**Wirral Primary Schools Cross Country Association**

Race Risk Assessment for Arrowe Park, Birkenhead Park, Oxton Fields and The Dips

for academic year 2022 – 2023.

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| Hazard | Who might be harmed? | What controls exist to reduce risk? | What action can be taken to further reduce risk? |
| Participants at risk from contact with spectators/ Members of Public/ students | All participants | School staff accompanying children are responsible for their safety at all times whilst on site.   * School staff are responsible for the conduct of their own spectators, parents/guardians. * Any unwanted or disruptive individuals will be asked to leave the premises. * Staff and pupils informed of rules and safety aspects prior to the event and event information posted on the website prior to the event. * Accompanying staff are issued rules and guidelines in advance of the events and these are sent to schools, published in staff WhatsApp group and shred on the Wirral XC website. | * Instructions for arrival emailed out in advance. * Event leader or leaders to speak to staff about pupils who are behaving inappropriately. * Rules and risk assessment published on the website and emailed to participating schools prior to event. * Constant monitoring and review during event |
| Participants at risk of injury or illness from poor organisation of event | All participants | * Entries can be capped to ensure manageable competitors in available space. Additional space organised if entries extended. * School staff will be responsible for warming up and preparing players before their specific events. Time warnings will be given. * School staff are responsible for supervising members of their team when they are not participating in events and resting. * Schools advised to bring a First Aider. Although the organiser is a first aider and will have a first aid kit, the preference is for schools to take responsibility for their own children. * Leaders trained prior to the event. * Teams of runners will be spread along the start line to ensure enough running space for each competitor. * Safety warnings will be given before the start of each race and pushing/bumping will not be permitted. Offenders risk disqualification. | * Schedule of play organised before the event and emailed to schools in advance of the event. * Constant monitoring and review during event |
| Participants at risk from damaged or unsafe surface | All participants | * Venue inspected on arrival. Completed by organisers and WAC Insurance Representative. * Course walked ahead of event. * Course set up to divert from any unsafe ground conditions (wet, puddles, holes, damaged ground, uneven surface, etc). * Participants able to walk course ahead of time | * Checklist completed on day   **Possible risk:**   * Good defined running area with appropriate spectators area * Hazards and debris removed * Surfaces are not slippery * Constant monitoring and review during event |
| Participants at risk from damaged or unsafe equipment | All participants | * Equipment to be used for intended purpose only. * Schools emailed prior to event if specific equipment is requested. * Equipment inspected before event begins. * Checklist completed by event leader | * Checklist completed on day:   **Possible risk:**   * All equipment checked prior to use * Constant monitoring and review during event |
| Participants at risk from collisions when participating | All participants | * Participants will be reminded throughout the event to be aware of other participants. * Teams briefed at the start of event and reminders given as necessary. * Constant monitoring and review during event. * Activities set up in such a way to avoid collisions i.e. angle of turns, splitting runners using a gradient, etc. | * Teams briefed at the start of event and reminders given as necessary. * Constant monitoring and review during event |
| Participants at risk from inappropriate kit | All participants | * Schools will provide all kit and instructions for kit for their participants. * All Schools instructed to bring warm clothes and waterproofs. * School staff are responsible for their participant runners and will ensure suitable PE kit and footwear is worn. * No Jewellery to be worn by participants. * Reminders are given on the start-line of each race about correct, appropriate clothing and footwear. | * Schools informed that pupils should wear suitable clothing and footwear for taking part in physical activity * Organisers of the event will speak to a member of the school staff if they think any of the child’s clothing is inappropriate. * The organiser can stop a runner from participating if they could potentially harm themselves or others. |
| Participants at risk from adverse weather conditions | All participants | * A decision over cacellation is made as a result of ground conditions and agreed with all volunteers and team managers from schools on the course, on the day. Except in exceptional circumstances, for instance, when the ground is saturated, no race will be cancelled ahead of time. | * Conditions assessed on the day * Constant monitoring and review during event. |
| Participants at risk from identification | All participants | * Records made on the day for awards and presentation includes child’s name and school are immediately destroyed after the event. | * Constant monitoring and review during event and after event as appropriate. |
| Participants at risk from poorly organised Cross Country course | All participants | * Course will be clearly marked and explained to all children and team managers prior to race. * Course cleared of any obstruction or potential hazards, i.e. branches. * Course deviates from sudden changes in ground level. * The course is available to be walked by competitors prior to the start of the competition. * Team managers and participants will be briefed before the event. * Wirral Primary Cross Country volunteers will be positioned at various points around the course to direct racers and check on welfare of participants * Schools will be directed to an assembly area on arrival. | * Whole course will be visible from the start and finish points * Constant monitoring and review during event. |
| Spectators causing obstruction | All participants | * Spectators are given instructions at outset of event to remain in spectator area. * Participants are advised only to access the course for their own event, the rest of the time they are a spectator and need to remain in the spectator area. * No parents/spectators allowed to cross the track at any time. * No parents on ‘inside’ of circular course. * Reminders issued for spectators not to run with competitors. * Spectators requested to stay behind ‘respect barrier’ at all times, not lean on barrier and not sit forward of it. | * Reminders and constant checking. * Spectators advised that only participants are allowed on course and the next race will not start until all spectators are within the designated spectating area. * Schools advised that team managers are responsible for their spectators at all times and are asked to take responsibility for ensuring they are following the rules issued by organisers. |