



# DeeFest 2026

## Junior Paddlers

DeeFest welcomes everybody to take part, however, we need to be particularly mindful of our younger paddlers. For participation in DeeFest 2026, we consider junior paddlers as young people who are aged under 18 years on 25 April 2026.

All junior paddlers **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. This adult does not have to be on the water with the junior, but must at least be on the river bank close to any DeeFest activities in which the junior is participating.

Anybody participating in DeeFest does so entirely at their own risk, and must take responsibility for ensuring the activities in which they participate are within their paddling capabilities. There will be on-water and bankside safety throughout all organised activities, but any paddler participates on the understanding that they have sufficient skills to do so; parents/guardians accept this responsibility on behalf of junior paddlers. The organisers reserve the right to withdraw competitors from competitions on safety grounds.

For the party on Saturday night, no unaccompanied juniors will be permitted entry. Juniors will not be served alcohol at the bar and will be clearly identified by a differently coloured wristband. Other participants are asked not to buy alcoholic drinks for juniors, as this is also illegal. Should juniors 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.

Any non-paddling adult accompanying a junior DeeFest participant will be allocated a wristband to enable them to use the free shuttle bus service provided by DeeFest. They will also be able to purchase a “party-only” ticket - just ask at Registration.

We take safeguarding extremely seriously, and have an Event Welfare Officer, Tanya Neilson, who has a high level of training and experience in safeguarding and welfare. She is accessible via the Event HQ Tent and phone throughout DeeFest. Check out our [Welfare Plan](#) for more information.