

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Water activities Adventurous Activity Including - Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting & Paddle boarding.	Date of risk assessment	9 th December 2020	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Danny Bain
		Date of next review	April 2027		

What hazard have you identified? What are the 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?
<i>Hazard</i> – something that may cause harm or damage. <i>Risk</i> – 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.
Water - Drowning	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buoyancy Aids are to be fitted and checked by an instructor prior to entering the water Buoyancy Aids are to be checked for damage prior to use. Heavy clothing such as boots / jeans are not to be worn Water confidence/safety should be carried out prior to session (leader to check record of when participant last took part in this activity) A shore based leader providing additional supervision shall have access to a throwline and be competent in its use and how to perform a rescue using a throwline. 	
Spray Decks - Drowning	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader to demonstrate how to put on and pop a spray deck before going on the water Capsize drills are to be utilised to provide training for participants on how to safely exit the boat when using a spray deck Leader to check spray decks before launching – specifically checking the handle of on the outside. Consider not using spray decks for younger/less experienced participants (cubs and younger scouts). 	
Different water depths - head bangs, concussion if capsizing	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to have a basic knowledge of depth of venue and use appropriate parts of the water for different skills and games. Capsize drills are to take part in a suitable depth of water, Water to be checked with a paddle All users should wear correctly fitted helmets (to be checked by instructors), 	

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Paddles - Nosebleeds, concussion, cuts, broken nose	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors to control spacing between participants during session ensure sufficient space when paddling and performing 'helicopter turns' • Paddles to be inspected for sharp edges prior to use • Safety briefings to take place before games are played. • Participants are to be briefed not to wave paddles around 	
Sharp objects in water – cut, infection	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable footwear to be worn by all participants entering the water – water shoes or light trainers • Area to be checked for any obvious sharp hazards prior to entering the water 	
Inexperience/lack of competence from participants – Group separation, capsizing	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to receive standard skills coaching to monitor ability and support where needed (forward/backwards/turning/stopping) • Have a share instructor and a rear instructor when journeying and use towlines where appropriate • Water confidence/safety checks should be carried out prior to commencing sessions, along with regular capsizing drills during sessions. • Canoeing should be tandem only for participants – Cubs and scouts should have an instructor, explorers can paddle as a pair • Journeying should only be done with competent group (mainly older scouts and explorers) <p>. Instructors should be able to carry out a rescue.</p>	
Overheating / under heating - Hypothermia / hyperthermia	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors should ensure that group is appropriately clothed for the weather • Instructors should ensure group is appropriately hydrated and monitor the state of all individuals within the group. • Regular breaks are to be incorporated into the session to rehydrate • Spare warm kit / emergency blankets should be accessible on the bank or with an instructor when journeying. 	
Strikes by boat - Concussion, bruises, broken bones	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors to provide good group supervision and control space between participants. • Instructors to monitor water conditions (Wind, swell and current) and adapt route / activity as required 	

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Launching boats – Cuts, bruises, & grazes	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor to be on the water before to any participants • Instructor to supervise participants when launching • Instructor to demonstrate how to safely launch the boat • Canoes should always be launched by instructors or Explorers due to the large size of the boat 	
Carrying boats - Muscle strain	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor to demonstrate how to safely carry the boats. • Proper manual handling to be advised whilst carrying the boat, i.e. bending with the knees, keeping a straight back. • Leader to check that handle are in a good condition prior to the boats being carried. 	
Contaminated water - Infection	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible instructors to avoid using water with known pollution problems • Participants are advised to cover any cuts / new piercing with a waterproof dressing • After the session showering is to be advised for all participants • Information about common water borne diseases are to be sent out before sessions 	
Bank side obstacles - Tripping – potentially into water	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors to highlight possible obstacles to all participants and to watch their footings. • If instructors or participants are near the edge of bank, buoyancy aids must be worn 	
Rafting equipment - Raft collapsing on water, entanglement & drowning	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors to check the raft is well build, specifically that the poles, barrels and ropes are secure before the raft is to be used in the water. • Instructors to consider pre-building rafts for younger participants. 	
Failure of Equipment - Injury	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment to be checked for damage prior to use; any damaged equipment is to be reported to the QM and not used • Equipment only to be set up by or under supervision by competent Leaders 	
Weather – Sunstroke, Hypo / hyperthermia, Sunburn, Capsize	Instructors, Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather to be checked prior to commencing activity; Activity to be modified to suit weather conditions. Check to include wind, rainfall, tide times, swell, surf etc. • Weather to be continuously monitored during the activity and the activity adapted according to the weather conditions. • Instructors to ensure participants have access to correct clothing for the weather conditions, prior to commencing the activity • Instructors should ensure group is appropriately hydrated and monitor the state of all individuals within the group. 	

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First Aid	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
Behaviour	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences. 1-1 support to be provided for any participants with learning, behavioural or physical disabilities. 	
Supervision	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision of YP to comply with Ratios listed on Activity permit and POR Clear responsibilities are to be outlined in the briefing to Leaders and Participants If the activity is being led by a Scout Leader; they shall hold a valid Adventurous Activity permit for the specific Water Activity being undertaken If the activity is being led by a Scout Leader; they shall only operate within the limits specified on the permit i.e. Water Category, Number of crafts, Number of Leaders. 	

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

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
9 th December 2020	1	Danny Bain	Initial Version
28 th August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed
17 th February 2026	1.2	Paul Woodward	Reviewed

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