Ref: SN6.W Issue Date: Dec 2023



**Generic Water Activities Risk Assessment**

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| Hazard | At Risk | Control Measures | Severity | Likelihood | Rating | Further Action |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| inexperience of group and/or group behaviour | Participants | An activity safety briefing is delivered at start to help orientate guests and identify any particular hazards:-  • Cold water (Instructor assessment on the day)  • 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 |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| Illness | Participants | Check cuts etc are covered with waterproof plasters.  Check medical requirements, ensuring any essential medication is accessible.  Any capsizes, advise participants to shower.  Ensure protection from the weather (heat and cold). |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| Health issues | Participants | All groups to provide information about significant medical requirements and will ensure that any essential medication is accessible. |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |