

SHEPPERTON RANKING CLASSIC WWR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SHARKS

SPAN OF CONTROL AND RISK ASSESSMENT

BY NEAL UNDERWOOD AND SUSAN TEMPLETON

DUTY	NAMED PERSON OR DOCUMENT ETC	SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES
ORGANISERS	THE SHARKS NEAL UNDERWOOD Email: canoeing@thesharks.org.uk Mobile: 07951770241 http://www.thesharks.org.uk/	SHEPPERTON SLALOM CANOE CLUB Set on Lock Island, overlooking Hamhaugh Island and the Weybridge bank of the Thames, our site spans the Shepperton weir pool. It has a picturesque, holiday feel about it, leaving the real world behind. The only permanent slalom site in the SE and have gates movable from the bank and the water. There are calm areas for flat water practice, plus usually a gently flow from the side spills and in rainy times, between 1 and 10 sluice gates may be open creating challenging white water. With 5 to 8 gates open it is the best wave in the country! The weir pool has direct access to the Thames, upstream towards Chertsey and downstream towards Sunbury – ideal for longer paddles and in particular our warm up/ training run (c.6min) around ‘short’ (D’Oily Cart) Island.
INSURANCE	The Sharks Canoe Club	Note: No safety cover will be provided for WWR practice this is at the paddlers own risk.

		<p>If you want or need help to practise ask the WWR race Organiser Neal Underwood and he will try to find an experienced paddler to help you.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity to try Wild water racing boats or wavehoppers if interested again ask WWR race Organiser Neal Underwood</p>
Welfare Officer and Child Protection	Mandy Combes as detailed in The Sharks Slalom Plan	Paddlers (or for paddlers under 18 persons in loco parentis sign a photograph waiver form as part of entry process
First Aid	As detailed in The Sharks Slalom Plan	
Emergencies Minor and Major	As detailed in The Sharks Slalom Plan	
Incident Recording	As detailed in The Sharks Slalom Plan	Copy to be provided for WWR Executive needs
WAVEHOPPERS	All paddlers/clubs bringing wavehoppers will be asked if these can be used by other paddlers to try out in practise as required. This is not mandatory but it is hoped paddlers/clubs will oblige to help promote use of this type of racing boat.	
WWR Race paddlers	All WWR race paddlers will be required to wear safety helmets and buoyancy aid whilst practising and racing	
WWR Race Practise	For WWR practice avoid the slalom practice areas and ensure you have your own safety cover.	If you want or need help to practise ask the WWR race Organiser Neal Underwood and he will try to find an experienced paddler to help you.

	NO SAFETY COVER WILL BE IN PLACE DURING PRACTICE THIS IS AT PADDLERS OWN RISK	There may be an opportunity to try Wild water racing boats or wavehoppers if interested again ask WWR race Organiser Neal Underwood
WWR Race	<p>For the WWR race safety cover is by paddlers racing and you must ask for help or any paddler seeing another who is or may be in difficulty should render assistance if they do not they face a potential life ban from the sport.</p> <p>For the WWR race paddlers must wait on until the next two paddlers have finished there must always be two paddlers at the bottom of the race acting as safety.</p>	
Facilities e.g. toilets, catering etc.	<p>Toilets: Shepperton Slalom Canoe Club on site or public toilets other side of lock. It is advised no child under 16 goes to the public toilets on their own as the lock, public café and surround is very busy</p> <p>Catering etc.: By Sharks</p>	
Entries (notification of wishing to race)	<p>Ideally to Neal Underwood in advance Susan Templeton will manage on the day</p> <p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and medically fit to race the WWR race on the conditions etc. on the day.</p> <p>Entry cost £1 for all ages/boats</p>	<p>Email: canoeing@thesharks.org.uk</p> <p>Mobile: 07951770241</p> <p>http://www.thesharks.org.uk/</p>
WWR race specific documents, bibs and stop watches ALSO MEDALS	Use slalom bibs	
WWR Race start and finish personnel	From responsible WWR/Slalom parents	

WWR run time	SUNDAY 27 May 2018 after slalom first runs have ended 1300 approximately	Times may change on the day within one hour or so. If numerous paddlers, start times will be at 30 seconds rather than one minute
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RISK ASSESSMENT

NOTE: In the event of a conflict between this risk assessment and the one provided by Shepperton Slalom Canoe Club for the Shepperton slalom the Shepperton Slalom Canoe Clubs plan will override.

