

## Shepperton Division 3/4 – Risk Management Plan

The Sharks will run a division 3/4 slalom at Shepperton Weir using the facilities of Shepperton Slalom Canoe Club who have sole use of a weir pool which is used for training and competitions.

The club house and land-based part of the slalom is situated on an island which is reached by crossing the Shepperton lock gates. The route is marked as private and is shared with the Thames Environment Agency (who are not there at weekends) and a boat club (motor cruisers). There is a second island which is accessed via a weir bridge and this has residents. The residents also have right of way alongside the slalom area. Paths are level and mostly paved.

Canoeing is regarded as an “at risk” sport and individuals participating recognise this either when signing for bibs and/or when entering the event. Following this document cannot remove all the associated risks; if we attempted to do so there would be no competition. Rather, we are attempting to recognise and reduce risks where we can.

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Hazard</b>                | <b>Description/Impact</b>            | <b>Mitigations</b>   |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| General         | Minor Injuries               | Cuts, scrapes, splinters and bruises | A nominated first aider will be available. First aid kit (in kitchen cupboard behind door) will be checked for contents prior to event   |
|                 | Major Injuries/health issues |                                      | Given the location of the site and the likelihood of traffic between us and the local hospitals. Any major injury will be a 999 call. Phone reception on site is good for most networks and The Sharks will maintain charge on several phones accessing different networks.<br><br>The short path to the road provides reasonable access for emergency services. |

| Category       | Hazard             | Description/Impact  | Mitigations   |
|----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Paddler Safety | Weir               | Depending on the water levels there can be strong tow-backs on the side spills which could cause paddlers to be trapped   | <p>In the event of such water levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The course will be designed to avoid the towbacks</li> <li>- A notice will be posted to make paddlers aware of the danger</li> <li>- Throw bags will be positioned in appropriate positions on the bank for quick access</li> </ul>   |
|                | Capsizing/Swimming | <p>If the water is high then there is a likelihood of the occasional swimmer.</p> <p>However, Shepperton is a comparatively safe slalom course in this respect as there are only a few rocks and swimmers are washed out of the fast water into calmer water where it is easier to effect a rescue.</p> | <p>During the race and official practice, the requirement for paddlers remain on the water to act as safety for the following two paddlers will be enforced. Pre-start and finish will be asked to monitor this</p> <p>In addition, depending on the water levels and weather conditions, we will look to provide additional on water safety.</p> <p>During open practice, paddlers are required to provide their own safety by looking out for each other.</p> <p>All paddlers required to wear buoyancy aids as in the slalom rule book, this will be checked by the starter during official practice and pre-start during the race</p> |
|                | Hypothermia        | This is likeliest where someone swims.  | The club house is heated and has hot showers available. Anyone who swims is encourage to use the facilities to warm up!   |

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
|                 | Getting in and out          | There is a floating pontoon which is used for access to the water. There are sometimes boats moored just downstream of the pontoon. In certain water levels there could be a risk of being swept onto and under the boats               | This is highly unlikely at this competition level. However, this will be reviewed on the day and a notice posted if necessary.   |
|                 | Paddler Incompetence        | This is a Div 3/4 event. Div 3 should be quite capable of handling the course. Div 4 may need some coaching and assistance.   | Coaching and extra safety cover will be available for the Div 4 paddlers.  |
|                 | Lack of Recognition of Risk | Paddlers are required to be members of the BCU/SCA/WCA/CANI and to sign the "risk" statement to obtain a bib. Div 4 paddlers can join for the event, or will be junior members of an affiliated club, with appropriate coaches on site. | All paddlers must have a bib to do a run. Where a paddler needs to borrow a bib. He/she must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prove membership of appropriate organisation and or pay for membership on the day</li> <li>- Sign the "risk" statement</li> </ul> |
|                 | Head Injury                 | Eg hit by slalom paddle or pole   | All paddlers are required to wear a helmet as defined in the rule book. This will be checked by the starter during official practice and pre-start during the race.  |

