



## Risk Assessment Southampton Canoe Club K4 Sprint Pursuit Event 2025

Date:	09/06/2025	Doc No	SOUCC-H&S-RA010
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Assessors Name:	James Hinves	Review Date:	05/2026
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Description of assessment	Club Risk Assessment for Southampton K4 Race
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Location Details	<p>River Itchen, Southampton Upstream of Rail Bridge. This is a sheltered tidal section of river where powered craft are restricted to 6 knots.</p> <p>To be read in conjunction with the K4 Sprint Pursuit Event Safety Plan. There could be a number of spectators who are linked to the event – Parents, competitors etc, plus the people who are in the park carrying out their day to day lives, Southampton Canoe Club are not expecting anyone to travel to watch the race.</p>
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed?	Done
Injury from vehicles parking or crossing roads as well as local traffic.	Pedestrians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- There public car parking available nearby – entrants will be made aware through booking system to park considerately and be aware of their surroundings.</li><li>- Road Crossing between the two Woodmill Sites to be controlled by marshalls in Hi-visibility bibs or similar. This Area to be under the control of the race manager.</li></ul>	Parking marshals may ask for specific vehicles to be moved if a vehicle requiring disability access or vehicles with trailers need access.	Parking Marshals and Race Manager	Day of Race before launching and post race	
Slips, trips, and collisions from paddling kit being	Pedestrians, race stewards,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All competitors will be briefed on area use including where boats and kit may and may not be left.</li></ul>	Race stewards will be in control of traffic flow of competitors.	Race Stewards	Day of Race	



transported around race site, including to and from the riverbank.	competitors, and other river users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qualified first aider to be located at race control, contactable by phone as well as to be able to contact emergency services if required.</li> <li>- First aider at race control to be accompanied by a first aid kit.</li> <li>- Race Spectators and Volunteers will keep to areas open to the public and are briefed to take responsibility for themselves as they would do normally.</li> </ul>	They may remove items if they deem it as being unsafe or posing a risk to others.	and Race Manager	
Electric shock.	Race stewards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any electrical equipment used outside will be limited to battery operated items such as laptops and cameras.</li> <li>- Mains powered (230V) items may only be used inside a building and must be used within the limits of the venue's safety requirements.</li> <li>- No trailing leads will be in accessible areas.</li> <li>- The race manager shall check the condition of all electrical equipment before use.</li> </ul>	<p>In the event of rainfall, all equipment being used outside will be covered by a suitable cover such as a gazebo.</p> <p>Any item which is deemed to be unsafe by any race official will be removed from use.</p>	Race Manager, Race Stewards.	Day of Race
Slips trips and falls inside Woodmill or Stoneham building.	Users of this area including staff and spectators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only publicly accessible areas accessible e.g. toilets</li> <li>- Café customers are the responsibility of the café – even if they are part of the race.</li> <li>- A first aid kit will always be available during race event.</li> </ul>	In the event of large spillages tape will be available to isolate areas of the building whilst the spillage is cleared up.	Race Stewards, Coalporters staff.	Day of Race
Natural hazards including animals, dangerous/ infectious plants and wasp and bee nests.	All users of site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All dangerous plants / nests will be isolated prior to the event using tape to ensure no risk is present to anyone on the site.</li> </ul>	Subject to a natural hazard preventing access to the site, the race manager reserves the right to cancel the event at a point at which they feel it creates a heightened risk to the users of site.	Race Manager, Race Stewards	Day of Race



