

Risk Assessments



BC Statement - Canoeing and Kayaking are “Assumed Risk” – “Water Contact Sports”, that may contain attendant risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Canoeing Generic Hazards	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Drowning.	Paddlers Spectators	Buoyancy Aids worn. Buoyancy Aids appropriately sized and fitted. Supervised capsized drill with all novices. Coaches appropriately qualified. Advised to keep away from bank when water is deep or river fast flowing.	BC Buoyancy Aid guidelines followed. Checks on condition of buoyancy aids during the season. Capsized drill practiced in pool sessions.
Water-borne infections.	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	Risk is higher in spate river levels. Minor cuts covered. For more serious wounds paddling should be avoided. Advice given to shower after sessions and good personal hygiene before eating. Capsized drill only when river low and appears clean. No capsized drills on canal.	Written information provided to all new members of the club.
Hypothermia.	Paddlers	Advice given on correct clothing to wear (wet-suits if possible when cold).	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
Head injuries.	Paddlers	Helmets worn when risk of head hitting bottom following capsized e.g. rivers but possibly not canals, lakes etc. Helmets also required if playing games, polo etc.	BC helmet guidelines followed.
Manual handling.	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	Appropriate instruction in boat carrying, access/egress techniques, boat emptying, rescues etc. Air-bags fitted in boats especially if used on ww.	Coaches complete manual handling training on qualification courses.
Slipping on river banks.	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	Coach awareness. Caution advised in all slippery situations.	
Asthma	Paddlers	Junior Consent & Medical Information Forms completed and available to coaches. Paddlers have their inhaler available.	
General injuries requiring First Aid	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	First Aid kit available at all sessions.	All qualified coaches hold First Aid certificate.

Canoeing at Stone Specific Hazards	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Consider also all Generic Assessments above.			
Pinning on rocks, groynes, bridges.	Paddlers	Appropriately qualified/experienced paddlers/coaches in all organised club sessions.	
Cuts to feet.	Paddlers	Club advises all members to wear suitable canoeing footwear.	
Fallen trees. Can result in fallen/trapped wires and training gates.	Paddlers	Site inspected before paddling sessions. Fallen trees in river reported for removal. Caution advised in very high winds. Fallen wires and gates removed as soon as possible.	
Paddling when river levels high. Can result in significant debris being carried down river.	Paddlers	Coaches and senior paddlers appropriately qualified/experienced to make decisions about safety in all organised club sessions. All paddlers, and parents of juniors, to be aware of their own ability level. Reference to S&SCC River Level Information. Paddlers advised not to paddle alone. Good observation for debris.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
Access to river via slippery steps.	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	Caution when steps are muddy or icy. Mud periodically cleared. Ice removed/gritted.	
Swans	Paddlers	Good observation. Identifying a.s.a.p. whether swan/s are placid or aggressive. Educate novice paddlers about dangers.	
Stones thrown by local youths.	Paddlers	An adult presence on or near the bridge acts as deterrent. Inform Police of incidents.	

Canoeing at other venues Specific Hazards	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Consider also all Generic and Stone Specific Assessments above.			
Paddling on rivers/canals/lakes.	Paddlers	Appropriately qualified/experienced coaches/paddlers on all organised club sessions away from Stone.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment. Coaches update in current best practice.
Paddling at other competition venues.	Paddlers	At competitions the Event Safety Coordinator is responsible for the safety of all paddlers during the main competition. All paddlers, and parents of juniors, to be aware of their own	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.

		ability level. Paddlers must ensure their own safety during free practice.	
Canoeing at other venues Specific Hazards cont.	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Rescues and using throwlines.	Paddlers, Coaches Parents	Appropriately qualified/experienced coaches/paddlers. Training given to parents. Club throwlines comply with current BC guidelines.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
Construction/ Destruction of training courses.	Paddlers, Coaches, Parents	Experienced club members/coaches in charge. Only experienced paddlers on river when lines are being put out/taken in. Knives available for immediate cutting of lines if required. Care required working at height on ladder or climbing trees. Very good awareness of other river users.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.
Pool Sessions	Paddlers, Coaches	Coach/es in charge take responsibility. All local pool regulations complied with.	

Land Based Training Hazards	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Damaged equipment.	Participants	Participants and coaches check all equipment before use. Damaged equipment removed from use.	Guidance notice in gym.
Incorrect use of equipment.	Participants	Novices given instruction in good technique by coach. Under-16's to be supervised when using weights.	Guidance notice in gym.
Excessive loads lifted.	Participants	Appropriate progressive weights programmes should be followed. Emphasis on good technique. "Who can lift the most" type competition discouraged. Weights not to be left on bars.	Guidance notice in gym.
Inappropriate use of equipment.	Participants	Good discipline in sessions. Supervision of junior sessions. Avoid overcrowding when space limited.	

Site, Clubhouse & Other Hazards	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Safeguarding and Welfare.	Children and Vulnerable Groups.	Child & Vulnerable Groups Protection policy. Screening of coaches and persons with responsibility (including DBS checks). Code of Conduct. Involvement of parents in club activity.	Club appointed Welfare Officer/s.
Slipping on steps especially when wet, muddy or snowy/icy.	Everyone on site.	Steps kept clean. Snow/ice removed or gritted. Outside lights available when dark.	

Broken glass.	Everyone on site.	Broken glass cleared up promptly. All paddlers advised to wear suitable footwear. Anti-drinking regulations in Westbridge Park help minimise problem.	
Site, Clubhouse & Other Hazards cont.	Who is at risk?	How the risk is controlled	Further control measures
Electrical.	Everyone using clubhouse.	All electrical equipment checked on annual basis and regular visual checks by users.	
Fire.	Everyone using clubhouse.	Clubhouse is designated "No Smoking". Fire exits identified. Fire extinguishers available and annually serviced. Fire alarm system serviced bi-annually.	
Food Hygiene.	Everyone using clubhouse catering facilities.	All catering facilities regularly cleaned. No food left on premises between events. S&SCC Food Hygiene Guidance followed. Food Standards Agency guidance followed. Hand washing facilities available for everyone to use. If vermin discovered, bait or traps set.	
Clubhouse and site maintenance.	Everyone involved in maintenance.	Competent adults in charge of all tasks. Correct equipment used and PPE provided as required. Adult supervision required when Juniors are involved.	