Issue 4 (March 2025) Pete Sturgess Ref. No. SN.6/WKY1.1

RISK ASSESSMENT

Generic Water Activities (Sheet 1 of 3)



Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Transfer of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Norovirus etc.	Everyone	PPE such as masks and visors available upon request. Cleaning kits containing sanitising spray, paper wipes and hand gel available upon request. Usage of above voluntary unless high rates when our procedures will require their use.	3	Low – 2 High - 3	6 9	Adequately Controlled
Injury caused by inexperience of staff	Participants	Staff will receive site specific training for the environment within which they operate and hold the necessary external qualifications or scouting permit relevant to their organisation.	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled
Inexperience of group and/or group behaviour	Participants	An activity safety briefing is delivered at the start to help orientate guests and identify any particular hazards: • Cold water (see separate risk assessment). • Wind chill (if appropriate). • Correct measures to undertake if falling in the water. Behaviour monitored and managed appropriately, vigilance of all staff during activity and while participants get off the water and put away equipment. Constant line of sight will be kept when on the water. Clear responsibilities are outlined to the group at the start of the session. The instructor and group leader will communicate when responsibility is delegated from one to the other.	2	3	6	Adequately Controlled
Venue specific hazards	All	Craft and equipment choice will be determined by guest wants, needs and ability, and environmental conditions within the remit of the instructor to give the best experience at the safest level. The instructor will inspect the area for any hazards and conduct ongoing dynamic risk assessments	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Generic Water Activities (Sheet 2 of 3)



Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Effects of the weather	Participants	Obtain a weather forecast and constantly monitor weather and water conditions. Assess whether group will be able to cope with any wind. Be aware of the effect of off shore wind and wind chill. Adapt the activity accordingly or run an alternative activity if necessary. Groups will be advised on appropriate clothing.	3	2	6	Adequately Controlled
Capsize or immersion	All	Staff are fully trained including practice incidents. Clear information is given prior to the session as to the clothing required and participants are properly dressed for the weather conditions prior to start. No bare feet. Correctly fitting buoyancy aids and helmets worn by all participants. Visually check all equipment prior to use. Activity instructors will carry a knife, towing system along with a bailer when using canoes. Equipment inspections are carried out for boats, buoyancy aids and helmets before each use. Annual boat and buoyancy aid inspections are completed and recorded. This includes a sample floatation test for buoyancy aids.	3	3	9	Adequately Controlled
Strains, sprains and soft tissue injury	Participants	Instruction in safe manual handling will be given. Helmets worn for whole session. Appropriate warm up undertaken. Activities varied to avoid excessive strain. Paddles with damaged blades or shafts not to be used. Boats with protruding screw head / bolts should not be used.	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled
Illness	Participants	Check cuts etc are covered with waterproof plasters. Check medical requirements, ensuring any essential medication is accessible. Ensure protection from the weather (heat and cold).	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Generic Water Activities (Sheet 3 of 3)



Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Type of craft	Participants	Best craft to suit the participants abilities to be used. Participants briefed on the specific usage and hazards of the craft they are going to use.	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled
Unauthorised use	Participants	Instructor ensures equipment is returned to correct storage area and secured. All equipment secured when not in use. Equipment will not be left unattended by the instructor or responsible adult.	3	2	6	Adequately Controlled
Health issues	Participants	All groups to provide information about significant medical requirements and will ensure that any essential medication is accessible.	2	2	4	Adequately Controlled
Water Classification	All	Whereas our lake fits the majority of the criteria for Class C waters, there are areas where exiting the water is impossible due to depth and incline of the banking therefore our risk assessment is to class the water as B1	3	2	6	Adequately Controlled