

Operator: Cambridge Canoe Club – Peter Fish (Event organiser)
Address: Sheep's Green, Cambridge CB3 9PA
Tel: 07745557565
Activity: Hasler Canoe Marathon
Date of Event: 30 March 2025
Date of 1st Assessment: 10 Feb 2025
Date of This Assessment: 29 March 2025

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Who needs to carry out the action?	Review comments / Review date
Capsize and involuntary swim of competitor	Junior or less experienced Competitors in windy or	Paddlers are generally able to self assist. However, marshalls at turn point (most likely place for capsize) will have throw lines, if necessary marshalls with	Capsizes are inevitable. The least able paddlers in Divs 7, 8, 9 and all U16 will be required to wear buoyancy aids.	Race Organiser	29/03/2025

	congested conditions	buoyancy aid will enter water to assist but this is a last resort.	Least able paddlers will have on water support from competent paddlers in stable boats along the course.		
Drowning	Competitors following capsizes and unable to self-rescue	<p>All competitors able to swim 50m in canoe clothing</p> <p>All boats must have adequate buoyancy to float and support crew in the event of a capsizes</p> <p>Less experienced competitors ranked Division 7-9 and all under-16s required to wear buoyancy aids</p> <p>Competitors in other classes are required to render assistance to any paddler in difficulty</p> <p>Marshalls on the bank are equipped and trained in the use of throw lines.</p> <p>First Aiders in attendance</p>	<p>Team Leaders familiar with competency of individuals and will be tasked with ensuring that buoyancy aids are worn by under 16s in Divisions 6 and above.</p> <p>Race Organiser will insist on obligatory use of buoyancy aids if weather/water conditions are deemed adverse or forecast to be adverse.</p> <p>A final inspection of key points the river on the day will result in the race being cancelled if necessary</p> <p>Safety boat(s) will follow the junior racers.</p> <p>A safety boat will be stationed at the turn on the junior courses</p>	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

Slips, trips and falls	<p>Competitors, Spectators & Race staff moving along the towpath.</p> <p>Portage re-entry point below Jesus Lock is collapsing and is a noted risk.</p>	<p>Marshalls to ensure that the portage route is free from obstructions. The banks are well maintained (except below Jesus Lock) and muddy stretches are generally not present.</p> <p>Jesus Lock has a number of issues that require caution, including; i) current incomplete works resurfacing the footpath, new curb a few inches high, ii) soft sand and slippery surfaces, and iii) the concrete slab subsiding into the river and separating from the bank.</p>	<p>Marshalls will have basic first aid equipment and mobile phones to summon emergency services if required.</p> <p>Jesus Lock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific notes and mentions in the race briefing • Extra marshalls in the areas that warrant caution • Notes alongside the portage explainer posters 	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
River in flood	Competitors may encounter danger due to strong flow, debris and high levels	Race will be cancelled if river conditions are considered to be unsafe	The Club, Paddle UK and social media (eg Facebook) websites will be used to announce this.	Race Organiser	29/03/2025
Bystander is hit by portaging competitor	Walkers, Spectators and Race staff at risk of collision with portaging paddlers	Marshalls will be present at portages to control bystanders	Marshalls will have basic first aid equipment and mobile phones to summon emergency services if required.	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

	running along the footpath				
Food hygiene & barbeque	Competitors, spectators, race staff and general public at risk of food poisoning or burns	<p>Food for competitors will be pre-prepared under the supervision of a club member with a knowledge of food hygiene regulations.</p> <p>Hand washing facilities available on site.</p> <p>BBQ strictly supervised, all those not involved in food preparation kept away from the food preparation area and hot surfaces.</p> <p>Fire extinguisher and fire blanket to be located at the BBQ.</p>	<p>Competitors, Team Leaders and parents will be reminded on the day of the need for hygiene</p> <p>Hand-sanitizer will be provided for those handling food.</p> <p>Customers are warned if they are served hot drinks or food.</p>	Safety Officer, Race Organiser Social Committee	29/03/2025
Collision with other competitors	Competitors Damage to boat or capsized.	<p>Mostly experienced competitors</p> <p>It is expected all paddlers will have received a basic level of training before being permitted by their clubs to compete.</p>	Dynamic risk assessment by all to avoid situation	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

