



## **Inherent Risks**

The following is a partial list of the inherent risks associated with the Activities at the USNWC. This list does not include all inherent risks, but serves to provide examples and promote an understanding of the risks.

### **The USNWC Does Not Provide Onsite Medical Services.**

#### **All of the Activities at the USNWC expose participants to risk of:**

- Death
- Head trauma and facial injuries
- Fractures, dislocations, sprains, strains, and other soft tissue injuries
- Contusions, lacerations, abrasions, and various forms of blunt force trauma
- Complications associated with exposure to weather and physical exertion
- Impacts with other individuals or participants and/or their equipment
- Perils and hazards arising from other guests
- Perils and hazards arising from natural features, plants, animals, insects, organisms, wet surfaces, tripping and/or falling hazards, and other types of contact with man-made and natural features
- Perils and hazards arising from equipment failure or malfunction and potential misjudgment by staff
- Remote locations that can delay the delivery of emergency medical services
- Loss of personal property

#### **All paddle sports activities occur in natural bodies of water that are not treated or regulated as pools and specifically expose participants to the risk of:**

- Drowning or other complications and dangers associated with immersion in water
- Falling into water and/or swimming in turbulent water
- Becoming pinned or entrapped by items or obstacles in/on the water
- Colliding with rocks, boats, and other items in the water
- Falling while entering or exiting any boats
- Motorized watercraft on the Catawba River
- Water-borne pathogens, organisms, and other contaminants that can infect or cause harm including illness and death

#### **Biking, Climbing, Zipping, and all other land based Activities more specifically expose participants to risk of:**

- Falls from heights and obstacles
- High speeds and sudden stops
- Trauma resulting from being fully supported in a harness for an extended period
- Colliding with rocks, trees, ground, and other objects
- Situations where other participants will be involved in providing safety support to the guest
- Opportunities to become lost

## **USNWC Rules and Regulations**

- Observe all posted signs and warnings as well as obey all instructions provided by the USNWC staff
- Remain away from the edges of the channels and pools and do not enter any bodies of water at any time unless paddling or climbing
- All participants must have a whitewater PFD and helmet while on the river. All bikers must wear helmets at all times
- All participants must wear appropriate safety equipment and use all equipment in the manner directed by the USNWC
- Keep your hands on your paddle when riding the conveyor belt and never touch any aspect of the conveyor belt system. Remain in your boat at all times while on the conveyor
- Remain at least 50 feet from the pump intakes and outflows
- We strongly recommend that all persons engaging in any activity on the water should be able to swim
- No personal items that can be lost should be brought along while engaging in any of the activities. The USNWC is not and can not be responsible for any guest's personal property
- No outside food or beverage is allowed on the premises.
- No smoking is allowed at the USNWC
- Inform your guide of any physical limitation or any safety concern you may have, but remember that the USNWC cannot determine if you can safely participate. Persons that have physical limitations, are suffering any illness, or are pregnant should not engage in the Activities unless they have consulted their physicians
- Always remain in control
- Do not engage any element or aspect of the Activities without the supervision or permission of the USNWC
- Do not drink alcohol prior to participating in or during any activity
- Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times

<sup>1</sup> Activities are defined as anything associated with or occurring at or near the USNWC, including, without limitation, whitewater paddling, flatwater paddling, rock climbing, biking, running, hiking, swimming, and utilizing harnessed or unharnessed activities including zip lines, obstacles, jumps, ropes courses, and other facilitated or non-facilitated challenge course activities. Activities also include usage of trail system, pathways, parking lots, stairs, buildings, tents, and all other facilities as well as spectating, walking, races, and special events.

<sup>2</sup> USNWC means U.S. National Whitewater Center, Inc., its directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, sponsors, and lessors.