

# YORK CANOE RACE 2025 - EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The race is held on the River Ouse starting at the Millennium Bridge. There are three courses comprising short 2.5Km, medium 5Km and long 7Km. There is a mass start for each course. The race format is a 'there and back' event with a mid-turn at a road bridge. Competitors paddle through the middle of York. There are about 120 competitors (about 85 craft). The Millennium Bridge provides the finish line for the race. Parking, registration, prize giving, and event facilities are all located on the field next to the Millennium Bridge.

## EVENT ORGANISERS

The race is organised by York Canoe Race Association Committee.

## KEY TO THE FOLLOWING TABLES

The TOTAL SCORE is a multiple of:

LIKELIHOOD - the more likely it is that the hazard occurs the higher the score from 1 to 3

SEVERITY – the level of harm that will arise, the more harm the greater the score from 1 to 3

LIKELIHOOD x SEVERITY = TOTAL SCORE: 1 - 3 (Low); 4 - 6 (Medium); 7 - 9 (High)

## APPROVAL

This risk assessment has been reviewed and approved by:

Sign.....

Date:.....

Sign.....

Date:.....

Sign.....

Date:.....

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Likelihood	Severity	Score	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Review comments / Review date
Drowning	Competitors	1	3	3	<p>All competitors must wear buoyancy aids.</p> <p>All competitors must be able to swim.</p> <p>Competition rules are to go in aid of any paddler in distress</p> <p>Race marshals stationed at each road bridge.</p> <p>Safety kayakers on water for any competitors not able to self-rescue</p> <p>Rules demand that boat is able to support swimmer.</p> <p>Race Manager, race marshals and rescue have mobile phones to contact emergency response if required.</p>	<p>Race Briefing.</p> <p>Visual check by Race Marshals that all competitors wearing buoyancy aids.</p> <p>Pre event preparation</p>	Control methods continue to be effective.
Drowning	Race marshals	1	3	3	Any persons engaged in course set up around the water's edge to wear buoyancy aid.	None.	Control methods continue to be effective.
Drowning	Spectators	1	3	3	<p>No spectators not likely to be close to water's edge. Site is open and visible to all spectators and race officials.</p> <p>Rescue rings available on riverbank.</p>	None.	Control methods continue to be effective.
Immersion Hypothermia	Swimmers	2	3	6	Rescues to be conducted quickly by the rescue team/other competitors. First aider to have access to equipment to deal with initial onset of Hypothermia including first aid tent for shelter.	None	Control methods continue to be effective.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Likelihood	Severity	Score	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Review comments / Review date
Boat collision	Competitors	2	2	4	The starter reserves the right to change the time intervals or pause the race to either allow for a rescue to be conducted or to avoid a potential collision.	None	Control methods continue to be effective.
Boat collision	Competitors and other river users	2	2	4	York Boat notified prior to event. Competitors to assemble on river right prior to race and allow space for other users to pass. Competitors to 'keep right,' use the right-hand bridge arch for turning, be aware of other river users and observe rules of navigation. Alert competitors of congested start at Race Briefing. Advise slow starters to hang back.	Pre event preparation  Race Briefing. University of York Rowing Club, St Peter's School Rowing Club, City of York Rowing Club and the Dragon Boat Race Organisers notified by email 13.05.22.	Control methods continue to be effective.
Competitors getting lost or going missing	Competitors	2	1	2	Competitors to wear numbered race bibs. Marshals at all turns. Competitors to report to Registration if retired.	None	Control methods continue to be effective.
Water born infection	Competitors	1	3	3	Visual check for river pollution on day of event.  Paddlers reminded of the importance of washing hands and showering at race briefing.  Alcohol wipes and fresh water available at first aid for cuts and scratches.	Race Briefing	Control methods continue to be effective.

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Injury while unloading and loading boats	Competitors, race marshals, spectators	2	1	2	Plenty of time and space allowed for unloading boats. Provide access for vehicles to park close to river by opening gate into Butcher Terrace field	Pre event preparation	Control methods continue to be effective.
Injury from cars, bikes, etc.	Competitors, race marshals, spectators	2	1	2	Registration located on grass away from public roads and footpaths. Race marshals to control arrival of competitors cars and parking. Include within competitor briefing.	Pre event preparation	Control methods continue to be effective.
Slips, trips and falls on riverbanks	Competitors, race marshals, spectators.	3	2	6	Clear undergrowth. Access is similar to regular kayaking river entry. Safety to be covered during race briefing. Race marshals will assist and direct competitors to bank entry points.	Pre event preparation	Control methods continue to be effective
Change of weather conditions change	Competitors	2	1	2	Race Manager has authority to call for cancellation of race during lead up to the race and call abandonment if risk levels raise to unacceptable levels.	None	Control methods continue to be effective-
Electric Shock	Race officials	1	3	3	Use of electrical equipment limited to low voltage equipment. Battery packs and car chargers to provide power supplies.	None	Control methods continue to be effective
Food Poisoning	Race officials and competitors	1	2	2	Notices will provide warning related to common allergies. BBQ food to be well cooked and good hygiene to be observed.	None	Control methods continue to be effective

