

# Risk Assessment (Club Hasler Race)



<b>Date:</b>	28th June 2026
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<b>Assessor's Name:</b>	Andrew Leggatt/Briony Chilman	<b>Review Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
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<b>Description of Assessment:</b>	Club marathon boat Hasler race from the Shropshire Paddlesport (SPS) clubhouse along the Montgomery Canal.
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<b>Location Details:</b>	Shropshire Paddlesport Club, The Old Bargehouse, Queen's Head, West Felton, Oswestry SY11 2EY
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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 by?	Done
People in collision with vehicles.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public are at risk of collision with vehicles on the adjacent lane and designated parking area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road marshals wearing hi-vis directing all vehicles to be parked in a field up the road from the clubhouse.</li> <li>No parking on the road, except disabled driver parking in the layby.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Road and parking marshals.	On the day and on going dynamic assessment.	
Narrow towpath and conflict with other towpath users causing slips, trips or falls.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public, particularly walkers, cyclists, and fishermen, on uneven ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisers to brief all involved in the event on potential on-site/ enroute hazards.</li> <li>Emergency access points to be identified in case of incident.</li> <li>First Aiders in attendance.</li> <li>Appropriate footwear to be worn.</li> <li>Advance warning notices erected.</li> <li>Staggered start times.</li> <li>Event to be stewarded.</li> <li>Hi-viz vests to be worn.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Event organisers and stewards.	As above.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All paddlers briefed on priority/courtesy towards other towpath users.</li> <li>• Signs/stewards positioned either end of the course to advise people the event is taking place.</li> <li>• Care to be taken at launching/egress points to reduce the possibility of slips and trips while entering and exiting boats.</li> <li>• Any trip hazards reported to main event organisers.</li> </ul>				
Manual handling	Participants and volunteers not moving equipment and boats safely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All volunteers to be briefed on good manual handling techniques when carrying equipment for setting up events and moving boats/kit.</li> <li>• Team lifting/carrying as required. Juniors to be assisted as appropriate by coaches/parents</li> <li>• Tying boats onto vehicles is left to the discretion of individual vehicle owners.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Participants and volunteers.		
Exposure to elements causing dehydration, heat stroke, hypothermia etc	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members briefed at start of session as appropriate for weather conditions.</li> <li>• Event organisers to assess weather conditions and evaluate any risk.</li> <li>• Participants advised to wear suitable clothes for the activity</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	All attendees.	As above.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All encouraged to keep hydrated and wear sunscreen/hats on hot sunny days.</li> <li>Participants monitored and treated immediately if any sign of exposure related illness.</li> <li>First Aiders in attendance.</li> </ul>				
Change in weather conditions.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All suitably equipped for prevailing conditions.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	All	As above.	
Lightning strike	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The safest option is to check in advance and not to get on the water if thunder and lightning are forecast. Delay or cancel session.</li> </ul>	If thunder and lightning are audible/visible, there is a risk of a lightning strike. Get off the water.	Event organisers.	As above.	
Collision with other canal users due to the canal narrowing.	Competitors and other canal users colliding with each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors will be set off in divisions as per Paddle UK rules which limit the number of boats starting at the same time.</li> <li>A one minute gap between race starts will also space boats out.</li> <li>Competitors are warned of this risk at a race briefing prior to the race starts.</li> <li>All paddlers briefed on priority/courtesy towards other navigation users.</li> <li>Signs/stewards positioned either end of the course to advise people the event is taking place</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Event organisers.	As above.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants to be given full safety briefing before the event.</li> <li>• Paddlers to travel canal right to avoid collision.</li> <li>• Identify procedure for avoiding anglers and moving boats.</li> <li>• All paddlers advised to avoid nesting birds.</li> <li>• First aid available.</li> </ul>				
Injury or drowning while paddling.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public due to falling in canal and injuring themselves, experiencing, secondary drowning or drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Brief at start on session.</li> <li>• All advised to stay away from the canal edge.</li> <li>• Throw lines/rings to be provided,</li> <li>• Event to be stewarded,</li> <li>• Briefed to stand up, remain calm and swim to the side.</li> <li>• Briefing on waterborne diseases/illnesses.</li> <li>• Properly sized and fitted buoyancy aids to be worn.</li> <li>• Suitable footwear to be worn to protect against submerged hazards in the canal.</li> <li>• Safety/support boats on the water.</li> <li>• Stewards and volunteers are trained in water rescue/First Aid.</li> <li>• Appropriate First Aid kits available in Buoyancy Aid store with First Aiders in attendance.</li> </ul>	Inexperienced paddlers to be supervised at all times.	First Aiders, event organisers and Directors.	As above.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any injuries to First Aider and complete an Accident Report Form found in the BA Store cupboard.</li> <li>Wi-Fi calling available and phone in clubhouse Office for emergency use.</li> </ul>				
Debris in water.	Participants being caught up in debris and capsizing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The race course will be inspected the week before the event to remove any obvious debris.</li> </ul>	A slow sweep of the area will be undertaken on race day to identify debris.	Volunteers.	As above.	
Pre-existing medical conditions and recent injuries.	Participants or volunteers having a medical episode.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding who is racing and volunteering and their needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency contact details of participants collected on race day.</li> <li>Participants requested to disclose any medical conditions in confidence to the event organisers.</li> </ul>	Event organisers.	As above.	
Illness, fatigue and minor injuries.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public to seek a First Aider if unwell or injured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Aid cover provided.</li> <li>All participants to carry mobile phone with emergency contact information on it in case of an incident.</li> <li>Emergency access points to be identified in case of an incident.</li> <li>Appropriate footwear to be worn.</li> <li>Support vehicle available.</li> </ul>	First Aider to provide appropriate support. First Aid boxes in BA store and in kitchen in club room.	First Aiders.	As above.	

