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| **Risk Assessment** | | | | |
| **Risk Assessment for the activity of** | **Kitesurfing** | | **Date** | **30/08/2021** |
| **Club or Society** | **Southampton University Kitesurfing Society** | **Assessor** |  | |
| **President or Students’ Union staff member** | ***Sophie Ettle*** | **Signed off** |  | |

| **Principles of Kitesurfing Free-rider Water Safety**   * Never kite surf in congested areas with swimmers, boats or other craft or obstacles. * Never go out on the water without telling another person where you are going. * Always maintain a downwind safety buffer zone. * A Kite surfer must know the rules of the sea including navigation laws and abide by them at all times. * Instruction must be taken from an experienced kite surfer before surfing for the first time. * A kite surfer must be fit and healthy and over 18 years of age (under 18's should have parental permission and supervision). | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ***PART A*** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **(1) Risk identification** | | | **(2) Risk assessment** | | | | **(3) Risk management** | | | |
| **Hazard** | **Potential Consequences** | **Who might be harmed**  **(user; those nearby; those in the vicinity; members of the public)** | **Inherent** | | |  | **Residual** | | | **Further controls (use the risk hierarchy)** |
| **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Score** | **Control measures (use the risk hierarchy)** | **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Score** |
| Launching Kites | Kites may stall and suddenly regain power, potentially dragging user across beach into hazardous situations. | User, those nearby, those in the vicinity, members of the public | **3** | **4** | **12** | **Only launch when area downwind is clear. Only users who have undergone proper kitesurfing course training should launch kites. Both safeties should be checked before launching to ensure that the user can ditch the kite if necessary.** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |
| Swimming in waves | Waves can wash over user and drag and hold user underwater. | User and those nearby (can be drowned by user) | **2** | **5** | **10** | **Users should not enter the water unless they can swim and the conditions permit (i.e. wave heights are manageable and there are no strong currents). Users should know how to perform a self-rescue before kiting (if kitesurfing)** | **1** | **5** | **5** |  |
| User caught in lines | Kitesurfing lines could impair the movement and hence swimming ability or obstruct breathing pathways if wrapped around the neck | User, those nearby (especially other kitesurfers) | **2** | **4** | **8** | **Users should keep an acceptable distance away from other kitesurfers. People must be trained in the right-of-way protocol for kitesurfing (from a kitesurfing course). Kitesurfers are advised to carry a linecutter on their harness. Fly in open areas.** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |
| Rocks | Potential impacts with rocks could cause personal harm, including but not limited to broken bones and concussions | User | **2** | **4** | **8** | **Users should not go kiting in areas with rocks unless they are competent kiters. Kiters are advised to wear helmets in areas with rocks.** | **1** | **3** | **3** |  |
| Coral Reefs | Coral reefs can cause cuts to feet when kites have crashed. Reefs can also cause personal harm, including but not limited to broken bones and concussions, during crashes | User | **2** | **3** | **6** | **Users should not kite in areas shallower than knee depth unless they are competent kiters. Kiters are advised to wear foot protection (socks, booties, watershoes) in areas with coral.** | **1** | **2** | **2** |  |
| Landing Kites | Kites may stall and suddenly regain power, potentially dragging user across beach into hazardous situations.  Kites may come unsecured after landing and blow downwind onto those in the vicinity causing personal harm | User, those nearby, those in the vicinity, members of the public | **3** | **4** | **12** | **Only land when area downwind is clear. Only users who have undergone proper kitesurfing course training should land kites. Both safeties should be checked before launching to ensure that the user can ditch the kite if necessary. Kites should be secured with a suitable amount of sand to prevent them from falling away. Users should only go out when there are other competent members available to land the user.** | **2** | **2** | **4** |  |
| Change of conditions (offshore winds, tide, inclement weather) | Users can be carried out to sea where they could potentially drown; conditions can become shallow and expose potential hazards (rocks, coral); inclement weather could include but is not limited to lightning and high winds | User | 3 | 4 | **12** | **Check forecast prior to activity, Safety Briefers to know of local conditions and wind effects. Use kite safety device. Only go out if support craft is available.**  **Never ride in a lighting storm.** | **2** | **4** | **8** |  |
| Power lines | Kites can crash into powerlines, causing potential electrical harm and death | User, those nearby, those in the vicinity, members of the public | 1 | 5 | **5** | **Users are to not fly kites or ride in areas with powerlines** | **1** | **5** | **5** |  |
| General injuries associated with sport from fins/ blades and physical environment | Cuts & abrasions  Stings  Sprains & twists  Trauma | Users | 3 | 3 | **9** | **A member trained in first aid should accompany trips to kiting areas. Kiters should be aware of surroundings at all times and only kitesurf after proper instruction (kitesurfing course). Kiters are advised to not use leashes on their boards because these can cause harm during crashes (landing on board, board coming back to hit user).** | **3** | **2** | **6** |  |
| Personal Clothing | Kiters with unsuitable clothing may get extremely cold, leading to increased risk of injury. In extreme cases, hypothermia may occur. Jewellery may get caught in equipment | Users | 2 | 5 | **10** | **All users must wear wetsuits in the UK, year round. Jewellery should be completely covered by the wetsuit, i.e. necklaces and watches, it is advised that rings are removed** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |
| Dehydration/ Exhaustion | Kitesurfing is a highly physical sport, such that exhaustion and dehydration can lead to personal injury | Users | 2 | 4 | **8** | **Users are advised to take breaks when needed and to take water with them to the beach** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |
| Previous medical conditions | These may affect the ability of the user to perform the sport in a safe manner | user | 1 | 4 | **4** | **All pervious medical conditions must be made known to committee and/or individuals who are also practicing the sport at the same time** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |
| Coaching | Improper instruction may lead to injuries as previously stated | Users, those in the vicinity | 3 | 4 | **12** | **Lessons will be provided by a third party school when possible. When not possible, instruction may only be given by suitably experienced members who are pre-approved by the committee.** | **1** | **4** | **4** |  |