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK (IF ANY RACE RISK DEEMED HIGH THEN RACE TO BE MOVED OR CANCELLED DUE TO BEING ADVERTISED AS SUITABLE FOR NOVICES)

HAZARDS	RISK TO WHOM	RISK AVOIDANCE, ACTIONS AND ADVICE	RATING IF PRECAUTIONS ETC FOLLOWED
INSURANCE ETC			
PADDLER CONTROL	Paddlers	<p>A short briefing will be held just prior to the start of the WWR run by Neal Underwood/Susan Templeton</p> <p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions etc. on the day.</p> <p>Paddlers, spectators and parents etc. to follow instructions and safety, site etc. plans and directions from the organisers. It is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with this.</p>	L
RACE ORGANISER.	Organisation	<p>THE SHARKS hold a 5 million pound third party liability insurance</p> <p>British Canoeing either individual or as a member of a British Canoeing affiliated club Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance.</p>	L

INSURANCE COVER CHECKS	Organisation and Paddlers	All competitors will be checked for insurance cover at race entry as either having: <input type="checkbox"/> British Canoeing membership. <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliated club British Canoeing membership. <input type="checkbox"/> British Canoeing membership by buying a day ticket	L
COMPETENCE	Paddlers	Paddlers are solely responsible for their own competence, medical fitness and issues and welfare undertaking the race in the conditions present on the day. All entrants will complete an entry form stating competence (see separate form). For Under 18 paddlers, an adult with “Loco Parentis” for them entering and attempting the race and with knowledge of their ability will be required to sign as to their competence to race on the conditions on race day.	L
START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING	Organisation and Paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal. Contact details will be held on entry forms if needed.	L
PADDLER SPECIFIC			
NON PADDLERS & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	Paddlers and Spectators	The lock and café (near the Public toilets and parking on a Sunny day is full of members of the public. Paddlers should watch when they move boats around, paddles etc. Also it is suggested no paddler under 16 should go to the Lock public toilets on their own (nor be left on their own in or around the lock.	L
SLALOM COURSE	Paddlers	Please respect the slalom paddlers we are guests at their main event so keep out of their way in practise and ensure they have right of way getting in and out on the jetty whilst the slalom competition is going on.	L
GETTING IN AND OUT		All WWR paddlers and spectators or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet.	L

		<p>It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, spectators etc., if on the bank or getting in jetty and potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid</p> <p>Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.</p>	
<p>WEIR CURRENTS AND RIVER FLOW</p>	Paddlers and Spectators	<p>FINISH: Shepperton main weir (where slalom is) can be very powerful with a large wave train and boily tippy water emanating out from the centre which can catch paddlers unaware even a long distance away from the weir and in the path of the WWR race to the finish jetty. If unsure or unstable cross as far down from the wave train as you can.</p> <p>START: The back weir at the start can be choppy and fast and you may need to paddle out strongly away from the bank to avoid moored boats on the weir sides.</p> <p>ON COURSE: There is a river entering the race course about two thirds of the way down (check as you paddle upstream)this can cause you boat to be pushed away or make you tippy so again enter it paddle hard and cross it where it looks the least strong if in doubt.</p> <p>COURSE: The Thames can be quite docile or a raging torrent, a swim could be a long one try to keep hold of you boat and paddle but mainly get to a safe side of the bank and call for help from the next paddler..</p> <p>If necessary the course will be shortened or cancelled.</p>	L
<p>ROWING BOATS AND PLEASURE CRAFT TRAFFIC</p>	Paddlers	<p>The last stretch leading to the canoe slalom site and across the bottom of the slalom site is often frequented by many rowers who as they sit facing backwards cannot see you so avoid them they will not avoid you and do not forget the length of their blades is much longer than canoe/kayak paddles.</p>	L