		<p>The course will be inspected in the week leading up to the race to ensure that no trees or other natural hazards are causing an obstruction.</p> <p>Where practicable any obstructions will be removed.</p>			
Collision with other river users	Competitors while racing or warming up	<p>It is the nature of the race on this stretch of river that there will be some conflict with punts and other river users</p>	<p>The punt operators, rowing clubs and other groups will be warned of the race but they are unlikely to restrict their operations.</p> <p>Competitors will be informed during the race briefing.</p>	Race Organiser	29/03/2025
Collision with natural hazards	<p>Competitors</p> <p>Damage to boat or capsize.</p>	<p>Mostly experienced competitors</p> <p>It is expected all paddlers will have received a basic level of training before being permitted by their clubs to compete.</p> <p>The course will be inspected in the week leading up to the race to ensure</p>	<p>Competitors, Marshalls and staff manning safety boats will be warned of the position of any known hazards at the race briefing.</p>	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

		<p>that no trees or other natural hazards are causing an obstruction.</p> <p>Where practicable any obstructions will be removed</p>			
Conflict with fisherman	Competitors while racing or warming up	In general the fisherman are friendly and will draw lines to allow canoeists to pass	Any anglers seen along the course on the day of the race by marshalls will be advised that the race is taking place.	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
Cuts and injuries on feet from rubbish / stones	Competitors while portaging and preparing to race	It is strongly advised that paddlers wear footwear in this race however it does remain at the discretion of the paddler	First Aid kits will be available	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
Locks and Weirs – possible pull into weir at Silver Street	Competitors	Marshalls will be monitoring the portage and will assist less able paddlers as the rules state. They will also ensure that boats disembark adequate distance from the top of the weir	Marshalls will be present with throw ropes	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

Lightning	Competitors risk of lightning strike when holding carbon paddles over water	Weather forecasts are monitored prior and during the race. Where lightning is forecast the race timing may be adjusted or the race cancelled	For an occurrence of lightning during the race, all paddlers will have been briefed to get off the water as soon as possible until the storm has passed. Marshalls will try to ensure this occurs	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
Injury from Lifting / Carrying equipment	Competitors	Mostly experienced competitors Adults (parents/teammates) will be available to move boats for young paddlers at the start/finish Competitors who require assistance at the portages are invited to contact the Race Organiser in advance to make arrangements	Competitors will be reminded in the briefing of the risks inherent in lifting and handling boats	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
Hypothermia	Competitors, effects of cold due to rain combined with wind chill and or immersion	Race taking place in December with potential for adverse weather conditions, briefing pack advises paddlers to wear appropriate clothing. First Aiders to be present and contactable by phone.	Marshalls will check to ensure safety of competitors, ensure they are kept warm with additional clothing / foil wraps If weather conditions are very cold, paddlers will be advised of the need to wear suitable clothing	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

		<p>Mostly experienced competitors who will dress appropriately</p> <p>The youngest competitors will be under the supervision of experienced Team Leaders and/or parents who will advise them on appropriate clothing</p>	<p>Thermal blankets and warm drinks and showers will be available at the finish.</p>		
Waterborne disease	Competitors and marshalls on the water	<p>The Cam does have rats and cows on the fields upstream.</p> <p>This means that the water can be polluted and carry Weils disease and cow faeces after have rainfall</p> <p>Showers & hand washing available in changing rooms</p>	<p>Competitors will be warned of the possibility of infection.</p>	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025
Injury from moving vehicles in the car park and access route	Competitors, Spectators, Race staff and General public at risk of impact injury	<p>Plenty of open space for people to congregate away from the car park</p> <p>Marshall in car park</p>	<p>Monitor on site</p>	Race Organiser & Marshalls	29/03/2025

Safeguarding failure	Young or vulnerable competitors or volunteers	Compliance with Paddle UK Safeguarding policies and procedures for children (SPC-P1) and adults (SPC-P6): https://paddleuk.org.uk/category/safeguarding/	Signage to remind lone adults that they should avoid using the changing rooms with young persons All juniors must be accompanied to the event by an adult who takes responsibility for them	Event Welfare Officer	29/03/2025
COVID-19	Competitors, spectators, race staff and general public	There are currently no mandated restrictions in place	Review government guidance leading up to the race and ensure appropriate measures are taken at the time	Race Organiser	29/03/2025

Notes:

1. Briefing notes will be published in advance of the race and circulated to those placing bookings. All potential hazards will be outlined along with actions expected to be taken. Last minute issues will be notified by signage and by informing everyone at booking in
2. Three internal toilets provided at the club – 1 suitable for disabled visitors, antibacterial soap provided in the toilet areas
3. Doors will be secured if being left permanently open during the event to avoid injury if they swing shut
4. Most of the activity will take place outside