

Risk Assessment for Barking Winter Series Race 2024

Event: Barking Winter Series Race 2024

Date: 15/12/2024

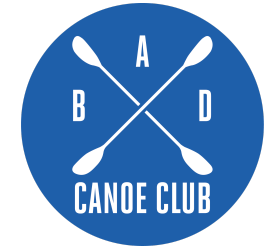
Location: River Roding, Barking

Participants: Approximately 130 competitors. It is limited to 150 maximum competitors


Insurance: Evidence of insurance coverage is attached.

Safety Officer: Scott Leblanche

Reviewed: 16/09/2024



Hazard	Risk	Consequence	Likelihood (without control)	Procedures in place to control risk	Further action necessary to control the risk	Review Date	Signed
Collisions (with competitors and other Port users)	Competitors, staff, and other river users	Injury, drowning, vessel damage	Medium	Pre-event briefing on navigation rules and protocol to assist others in distress. Continuous monitoring by safety boats. Coordination with the Port Authority.	Extra safety boats in high-traffic areas. Disqualification for not assisting in an emergency. Notify PLA of incidents.	16/09/2024	<i>S. Leblanche</i>
Contact with piers, buoys, moored vessels	Competitors, staff	Injury, vessel damage, capsize	Medium	Briefing on safe navigation and awareness of fixed objects. Buoyancy aids mandatory. Safety boats on standby.	Clear demarcation of course during briefing. Additional marshals stationed near high-risk areas.	16/09/2024	<i>S. Leblanche</i>
Grounding	Competitors	Capsize, injury, vessel damage	Low	Pre-event inspection of the course for shallow areas. Detailed map provided during briefing.	Water level checks throughout the event. Safety boats to assist if grounding occurs.	16/09/2024	<i>S. Leblanche</i>
Mechanical breakdown/failure of safety boats	Competitors, safety crew	Lack of rescue support, delayed response in emergencies	Low	All boats inspected and tested before the event. Spare fuel in place. Regular checks on boats' status during the event.	Radios provided for real-time communication. Establish a contingency plan for rapid replacement of failed safety boats.	16/09/2024	<i>S. Leblanche</i>
Failure of safety cover	Competitors, staff	Delayed assistance, risk of injury	Low	Minimum number of safety boats required based on event size. Pre-designated locations for safety boat coverage.	Continuous monitoring of safety boat communication with control.	16/09/2024	<i>S. Leblanche</i>

Man Overboard (MOB)	Competitors, staff	Drowning, hypothermia	Medium	All participants required to wear approved buoyancy aids. Pre-event briefing on MOB procedures. Safety boats in position and trained for MOB response.	Periodic MOB drills. Check all buoyancy aids for proper function before launch.	16/09/2024	
Weather considerations (wind speed, restricted visibility, temperature)	Competitors, staff	Hypothermia, injury, capsizing	Medium	Event canceled if wind exceeds 20+ mph (32+ km/h), visibility falls below (0.25-0.5 mile / 400-800 meters), or temperatures fall below 3°C (41°F). Pre-event weather forecast checks and constant monitoring during the event.	Establish clear weather thresholds for cancellation. Communicate weather status updates to participants throughout the event.	16/09/2024	
Abandonment protocol (due to incident, emergency, or unsuitable conditions)	Competitors, staff	Confusion, delays in evacuation, injury	Medium	Safety and rescue boats to halt race and communicate abandonment. Participants instructed to either return to start/finish or raft-up and await further instructions.	Practice abandonment drills before the event. Ensure participants are familiar with emergency signals.	16/09/2024	
Environmental impacts on the river, species, and designated habitat sites	River ecosystem, wildlife	Pollution, habitat disturbance	Medium	Minimize litter through pre-race briefings, providing waste bins at key locations. Event staff and participants educated on environmental protection.	Post-event course cleanup. Use of biodegradable materials where possible. Report any significant environmental issues to the PLA.	16/09/2024	
Minimization of litter and use of sustainable materials	River environment	Pollution	Medium	Mandatory waste management briefing for participants. Litter collection points at strategic locations.	Litter patrol during and after the event. Only allow biodegradable or recyclable materials in event kit.	16/09/2024	
Capsize - swimming	Competitors, staff	Drowning, hypothermia	Medium	Buoyancy aids worn by all competitors. Buoyancy in all boats checked prior to launch. Safety boats positioned near launch points.	Extra safety checks before start.	16/09/2024	
Capsize - trapped upside down in kayak	Competitors, staff	Drowning	Low	Buoyancy aids worn by all competitors. All boats checked for safe exit capability. Safety boats ready to assist.	Pre-event brief on emergency exit from capsized kayak. Close supervision during event.	16/09/2024	

Cold (hypothermia)	Competitors, staff	Hypothermia, frostbite	Medium	Pre-event weather checks. Participants must wear appropriate clothing and equipment for cold water immersion. Warm showers and bivi bags on rescue craft.	Provide post-race warming areas. First-aid staff briefed on treating hypothermia.	16/09/2024	
Restricted visibility	Competitors, staff	Collisions, injury, drowning	Low	Weather checks prior to and during the event. Safety boats equipped with communication devices to inform participants of visibility changes.	Continuous monitoring during the event. Notify participants of any visibility concerns.	16/09/2024	
Waterborne infections (Weils Disease, gastroenteritis)	Competitors, staff	Illness, infection	Extremely low	Competitors advised to cover open wounds and wear appropriate footwear. Warning signs in place at all water entry points.	Information on water hygiene included in event packs. Provide cleaning stations post-event.	16/09/2024	
Injuries caused by paddles	Competitors, staff	Cuts, bruises, facial injury	Low	Pre-race briefing on correct paddle positioning. Supervision of crowded areas.	Monitor for inappropriate paddle handling during the event.	16/09/2024	
Manual handling (lifting boats)	Competitors, staff	Back, arm injuries	Low	Pre-event training on correct lifting techniques. Only trained staff to operate safety boats.	Provide visual demonstration of lifting techniques before the event.	16/09/2024	
Slipping on dock	Competitors, staff	Back, arm injury, fractures	Low	Verbal information at pre-race briefing on slippery surfaces. Jetty control to maintain dock and monitor participants.	Regularly inspect jetty surfaces for maintenance issues.	16/09/2024	