

**Warminster Adventure Sports Club**

**Paddlesports Risk Assessment**

**Checked: 14/06/2021 by Naomi Styles**

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| HAZARD | WHO MIGHT BE HARMED? | HOW MAY THE RISK BE ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED? | WHAT FURTHER ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED? | Review comments |
| **DROWNING** | PaddlersOthers | * Wearing of buoyancy aid Instruction in capsize procedures
* Relevant supervision for novices
* Use of spray decks to be considered per person based on their skill, experience and personal comfort
* Advised to keep away from river bank
 | * Buoyancy aids tested annually
* Induction sessions for beginners and new members
* Supervisors to ensure buoyancy aid correctly fitted and fastened.
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| **HYPOTHERMIA** | Paddlers | * Paddlers notified that they are eligible for the use of club wetsuits
 | * Adjustment to clothing as required
* Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
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| **SLIPS TRIPS AND FALLS** | PaddlersOnlookers  | * Advised on appropriate footwear
 | * Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
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| **SPRAINS, STRAINS AND SOFT TISSUE INJURIES** | PaddlersHelpers | * Advice given by supervisor on lifting canoes and kayaks and pulling trailers correctly
* Advice given by supervisor on correct paddling posture and movement to minimize injury
* Advice given on pre/post paddling stretches
 | * Ongoing training and regular checks of procedures
* Appropriate checks on boats and storage facilities
* Minimise heavy lifting where possible
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| **POLLUTION AND WATER QUALITY** | PaddlersHelpers | * Paddlers Advised to bathe soon after immersion
* Paddlers warned about potential hazards regarding water quality
 | * Avoidance of intentional capsizes in poor conditions
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| **DANGER TO OTHER RIVER USERS** | Paddlers | * Paddlers instructed to be aware of other river users and how to take appropriate/avoiding action.
* Paddlers warned about the location and activities of other river user
 | * Supervisor remains vigilant for other water users
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| **WEIRS AND MAN MADE FEATURES** | Paddlers | * Helmets to be worn when paddling in associated rough water
* Use of spray decks to be considered on a per person basis
* Appropriate skill and awareness training given
 | * Supervisor to judge dangers associated with weirs and bridges according to the flow conditions, and to advise the group accordingly.
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| **OVER HANGING TREE OR STRAINERS** | PaddlersSupervisors | * advised to negotiate around trees, both overhanging and floating
* Advised as to correct action in event of entanglement

Appropriate tree management on site. | * Consideration of whether to carry a pruning saw depending on site and recent weather conditions
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| **INJURY FROM TRAFFIC OR OTHER SITE USERS** | Paddlers / others | * Reminded to be conscious of traffic and other site users, and to help each other to look out for potential hazards
* Choice of site to be considered depending on time of day, weather, time of year etc . in order to minimize or predict heavy competition for access
 | * Consider accessibility to public and to BCU members
* Consider parking
* Consider speed limits
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| **INJURY FROM WEATHER**  | PaddlersHelpers | * Advise paddlers on how previous and current weather will affect site conditions, including river level and flow, overhanging trees and mud
* Advise paddlers and helpers on appropriate clothing according to current weather
 | * Forecast weather and consider the effects of previous weather on site conditions, including river level and flow, overhanging trees and mud
* Be aware of how pleasant conditions will increase the number of site users
* Be prepared to call off meets if appropriate
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