

## Risk Assessment for Barking Winter Series Race 2025

**Event:** Barking Winter Series Race 2025

**Date:** 23/11/2025

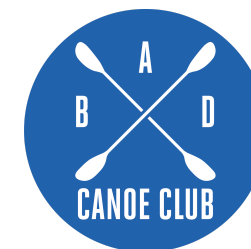
**Location:** River Roding, Barking

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

**Insurance:** Evidence of insurance coverage is attached.

**Safety Officer:** Scott Leblanche

**Reviewed:** 08/10/2025



| Hazard                                                    | Risk                                      | Consequence                                             | Likelihood (without control) | Procedures in place to control risk                                                                                                                            | Further action necessary to control the risk                                                                                    | Review Date | Signed              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>Collisions (with competitors and other Port users)</b> | 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.          | 08/10/2025  | <i>S. Leblanche</i> |
| <b>Contact with piers, buoys, and moored vessels</b>      | Competitors, staff                        | Injury, vessel damage, capsize                          | Medium                       | Briefing on safe navigation and awareness of fixed objects. Buoyancy aids are mandatory. Safety boats on standby.                                              | Clear demarcation of the course during the briefing. Additional marshals are stationed near high-risk areas.                    | 08/10/2025  | <i>S. Leblanche</i> |
| <b>Grounding</b>                                          | 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.                                            | 08/10/2025  | <i>S. Leblanche</i> |
| <b>Mechanical breakdown/failure of safety boats</b>       | Competitors, safety crew                  | Lack of rescue support, delayed response in emergencies | Low                          | All boats are inspected and tested before the event. Spare fuel in place. Regular checks on the boats' status during the event.                                | Radios are provided for real-time communication. Establish a contingency plan for the rapid replacement of failed safety boats. | 08/10/2025  | <i>S. Leblanche</i> |
| <b>Failure of safety cover</b>                            | 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.                                                                | 08/10/2025  | <i>S. Leblanche</i> |

|                                                                                    |                           |                                         |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                   |            |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Man Overboard (MOB)</b>                                                         | Competitors, staff        | Drowning, hypothermia                   | Medium | All participants are 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.                                                   | 08/10/2025 |    |
| <b>Weather considerations (wind speed, restricted visibility, temperature)</b>     | Competitors, staff        | Hypothermia, injury, capsizing          | Medium | Event cancelled 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.     | 08/10/2025 |    |
| <b>Abandonment protocol (due to incident, emergency, or unsuitable conditions)</b> | Competitors, staff        | Confusion, delays in evacuation, injury | Medium | Safety and rescue boats to halt the 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.                            | 08/10/2025 |    |
| <b>Environmental impacts on the river, species, and designated habitat sites</b>   | 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. | 08/10/2025 |    |
| <b>Minimization of litter and use of sustainable materials</b>                     | 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.                          | 08/10/2025 |   |
| <b>Capsize - swimming</b>                                                          | 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.                                                                                                 | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Capsize - trapped upside down in kayak</b>                                      | 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.                                            | 08/10/2025 |  |

|                                                               |                    |                              |               |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                             |            |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cold (hypothermia)</b>                                     | 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.           | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Restricted visibility</b>                                  | 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.     | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Waterborne infections (Weils Disease, gastroenteritis)</b> | 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. | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Injuries caused by paddles</b>                             | 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.                                 | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Manual handling (lifting boats)</b>                        | 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.                        | 08/10/2025 |  |
| <b>Slipping on dock</b>                                       | 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.                                    | 08/10/2025 |  |