



Maidstone Marathon Risk Assessment

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Likelihood	Consequences	Score 3 X 4	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?
Capsize at start	Paddlers	3	1	3	In the event of adverse or extreme conditions, the event will be postponed or cancelled All participants will be capable of swimming 25 metres with Bouyancy Aids if necessary Help with getting onto the bank will be present Observers on bankside to	Briefing to warn participants on the day of any potential hazards on the course

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					warn of approaching river traffic	
Capsize while racing	Paddlers	2	2	4	As above If no bankside help there is easy access to banks for most of the course In more difficult areas boat crews to be placed to help in rescues Competition rules to apply in that if there are any paddler in distress other racers should stop and help Marshalls in place at portages and turn points Rules demand that the boat is able to support swimmer Safety boats will be in attendance for Lightning Classes	As above Briefing notes Marshals Adequate safety boat crews

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Drowning	Paddlers/spectators	1	3	3	Safety throw lines available with Marshals BAs to be worn by younger/inexperienced competitors and all Div 7-9 paddlers	Briefing notes Marshals
Manual handling – putting kayaks on and taking kayaks off the water	Competitors, Spectators, Marshals	1	2	2	Trained first aid officer will be in attendance First Aid Kits available Marshals to landing stage clear of all persons not required for launching boats Boats to be emptied of water when necessary e.g. after capsize to reduce weight and risk of breakage/injury	Marshal's briefing Competitors briefing Marshals at portages to have phones and first aid kits
Slipping on landing stage or access stairs	Competitors, helpers Marshals	2	3	6	As above. There is a handrail on the steps and anti-slip surface on the landing stage.	Marshals Participants to be briefed and advised not to carry boats down the five metal steps but to lift them down from bankside when standing on the landing stage.
Vehicles – cars in car park	All attendees	1	4	4	Mobile phone access is available for local services Car parking Marshals to warn competitors and helpers to take car when carrying boats across the	Marshals in car park Other car park users to be pre-warned of the race and the amount of boats that will be present

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					car park	
Fire in clubhouse	All attendees	1	2	2	Fire exits are clearly marked. Fire extinguishers available where necessary and fire blanket in kitchen	Advise attendees at briefing
Town section high level bridge to Millennium foot bridge. High banks	Race participants	2	2	4	Competition rules are to go in aid of any paddler in distress	Marshals in boats
East Farleigh/ Teston Locks Collisions	Competitors Marshals Members of the public	1	2	2	Marshals to control paddlers Warn them of running and of members of the public Warn members of the public	Marshals
Slips and trips at portages	Racers Div 6 and below Marshals	1	1	1	Race briefing to inform all of footwear needed. Portage routes to be checked before race	Briefing Marshals at portages
Collision on water	Competitors and other river users	1	1	1	Competitors take racing line ie close to banks on bends(ie away from other craft) or otherwise observing rule of navigation	Briefing Marshals/Race organisers EA to put out Notice to Mariners. Rowing club made aware of the marathon

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						MRUA to be made aware of the marathon EA to be made aware of the marathon Other river users made aware of event as much as is feasibly possible
Awareness of Weils disease	Paddlers	1	3	3	Risk of water born disease is low on the River Medway Paddlers to understand the importance of washing hands and showering	Briefing Race Organisers Provision of showers
Moored boats and other river user traffic	Paddlers	2	3	6	Paddlers advised to keep right of the river Other river users made aware of event as much as is feasibly possible	Briefing Marshals
NB first aid	Paddlers/spectators	1	3	3	Several members of the Canoe Club/Marshals are trained in first aid	Club Members/Marshals
Emergency	Paddlers/Spectators/Public	1	4	4	Marshals will have mobile phones Have local knowledge	Marshals/race organisers
Towpath Collisions	Spectators/supporters	1	4	4	Anyone following the race on bicycles to be made aware that they must give way to all other towpath users at all times and keep their speed to a minimum	Marshals/Race organisers Briefing

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					Event notices posted	
Hypothermia/Hyperthermia	Competitors	1	4	4	All competitors will be reminded during the event briefing to wear appropriate clothing. There will be first aiders present during the event	Race organisers/Marshals First aiders

LIKELIHOOD - SCORE 1-5 – the more likely it is that the hazard occurs the higher the score

CONSEQUENCES – SCORE 1-5 – the level of harm that will arise – the more harm the greater the score

Multiply the Likelihood score by the Consequences score to assess whether the risk is acceptable and the level of action required to control the risk.

Total Score = 1-6 low risk activity can take place, 8-15 medium risk put extra measures in place for activity to continue, 16-25 high risk activity should not take place as planned.

Review History

Date

October 2022

November 2023

May 2025

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