

Waggy Races | Risk Assessment

East Strand Beach, Portrush | Sun 03 October 2021



Hazard	Groups at risk	Controls	Further action required
<p>COVID-19 transmission</p>	<p>All participants, marshals, race organisers, spectators. In particular vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant women and those with underlying health conditions.</p>	<p>COVID-19: General precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening details added to waggy-races.com and emailed to all participants, stallholders, helpers etc prior to race and posted on social media. • Participants will be encouraged to travel to the race separately and avoid car sharing. • Handwashing facilities and hand sanitising stations at access points to the beach, at race registration and in the public toilets at East strand. • Encourage handwashing at the event via our social media and in the race information pack that is emailed to participants. • Encourage physical spacing measures at all points on the day – on the journey to the event, on arrival at the car park, on the beach (eg at registration, before the event, at the start line, during the event, at the finish line, at the prize ceremony) and when leaving after the event. Cones for example will be used at registration to mark out 2m gaps should a queue form. <p>COVID-19: Race registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will advise that <u>only one person</u> is permitted to collect each race pack. • We will have social distancing and a one-way system marked out at registration, with marshals in place. • We will have a race pack collection for 2 hours on the day before the race and for 2 hours on the morning of the race to spread out registration and prevent groups/queues forming. • Safety pins attached to race number to prevent any common touching of surfaces. 	<p>Be aware of and remind participants, marshals etc of any changes to Government guidelines and Public Health Advice that is put in place.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough cleaning of any surfaces or equipment that may be touched regularly, particularly at race registration. Equipment - if applicable, ensure any equipment is only used by one person, or fully sanitised between uses. <p>COVID-19: Race format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The race format is designed to include physical spacing/social distancing – a wide start line with lanes marked out at 2m intervals. • The race will take a ‘wave’ start format – participants released in groups separated by intervals of 1 minute. • The finish line will be wide and marshals will be present to ask people to move away from the finish line as soon as they are finished to avoid bunching. • Goody bags will be pre-packed and collected after the race in a self-service manner. • Prize giving - stripped back ceremony with fewer prizes. Podium will be physically spaced and we will ensure any spectators are spread out across the beach. 	
<p>Uneven or slippery terrain. (Slips, trips or falls)</p>	<p>participants marshals race organisers spectators</p>	<p>Safety briefing before the race starts to indicate potential hazards on the course and highlight responsibilities. Safety issues also covered in pre-race information emailed to participants.</p> <p>Recommend to runners that they wear appropriate footwear, ideally trail running shoes or running shoes with grips.</p> <p>Select and plan the route to follow, as far as possible, well established paths that are free from uneven or hazardous terrain.</p> <p>Tell runners in front to warn those behind of rutted, uneven or slippery ground.</p> <p>Runners will be reminded to take care when changing levels e. g. descending from curbs and to walk if conditions are particularly difficult. Runners will be reminded to run carefully and responsibly, keeping a sensible distance between themselves and the runner ahead of them.</p>	<p>Assess the course on the morning of the race and put warning signs in place. Re-route to avoid slippery/particularly uneven areas.</p> <p>An assessment of the need for further controls/cancellation of the event will take place as appropriate.</p>

<p>Overtaking on the course and accidents caused by bumping, jostling or tripping</p>	<p>participants</p>	<p>This will be covered in the safety briefing before the race to indicate potential hazards on the course and highlight responsibilities. Release runners in waves of similar standard to reduce overtaking. Issue instructions to advise runners to call out to the runner in front if passing. Inform runners that are being overtaken to leave space to pass. Runners will be reminded to run carefully and responsibly, keeping a sensible distance between themselves and the runner ahead of them. Providing a wide start line which eventually funnels into a narrower path.</p>	
<p>Getting Lost</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>Maps and instructions issued to all marshals and participant's information packs if required. Use of signs, flags and marshals on the course to direct runners. Race organisers/marshals to be familiar with area and route.</p>	
<p>Animals (Interaction between runners/dogs and animals/livestock).</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>Race organisers will consult with local farmers (if required), venue staff and other relevant parties when planning the course route. If applicable, remind participants to observe animals before entering field - if any aggressive behaviour observed choose alternative route. Course planned to avoid animals as far as possible. Dogs will remain on a lead at all times and be under the control of the handler. Dogs considered not to be under appropriate control or that in the opinion of race organisers present a risk, will be asked to leave the event.</p>	<p>Assess the course on the morning of the race. An assessment of the need for further controls/cancellation of the event will take place as appropriate.</p>
<p>Overgrown vegetation/Brambles / Nettles</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>N/A for the Portrush 5k. Warn runners if route is expected to be particularly overgrown.</p>	<p>Inspect route on the morning of the run - if route is impassable take an alternative.</p>

