

Paddle UK

Chester Hasler North West Canoe Marathon Race

Sunday 28th April 2024

EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

Organiser: Sarah Swallow, Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club (CSCC)
Risk assessor/safety Officer: John Hatton, Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club.
Event Welfare Officer: John Hatton
Location and Race Control: River Dee, CSCC Dinghy Park, Sandy Lane, Chester, CH3 5UU
Date: 10/4/24

Method statement

The race is being run under Paddle UK, Marathon Committee rules.

A dynamic risk assessment shall be undertaken relating to adverse environmental/weather conditions, on the day and in the days leading up to the race. Any heightened risk or additional mitigation shall be communicated to the participants.

There will be a pre-race briefing for all competitors, team leaders and supporters which will cover the race organisation and the principal hazards of the race.

A powered safety boat will be available to set out the course and for rescue as necessary. Driver to be minimum RYA PB 2 qualified. Only members of Paddle UK or National Associations, with comprehensive membership, are allowed to race in Div 6 or higher.

Communications – race control shall record and make available the mobile telephone numbers of all race marshals and coordinate any emergency response required.

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Risk H/	Control Measure	Action by
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		M/L		
Vehicle traffic access and parking	Participants, spectators and public	L	<p>Car parking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will be on public parking area adjacent to the highway. Also, on grassed playing field adjacent to the river. On a hot day this area may be used by the public. If this is the case a marshal shall be assigned to this area to control traffic parking. In heavy rain the above areas may be waterlogged. If so, a nearby public car park at Sandy Lane will be used. Access onto the river is available from this site. 	Event Organiser
Injury on land at start/finish area, collision with boats being carried, slips and trips etc	Participants, spectators and public	L	<p>Site checked for hazards prior to event.</p> <p>Race briefing</p> <p>First aid point at race control</p>	Event Organiser
Injury at portages including: collision with competitor boats	Participants, spectators, public and marshals	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marshals shall be positioned at key points of the portage to protect the public from collisions. Public access to be controlled. The portage area will be taped off and clearly marked. Competitors advised of hazards at briefing including the hazards underfoot if paddlers elect not to wear footwear. 	<p>Event Organiser</p> <p>Race Briefing Marshals</p>
Capsize/ Drowning	Competitors Marshals	L/M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PU rules followed to ensure all boats to have adequate buoyancy to support craft and crew in the event of capsize. Buoyancy aids (EN ISO 12402) required for less experienced, Div's 7, 8, 9. They are advised for U18's, Team leader/Parent responsibility. PU rules require competitors, to be able to swim in open water and to help others if help is required. Safety boat available at high-risk points. Competitors to be advised at briefing. U12's, buoyancy aids required, safety boat to accompany competitors, the whole of course is visible from start/finish area. 	<p>Race Briefing</p> <p>Competitors and Team Leaders</p>

			Separate briefing to be given for GS competitors.	
Hazards due to weather/ environmental conditions	Participants, marshals and organisers	M/H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tide height checked (8.5m Liverpool) – no impact expected b. Height of river to be monitored. Dynamic assessment prior to the event and/or on the day to determine what additional safety measures are required or race cancellation. c. Air temperature and wind speed to be monitored. If poor will affect the likelihood of capsize and severity of consequences. Enhanced briefing to be given. Enhanced on the water safety to be put in place as appropriate. Enhanced personal safety measures, e.g. wider use of buoyancy aids, clothing etc d. Hot/sunny weather - enhanced briefing to competitors, dehydration/sun protection etc. Marshals to be advised on sun protection. e. Any course debris or heightened risk such as overhanging trees to be advised at briefing if required. f. Lightening – weather forecast to be obtained, decision made on either to delay or cancellation of race 	<p>Race organiser/ Safety Officer</p> <p>Race Briefing</p>
Risk of hypothermia	Participants, marshals	M	Enhanced pre-race briefing about the correct clothing. Location of marshals. Safety boat to carry bivvy bag/thermal blanket or similar.	Participants, parents, marshals
Collisions with other river users, including competitors	Participants and other river users	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Course to be designed to follow rules of river i.e. keep right b. Race briefing to draw competitors’ attention to other river users and rules of the river c. Start order to be reviewed and finalised prior to race briefing to minimise congestion and collision. d. Other major river users, rowing clubs, commercial pleasure cruisers and the Council advised in advance that the race is taking place. 	<p>Race Briefing</p> <p>Race Organiser</p>
Injury/emergency	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. First aid kit and first aiders available at race control. 	Event

medical condition			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Emergencies are a 999 issue, A&E hospital 3 miles approx. Give location CSCC Dinghy Park, Sandy Lane, Chester, CH3 5UU c. Site access for emergency vehicles to be kept clear d. Power boat on the water or available for rescue throughout the race. 	<p>organiser</p> <p>First aider</p> <p>Race Briefing</p>
Waterborne diseases/ Hygiene	Participants, Marshals	L	Showers, hand washing and toilets available at race control, Dinghy Park.	Race information
Catering	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Food and drink available at race control building. b. Hot and cold running water available, water heating and fridge available. c. Dedicated hand washing facilities in catering area. d. Fire extinguishers available. e. Preparation area behind tables to keep a secure kitchen area. 	Catering staff