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Locks	Participants will be in unpowered craft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddlers will portage around locks rather than pass through them.</li> <li>• Stewards present at portage points.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Stewards.	As above.	
Waterborne illnesses.	Participants may be affected by various microorganisms that can cause viral or bacterial illness, e.g. Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis), E. coli, Blue Green Algae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants to be made aware of risk in safety briefing.</li> <li>• Discourage swimming after racing.</li> <li>• Participants advised to wash their hands before eating.</li> <li>• First Aid kit/clean dressings and hand sanitizer available.</li> <li>• If unwell after the event make a doctor's appointment and advise you've been paddling.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	First Aiders.	As above.	
Equipment failure of marathon boats, canoes, and kayaks or defective facilities.	Participants and volunteers potentially injured by defective equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-event equipment check by event organisers.</li> <li>• All encouraged to report defective equipment/facilities as part of safety brief.</li> </ul>	If identified take out of use, mark as defective and email all coaches.	Volunteers.	As above.	
Allergic reaction to food or food poisoning.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public may become ill from food served.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food preparation overseen by food hygiene certificate holder.</li> <li>• Ingredient lists available.</li> <li>• Request donations from members to show ingredients/allergen content.</li> <li>• Where no ingredient list available allergens should be assumed to be present.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Food preparation volunteers.	As above.	

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Fire	Volunteers in the cooking area affected by smoke and/or fire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire blanket and extinguisher present.</li> <li>• Cooking area to be manned at all times while food is being cooked.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Volunteers in the cooking area.	As above.	
Event emergency.	Participants, stewards, volunteers, and the public causing loss of operational control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event organisers to take control in the event of an emergency.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Event organisers.	As above.	
Electric shock	Volunteers in the cooking area at risk from electric cables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cables to be laid away from possible liquid spillage, heat sources, and so as to not be trip risks.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief.	Volunteers in the cooking area	As above.	
Safeguarding failure.	Risk of harm to vulnerable persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaches to be safeguarding trained and DBS checked.</li> <li>• Committee members to be safeguarding trained.</li> <li>• Compliance with SPS club and Paddle UK safeguarding policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	Action to be taken by Directors if appropriate.	Welfare Officer.	As above.	
Vegetation, invasive species contamination	Environmental harm Spectators and participants may be hurt from plants such as knotweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-race day checking for any invasive species</li> <li>• Promoting the Clean, dry and check principles by asking all participants to clean their boats prior to arriving and on leaving.</li> </ul>	Part of race day safety brief	Event organiser	As above.	

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Notes:

Race and safety briefing to be carried by event organiser.

SPS Club insurance in place.

Club Photography policy advised to participants.