GB Wild Water Racing
Site Specific Risk Assessment: Nigel Stevenson Memorial Race, Newark-on-Trent, Notts

Risk Assessment completed by: Grant Anderson
Date: 7th November 2026

Race Organiser Grant Anderson on behalf of the WWRC

RISK ASSESSMENT

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK (IF ANY RACE RISK DEEMED HIGH THEN RACE TO BE MOVED OR CANCELLED DUE TO BEING ADVERTISED AS SUITABLE FOR NOVICES)

HAZARDS	RISK TO WHOM	RISK AVOIDANCE, ACTIONS AND ADVICE	RATING IF PRECAUTIONS ETC FOLLOWED
PADDLER CONTROL	Paddlers	A briefing will take place before the event in the form of a short meeting 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.	L
RACE ORGANISER	Organisation	Wild Water Racing Committee as part of British Canoeing either individual or as a member of a British Canoeing affiliated club: Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance.	L
MEMBERSHIP	Organisation and Paddlers	All competitors are required to be a current member of one of the National Associations (Paddle UK,SCA,Canoe Wales,CANI) Or PUK Club associate member of an PUK affiliated club	L
COMPETENCE	Paddlers	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.	L
START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING	Organisation and Paddlers	The race team will ensure all paddlers complete the race using a safety boat sweeping the course. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal.	L
SITE SPECIFIC			
PROTECTED LAND AND PRIVATELY OWNED LAND	Both	Sections of the race course benefit from a public footpath along the river bank. However, there are also areas of private property which must be respected by all.	L
WATER GETTING IN AND OUT			
GETTING IN AND OUT SLIPWAY	Paddlers and spectators	All paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. Spray decks are highly recommended. 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.	L

		Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.	
MUDDY BANKS	Paddlers and Spectators	The banks can be very slippery and the mud much deeper than you think, ensure you get in and out on firm ground/banks. All paddlers are to wear appropriate footwear.	L
RIVER CONDITIONS	Paddlers	River Trent is a natural river lined with trees and other hazards. At low water these present little risk. However, the river can rise rapidly in wet weather and as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	L
CONDITIONS E.G. WIND,WEATHER ETC.,	Paddlers and Spectators	Review on day of race. Option includes course changes (shorter or circular nearer to the start) or cancellation	L
BOATS MOORED AND CHAINS/ROPES	Paddlers	There are a few places where boats are moored with chains, ropes etc. All paddlers must not cut over these as you can get trapped or pulled under.	L
RIVER TRAFFIC	Paddlers	There may be some boat traffic on the river especially other canoeists, rowers and motor boats. Treat other craft with respect.	L
OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES ETC	Paddlers and Spectators	In low water the risk is low and most trees and obstacles are above the water, as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing or detailed in the briefing notes.	L
NAVIGATION & SAFETY COVER	Paddlers	A pre-race briefing will take place to describe the course. Safety cover will be provided in two key locations (Averham Weir and Newark Weir). A third safety boater will sweep the course, behind the last competitor.	L
CAPSIZE			
CAPSIZE	Paddlers	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.** 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. NB: If a boat is lost downstream then please let the race organisation know so emergency service can be notified to prevent any unnecessary searches being started.	L
BOAT SPECIFIC			
SAFETY CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT and CANOE FLOTATION		It is the paddlers responsibility to ensure their boat has appropriate buoyancy and safety clothing/equipment meets National Governing Body guidelines. All paddlers must wear a buoyancy aid and shoes.	L
ILL HEALTH INJURY			
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers	If you can pull to the side or a safe bank area, or an area you can beach boat or hold on safely to something. If possible you can get out and rest on the bank. Call for help in any situation and report	L

		to the race organiser for first aid or treatment on site or for wider help.	
HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE	Paddlers and spectators	Paddlers can withdraw from race by attracting other paddlers' attention. Wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own body temperature control needs.	L
WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers	**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 capsize 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 them you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria – contact Paddle UK for more information if required.**	L
FIRST AID	All Participants	**Any of the support crew/race team can provide first aid if required.**	L
EMERGENCY			
EMERGENCY	Paddlers and Spectators	**Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.**	L