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|------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Bank Side Safety | Cables and Trip Hazards | Most of the cables between the clubhouse (control) and the bank are run underground. The main potential for tripping over cables is therefore within control and between the plug in points on the bank and the judging positions. | <p>Judging positions will be kept close to the plug in points wherever possible given the constraints of needing to judge.</p> <p>Excess cables and gate lines will be neatly coiled.</p> <p>Gate poles will be clearly visible.</p> <p>Within control, cables will be run around the edge of the room as far as practical. Access to control will be limited to appropriate officials.</p> |
|                  | Slipping on the Bank    | The bank slopes quite sharply to the river in places and, if wet, can be slippery.   | <p>Depending on the weather conditions, we may cordon off key areas of danger, eg particularly slippery banks</p> <p>Judges briefing will include a reminder to take care.</p> <p>Access to the residents' island (where the slope is steepest and uneven) will be restricted to those judging.</p>   |
|                  | Tree Climbing           | There are some large trees on site which are particularly attractive to young teens. The ground underneath is uneven and unforgiving   | <p>Swings etc hanging from the trees will be removed for the event</p> <p>Parents are expected to take responsibility for their offspring as in the rule book and a notice will be posted to this effect.</p> <p>Any club official seeing youngsters climb the trees will tell them to come down (If they don't then parents will be contacted via the sound system)</p>                    |

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Traffic Management    | Parking                         | There is some parking available alongside the lock and along the road.   | There should be enough parking for the expected numbers. Plenty available further along the approach roads.   |
| Changing Water levels | Lock keeper adjustment to gates | The lock keeper may be required to change the weir gates at short notice which could substantially change the course | The Sharks work closely with SSCC, who have a good relationship with the lock keeper and he will try to ensure that no changes are made to “our” weir during the event. (there is a back weir that can be adjusted without affecting us)<br><br>Official practice will start as late as possible, and certainly no earlier than 11:00am, in order to give the lock keeper time to make that day’s changes. If he does make changes that require course adjustment then official practice will be delayed. |
|                       | Lack of Volunteer Officials     | Always a problem!  | Some competitors may be required to judge. In particular<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shepperton members</li> <li>- Late entrants (if any)</li> </ul> Judging stints will be arranged so that competitors have a chance to warm up before and after runs.  |

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| Weather         | Impact on Judging |   | <p>Umbrellas will be available for gate judges (do section judges bring their own these days?)</p> <p>Gate judging stints will be kept to a reasonable length (around an hour)</p> <p>Sheltered weather boards for recording penalties will be used if the weather is wet.</p>   |
|                 | Impact on site    | If we get a lot a rain it can get muddy   | Efforts will be made to keep the weir bridge free of mud.  |
|                 | Impact on Course  | Rainfall or lack of before or during the event may result in inappropriate water levels | <p>If water is too high then it could be necessary to cancel or postpone the div 4. In this event club committee, slalom committee and chair of the jury, will all be consulted, with the final decision taken by the organiser. In the event of cancellation a notice will be published on <a href="http://www.canoeslalomentries.co.uk">www.canoeslalomentries.co.uk</a>, <a href="http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk">www.canoeslalom.co.uk</a> and the procedures from the rule book will be followed.</p> <p>Course design will reflect the possibility for changing levels and may be revised on the morning of the event if necessary</p> |
|                 | General           |   | Slalom is a wet sport; attendees are expected to dress appropriately!  |

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|-----------|--------------|--|--|
| Financial | Cancellation | <p>Shepperton Canoe Club lets us have free use of the site (we make a donation according to the success of the event.</p> <p>Prizes</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Other costs</p> | <p>We will try to take any decisions of this nature as early as possible to minimise costs to others.</p> <p>We recognise we could make a loss on prizes but these could be used later in the year at other Shark events</p> <p>Catering supplies where possible will be frozen for future competitions</p> <p>The club is financially secure and can afford the risk of a small loss.</p> |
|           |              |  |  |
|           |              |  | February 2018  |