



# Cheltenham Canoe Club



## Symond Yat Risk Assessment.

All competitors (or parents of those under 18) sign to say that they acknowledge that ‘Canoeing and kayaking are “Assumed Risk” – “Water Contact sports”. The following risk assessment is what Cheltenham Canoe Club perceive the hazards and risks to be at this event and how they will try and minimise and manage them. It should however be noted that the dynamic and varied nature of the sport and environment does not allow a completely comprehensive risk assessment to be made. We would expect having signed the statement that paddlers (parents and or coaches) should carry out their own informal and dynamic risk assessment before getting on the water.

### Water hazards

RISKS	THOSE AT RISK	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
Drowning	Paddlers are the most vulnerable however spectators and judges also at risk	2	5	2	All paddlers to wear buoyancy aids. All paddlers to wear helmets which carry the CE mark and reminded of this through the displaying of the canoe slalom sign near control. Any persons engaged in course set up around the waters edge to wear buoyancy aid. Buoyancy aids also provided for water side judges. Safety boats on the water in the form of 2 competitors at the finish line and an appropriate number of safety boaters on the middle of the course depending on water levels and the class and division on the water. Trained first aider within the on water rescue team. Water levels are monitored during the event and if necessary in consultation with the jury the race cancelled for one or both divisions.
Immersion Hypothermia	Swimmers	4	2	2	Rescues to be carried out quickly by the rescue team/other competitors. First aider to have access to equipment to deal with initial onset of Hypothermia including first aid tent for shelter.
Rocks in shallow water leading to impact of paddler or equipment	Paddlers and swimmers	4	2	3	The course designer will set the course to minimise the collision with rocks. If necessary eddies will be cleared by hand or their use avoided. Experienced on water rescue team to minimise length of swim and thus potential injuries caused by rocks.



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RISKS	THOSE AT RISK	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
Paddling - collision with other competitors	Paddlers, other river users	1	2	1	The event including official practice is held within daylight hours. The course will be cleared before official practice commences and paddlers sent at appropriate intervals during practice and the race. The starter reserves the right to change the time intervals or pause the race to either allow for a rescue to be carried out or to avoid a potential collision. Judges given whistles and advised when to use them during judges meeting.
Paddling - collision with other river user	Paddlers, other river users	1	2	1	The event is publicised on the EA calendar of River Wye Events, along with a number of paddling forums and the British Canoe Slalom calendar. Pre start to control non-competition craft which wish to run the rapids as it is a right of navigation. These crafts should report to prestart at the riverside steps of the Royal Lodge Hotel, river left bank above the rapids. Pre-start will liaise with start who will ensure the course is clear before the group are set off. No instructions other than 'the course is now clear of paddlers so you can proceed' shall be issued to other water users. Groups are to be allowed to proceed at their own pace. Competitors are warned in the event information of the river traffic which use the warm up and prestart area. River cruiser operators are also spoken to before the event.
Course failure	Paddlers and other river users	1	1	2	Named person to have specific responsibility to ensuring lines and gate lines are secure. Canoe operators asked to brief their clients not to deliberately hit the poles whilst traveling down the rapids.



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Risks	Those at Risk	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
Water Borne Diseases and pollution	Paddlers are the most vulnerable however spectators and judges also at risk if they come in contact with water	1	3	2	Canoe slalom sign detailing the dangers of Weil's disease to be displayed near control. Clean water at first aid for washing any cuts and antiseptic wipes in first aid kit.
Invasive species and diseases	The aquatic environment	1	2	1	Within the race information pack competitors are reminded of their responsibility to ensure they are not transporting invasive species or diseases in their equipment by 'checking, cleaning and drying' kit as outlined in the British Canoeing document 'You, Your Canoe and the Environment' Race equipment which comes in contact with the water will also be checked, cleaned and dried if used in a different venue to Symonds Yat.



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### Bankside hazards

Risks	Those at Risk	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
Slip/trip natural incident on Bank	Spectators, paddlers, volunteers	3	3	3	Paddlers to access the water at marked put on and take out points. All to wear appropriate footwear when assisting with bank activity. All setting up work to be reduced to minimal risk wherever possible by putting up permanent fittings and low level access points. Judges are able to request an easier judging position to access if required. Rope handles in place where required to aid movement up and down the bank. Ensure vegetation is cleared so there is a good spectator area up on the paths to reduce the need for people to move down to river level.
Slip/trip man made incident on Bank	All	3	3	3	All wires/caballing to be kept away from main path ways. Where wires must cross paths this will be done above head height. Boat park area provided and sign posted to reduce the number of boats lining footpaths.
Bumps from carried boats	All	3	1	1	Competitors are reminded in the event info that boats need to be carried carefully remembering there are other users of the footpath to them.
Electrics	Volunteers	2	5	3	Generator provided by a reputable firm who are clear about the purpose and need to be able to be withstand the elements. Circuit breaker is on the generator. Electric cables in control kept off the ground and well inside the tent to keep them dry. Fire extinguisher in tent. Only those authorised to be in control in the control tent.
Burns	All	3	2	3	Tea Urn to be kept away from main thoroughfares. Ensure the Urn is emptied before lifting it at the end of the event. Cold water and first aid available if needed.



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Risks	Those at Risk	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
Traffic	All	2	4	2	Competitors are told in the race information to use the car park at the canoe centre. Cars are to be parked at Wye Dean Canoe Centre. Parking is managed by their staff with paddlers paying to use the car park. Directions are given by their staff when needed. Limited vehicle access to the area near the control tent with event cars only moving before and after the event.



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### Incident - Health Management

Risks	Those at Risk	Risk	Severity	Prob	Preventative Action Taken
First aid incident	All				<p>First Aid Kit held on waterside and at control</p> <p>Water based rescue team with a first aider.</p> <p>First aider bank side and contactable at control via radio.</p> <p>First aid tent available if needed.</p> <p>Printed directions for those who could be taken to obtain further medical assistance.</p> <p>Land line phone available at the hotel to call ambulance if required and the post code of the venue so location is clear.</p> <p>Ability to switch radios to another channel in order to communicate during a medical emergency to ensure better privacy of information.</p> <p>Emergency vehicles are able to gain access up to the control tent area.</p>
Child Protection issue	minors				<p>All competitors under the age of 18 have their entry signed by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>Clear signage at control that juniors must be supervised by an adult.</p> <p>Club child protection officer present during the event.</p> <p>Where first aid of a junior is required this should be ideally given with the parent or guardian present or at least another adult. Especially is a head to toe search is required or removal of clothing.</p>

<b>Probability</b>	1) Very Low Risk	2) Low Risk	3) Medium Risk	4) High Risk	5) Very High Risk
<b>Severity</b>	1) Minor Injury	2) Injury needing medical attention	3) Injury off work/school 3 days or less	4) Serious injury / long term sickness	5) Fatality