Refer also to the Organiser's risk assessment, which is provided with the official competition information on the Wildwater Racing website here: https://www.wildwater.org.uk/races/category/races/.

Event Safety Management Plan

Introduction

The Barrow Down River race series is organised by Soar Valley Canoe Club on behalf of the Wild Water Racing Discipline committee of Paddle UK. The series is comprised of six races: one a month between September and March each year. The race is a time trial over a three kilometre course: the competitors are set off at one minute intervals and their finishing times recorded. The start is below Barrow New Weir, and finish at the Moorings Public House in Barrow Upon Soar.

Registration and the prize-giving ceremony will be held within the Public House. Toilets are also available for our use here. We can also use the car park; however this can become very busy, and you may prefer to use the free village centre car park, which is a few hundred metres up the hill from the venue on the left.

Transport to Site

Parents are expected to arrange the transport of their children to the event; however, please also note the assessment of risk below, relating to Scout-organised transport where applicable.

Supervision of Young People

Upon arrival all participants must report to the leader-in-charge. Their presence will be noted on the event register, and confirmation requested that they are accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Where a parent is present, they will be expected to take full responsibility for their children when not on the water. Where a parent is not present, the leader-in-charge will make arrangements for their supervision. Upon completion of the race, all participants will be required to report to the leader-in-charge in order to ensure that everyone has left the water safely.

Our young people must not wander around the site unsupervised. The car park can become very busy and presents a risk to safety. See also the risk below relating to crossing the road. Seating within the pub is available for our use, and in warmer weather there are tables river-side.

General Safety Considerations

When cold, and upon completion of the race, everybody should change into dry clothing as soon as possible, in order to minimise the risks associated with hypothermia. Please do not change within public view. Either use vehicles or the pub toilets for this purpose. Please also be aware of the risk relating to hygiene and water quality, as noted below.

First Aid and Welfare Provision

In addition to the cover offered by the organisers, we will always have a qualified first aider and first aid kit at the competition. In the event of the occurrence of a first aid or welfare issue, please report to the leader-in-charge in the first instance. The medical details appertaining to each participant will be recorded in advance on the paper register.

Dissemination of Information

In addition to the organiser's briefing mentioned in their risk assessment, we will provide a briefing prior to the race, in order to ensure that the safety arrangements, and risks as documented below are understood by all.

Contact details for the Leader-In-Charge will be provided within a confirmation email during the week preceding the event.

Risk Assessment

Last review date: 05/11/2026

ID	Risk	Impact	Persons at Risk	Mitigations	Last Update Date
R1	Capsize whilst out-of-sight of support	Drowning; injury; unwillingness to continue with canoeing activities.	Competitors	● Inexperienced paddlers to be escorted ● Leader-in-charge to determine who should be escorted ● Leader-in-charge to assign escorts, and review their suitability. Every escort must be confident to rescue on B1 water. It is preferred that escorts hold a B1 permit. ● Where the leader-in-charge does not hold a B1 permit, he or she must take advice from a canoe instructor who does hold one. ● If there is any doubt as to a child's ability to navigate the course, then the use of a competent adult escort must be mandated ● Where competing without an escort is deemed acceptable, a parent must signify their agreement via the online Activity Information Form	November 2026
R2	Accident or incident whilst travelling to event	Death, injury, reputational damage	All	● Lift sharing requests to be managed using the online Activity Information form. ● Scouting organiser to ensure that lifts are arranged such that there is never a single child travelling with an adult other than a parent.	December 2024

ID	Risk	Impact	Persons at Risk	Mitigations	Last Update Date
R3	Incident caused by use of inappropriate or unsafe equipment	Drowning; injury; unwillingness to continue with canoeing activities.	Competitors	● All boats must be inspected by the leader-in-charge prior to being transported to the event, and again before use. ● A buoyancy aid must be worn. ● A spraydeck should be worn only with the permission of the leader-in-charge (note that this may conflict with advice from the organisers recommending that spraydecks be worn) ● Note also that the wearing of helmets is recommended, but not mandated.	November 2026
R4	Crossing the road with boats	Collision with vehicles	All	● It is necessary to cross the main road at the pub in order to reach the canal. All children to be escorted across the road by a responsible adult.	December 2024
R5	Incident when getting on and off of the water	Injury resulting from fall	Canoeists and helpers	● All those helping children to get on and off of the water must wear a buoyancy aid. ● Children must not approach the river unless wearing a buoyancy aid. ● Designated areas to get on and off of the water are arranged by the competition organisers. Leader-in-charge to ensure that children have been briefed as to the whereabouts of these areas.	January 2024
R6	Illness resulting from ingestion of water and contact with contaminants on bank.	Sickness and other illnesses – particularly Weil's disease.	All	● Make everyone aware of Weil's disease - how it is caught and prevented – through the use of posters and classroom sessions. ● Advice to include the washing of hands and face before eating, shower after activity, cover open cuts. Footwear is mandatory.	January 2024

ID	Risk	Impact	Persons at Risk	Mitigations	Last Update Date
R7	Contact with debris in the water; fishing lines and hooks; overhanging trees and bushes; rocks, litter, sharps	Injury and/or infection from hazardous materials.	All, especially canoeists	● The competition organisers inspect the course immediately before the competition, and advise participants of any hazards during the competition briefing.	November 2026
R8	Adverse weather conditions, especially heat, cold, wind, rain and thunderstorms.	Sickness resulting from hyperthermia or hypothermia; death from lightning strike.	All, especially canoeists.	● Ensure that appropriate clothing for the weather is worn ● If wet and cold, change into dry clothes at the earliest opportunity. ● In strong sunshine, hats to be worn, sun cream applied and drink plenty of fluids (although issues due to overheating are unlikely during winter months!) ● In the event of a thunderstorm leave water immediately and seek shelter.	January 2024
R9	Injury when moving and storing boats	Injury resulting from poor lifting technique and dropping heavy boats. Damage to other vehicles.	All – canoeists in particular	● Provide appropriate instruction before permitting young people to move canoes and kayaks. ● The movement of boats must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Consider in particular the loading and unloading of boats from cars and the trailer, when taken. ● Care should be taken when moving Wavehoppers in particular – these are made of plastic and are significantly heavier than composite racing boats. ● Encourage young people to seek help.	November 2026
R10	Incident when moving around car park.	Injury	All – young people in particular	● All young people must be supervised when moving around the site – particularly when crossing the car park.	November 2026