

## Risk assessment

Name of Section or Activity	Swimming - Outdoor Swimming in the Sea, Rivers, Lakes & Ponds	Date of risk assessment	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Stacey Weaver
		Date of next review	April 2027		

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?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i>	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	<b>Controls</b> – 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 <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even <b>stop</b> it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Slips, Trips and Falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check area is clear of obstacles that are likely to increase the risk of slips, trips &amp; falls</li> <li>Leader to brief all persons not to run on rocks / seaweed or slipways as they could be slippery</li> <li>Everyone is required to wear suitable footwear that provides adequate grip and protection from sharp rocks / shale.</li> </ul>	
Water – Drowning	Swimmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders to brief swimmers about the depth of the water, and dangers i.e. waves, tides, currents, rips, mud and underwater obstacles</li> <li>No diving or jumping into the water unless the depth has been deemed safe by a leader</li> <li>Young people are not to enter the water without permission of the leaders</li> <li>Leaders to check that swimmers have not eaten for 1 hour before entering the water</li> <li>At least one leader to be positioned as a 'back marker' where swimmers are not allowed to go past</li> <li>If a lifeguard is present; swimming is to take place between the flags</li> </ul>	
Cold Water – Cold Water Shock, hyperthermia	Swimmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimmers to wear suitable clothing for the water such as a rash vest / t shirt</li> <li>Swimmers to have a warm change of clothes available upon exit of the water.</li> <li>Leaders to set a suitable time limit for time in the water.</li> </ul>	
Ability – Drowning	Swimmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimmers abilities to be verbally assessed prior to entering the water</li> <li>Swimmers actual ability to be assessed continuously during the swimming session</li> </ul>	

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

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Ability – Drowning (Continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader to intervene as required to provide swimming aids (floats and arm bands) and keep swimmers within their own depth</li> </ul>	
Behaviour – Drowning, water inhalation	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences.</li> <li>Warning signs and Lifeguards to be obeyed at all times.</li> <li>No Diving or jumping into shallow water</li> <li>No Pushing / Horseplay / splashing others</li> <li>Repeated contravention of the rules / instructions will result in the session being stopped and the participant withdrawn.</li> </ul>	
Emergency Situations	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders and Swimmers to be briefed to exit the water as quickly as safely possible should an emergency situation occurs.</li> <li>A shore based leader is to provide additional supervision with access to a throw bag.</li> </ul>	
First Aid	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
Supervision	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision of YP to be within minimum ratios as specified in POR.</li> </ul>	

<b>Checked by Line Manager</b>	Tris Cocks GSL 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	<b>Checked by Executive</b>	Lesley Dingle Group Chair 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021
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### Version Control

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	1	Stacey Weaver	Initial Version
28 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	1.2	Paul Woodward	Reviewed

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