

Generic Risk Assessment



Risk Assessment Description	Generic risk assessment for paddle sport activities
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Assessor's Name	Alex Tripp	Last Reviewed	12/11/2023	Next Review Due	12/11/2024
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Hazard	Who could be harmed & how?	Current control measures in place	What further action is needed to control risks?	Who should carry out action?	When is action needed by?	Done
Drowning	Paddlers on the water who capsize or otherwise end up in water	Paddlers to wear buoyancy aid (BA) when on water, unless BAs are explicitly deemed unnecessary by location / activity specific risk assessment; or participant is authorised to remove it by a coach who has deemed it safe to do so for a specific purpose following dynamic risk assessment. Coaches / volunteers to supervise group and respond to anyone in difficulty. New participants are asked whether they can swim, so coaches are aware of risks.	Buoyancy aids tested annually and results recorded.	Equipment manager or nominated volunteer.	Annually according to test schedule.	Ongoing
			All new participants instructed how to fit buoyancy aid. Club volunteer to inspect participant's buoyancy aid is fitted correctly before each session until participant has shown ability to fit buoyancy aid.	Suitably qualified or experienced club volunteer.	At start of each session.	Ongoing
Entrapment in kayak during capsize	Paddler who capsizes could down if trapped in kayak.	Paddlers are instructed how to exit kayak prior to paddling. Paddlers are asked to demonstrate capsize drill either during first paddle with club, or as soon as practicable thereafter.	Paddlers who have not used spray deck before must be instructed on how to use one, and demonstrate a successful capsize drill with spray deck before using one.	Suitably qualified or experienced club volunteer.	As and when new person uses spray deck for first time.	Ongoing
Strike by boat or paddle while in boat (non-polo)	Paddlers may suffer injuries of various severities.	'Aggressive' paddling not allowed. Helmets are mandatory for those aged under 14, unless they are authorised to remove it by a coach who has deemed it safe to do so for a specific purpose following dynamic risk assessment. Helmets available for all other paddlers to wear optionally. Coach has power to enforce the wearing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

		of helmets on all paddlers at a given session / activity if they deem it necessary following dynamic risk assessment.				
Strike by boat or paddle while in the water	Paddlers in water may suffer injuries of various severities. Increased risk of drowning. Coaches may be struck when instructing from water (e.g. when teaching rolling).	Swimming is not allowed (except when resulting from accidental capsizes), unless it is a planned part of an activity where suitable precautions have been taken. Rules about swimming communicated to group before paddling commences. Paddlers instructed to avoid people in water. Coaches to carry out dynamic risk assessment when in water and decide if it is the most suitable coaching technique.	Coaches to maintain situational awareness and take extra care when teaching from the water.	Anyone coaching from the water.	Any time someone is coaching from water.	Ongoing
Inexperienced paddlers	Inexperienced paddlers may get into difficulty or be injured.	New paddlers are given a bankside induction to explain site specific safety procedures and an introduction to paddling safely. Inexperienced paddlers are offered coaching / tuition as appropriate. Inexperienced paddlers are supervised by a coach in accordance with current British canoeing coaching ration guidance.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inappropriate conduct	In appropriate / unsafe conduct increases general risk and can lead to various injuries / incidents impacting both perpetrator and others.	All paddlers agree to club code of conduct. Club Safety Officers, Coaches and Session Coordinators are to respond appropriately to any misbehaviour.	Club members / participants affirm their compliance with the club code of conduct when applying for / renewing membership / participant status.	All members / participants.	Annually (when each person renews their membership / participant status)	Ongoing
Cold weather / conditions	Any participants who fall in water or are exposed to cold weather conditions	Paddling will not take place if weather conditions deemed unsafe. Paddlers will be instructed to wear appropriate clothing / equipment (cag,	Continuous dynamic risk assessment of weather conditions carried out. Anyone showing signs of	Coaches / leaders and all group members.	Continually at sessions.	Ongoing

	could develop hyperthermia	etc.). Venue specific information to be included in appropriate risk assessment where it differs from the above.	hypothermia or being too cold should be dealt with in accordance with appropriate first aid / site specific procedures.			
Lightning strike / thunderstorm	Severe injuries or death to those on water or in vicinity of lightning strike.	<p>Generic advice for outdoor venues: If lightning is seen or thunder is heard then all paddlers should leave the water in a safe manner, as quickly as possible. Paddlers should not re-enter the water until 30 minutes after lightning is last seen or thunder is last heard.</p> <p>Generic advice for indoor venues: Follow venue safety protocols for thunderstorm.</p> <p>For all venues: Participants to be briefed on lightning safety as appropriate prior to session. Coaches / group leads to clearly communicate appropriate action to take when lightning is seen or thunder is heard. Venue specific information to be included in appropriate risk assessment where it differs from the above.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Slips, trips, falls	All people in attendance.	<p>People to be informed of any site specific hazards. All people in attendance are to exercise caution. Venue specific information to be included in appropriate risk assessment where it differs from the above.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Injuries from manual handling (moving boats / equipment)	Anyone conducting manual handling could suffer various	<p>Participants informed of appropriate manual handling. Participants encouraged to ask for help</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	injuries particularly to back / arms / legs.	moving equipment if needed. Route for carrying equipment should be clear. Venue specific manual handling risks are to be included in appropriate risk assessment, where they require additional controls measures.				
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Related documents

This risk assessment covers the generic risks associated with BVCC's paddling activities. Additional venue / activity specific risk assessments should be completed as appropriate. Coaches and other paddlers should also carry out dynamic risk assessments before & during paddling activities as required, and voice any safety concerns appropriately.

In the event of any conflict between this risk assessment and any venue / activity specific risk assessment, then the venue / activity specific one shall take precedence; as such a risk assessment should, by its nature, better reflect the risks associated with the given venue / activity.

Revision Log

Version	Description of changes	Date	Revised by	Reviewed by
1.0	Initial version - Part of project to refactor existing club risk assessments into new template.	07/11/2023	Alex Tripp	Tina Lewis