		Pleasure craft also frequent this stretch and again ensure you keep your distance watch out for waves from them and if in doubt shout canoeist behind you on your left or right or whatever they may not have seen you.	
RACE OVER TAKING	Paddlers	In all cases the catching paddler MUST shout WATER and ideally ON YOUR LEFT OR RIGHT. The paddler being caught where safe and competent to do so MUST move the opposite way to the way the paddler advised they were passing so IF ON YOUR LEFT the caught paddler should try to move right and vice versa. Overtaking will be difficult so make sure you callout and paddler being caught moves to one side	L
CAPSIZE	Paddlers	Safety helmets must be worn by all paddlers The paddler should get to the bank as quickly as possible with their canoe and paddle if they can. If they need help they MUST stop the next paddlers by calling for help from them For the WWR race safety cover is by paddlers racing and you must ask for help or any paddler seeing another who is or may be in difficulty should render assistance if they do not they face a potential life ban from the sport. For the WWR race paddlers must wait on until the next two paddlers have finished there must always be two paddlers at the bottom of the race acting as safety.	L
STUCK ON SHALLOWS	Paddlers	Unlikely on course proposed Paddler to try to work themselves free with hands etc. If safe to do so (check water flow, what is below can you safely get in due to water depth, bank drop, water flow etc.,) get out and relaunch or ask help from the next paddler.	L

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OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES OR SLALOM POLES AND STRINGS ETC	Paddlers and Spectators	<p>Anything that can catch you or your equipment both on your equipment/body and external to you can be very dangerous. Tuck in bibs straps, any other loose trailing bits on you except for ensuring your spray deck loop is ready to pull off if needed. Avoid trees and obstacles by angling your canoe away from them well in advance, the flow often takes you straight into some obstacles so act early if needed.</p> <p>If you are swimming swim away from trees and hazards and stay in deeper clear flow until you can see a clear area to swim and get out on.</p> <p>If you do get caught do not panic try to extricate yourself unless it will make the situation worse and call for help.</p>	L
BOAT SPECIFIC			
CANOE FLOTATION	Paddlers	<p>Canoes should be buoyant enough to float even if fully full with water so should act as support to a capsized canoeist if required.</p> <p>Paddlers are required to ensure their canoe is buoyant.</p>	L
EQUIPMENT FAILURE	Paddlers	<p>Get to the bank or a shallow bank/area as quickly as you can or get out and get to the bank/shallow safe areas and call for help from another paddler if required.</p>	L

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ILL HEALTH/INJURY			
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers and Spectators	<p>If you can pull to the side or safe bank area, or an area you can beach boat or hold on safely to something if you can get out and rest on bank. Call for help in any situation and report to the race organiser for first aid or treatment on site or wider help.</p> <p>SEE THE SHARKS' FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PLAN</p> <p>For the WWR race safety cover is by paddlers racing and you must ask for help or any paddler seeing another who is or may be in difficulty should render assistance if they do not they face a potential life ban from the sport.</p> <p>For the WWR race paddlers must wait on until the next two paddlers have finished there must always be two paddlers at the bottom of the race acting as safety.</p>	L
HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE	Paddlers and Spectators	<p>Wear clothing suitable for conditions and the potential of a capsize and that works with your body regulation.</p> <p>Paddlers can withdraw from race by attracting other paddlers' attention.</p>	L

		In all cases where there is any doubt as to the paddlers (or spectators etc. condition professional medical help should be called sooner rather than later	
WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers	<p>WEIL'S DISEASE</p> <p>Weil's Disease is a RARE but very serious illness which is caused by bacteria carried in the urine of rats (and some other animals). It can be contracted anywhere but especially around waterways. The descending scale of risk is: Stagnant water, canals and slow moving rivers (particularly after flash floods), swifter streams.</p> <p>Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water • Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster • Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet <p>Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs & joints) call your doctor and tell him/her you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria - see your Yearbook Contact the British Canoeing Office for more information – see for standard handout please.</p>	L
EMERGENCY			
EMERGENCY	Paddlers and Spectators	<p>SEE THE SHARKS' FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PLAN</p> <p>AND</p> <p>999 to be called.</p> <p>Then inform race finish.</p>	