<p>Extremes of Temperature and weather.</p> <p>eg storms, wind, ice etc</p>	<p>Participants Marshals Spectators race organisers Dogs</p>	<p>Schedule races to avoid the summer months. Advise participants to wear clothes appropriate to conditions. Participants will be encouraged to warm up thoroughly in cold weather to avoid muscle injuries. Recommend that runners use sun cream if required. Information issued pre event informing runners of the nature and difficulty level of the run, the route being taken and the need for runners to be fit enough to participate. First Aid/medical facilities available. Care will be taken to avoid patches of ice if required. In cold weather, access to a warm area and hot drinks will be available. Water stops for dogs and runners around the course to avoid dehydration. Weather to be monitored by the race organisers. If conditions are extreme - run to be postponed/cancelled at discretion of race organisers.</p>	<p>Assess the weather leading up and on the morning of the race.</p> <p>Secondary effects from adverse weather including: flooding, mud, thunder and lightning, fog etc may result in the need to dynamically assess the controls laid out within this assessment.</p>
<p>Risk of drowning.</p>	<p>Participants Marshals Spectators race organisers Dogs</p>	<p>Beach races are scheduled to take place at low tide.</p>	
<p>Asthma and Other medical conditions</p>	<p>participants</p>	<p>Any appropriate medication to be carried on the run. Asthmatics should not run if they are suffering badly or if they fear an asthma attack is imminent. The decision whether to run or not is left to the discretion of the individual but they must accept that they run at their own risk. An appointed First Aider will be available before, during and after the race and an action plan in place to get people treated as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>Running in bad light</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A for the Portrush 5k. Waggy Races will be scheduled to take place at a time of day when bad light will not be an issue.</p>	

<p>Vehicles / Traffic</p> <p>(Runners interactions with vehicles or people)</p>	<p>participants spectators Marshals</p>	<p>N/A for the Portrush 5k.</p> <p>If applicable:</p> <p>We will recommend that participants wear bright / reflective clothing and that if forced to run on the road, stay to the right (facing traffic).</p> <p>Everybody advised to check for traffic, don't just follow the crowd.</p> <p>Race organisers plan route with minimal risk of crossing roads.</p> <p>Lead runners to shout warning to those following if there is traffic on the course.</p> <p>In the event of a road crossing, there will be marshals wearing Hi Viz clothing. Warning signs will also be put up either side of the crossing to warn oncoming traffic and participants will be warned by race organisers.</p>	
<p>Unexpected hazards on the course eg. Fallen trees/walls/ driftwood / washed up on beach</p>	<p>participants</p>	<p>Course inspection on the morning of the race to minimise unexpected obstacles - consider rerouting if required.</p> <p>Race organisers and marshals to advise of any unexpected hazards which they come across e. g. road works, cyclists, bollards, overhanging foliage, dog mess, road signs, fallen trees, fallen walls holes and kerbs.</p> <p>Race leaders will be advised to shout warnings to those behind.</p>	
<p>Other trail users (horses, Mountain bikers, walkers etc)</p>	<p>participants</p>	<p>Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Flexi leads are not allowed (maximum length 2 metres)</p> <p>Runners will be asked to treat other users with courtesy and respect</p> <p>Other trail users will be informed that there is a race on when entering the venue (entry hut/reception briefed).</p>	
<p>Common Injuries associated with this form of activity (Sprains, strains, pulled muscles, dehydration etc)</p>	<p>participants marshals</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the event, runners may sustain any number of common injuries.</p> <p>Runners will be advised to warm up thoroughly and only compete if they are able to.</p> <p>The decision whether to run or not is left to the discretion of the individual but they run at their own risk.</p>	

<p>Untreated injuries / illness due to inadequate medical provision</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>An appointed First Aider will be present and mobile at all times before, during and after the event. Action plan in place to get the sick/injured people treated as quickly as possible. Marshals will be positioned at regular intervals around the course and briefed.</p>	
<p>Dog behaviour</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>Advise participants that dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times, especially dogs prone to aggressive behaviour. Leads must be 2metres or shorter - dogs on longer leads will not be permitted to race (prevent tripping).</p>	
<p>Dog Welfare</p>	<p>participants marshals spectators race organisers</p>	<p>Water stops provided throughout the course to prevent dehydration Guidelines will be issued to owners to ensure their dogs are fit to run Races scheduled to avoid warm weather in late spring/summer/early autumn.</p>	