Fire/ explosion	All users of site.	<p>- Woodmill Fire risk assessment is to be always followed.</p> <p>- In the event of a fire all race stewards will ask all spectators/ competitors to leave the building immediately in a calm manor and leave any belongings behind.</p>	Race stewards and Safety marshals will have access to a means of communication to contact emergency services at any time.	Race Manager, Race Stewards, and Safety Marshals	Day of Race
<p>Injury throughout the race:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drowning</li> <li>• Hyperthermia</li> <li>• Boat collision including collision with other racing craft.</li> <li>• Water born infection.</li> <li>• Adverse weather conditions</li> <li>• Manual Handling of craft</li> </ul>	Competitors and waterborne safety marshals	<p>-Rowing clubs and the port authority will be notified prior to the race commencing.</p> <p>A safety briefing is compulsory for all team leaders and advised for all others. This will include a safety briefing and course description.</p> <p>Any hazards will be explained at the briefing.</p> <p>Team leaders are required to ensure that competitors have the ability and experience to navigate the course in the craft that they are paddling.</p> <p>-Course route planned and approved by the race organiser. Race route planned to avoid the main channel where other larger craft may be.</p> <p>-All unranked paddlers plus those in GSK, mini sprint and Classes D (or Marathon Div 7,8,9 &amp; GST) are required to always wear a buoyancy aid whilst on the water, and have sufficient buoyancy secured within their craft.</p> <p>Race control reserve the right to enforce a compulsory buoyancy aid policy in which all paddlers, regardless of division or age, must always wear a buoyancy aid whilst on the water.</p> <p>If any paddler spots an individual in trouble, they must render every assistance they can without putting themselves in danger.</p> <p>Boats must have sufficient buoyancy to keep the boat and paddler afloat in the event of a capsize and or boat swamping. Boat laminates alone are not sufficient. Additional fixed buoyancy or bulkheads are required.</p> <p>Visual coverage of the racecourse throughout the event by safety marshals and means of communication between marshals will be maintained.</p>	Race Organiser reserves the right to cancel or postpone the event at any point where the level of risk has increased to an unacceptable level. This will be communicated to all relevant race official's dependent on the point at which the event is cancelled or delayed.	Race Manager, Race Stewards, Competitors, Spectators.	Day of Race



Powered Safety craft shall be available to cover the racecourse and to aid recovery of competitors unable to self-rescue. Multiple craft to be launched covering designated sections. Means of communication between craft and bank-side safety marshals will also always be available.

Race manager is to always be contactable throughout the event.

Race manager has the authority to cancel the race at any point if the conditions and/ or safety risks are elevated to a point where competitors or other river users are put at risk of injury.

A visual inspection of the river pollution levels will be conducted before races begin.

All key safety personnel including race manager, race marshals and waterborne rescue teams must always have access to contact emergency services.

The weather will be monitored I the week prior to the event. The event will be cancelled if any electrical storms or wind >force 6 are expected.

Any adverse hot conditions will be risk assessed on the day and any additional information given at the race briefing. This will include sun protection etc.

Race control reserve the right to enforce a compulsory Spray deck policy in which all paddlers, regardless of division or age, must always wear a spray deck whilst on the water.

Paddlers & marshals who may assist following a capsize briefed on lifting and carrying craft.

Lost children

Children of competitors spectators and volunteers

- All competitors will be given a brief on the use of the area including the information that parking marshals and race stewards will be wearing high visibility tops/ bibs and that any child who finds themselves without their parent/ guardian should make themselves known to the nearest marshal who will inform the Welfare Officer of Southampton Canoe Club.

Parking Marshals, Race Stewards, Race Manager,

Day of Race



- All lost children will be taken to race control which will be the designated point for lost children as explained in the detailed brief.

Welfare  
Officer

Missing Paddlers	All Competitors	A start list will be derived from the race entry list and through consultation with team leaders on the morning of the event to establish any withdrawals. The race results officer will be responsible for accounting for all competitors at the end of the race.	
Pre Existing Medical conditions.	All organisers, paddlers, supporters. Parents / guardians	People are responsible for making their team leader aware of any medical issue that may affect their safety. The team leader must inform the race organiser of any medical issue they think appropriate.	
Capsize  Risk of drowning, exhaustion.	Competitors	<p>If competitors capsize</p> <p>At the briefing all competitors reminded that any competitor seeing a swimmer or anyone in any other difficulty should provide any and all assistance they can. Most competitors are fully capable of rescuing a capsized canoeist.</p> <p>An adult coach will follow the Mini K4 race from a craft positioned just behind the last competitor to monitor the younger competitors.</p>	<p>Any competitor providing aid to others will be give a time allowance.</p> <p><u>Any competitor ignoring another competitor in distress or needing aid will be disqualified.</u></p>
Collision with other water users	Competitors	<p>Other river users include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rowers and associated support RIBs</li> <li>• Leisure craft powered and unpowered.</li> <li>• Stand Up paddle boards</li> <li>• Jet Skis can be a particular problem as they have been seen at speeds more than the 6knt speed limit and making sudden turns / changes of direction. The advantage is that they are loud and can be detected some distance away.</li> </ul> <p>Competitors to be reminded of river rules during the briefing.</p>	<p>All rowing clubs will be advised of the event in the 1 – 2 weeks before the race. .</p> <p>Any Issues with other river users will be reported to VTS on the day of the race &amp;</p>



The race route avoids the typical powered craft locations.

We have checked on the Southampton VTS Events website that no other event is due to be held on the river on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

if necessary the  
coastguard (999)

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment checker if selected for sampling)

<b>Checked by:</b>		<b>Position:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
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Notes:

To be read in conjunction with the Event Safety Plan