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| Work/Activity: Artificial White Water Course Trips | | | |
| Trips that take place on artificial white water courses (for clarity this does not include the river Tryweryn, which is covered by our river trips risk assessment).  Activities that take place include coaching, practice of skills such as bracing and rolling, paddling on graded river features, practicing paddling technique and swimming ability.  Safety precautions also tested i.e. what the protocol is if a member capsizes their Kayak.  Dates may be added as the year progresses and these will be communicated to members, which may take place on any white water course in the UK. Paddlers will only be allowed to paddle courses which they possess an appropriate level of skill and experience for in the opinion of the committee.  Numbers / Groups: On courses where the course operator provides safety staff and/or the course is a loop with a pool at the bottom (eg. Cardiff) , each group taken on the course will have 1 SQEP leader (equivalent to top end of river trip intermediate) per every three novices, and at least person present with WWSR or equivalent to provide safety cover.  Where a course does not have additional safety staff provided and/or continues into a natural river (eg. HPP under normal circumstances), there must be 2 WWSR qualified paddlers per group. Intermediate paddlers may form self-sufficient peer paddling groups and look after each other. All ratio’s may be disregarded for events where comprehensive safety is provided by the organisers (eg. NSR).    Where a leader holds a recognised British Canoeing qualification and is operating in remit for that qualification, they may operate on a ratio of 1:6 up to grade 2(3) as recommended in the British Canoeing Guidance. Due consideration should be given to the relative experience levels of group members and conditions on the day when this arrangement is used.  We define a Beginner as someone who is relatively new to white water, who may not always be able to control where they position their kayak or perceive hazards. They frequently swim and require close supervision.  An intermediate is anyone who can accurately control their kayak on white water. At the bottom end of this category, they may still swim however will be able to assist with their own rescue. At the top end of this category, any swims will be rare with a reliable roll, they will hold WWSR or equivalent experience and will be able to assist with rescues mid-course. All intermediates must be capable of performing a deep-water rescue at the bottom of the course.  We may contract out the leadership of river groups to external companies, in which case their risk assessment and insurance will take precedence for the group. However, we will exercise due diligence by asking to see their risk assessment to confirm that appropriate risk control measures are in place.    Medical history recorded when membership is paid. Any changes to medical history are recorded once change has been notified. | | | |
| Group: Southampton University Canoe Club 22/23 | | Assessor(s):  Joshua M’Caw (President)  Daniel Hobbs (Safety secretary)  Eric Williams (Kit secretary) | Contact: [sucanoeclub@gmail.com](mailto:sucanoeclub@gmail.com) |
| Guidance/standards/Reference documents | | Competence requirements | |
| [Please enter any H&S guidance referred to when write this Risk assessment. This could be codes of practice from your NGB or industry body, group policies, instructions, manufacturer’s guidance, advice from HSE, useful websites or copies of qualifications and certificates.]  [e.g.]   * <http://www.hse.gov.uk/Risk/faq.htm> * <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/British-Canoeing-Environmental-Definitions-Deployment-Guidance-for-Instructors-Coaches-Leaders-Apr18-v1-1.pdf> | | **Role:** [who has what H&S responsibilities for each task e.g. event stewards] | **Skills, experience, or qualifications** [what training/experience has this person had to undertake their H&S responsibilities] |
| All committee members and coaches have the responsibility of completing all checks scheduled competently.  Leaders are responsible for adhering to this risk assessment within their river groups. | -Those running and helping to run the trips have had suitable kayaking experience to assess the quality of kit.  -White Water Safety and Rescue (WWSR) or equivalent possessed by all people leading novices. Record is kept by the club. Safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) holds responsibility to ensure this list is regularly updated.  In order for a member to lead novices on an artificial course, they must be approved by the committee- as a guide they will hold WWSR, any swim will be an incredibly rare occurrence, and they will be capable of coaching three novices down the course with due regard to other users. |
| Checks schedules | Frequency |
