

Fells Marathon Organising Team

Generic Risk Assessment for Fells Marathon and Wolds Challenge Events

V3.2 – Reviewed April 2026

INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

THE FELLS MARATHON is a two-day hiking competition for Scouts and Explorer Scouts carrying full kit for the two days. Overnight the teams cater for themselves on a remote site monitored by event staff – no leaders or team supporters are permitted there. It is a test of navigation, camping skills and endurance. The sister event THE WOLDS CHALLENGE is a one-day event held in the Yorkshire Wolds each year. The event is similar to the Saturday of the Fells Marathon but is over a more straight forward terrain and is nearer to home for most competitors, making it an ideal training event as well as a great event in its own right.

This generic risk assessment covers the walking element of each event and forms a part of the safety plan for each event. The risk assessment is supported by the following documents which together form the safety plan.

- 1. Route Planning Guidelines*
- 2. Safety Organisation*
- 3. Sweep Team Brief*
- 4. Checkpoint Brief*
- 5. Route Specific Risk Assessment*

Both events are "Large Scale Events" as defined in the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scouts Rule 9.7.1.16 .

The safety plan is approved by the County Commissioner for Humberside as "Alternative Written Safety Procedures" under Rule 9.7.1.18 which reads "For

large scale adventurous activities where alternative written safety procedures are in place the County Commissioner, in consultation with the relevant County Activity Adviser, may agree to an alternative system of supervision, checking and control of participating groups."

Hazard Identified	Risks Arising	Persons at Risk	Control Measures	Additional Controls
Road Traffic	Collisions with traffic resulting in death, injury or damage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants Event Support Team 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Route to minimise walking on A or B class roads where no separate footway is provided. All teams to have Hi Vis vests that are visible Team members to be briefed on safety rules. Where route uses a road, consider temporary road signage to warn traffic. Where route crosses A class roads, dedicated marshalling to be provided. Event Support Team working on or near roads to wear Hi-vis clothing. All participants to be made aware of the risk assessment. 	
Car Park Traffic	Collisions with traffic resulting in death, injury or damage.	Participants Event Support Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Event specific car parking plan shared with Leaders beforehand, where necessary. Car park closed when full. On site parking prioritised for Event Support Team. 	
Weather	Hypothermia Heat Exhaustion / Heat Stroke Difficult Navigation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants Event Support Team 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Standard kit list to include suitable clothing prepared by the Event Management team mandatory for all participants. Kit check prior to start of event to ensure compliance. Minimum 1L water to be carried at start by all participants. Nominated checkpoints to have additional water supplies available. 	

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Checkpoints to have shelter and drinks available for emergency use. 6. Checkpoints to have at least one 1st Response (or higher) qualified person to review team members. 7. Team members to be briefed of the effects of Hypothermia / Heat exhaustion. 8. Event cancellation to be considered if more than 1" of snow lying in significant parts of T0 areas or if any snow is lying or forecast in T1 areas. Alternative routes to be considered. 	
Difficult Navigation	Groups Being Lost	Participants Sweep Teams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expected routes to be walked in advance and risk assessed. Route to be modified or specific route guidance to be issued where significant risks are identified. 2. Use system of checkpoints, sweep teams, mobile response teams and central control as described in the event control plan. 3. Instructions for "Action when lost" to be included in route pack and issued to teams. 4. Teams issued with wristbands containing emergency phone numbers. 5. Map Control to check each team has a correctly marked map and that the team understands the route. Map Controller to compile "watch list" of teams of concern for "Go/No Go" conversation on Fells Marathon and Wolds Challenge. Map Controllers may, with the agreement of the Event Director, withdraw a team from the competition or note them for special observation. 	