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| Responsible committee member signature: | | Responsible committee member signature: Fleur Hamoir | |
| Print name: SOPHIE ETTLE | Date: 30/08/2021 | Print name: FLEUR HAMOIR | Date 30/08/2021 |

**Assessment Guidance**

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| 1. Eliminate | Remove the hazard wherever possible which negates the need for further controls | If this is not possible then explain why |  |
| 1. Substitute | Replace the hazard with one less hazardous | If not possible then explain why |
| 1. Physical controls | Examples: enclosure, fume cupboard, glove box | Likely to still require admin controls as well |
| 1. Admin controls | Examples: training, supervision, signage |  |
| 1. Personal protection | Examples: respirators, safety specs, gloves | Last resort as it only protects the individual |

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| **LIKELIHOOD** | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **IMPACT** | | | | |

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| Impact | | Health & Safety |
| 1 | Trivial - insignificant | Very minor injuries e.g. slight bruising |
| 2 | Minor | Injuries or illness e.g. small cut or abrasion which require basic first aid treatment even in self-administered. |
| 3 | Moderate | Injuries or illness e.g. strain or sprain requiring first aid or medical support. |
| 4 | Major | Injuries or illness e.g. broken bone requiring medical support >24 hours and time off work >4 weeks. |
| 5 | Severe – extremely significant | Fatality or multiple serious injuries or illness requiring hospital admission or significant time off work. |

Risk process

1. Identify the impact and likelihood using the tables above.
2. Identify the risk rating by multiplying the Impact by the likelihood using the coloured matrix.
3. If the risk is amber or red – identify control measures to reduce the risk to as low as is reasonably practicable.
4. If the residual risk is green, additional controls are not necessary.
5. If the residual risk is amber the activity can continue but you must identify and implement further controls to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable.
6. If the residual risk is red do not continue with the activity until additional controls have been implemented and the risk is reduced.
7. Control measures should follow the risk hierarchy, where appropriate as per the pyramid above.
8. The cost of implementing control measures can be taken into account but should be proportional to the risk i.e. a control to reduce low risk may not need to be carried out if the cost is high but a control to manage high risk means that even at high cost the control would be necessary.

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| Likelihood | |
| 1 | Rare e.g. 1 in 100,000 chance or higher |
| 2 | Unlikely e.g. 1 in 10,000 chance or higher |
| 3 | Possible e.g. 1 in 1,000 chance or higher |
| 4 | Likely e.g. 1 in 100 chance or higher |
| 5 | Very Likely e.g. 1 in 10 chance or higher |