| All kit will be checked twice a year in the club inventories. Any damage is reported, and kit is repaired or replaced before it is used again. Current Acting kit secretary (Eric Williams) is responsible for ensuring the inventories are carried out.  Before any novice gets onto the course, the committee present check that kit is worn and fitted correctly and is suitable for purpose.  Safety kits and shelters taken on courses are checked after each use and maintained by the acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs). Each leader running a group will be offered a safety kit and group shelter to take in their kayak whilst on the course, but at least two safety kits and shelters will be taken by groups on the course.  Annual Safety Talk is given at the beginning of each academic year. Attendance, or an induction with a SQEP committee member covering the same content, is compulsory for all members. Attention is drawn to river safety procedures within this talk. No member is allowed on any river trips unless they have attended the safety talk. |  |
| Risk assessments linked | |
| [Identify areas of your activity which will fall under a different risk assessment. For example, fire risk assessments when using a building will have been covered by the premises operator.]  The course operator will have their own risk assessment which we will comply with in addition to this one. The course operators provide suitably trained staff who will recover any swimmers from the water using throwlines, use of which is covered under the course risk assessment.  Where an external contractor is used to run a group on a trip, the management of the group falls under their operational procedures, risk assessments and insurance. However, we will conduct due diligence when appointing to include ensuring their risk assessments are suitable and they hold the appropriate qualifications.  Where we are taking part in an organised event such as NSR, the event organisers will have their own risk assessment and safety management plan in place.  In the event that we are required to provide our own bankside safety on an artificial course, we will ensure that all safety personnel are appropriately trained in water safety and rescue techniques. We will engage only WWSR (White Water Safety and Rescue) trained individuals who are qualified to provide bankside safety support on artificial courses. All bankside safety personnel will have demonstrated competence in throwline use and other rescue techniques, and will be equipped with the necessary safety equipment, including throwlines and personal protective equipment. | |

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| **RISK GRADING SYSTEM**  Identify from the list of categories listed in the column opposite which description best fits the risk you are assessing.  Now look at the column below to determine the impact or possible impact.  Reading down from the top row and across from the side row will give a risk score and a risk colour. | **INSIGNIFICANT (1)**  **No identifiable;**  **Ill Health** or **Injury** (emotional, psychological, or physical)  **Property** or other damage or  **No disruption** to Service  **Finance** Less than £100 (can be resolved at department level) | **MINOR (2)**  **Not permanent (Probably be resolved in one month);**  **Ill Health** or **Injury** (emotional, psychological, or physical)  **Property** or other damage and **continuation of service**  **Finance** Less than £1,000 but greater than £100 | **MODERATE (3)**  **Semi-permanent (likely to be resolved within one year)**  **Ill Health** or **Injury** (emotional, psychological, or physical)  **Property** or other damage or  **Restricted service.**  **Local adverse publicity**  **Finance** Less than £10,000 but greater than £1,000 | **MAJOR (4)**  **Permanent (Loss of function);**  **Ill Health** or **Injury** (emotional, psychological, or physical)  **Property** or other damage or  **Temporary** Service closure  **National adverse publicity**  **Finance** Less than £100,000 but greater than £10,000 | **CATASTROPHIC (5)**  **Death;**  **Ill Health** (emotional, psychological, or physical)  **Property** or other damage or  **Extended Service closure**  **International** **adverse publicity**  **Finance** greater than £100,000 |
| **CERTAIN (5)**  This type of event will happen (and frequently) | **5** | **10** | **15** | **20** | **25** |
| **HIGH PROBABILITY (4)**  This type of event may happen (50/50 chance) | **4** | **8** | **12** | **16** | **20** |
| **POSSIBLE (3)**  This type of event may happen (occasionally) | **3** | **6** | **9** | **12** | **15** |
| **UNLIKELY (2)**  This type of event is unlikely to happen (remote chance) | **2** | **4** | **6** | **8** | **10** |
| **RARE (1)**  Cannot believe this type of event will happen (in the foreseeable future) | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

