**Yorkshire Slalom Training Days - Event Safety Plan**

**Purpose**

Yorkshire slalom is a collective of clubs and the regional committee, so need to comply with Paddle UK’s Event Safety Requirements. This document sets out Yorkshire Slalom's plans for managing safety at regional slalom training events and should be read in conjunction with Yorkshire Slalom’s Risk Assessment for the relevant training site.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

* **Event Organiser/Lead -** Ensure that an appropriate risk assessment has been undertaken prior to the event, and ensure that coaches and paddlers are aware of specific hazards identified.
* **Coaches -** Lead sessions appropriate to the level of the group that they are coaching. Undertake a dynamic risk assessment based on the the conditions on the day before and throughout the training event. Ensure there is adequate safety cover based on the ability of their group, the site and prevailing conditions. Highlight site specific hazards to paddlers in their group.
* **Training Co-ordinator -** Collate details of paddlers and coaches attending events. Communicate attendees to the Event Organiser/Coaches, including advising coaches of any paddlers with medical issues or additional needs that coaches need to know about. Communicate changes to planned events to all those attending (eg changes of venue or cancellation).
* **Event Safety Officer -** Approve event safety plans and risk assessment for training events.
* **Paddlers** - Take responsibility for their own actions and the safety of themselves and others. Comply with instructions from coaches or those providing safety cover.
* **Parents** - Ensure they (and their children) are educated of the risks, hazards and safety precautions associated with the activity and the training site.

**Risk Assessment**

A risk assessment will be produced for each training site used by Yorkshire Slalom taking into account the hazards and nature of the site and the likely activity and paddlers attending. Those coaching and providing safety must be familiar with the risk assessment, specific hazards and safety implications associated with the sites they are coaching at.

This will be supplemented by a dynamic risk assessment on site by coaches to reflect the river conditions, weather and number & ability of paddlers attending on the day. Advice will be taken from the host club or those with experience of the site to ensure that venue is at a suitable level for the planned session.

**Event Cancellation/ Alteration**

In the event of high river levels, consideration will be given to cancelling to the event as follows:

* Prior to the event - by the Event Organiser in consultation with coaches based on river levels, weather forecast and advice from host club/training site
* On the day / during the event: by the coaches attending based on the current and anticipated river conditions.

Where appropriate the event may be relocated to a venue that is more suitable for the conditions or group, limited to more experienced paddlers or reduce the number of paddlers on the water to increase safety ratios.

**Coaches**

All those coaching at Yorkshire Slalom training will be approved by Yorkshire Slalom Committee to do so at training sites of that difficulty (based on qualification and /or experience). Any clarification can be obtained from senior coaches attending.

Those providing additional safety cover (boat or bank based) must be competent to do so in prevailing river conditions and wear personal protective equipment for the role they are carrying out.

**Paddler Information**

Details of training events will make it clear the ability level of paddler that the training day is aimed at. Paddlers who are unsure whether training at a particular site is suitable for them should discuss this with a club coach who is familiar with their paddling ability.

Paddlers will also be required to provide up to date information on relevant medical conditions and Emergency contact details.

**Communication**

Paddlers and coaches are asked to confirm that they are attending events prior to the event providing their name, division and contact number and email to the Yorkshire Slalom Training Co-ordinator (slalomtraining@yorcie.org.uk). This will enable Yorkshire Slalom to ensure there are sufficient coaches and safety and to manage group numbers at the training event.

This will also enable Yorkshire Slalom to advise paddlers of changes to the venue, suitability or cancellation in the event of high (or low) water levels.

**Emergency Action Plan**

In the event of an incident, coaches responsible for the group should:

* Ensure the rest of the group are safe.
* Ensure a prompt effective rescue is competed by fellow paddlers, coaches or those providing safety cover.
* Ensure appropriate first aid is given to any casualty and medical assistance (or other emergency services) are called where appropriate.
* Where appropriate warn other paddlers at the venue of any additional hazard created by the incident (e.g. Throw lines across the river, pinned boats)
* Where appropriate, notify the emergency contact of any casualties.

An Incident Report Form should be completed for all accidents that require First Aid treatment or near misses and forwarded to the Yorkshire Slalom Event Safety Officer. Additionally, for any accident requiring medical treatment the a Paddle UK Incident Report Form should be completed.

**Review and Update**

This document and site risk assessment a will be review and updated as required by the Event Safety Officer based on incidents at events and changed at events. This will also be done at least annually.

**Created by:**  Les Ford

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**Review Due:** October 2025