



DeeFest 2026

Welfare Plan

Event Welfare Officer

- Event Welfare Officer: Tanya Neilson
- Location: Event Control
- Contact: 07730 533432

A poster with the Event Welfare Officer's name, photo and contact number will be clearly displayed in Event Control.

How to report a concern

If you or someone else needs immediate medical attention or you or someone else is at risk of immediate harm or danger, call the police or ambulance on 999.

Otherwise, should you have a concern, please contact:

- The Event Welfare Officer
- A 24-hour helpline (eg Childline or NSPCC)
- Paddle Cymru Safeguarding Lead (childprotection@paddlecymru.org.uk)

Contact Phone Numbers:

- Paddle Cymru Safeguarding Lead: 07908 683984
- Childline (24 hour helpline): 0800 11111
- NSPCC (24 hour helpline): 0808 800 5000



Reporting Structure

The first point of contact is the Event Welfare Officer. They will ensure that the correct reporting procedure is followed, as per Paddle Cymru: <https://www.paddlecymru.org.uk/report-a-safeguarding-concern>

DeeFest Child Protection Statement

The Organising Committee of DeeFest believe that the welfare and wellbeing of all children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, have equal rights to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Paddlesafe Events

DeeFest will abide by the Paddle UK guidelines for [Paddlesafe Events \(SPC-G10\)](#), the [Paddle UK Safeguarding Children Policy \(SPC-P1\)](#), and the [Paddle UK Safeguarding Adults Policy \(SPC-P6\)](#).

Consent Forms

All participants in DeeFest will be required to indicate that they are aware of and willing to abide by the DeeFest Data Privacy Policy and GDPR and Data Protection Policy, including use of images. This consent (or otherwise) will be captured via the online entry form, contained within the DeeFest Ts&Cs.

Where appropriate, parental/guardian consent to participate in the event will be required for junior paddlers. Parents/guardians will also be asked to indicate that they are aware of and willing to abide by the DeeFest Data Privacy Policy and GDPR and Data Protection Policy, including use of images of their son/daughter. This consent (or otherwise) will be captured via the online entry form.



Codes of Conduct

All participants and individuals attending DeeFest are required to abide by good sportsmanship and show respect and understanding for each other and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of paddlesports and the event. The aim is for all paddlers to improve performance and have fun.

However, should there be a violation of the Codes of Conduct, or other behaviour that is deemed unacceptable or illegal, the Event Welfare Officer will have the authority to act immediately. This may include asking the offender to leave the site/event, call the police, or whatever action is appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants at the event, and especially young people. The Event Welfare Officer will then follow the reporting procedure, but in the first instance, has the authority to take immediate action.

Everyone involved in DeeFest should abide by the following Codes of Conduct (adapted from Paddle UK/Paddle Cymru Codes of Conduct):

Paddlers:

- Take care of all property belonging to the event venue and fellow participants
- Treat other participants with respect at all times, both on and off the water
- Treat other people as you would want to be treated yourself
- Control tempers and avoid behaviour which may inconvenience or upset others
- Co-operate and listen to your officials
- Be considerate to others residing in or visiting the local area

Volunteers:

- Consider the well-being and safety of paddlers at all times
- Develop a mutually trusting and respectful relationship with participants
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those participating
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Follow relevant Canoe Wales/British Canoeing and DeeFest guidelines and policies, particularly those listed in the Welfare Plan



Parents/guardians:

- Help your child to recognise good performance and not just results
- Never force your child to participate
- Never punish your child for making mistakes or losing
- Publicly accept the judgements of officials
- Support your child's involvement and help them enjoy the sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times
- Set a good example by recognising good performance of all paddlers

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

There is a **zero tolerance** for illegal drugs and underage drinking at DeeFest. Any breach of this may result in the perpetrator being removed from the party and potentially not permitted to participate in the event on the next day.

Please drink responsibly. A retail bar will be available during the Saturday evening at the party. Under 18s will not be served alcohol at this bar and will be clearly identified by a differently coloured wristband. Other participants are asked not to buy alcoholic drinks for Under 18s, as this is also illegal. Should Under 18s be identified as drinking alcohol at the party, then their parents/guardians may be asked to remove them from the party premises, and any alcohol in their possession may be confiscated.

There is to be no drinking during the Saturday or Sunday daytime by paddlers participating in the competitions or by volunteer helpers. Anyone suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will not be permitted to compete or allowed to volunteer. This will particularly apply to the Sunday morning immediately after the party.

Medical Provision

- A qualified first-aider will be in Event Control throughout the weekend
- First aid is also available in TNR Outdoors
- A defibrillator is available in TNR Outdoors
- Nearest accident and emergency unit (24 hour):
 - Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Croesnewydd Rd, Wrexham LL13 7TD
 - Phone: 01978 291100



Addresses for emergency services:

- Mile End Mill, Berwyn Road, Llangollen LL20 8AD
- Chainbridge Hotel car park (closest to Serpent's Tail), Llangollen LL20 8BS
- Ponsonby Arms car park (closest to Town Falls), Llangollen LL20 8RY

Security of Young People

Any junior competitors under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or nominated responsible adult. Event organisers will brief volunteers to be vigilant and report anything suspicious, such as inappropriate photography.

It is the responsibility of all paddlers to ensure each other's safety on and off the water, particularly in respect of junior paddlers. All volunteers will be particularly vigilant during events off-site, including at Serpent's Tail and Town Falls.

A more detailed protocol is outlined in the Event Safety Plan, particularly in respect of on-water activities. There will be an on-water safety coordinator with an experienced safety team. Particular care will be taken of junior participants, and the organisers reserve the right to withdraw competitors from competitions on safety grounds.

Volunteers

Volunteers will be recruited prior to the event. All volunteers will be briefed on all aspects of the event, including welfare and safety procedures. DBS checks are not required due to the nature and frequency of the event ([Paddle UK guidance](#)). Volunteers will be made aware of the [Paddle UK Physical Contact and Young People Guidelines \(SPC-G11\)](#).

Missing Persons

For each event during the weekend, numbered bibs will be issued to each participant in that event. Bibs will be collected after that event and checked against the master list. Any bibs not returned will trigger the missing person protocols as below.

Any person considered missing, should be immediately reported to Event Control. An Event Official will take control and work with the volunteers to locate the missing person.



Should the missing person be a junior, then any competition will cease immediately and all paddlers brought ashore, with the police being informed should the missing person not be immediately located.

Photography

All participants are required to provide their consent, or otherwise, to their images being used to promote DeeFest in various media. This is captured on the DeeFest entry form. Parents/guardians are also asked to consent, or otherwise, in the case of junior participants.

Professional photographers will be asked to sign in at Event Control where they will receive a safety briefing and be issued an identification badge.

All volunteers will remain vigilant at all times for inappropriate photography of junior participants in particular, reporting any concerns to the Event Welfare Officer immediately.

Complaints/Disciplinary Procedures

Any complaints should be directed to the Event Welfare Officer in the first instance, in writing (hello@deefest.com). They will then bring the complaint to the attention of the organising committee and/or Paddle Cymru.

Should the complaint involve the Event Welfare Officer, then it should be made directly to Paddle Cymru (contact details above).

References and Resources:

All quoted Paddle Cymru/Paddle UK policies and guidelines are available at:
<https://paddleuk.org.uk/safeguarding-process-guidance-and-templates/>
<https://paddleuk.org.uk/safeguarding-policies/>