| Task | Hazards | HARM: who, how | Current control measures: Proactive/Reactive | Current risk | | | Additional control measures: Proactive/Reactive | Action by whom? | Residual risk | | | *check SA/DM* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Likelihood | Severity | Total | Likelihood | Severity | Total |
| General | Transmission/ Contraction of Covid 19 | Everyone | All members should be aware of the current covid guidelines laid out by the government and we expect them to abide by these. | 3 | 2 | 6 | * If a member is displaying symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19, they will be asked not to attend. | Any committee members present at a session; over seen by Safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Paddling | Overheating, hyperthermia | Dehydration can lead to hyperthermia.  Wearing inappropriate paddling clothing for the weather conditions may also increase the risk of overheating. Headaches are common indicators of overheating. | * Experienced kayakers are trained to look for common signs of discomfort in other paddlers. * Club members are advised on what the weather/water conditions are like before leaving for the trip, and to therefore pack appropriately * Fresh drinking water available at all courses | 3 | 1 | 3 | * Proactive measures include making sure members whilst kayaking wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and do not overwork themselves. | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Paddling | Injury | Head injuries  Bumps, cuts, grazes, injuries from capsize.  Harm from exiting a boat unintentionally, cuts on feet from sharp objects on the river bed when walking to the bank after a swim. | * Members must attend annual safety meeting and be briefed before entering the water at the beginning of a trip, if there are reasonable levels of confidence in the paddlers abilities then they will be allowed to paddle. | 2 | 3 | 6 | * Make reasonable endeavours to ensure that appropriate footwear is worn throughout the sessions in and out of the boat. * Having an appropriate number of experienced paddlers present in each river group; as detailed above. * Ensure that safety kit such as buoyancy aids and helmets are always worn when paddling * Covering and disinfecting any cuts sustained to prevent infection * Discussing safe swimming with members, to ensure that no injuries are sustained, or water ingested (helps prevent infection and diseases such as Weil’s disease and Hepatitis A) * Course operators have first aid provision | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Paddling | Drowning | Potential risk to all paddlers. Capsizing and not being able to roll up, not being able to out of boat, or getting stuck under water and not getting out before drowning | * Ensure that all members have performed a spray-deck test before any other paddling to confirm they know how to and are able to safely exit their boat. * Members briefed on safety at annual meeting. * Briefed on potential hazards such as what can cause entrapment what can cause a pin and what to do in these situations, both at the safety meeting and prior to a feature on the rivers. * Advised on how to receive safety. Only those BC WWSR or equivalent trained can provide a rescue; others do so at their own risk. * The safety of the group is paramount to the safety of an individual therefore the group leader must ensure that their personal safety and that of the group’s is secure before performing a rescue. * If the club is providing their own bankside safety, bankside safety personnel will be stationed near features with the highest risk with appropriate safety kit . | 1 | 5 | 5 |  | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 1 | 5 | 5 |  |
| Paddling | Weil’s disease, Leptospirosis, Hepatitis A and other waterborne diseases | Coming into contact with a surface that has the bacteria on it or swallowing river water contaminated with the bacteria. | * Advise everyone to wash hands thoroughly after being on the river, or handling kit in the sheds. * Advise people to cover up any cuts or scrapes with waterproof plaster to reduce chance of infection. | 3 | 2 | 6 | * Ask club members on every trip if they have any cuts, the club will provide plasters from the safety kits as needed. * Members are advised to read up on various illnesses that can be caused because of submersion in water; discussed at annual safety meeting. * Paddlers to be briefed on the symptoms of Weil’s disease and Hepatitis A and the actions to take themselves if concerned. * President (Joshua M’Caw) to monitor any paddlers reporting symptoms and to collaborate with other water users to reduce risk of infectious spread if required. | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Swimming | Cutting foot on sharp objects on river bed | Paddlers not wearing appropriate footwear and stepping on sharp object while out of a boat | * Advise paddlers to wear appropriate footwear, and if they don’t have appropriate footwear, not to allow them to paddle. * Paddlers are advised to swim defensively i.e. on their backs, feet up and feet first. Most easily