

Risk assessment

Name of Section or Activity	Swimming - Outdoor Swimming in the Sea, Rivers, Lakes & Ponds	Date of risk assessment	7 th December 2020	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Stacey Weaver
		Date of next review	August 2024		

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Slips, Trips and Falls	All	- Check area is clear of obstacles that are likely to increase the risk of slips, trips & falls - Leader to brief all persons not to run on rocks / seaweed or slipways as they could be slippery - Everyone is required to wear suitable footwear that provides adequate grip and protection from sharp rocks / shale.	
Water – Drowning	Swimmers	- Leaders to brief swimmers about the depth of the water, and dangers i.e. waves, tides, currents, rips, mud and underwater obstacles - No diving or jumping into the water unless the depth has been deemed safe by a leader - Young people are not to enter the water without permission of the leaders - Leaders to check that swimmers have not eaten for 1 hour before entering the water - At least one leader to be positioned as a 'back marker' where swimmers are not allowed to go past - If a lifeguard is present; swimming is to take place between the flags	
Cold Water – Cold Water Shock, hyperthermia	Swimmers	- Swimmers to wear suitable clothing for the water such as a rash vest / t shirt - Swimmers to have a warm change of clothes available upon exit of the water. - Leaders to set a suitable time limit for time in the water.	
Ability – Drowning	Swimmers	- Swimmers abilities to be verbally assessed prior to entering the water - Swimmers actual ability to be assessed continuously during the swimming session	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Ability – Drowning (Continued)		Leader to intervene as required to provide swimming aids (floats and arm bands) and keep swimmers within their own depth	
Behaviour – Drowning, water inhalation	All	- Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences. - Warning signs and Lifeguards to be obeyed at all times. - No Diving or jumping into shallow water - No Pushing / Horseplay / splashing others - Repeated contravention of the rules / instructions will result in the session being stopped and the participant withdrawn.	
Emergency Situations	All	- Leaders and Swimmers to be briefed to exit the water as quickly as safely possible should an emergency situation occur. - A shore based leader is to provide additional supervision with access to a throw bag.	
First Aid	All	At least one leader to hold a current first aid qualification and to have easy access to a first aid kit suitable for the activity.	
Supervision	All	Supervision of YP to be within minimum ratios as specified in POR.	

Checked by Line Manager	Tris Cocks GSL 9 th January 2021	Checked by Executive	Lesley Dingle Group Chair 23 rd March 2021
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Version Control

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
7 th December 2020	1	Stacey Weaver	Initial Version
28 th August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed

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