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. All teams to carry at least 1 mobile phone. All numbers to be recorded and made available to Event Control. 7. Event Control to have a watch list of Teams not making expected progress. 	
Difficult Terrain	Slips, Trips, Falls Leading to Injury (see also injury section)	Participants Sweep Teams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Event will take place in T0 or T1 areas only. No part will take place within a T2 area. 2. Expected routes to be walked in advance and risk assessed. Route to be modified or specific route guidance to be issued where significant risks are identified. 3. Event cancellation to be considered if more than 1" of snow lying in significant parts of T0 areas or if any snow is lying or forecast in T1 areas. Alternative routes to be considered. 4. Suitable footwear to be worn for the route. This is to be checked at Kit Check. Kit check controller may recommend to the Event Director that a specific participant is not allowed to start. The Event Director's decision is final. 	
Group Risks	Member unable to continue. Groups become split. Lost member of a Team.	Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimum group size is 4. This allows one member to remain with casualty and 2 to go for help. 2. Where a Team is Leader Led, the group size must be a minimum of 5. 3. Maximum group size is 7 + 2 Adults 4. Team members briefed about the need to implement regular head counts and stay together as a team. 5. Control, Checkpoint Teams and Sweep Teams to be made aware of the number of 	

			<p>participants in each team. This can be done by radio if changes are made after event start.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Teams must have a headcount by checkpoint staff. No team to leave a checkpoint unless all are together or unless agreed by event control. 7. In the event of a Team member becoming separated from their Team, the remaining Team members must contact event control immediately. In the event of no mobile signal, young people to be briefed to get to their nearest checkpoint. 8. The separated individual should make themselves as visible as possible (e.g. high-vis, blow whistle, shout). If mobile signal is available, contact Event control immediately. 9. Upon notification of a lost Team or individual, Event Director and Event Controller (or Deputies) to initiate a search plan and deploy assets as necessary. 	
Injuries minor or major	Any harm where an injury occurs	Participants Event Support Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All walking teams must carry a first aid kit. 2. All walking teams must have a mobile telephone and emergency contact numbers. 3. Sweep Teams and remote (walk in) checkpoints to have a member with a 1st Response Certificate. 4. All checkpoint teams to have member with a minimum of 1st Response Certificate. 5. Nominated first aider with minimum of a 16-hour First Aid certificate to be available. First 	

			<p>Aider to have transport and radio comms to control.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Vehicle(s) to be provided to collect participants unable to continue from roadside checkpoints. Event Control to prioritise collection(s). 7. Where a condition requires immediate professional support, emergency services to be contacted as a priority. In the event of no mobile signal; adults to contact event control immediately, young people to be briefed to get to their nearest checkpoint or civilisation (e.g. house or farm). 8. In the event of a serious incident, Teams to be halted at their next checkpoint and held. Control will update via radio as necessary. 	
Communications Failure	Radio or Mobile Phone Comms Failure means that effective control cannot be maintained.	Participants Event Support Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobile phone coverage at checkpoints to be checked and recorded as part of route planning process. 2. Communications Plan to be developed taking into consideration the terrain before the event. This to include possible control locations and Link requirements. 3. Checkpoints to be in place and communication proven before teams depart the previous checkpoint. 4. Control to have a list of mobile phone numbers for teams, checkpoints, first aider, sweep teams and Event Director as a backup to the radio net. 5. Minimum 3 separate phone numbers to be provided to teams for emergency use. All these phone users must be radio linked and 	

			<p>two separate phone networks must be included.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Backup radio equipment to be available at event centre, comms control, remote checkpoints and with sweep teams. 7. Mobile phones to be available at all checkpoints and with deployable assets. Numbers to be made available to Control. 8. Where reliable communications cannot be maintained the Comms Controller has the authority to stop the event. 	
Animals in field	Risk of injury form roaming animals		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teams to be reminded not to approach any animals. 2. If teams are unable to continue the route participants will need to contact control. 	

Fells Marathon 2026 – Event Team Structure & Accountability

SASU Managers: Josh Railton & Claire Moverley

Event Director: Josh Railton

Deputy Event Director: Rachael Macadam

Event Controller: Gary McCune

Deputy Event Controller: Helen Chamberlain

Admin Manager: Claire Moverley

Route Planning and Map Controller: Allan Moore

Overnight Site Controller: Richard Chapman

Checkpoint Manager: Rachael Macadam

Sweep Teams Manager: Claire Moverley

Kit Check Controller: Paul Wharram

4 x 4 Response Team Leader: Josh Alvin-Harrison

Responsible First Aider: Phil Dodsworth

Support Bus: David Atkinson