avoided entrapment while limiting contact with river bed | 1 | 1 | 1 | * Cuts are covered immediately with waterproof plasters to prevent infection | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| Carrying boats to get on and off the course | Slipping on rocks/surfaces, colliding with rocks/surfaces, boat or paddle | Anyone carrying a boat to, from or during portage may slip and fall causing cuts, bruising, broken bones and head injuries. | * Paddlers are advised to wear appropriate footwear. If their footwear is thought to be inappropriate, they aren’t allowed to paddle or are assisted by other paddlers. * Paddlers are also pre-warned that the rocks/surfaces could be slippery and are advised to take care when walking. * Paddlers are encouraged to carry boats in pairs if they do not believe they can safely shoulder carry without hurting themselves or tripping. * While seal launching other members are advised to keep clear to minimise chance that they will be struck by boat during launch. * All members must always wear a buoyancy aid and helmet on the water and on pontoons. * Common incidents that occur on the “get on” are discussed at the annual safety meeting. * Course operators have first aid provision. | 2 | 2 | 4 |  | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Swimming | Psychological harm | All paddlers are susceptible but particularly new, novice paddlers could experience psychological harm due to taking ‘bad’ swims that scare them. | * Paddlers leading are aware of this risk and so are encouraged to debrief with paddlers where they feel it is necessary and ensure they are happy and are encouraged to get back in their boat as soon as they are comfortable to. * All members must wear a buoyancy aid and helmet on water and on the pontoon at all times to prevent injuries and prevent drowning. * Members briefed on safety at annual meeting. Briefed on potential hazards such as what can cause entrapments and pins and what to do in these situations. * Paddlers are advised on how to receive safety lines in a safe manner. | 2 | 2 | 4 | * Paddlers are encouraged to rest post swim to ensure they are okay, and reassurance is given by leaders as needed. * Welfare reps have attended look after your mate training | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Attempting to prevent a capsize | Shoulder injuries and dislocations | Paddlers using poor technique to high brace | * All freshers taught the proper high bracing technique in pool/river sessions by members who have been appropriately trained to do so. * All members to point out to someone if they identify a bad high brace so technique can be rectified. * At least one first aider who knows how to deal with a dislocation present at the course. Triangular bandages in first aid kits. | 2 | 3 | 6 | * Previous history of relevant injuries (I.e. past dislocations) to be established by leaders/committee before kayaking. | Coaches  Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) |  |  |  |  |
| Collisions with rafts | Various impact injuries  Potential for entrapment underneath | The person hit by a raft | * Raft operators at courses will be SQEP under the risk management process of the course operator. * Leaders to ensure that appropriate spacing with rafts is left at the top of the course when taking beginners down. * All paddlers to be briefed to look up and downstream before leaving an eddy and always leave an eddy between themselves and a raft * If making contact with a raft from upstream, attempt to keep your upstream edge up as if it was a rock and lean into it. | 3 | 2 | 6 |  | Kayakers who are suitably experienced/ qualified to lead people down courses as well as the committee members responsible for the organization of each trip. Over seen by the current acting safety secretary (Daniel Hobbs) |  |  |  |  |
| Carrying Boats | Injury to back and/or body | Person carrying boat and/or people around them | * Paddlers are advised to lift boats with legs and carry them on their shoulders when carrying boats on their own. If they do not feel comfortable carrying boats on their own they are encouraged to carry them in pairs. | 3 | 2 | 6 | * People carrying boats are advised to be aware of their surroundings and anyone in an area where boats are carried are told to be aware of people carrying boats around them | Any member carrying boats, overseen by Safety Secretary (Daniel Hobbs) | 1 | 2 | 2 |  |
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| *Declaration by users: I confirm that I have read this risk assessment, will implement the controls outlined herein,*  *and will report to the responsible manager any incidents that occur or any shortcomings I find in this assessment.* | |
| Name: | Date: |
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| Reviewed By: | | Comments: | |
| Responsible person (SQEP):  Jake Southern (Whitewater Leader) | Date: 23 Feb 2023 | | **BC MWWL & AWWSR** |
| SUSU H&S manager (where applicable): | Date: | |  |