

Upper Dearne Valley Risk Assessment

Venue: Calder at Hebble Canal/ Calder at Calder Grove	Risk assessor: Ewan Scott	Date:12/11/2021
Activity: Outdoor Kayak Sessions		

Generic hazards and control measures applicable to all activities			
What are the hazards?	To who?	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary?
Manual handling of kayaks and canoe trailer leading to injury due to poor manual handling technique.	All paddlers, Students, Coaches, Helpers, Parents	<p>Appropriate briefing about carrying canoes/kayaks and correct lifting must be provided to all paddlers and helpers. Two people per boat for carrying.</p> <p>When removing a kayak from the trailer, care should be taken as other boats may move or fall.</p> <p>Any unused boats should be placed away from the canal edge and secured, to allow unhindered access to the canal. When returning boats to the trailer, care should be taken to ensure that kayaks are secure</p> <p>Assistance must be used when moving the trailer into or out of the car park</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	None
Weather Conditions	All Paddlers	<p>Due attention should be paid to the weather conditions. Since we are coaching young paddlers, we may have higher thresholds as to what is acceptable weather.</p> <p>Adults may be quite safe in colder and wetter weather, but young paddlers may lose body heat quicker and may not have the strength or stamina to cope with even just an hour of cold and rain.</p> <p>In that light – we must err on the side of caution – light rain may be fine on a summer’s day – that same rain on a cold April or October day may be a real risk to safety.</p> <p>No paddling in storm weather.</p>	

		<p>No paddling in flood.</p> <p>No paddling in the immediate aftermath of flooding due to contamination of the canal and river used as overflow drains.</p> <p>No paddling in Thunder and Lightning</p> <p>When paddling in windy conditions we need to look for sheltered waters to paddle. If the winds are too high then we may have to call off the session.</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	
Dangerous/unsuitable/poorly fitting equipment leading to injury or entrapment	All paddlers, Students Coaches	<p>Coach¹/leader²/experienced paddlers³ to examine equipment prior to use to identify loose fittings, sharp edges, entrapment potential, poorly fitted buoyancy. If required, simple repairs must be effected if possible. If not, equipment must not be used and must be reported to a committee member or coach. Personal equipment should also be subject to the same checks when used for club activities.</p> <p>All paddlers in an outdoor session must wear a minimum of a Helmet and a Buoyancy Aid. On cooler days waterproofs and cags must be worn. Only on the hottest of days will this rule be relaxed.</p> <p>If paddlers have shown the ability to capsize whilst wearing a spraydeck, they should wear one.</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	Replace / repair equipment as necessary
Inadequate supervision leading to accident or injury	All paddlers	<p>Navigators will operate at a coach: student ratio of no more than 1:8. The coach must be supported by at least one other experienced paddler.</p> <p>Coach performs a dynamic risk assessment to identify any requirement for additional support on the water or on the poolside.</p> <p>Numbers of paddlers on the water must be limited to ensure adequate supervision by the available coaches.</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	Dynamic risk assessment should be undertaken by the coach in charge to identify supervision requirements.

¹ Coaches are current BCU / UKCC qualified coaches at level one or above that the head coach deems competent to run independent sessions under this risk assessment.

² Leaders are those paddlers with BCU 4* or 5* leadership awards.

³ Experienced paddlers are those deemed competent by the head coach to assist with coaching or taster sessions or to paddle in independent groups of at least 3 during sessions.

Swimming potential injury to swimmers	Swimmers	We do not permit our paddlers to swim, with the exception of during a rescue, or swim to shore. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Minor injuries. (slips, trips, blisters, cuts, muscle/joint injury, collisions between boats)	All paddlers, Students Coaches	All new paddlers should be given a location-specific safety brief and should be advised to complete an appropriate warm up activity. Coaches/leaders must be first aid trained. Participants should provide details of existing medical conditions that may affect their ability to participate in paddlesport to the coach/leader. Paddling dangerously, without due regard for others, will not be tolerated. Offenders will be asked to stop and may be instructed to leave the water. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Capsize and entrapment	All paddlers, Student, Coaches	All new paddlers must be briefed on capsize drill for canoes/kayaks and demonstrate an effective drill as part of coached courses. All other paddlers should hold 1* or equivalent award and may be asked to demonstrate an effective capsize drill as part of an induction session at the club Coach /experienced paddlers are capable of swimmer-boat rescues Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Drowning	All paddlers, Students Coaches	At least one observer must be on the canalside at all times to oversee the activities on the water. See " Capsize and entrapment " above. Coaches / lifeguards must be first aid trained and able to administer CPR. All coaches/leaders/experienced paddlers must be aware of the Navigators Emergency Procedure process. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Paddling Games	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	Coach provides a safety brief on the activity and monitors safety during the activity. Any games/activities that introduce hazards additional to those covered above must be risk assessed prior to the activity taking place. It is the responsibility of the coach in charge to provide this risk assessment.	Additional risk assessment may be required if new hazards are identified.

