

Risk Assessment – Water Activities

Date of Risk Assessment	9 th March 2026	Completed by	Pete Sturgess
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Hazard	Likelihood of Risk Score (1 = Not Likely to 5 = Very Likely)	Seriousness of Risk Score (1 = No Risk to 5 = Very High)	Control Measures
Transfer of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Norovirus etc	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the Centre procedures will require their use.
Injury caused by inexperience of staff	1	2	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	2	2	<p>An activity safety briefing is delivered at the start to help orientate guests and identify any particular hazards:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold water (see separate risk assessment). Wind chill (if appropriate). Correct measures to undertake if falling in the water. <p>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. <i>The instructor and group leader will communicate when responsibility is delegated from one to the other</i></p>
Venue specific hazards	1	2	<p>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.</p>

Weather	2	2	<p>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.</p>
Capsize or immersion	2	2	<p>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 worn by all participants. Helmets at instructors discretion 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.</p>
Strains, sprains and soft tissue injury	2	1	<p>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.</p>
Illness	1	2	<p>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).</p>
Unauthorised use	1	1	<p>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.</p>
Health	1	1	<p>All groups to provide information about significant medical requirements and will ensure that any essential medication is accessible.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one instructor on the activity must hold a current first aid qualification.