

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Kayak and Canoe Paddling On Flat Water (General Assessment) Located on Loch Venacher - Invertrossachs	Date of risk assessment	1 March 2021	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Charlie Rowley
		Date of next review	1 March 2022		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Poor Preparation, Leadership, Communication & Behaviour Risk of loss of control, greater chance of incident, poorer quality of experience	All participants	1 – Clear briefing provided to all event leaders 2 – Clear briefing to all participants, to include setting of event boundaries, objectives, correct use of equipment (PFDs, boats etc.), procedure in event of an incident. 3 - Notice board on shore giving information on the B1 limit, plus a marker buoy in the loch to indicate B1 limit 4 – Clear roles and responsibilities 5 – Number of participants restricted to leader’s permits limits and environmental conditions at time of event.	
Moving boats from shed to water Risk of suffering slips, trips and falls, and muscle injuries when lifting	All participants	1 – Warm up carried out before any lifting 2 – Correct lifting and carrying instructions given 3 - Suitable footwear to be worn	
Failure to respond quickly to an incident Risk caused by delays in communication between all parties in getting help	All participants	1 – Radios checked and allocated to all key leaders on the water and land based. Event leaders to designate radios as necessary depending on event type, size and location of group(s) 2 – Notice board on shore displays the Scout Association’s “What to do in an Emergency” procedure. Event leader to familiarise themselves with the location for communication to emergency services. 3 – Event leader to ensure adequate communication between leaders on the water and appropriate land based link person. Use of land-based communication link person dependent on event type, size and location of group(s)	

NOTE: Dynamic risk assessment to be carried out on the day of the event considering; weather, participant ability and behaviours

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety UKHQ template published September 2020

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<p>Drowning Risk caused by a capsized or falling into the loch,</p>	<p>All participants</p>	<p>1 – Check for non swimmers. Take appropriate action if required (POR Rule 9.42(b) refers) 2 – All participants wear PFD's 3 - Capsize procedure explained prior to start of activity 4 – If two leaders are available, then one leader on the water prior to participants entering water. If only one leader available, then leader assists group onto the water, ensuring group stays close to the launch site 5 – All groups to ensure immediate access to someone holding a relevant first aid qualification (need not be the paddling permit holder). 6 – Maintain discipline and control of group 7 – In the event of a capsized, the remaining group of participants 'raft-up' whilst the leader assists person in water. If necessary, leader takes capsized person to shore to change, ensuring group is safe at all times – decision is dynamic depending on weather conditions, location, if person has swallowed water and state of participant.</p>	
<p>Hypothermia Risk caused by cold conditions, a capsized or falling into the loch,</p>	<p>All participants</p>	<p>1 – Activity leader checks participants are dressed appropriately (to account for prevalent weather conditions e.g. wind chill factor particularly if wet) 2 - Activity leader monitors conditions throughout the day and checks on group members, advising on precautions. 3 – Reduce activity limits to enable, if required, swift transfer of casualty to shore. 3 - Emergency procedures in place for incidents 4 – Once back on shore casualty is given appropriate treatment.</p>	
<p>Hyperthermia Risk caused by hot weather and exposure to the sun leading to dehydration, sunburn and sunstroke</p>	<p>All participants</p>	<p>1 - Activity leader monitors conditions throughout the day, and check on group members, advising on precautions. 2 – Anyone exhibiting signs of over-exposure to return to shore. 3 – Participants advised on; drinking plenty of fluids, head coverings and use of sunscreen</p>	
<p>Fragmentation of group Risk of group breaking up caused by: 1. Adverse weather conditions or 2. Group comprises varying ages and abilities</p>	<p>All participants</p>	<p>1 – Reduce activity limits (weather and participant abilities / fitness). 2 - Split into sub-groups by age/abilities and run activities appropriate to experience 3 – Activity leader constantly monitors group for signs of fatigue, frustration, & apathy.</p>	

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