		<p>Raft Running is NOT PERMITTED – All games outdoors must involve all paddlers being active and moving.</p> <p>Raft games entail kids sitting in boats getting cold. Inevitably they fall into the water, exacerbating the situation.</p> <p>There is also a risk of serious injury from a “runner” falling onto a paddler sitting in a boat.</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	
<p>River Paddling Risks</p> <p>1/ Risk of slips on access and egress</p> <p>2/ Risk of contact with harmful flora – Nettles, Giant Hogweed</p> <p>3/ Risk of capsize</p> <p>4/ Risk of approaching the weir</p> <p>5/ Risk of entrapment due to fallen trees</p> <p>6/ Risk of injury from non-natural debris – glass/needles etc.</p>	<p>All paddlers, Students, Coaches</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Helpers</p>	<p>All participants must follow any instructions given by coaches</p> <p>1/ be aware of risks and approach access and egress with care. Use paddles for support. Paddlers assist each other if required. Access one boat at a time.</p> <p>Coaches first and last onto the water.</p> <p>2/ Coaches to identify and indicate specific species and ensure a safe distance is maintained</p> <p>3/ Ensure that all paddlers are familiar with capsize drill by practise in pool sessions. It is our aim that young people do not capsize in the river environment unless by accident.</p> <p>4/ Coaches to approach weir, inspect and identify safe route – the weir is straight and not undercut. We direct descent so that paddlers are directed to the safe route through the minor rapids below the weir.</p> <p>Coach is first down and last down.</p> <p>5/ Inspect river and ensure that the route is free of fallen trees. Ensure that paddlers are in control of their boats and can eddy out when instructed. Do not over populate any eddy which might result in paddlers being pushed out into the current or pushed into a capsize.</p> <p>6/ The primary prevention is to keep paddlers in their boats – to train to avoid capsize and swim to shore. To avoid walking in the water unless there is a real need to. Ensure that footwear is always worn.</p> <p>Is risk adequately controlled: yes</p>	

<p>Risk from other watercraft/ users</p>	<p>All paddlers</p>	<p>Be aware of our surroundings. ANYONE who sees a canal boat or other powered craft arriving should raise the alert, all paddlers to move to one side of the canal/ river as appropriate. The crew of the boat may ask us to go to a particular bank – we should do so if safe.</p> <p>Other paddlers – we should avoid collisions with other paddlers, they may not have the skills required to support themselves. They may be inappropriately dressed, they may be in a more unstable craft.</p> <p>Anglers – We have been advised which part of the canal to use to avoid confrontation. We should use that part of the canal. We should avoid paddling during any angling competition.</p> <p>If approaching an angler, the paddlers should stop approaching until the lead coach has agreed with the angler where he wishes us to pass – some want us close to their bank, under their line, others want us away from their line.</p> <p>In the event of an angler becoming aggressive we should ensure that our young people are safe. We should turn around and paddle away, if possible. If the angler is between our position and the egress point. The coaches need to explain this and try and ameliorate the situation.</p> <p>Coaches must not become retaliatory, and if violence is threatened, the Police should be informed.</p>	
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Risk assessment review record

This risk assessment must be reviewed annually, if there is a significant change to the hazards identified or if there is an incident that requires its review and amendment.

Reviews should be recorded below:

Date	Reviewer (Print and Sign)	Comments (reason for review / amendments)	New risk assessment issued (Y/N)?
12/10/2021	E Scott		Y
27/04/23	E Scott	Re-affiliation to BC	Y

Risk Assessment Awareness Record

The undersigned have read and understood this risk assessment and agree to abide by its principles.

Name (Print and Sign)	Date

Commented [hg1]: It is usual to have something like this in a RA but do we want it?
Who do we expect to read it (adult members, parents, coaches leaders experienced paddlers)?
What do we do about children?