

**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** | Paddlers  Others | * 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. |  |
| **HYPOTHERMIA** | Paddlers | * Paddlers notified that they are eligible for the use of club wetsuits | * Adjustment to clothing as required * Continuous dynamic risk assessment. |  |
| **SLIPS TRIPS AND FALLS** | Paddlers  Onlookers | * Advised on appropriate footwear | * Continuous dynamic risk assessment. |  |
| **SPRAINS, STRAINS AND SOFT TISSUE INJURIES** | Paddlers  Helpers | * 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 |  |
| **POLLUTION AND WATER QUALITY** | Paddlers  Helpers | * Paddlers Advised to bathe soon after immersion * Paddlers warned about potential hazards regarding water quality | * Avoidance of intentional capsizes in poor conditions |  |
| **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 |  |
| **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. |  |
| **OVER HANGING TREE OR STRAINERS** | Paddlers  Supervisors | * 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 |  |
| **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 |  |
| **INJURY FROM WEATHER** | Paddlers  Helpers | * 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 |  |