvers Name:	**Hannah Jackson**	**Approval Date**	03/02/2026

Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: Barrow Race Series 2025/2026
Organisers and Experience	Jamie Christie, Current White-Water Coach with 40 years paddling experience and 20 years' experience running canoeing competitions, Richard Vincent, 55 years paddling on all types of water and 20 years' experience of organising canoeing competitions Jonny Folland, 40 years paddling experience and 20 years' experience running canoeing competitions,
Event Safety Officer	Jamie Christie, last event Safety course completed January 2025
Safeguarding	Helen Christie, Qualified by Paddle UK to meet the requirements of Event Safeguarding lead.

Location Details	**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 site during race times.
Safety Plan	**No safety cover is provided other than the provision details below and in the event plan.**

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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	**The race is organised from the Mooring Pub, and we will follow instructions from the pub staff. If the wider areas needs to be evacuated it is presumed this will be co-ordinated by the relevant authorities or emergency services.**
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, and parents of junior entrants (or adults acting "in loco Parentis" where a parent isn't present) must complete a separate WWR entry form stating the paddler is competent and fit to race given the conditions prevailing 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	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	

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		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. Chaparones are permitted to accompany any less experienced or junior participants around the course.				
Other water users	Paddlers	The river is open to other rivers users such as fishermen, boats owners 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.				
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 etc., on	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day and at the Briefing	

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			their own (nor be left on their own).			
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 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. Paddlers are advised to wear a helmet and spray deck but these at not mandatory for this event. 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. No on the water 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 in trouble must stop and give assistance. Each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2	Paddler safety to be discuss at the briefing	Event Organiser	On the day at Briefing	

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		competitors to finish before leaving the water. Chaperones are allowed to accompany less competent paddlers during the race				
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	
Cold water shock	Paddlers Event Safety Team Event Team	Refer to Paddle UK guidance https://paddleuk.org.uk/cold-water-shock-infographic/				
Head Injury	Paddlers Organisers	Helmets are not mandatory at this event and used at the paddler discretion. Paddle UK Head Injury Guidance to be followed	First Aider is available	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	All WWR canoes and Kayaks must comply with the current WWR safety rules	First Aider is available	Event Organiser/First Aider	On the day	

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		Other types of craft such as Sprint/Marathon, slalom, surf ski, sea kayaks and canoes must contain enough buoyancy to prevent them sinking in the event of a capsize. Other craft such as stand up paddle boards, coracle or dragon boats must contain enough buoyancy to prevent them sinking in the event of a capsize. Volunteers and Safety Team briefed on Manual Handling				
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators		Paddlers & Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks First Aider is available	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 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. When the river is very high there is a small foot bridge 200m after the start that cannot be passed	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	Event Organiser	On the day at the briefing	

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			alternative course can be raced down stream which reduce the risk of entrapment in trees.			
Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	Water quality is not monitored, and competitors compete at their own risk. Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	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	First Aider is available 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 Morring pub which is warm and has warm drink and food available to purchase.	First Aider is available Paddlers briefed - wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs	Event Organiser First Aider		

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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. E.g. live gauges upstream will be monitored https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/2158	Event Organiser	On the day	
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	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 as quickly as possible and all will be advised to seek shelter.	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 pub toilets	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 scratches on exposed	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day	

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			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 Trained Event Safeguarding Officer to manage concerns during the event.	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	,			
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:**	

Notes: