

Risk Assessment Chelmsford Canoe Club

Organiser: Owen Shephard-Wyatt Activity: Chelmsford Winter Series Race Date: 11.1.2025 Location: River Chelmer and Cam			SIGNED: Owen Shephard-Wyatt		DATE: 28/11/2025		
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	What are you doing to control the Risk	What further action do you need to take to control the risk?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Date complete	Additional comments
Drowning through capsize (Generic Risk)	Competitors and safety boats	<p>All paddlers able to swim 50m in clothing, high walled channel has ropes either side and ladders.</p> <p>River approx. 15-20 m max wide.</p> <p>All Under 16s to wear buoyancy aids and anyone in Division 7 or below.</p> <p>All boats to be fitted with buoyancy sufficient to support craft and paddler. Competition rules are to aid any paddler in distress.</p>	<p>Briefing to remind paddlers of requirement to aid paddlers in distress. Rescue boat at Start, turn, through the Channel and sweeper boats. Marshalls with throw lines at turn.</p> <p>Race Organiser can make BA compulsory for all, if conditions require.</p>	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Hypothermia/ Hyperthermia.	All	Briefing advises paddlers to wear appropriate clothing. First Aiders to be present.	<p>Review of conditions and changes made if needed.</p> <p>Briefing to remind. First aiders will have mobile phones and basic first aid pack including Emergency Blanket</p>	Race organiser	On going		

Collision with other paddlers, overhanging trees & bushes, bridges	Competitors and Safety Boats	Paddlers to be reminded at briefing of river right rules, turn directions and obstacles. Low bridges have signage.	Briefing to cover turn and low bridge reminder. Race Committee to look at check and if necessary, cut back trees along route prior to race. Safety boats at start , turn and in the Channel (high risk areas)	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Debris/obstructions	Competitors	Contact with surface debris and / or sub surface objects	Course to be checked on day when putting turn buoy out.	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Injury from Lifting/Carrying Equipment	Competitors	No portages, risk of injury is from lifting boats on and off vehicles to put in only.	Check condition of pontoon before event, sign post to first aid.	Race organiser	Day before event		
Other River users	Competitors and other river uses	Signage warning off race put up the week before	Marshal talk to river users	Safety Team	On going		
Moving water River in flood	Competitors	Dynamic Risk Assessment Check of weather and river height readings up stream prior to race.	Making changes if conditions need it.	Race organiser	Before boats get on water		
Vehicle Traffic	Competitors Bankside Officials Spectators	Good parking and direct access to river from car park. No road crossings involved in race. Signs to be put up that canoe race in progress	Signage warning members of the public. First aid team made aware	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		

Injury to Public	Pedestrians, cyclists on towpath	No point of crossing in race, Signage on path leading to get in point.	Signage warning members of the public. First aid team made aware	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		
Trips, slips and falls on paths, towpath	All	Danger of slipping at Put in/out and club if wood/plastic wet	Check for hazards morning of race, Marshalls to contact race control for first aid response. Broken section of pontoon condoned off from use.	Race organiser	Before competitors arrive		
Refreshments – Food Poisoning, Burns from Cooking	All	Staff at refreshments to keep hands clean with gel or soap/water. BBQ away from club and public access limited to serving table.	Report issues and provide first aid if needed	Safety Team	On going		
Wildlife & Pollution, Weils Disease etc	Competitors	Outside of nesting season. Showers and wash facilities available at club.	Report issues and provide first aid if needed	Safety Team	On going	.	
THIS AREA IS FOR ADDITIONAL RISK ASSESSMENTS ON THE DAY							