

# Risk Assessment for Junior Slalom Trip to Stafford & Stone Slalom club



<p>Liverpool Canoe Club Date of Risk Assessment: 5th April 2026</p>	<p>Name of Risk Assessor: Carol Atkison LCC Safety Officer: Kevin Corcoran</p>	<p>Review Date: Reviewed annually and as required by the club safety officer. (eg following any reported Incidents)</p>
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	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?
Drowning	Paddlers	<p>Wearing of buoyancy aid</p> <p>Instruction on capsize procedures</p> <p>Relevant supervision for novices</p> <p>Advised to keep away from the riverbank</p>	<p>Supervisors to ensure the buoyancy aid is correctly fitted</p> <p>Pre-session briefing of the area of river by Stafford &amp; Stone Cub coach</p> <p>Throw lines available.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Hypothermia	Paddlers	<p>Advised on the correct clothing to wear Adjustment to clothing as required. Advised to bring hot drinks / food.</p> <p>Stretch of water in use is right next to the club facilities and these will be available with hot showers, warm drink making facilities etc.</p>	<p>Continuous risk assessment at event</p> <p>Wind chill in plan; layers + spare kit; shorten exposure; on-water rewarm plan; shelters/bothy bags.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Pollution and water quality	Paddlers	<p>Paddler briefing prior to getting on the water to highlight risks</p> <p>Paddlers should not touch face after getting on the water.</p> <p>Club Coach has advised of poor water quality, especially after heavy rainfall.</p>	<p>Risks are higher after heavy rainfall</p> <p>Avoid intentional capsizes in poor conditions</p> <p>Wash hands after paddling / before eating. Shower after paddling</p> <p>Cover small cuts.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Weirs and man-made features	Paddlers	<p>Helmets to be worn when paddling in associated rough water</p>	<p>Appropriate skill and awareness training</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

Over hanging tree or strainers	Paddlers	Paddlers advised to negotiate around trees, both overhanging and floating  Advised as to correct action in event of entanglement	Appropriate training in pre-session briefing	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Injury from manual handling	Coaches, leaders and participants	Pre-paddle brief to be given to include instructions on carrying boats.	Two people to each boat.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Wildlife (nesting birds, seals, swans)	Coaches, leaders and participants	Aggressive encounters, capsizes	Seasonal awareness; brief group on behaviour.  Avoid nesting sites	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Weather and environmental conditions	Coaches, leaders and participants	Weather forecasts are always obtained, plans are adapted, and participants are advised.	Cancellation or adapted plan (Dynamic Risk Assessment during all activities).  Participants to have suitable experience and clothing,	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Cold water ( $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), immersion, cold shock	Coaches, leaders and participants	Inhalation/aspiration, swim failure, cardiac stress, hypothermia	Eliminate: shorten immersion risk activities.  Engineering: Sheltered venue; Club house available with hot showers, hot drink facilities  Buddy checks; progressive exposure; carry hot drinks, shelter bags. PPE: Suitable wetsuit/drysuit, thermal layers, hats/gloves, spare kit.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

Wind (≥ Force 4), gusts, crosswinds	Coaches, leaders and participants	<p>Capsize, loss of control, blown off-course, separation</p> <p>Short, sheltered course chosen.</p> <p>Adult supervision both on the water &amp; off.</p>	group spacing; towing kits; comms plan; cancel if whitecapping beyond group capability.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
Group Size	Coaches	<p>1:6 - leaders to participants.</p> <p>Slalom club coach will be one of the leaders for the day and all participants will be made aware that his word is final.</p>	Additional adults off the water will be available.	Organiser / Leader	
Access & Egress	Coaches, leaders and participants	<p>Slippery banks, Steep exit/egress Boats</p> <p>Possible sharps objects that could cause cuts</p> <p>Paddlers will be briefed on where to enter / exit the water - club has specific points where hard standing paths are in place.</p> <p>Paddlers will be advised to work together to get boats to access points / remove from the water.</p>	<p>Paddlers to be reminded of the large boat size which is different to the normal boats that they paddle in.</p> <p>All participants to wear appropriate footwear.</p> <p>Extra care to be taken if access / egress is wet / potentially slippery.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session