

Leeds Canoe Club Risk Assessment

River Aire Sessions

General Information

Date of risk assessment	June 2010		
Activities	Paddling activities on the River Aire		
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment			
Likelihood (L)	1 = Low	2 = Medium	3 = High
Severity (S)	1 = Slight	2 = Serious	3 = Major
Risk level = Likelihood X Severity			
Overall Assessment of Risk			
Overall risk level with existing controls	Low		
Overall risk level after all actions completed	Low		
Is this acceptable?	Yes		
Date assessment due to be reviewed	June 2011		

Leeds Canoe Club Risk Assessment

River Aire Sessions

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Hazard	People at risk	Existing controls	Risk level (RL)			OK?	Recommendations
			L	S	RL		
Drowning	Participants	Adequate levels of supervision at all times. Participant's buoyancy aids are correctly fitted.	1	3	3	Yes	<p>Undertake an audit of river leaders, documenting their qualifications, experience and suitability.</p> <p>Ensure all coaches/leaders are working within their ability.</p> <p>Before participants enter the water ask them if they have any medical issues or injuries. Discuss with participants all foreseeable hazards, including what to do in the event of an emergency</p>
Injury (due to inappropriate use of equipment)	Participants	Adequate levels of supervision at all times. Instructions provided to participants from Leeds Canoe Club Coaches.	1	2	2	Yes	
Injury (due to alcohol)	Participants	Members are aware that consuming alcohol prior to paddling is strictly prohibited	1	3	3	Yes	

Leeds Canoe Club Risk Assessment

River Aire Sessions

Minor injuries on the water	Participants	<p>Paddlers are provided with well fitting helmets.</p> <p>Helmets are mandatory for all kayaking. Optional for open boating on flat water.</p>	1	2	2	Yes	<p>Inform paddlers of hazards to be aware of prior to them entering the water.</p>
Infections, leptospirosis (Weil's disease) and other water borne diseases.	Participants	<p>Paddlers made aware of symptoms of leptospirosis.</p>	1	3	3	No	<p>Comply with the Clubs accident and incident policy and procedure.</p> <p>Recommend participants shower after paddling, and/or wash hands before eating.</p> <p>A first aider should be available at all times.</p>
Hypothermia	Participants	<p>All participants wear appropriate protective clothing for the weather conditions.</p>	1	3	3	Yes	<p>Make paddlers aware of the symptoms of hypothermia.</p> <p>Ensure that a first aider is available at all times.</p> <p>Coaches must ensure that paddlers do not enter water in unsuitable clothing.</p>

Leeds Canoe Club Risk Assessment

River Aire Sessions

Giant hogweed	Participants	Paddlers are made aware of giant hogweed and its dangers. Paddlers must be informed not to touch giant hogweed.	1	3	3	Yes	Include giant hogweed in the checklist that has been recommended, ensuring that the coach in charge makes paddlers aware of this risk.
Trapping (caused by trees)	Participants	Coaches ensure that paddlers are aware of the hazards on the water and inform them what to do in the event of an emergency.	2	2	4	Yes	
Entrapment in canoes and kayaks	Participants	Capsize brief given prior to paddlers entering the water.	1	3	3	Yes	
Heat/sun stroke	Participants	Drinking water available.	1	3	3	Yes	First aider to be available at all times.
Changing weather conditions	Participants	Weather forecast is checked before the event and changing weather conditions are monitored throughout the event. If the weather becomes unsuitable, paddling will be stopped.	1	2	2	Yes	
Water conditions	Participants	If the water conditions become unsuitable, paddling will be stopped.	1	3	3	Yes	Paddlers to be informed of the dangers of changing water conditions prior to them entering the water.
Weirs	Participants	All weirs are only paddled in the appropriate water levels, i.e. below the wooden step at the Club.	1	3	3	Yes	Participants should be informed of the areas in which they are allowed to paddle and informed of the dangers of weirs.

Leeds Canoe Club Risk Assessment

River Aire Sessions

Manual handling	Participants	Club members aware of safe manual handling techniques.	1	2	2	Yes	
-----------------	--------------	--	---	---	---	-----	--

December 2009