

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/): <https://www.wildwater.org.uk/races/category/races/>. In addition to the organiser's briefing as mentioned in their risk assessment, we will provide an additional briefing in order to ensure that the risks as documented below are understood by all.

Last review date: 29/09/25

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 (with support from experienced adult canoe instructor as necessary), to determine who should be escorted. - 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	December 2024
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 the competition organisers state that the use of spraydecks is 'highly recommended'. This conflicts with the above, and Scouting advice should take precedence. - Note also that the wearing of helmets is recommended, but not mandated.	December 2024
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	Getting on and off 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. - Designated areas to get on and off 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.	January 2024
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.	All – canoeists in particular	- Provide appropriate instruction before permitting students to move canoes and kayaks. - Ensure appropriate supervision. - Care should be taken when moving Wavehoppers in particular – these are made of plastic and are significantly heavier than composite racing boats. - Encourage students to seek help.	September 2025