

Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Rafting on Flat Water (General Assessment)	Date of risk assessment	15/04/2021	Name of person doing this risk assessment
	Located on Loch Venachar - Invertrossachs	Date of next review		

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Ropes, Barrels 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 the time of the event 	
Moving Equipment from shed to water. Risk of suffering slips, trips and falls, and muscle injuries when lifting	All participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warm up carried out before any lifting. 2. Correct lifting and carrying instructions given. 3. Suitable footwear to be worn. 4. Equipment to be moved in individual parts and assembled into a Raft at the water's edge. 5. When moving Pioneering poles, one person at each end to limit the risk of one being swung into somebody. 6. Ropes carried in a container where possible, or while tied up to reduce trip hazards. 	
Failure to respond quickly to an incident. Risk caused by delays in communication between all parties in getting help	All Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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</p> <p>Risk caused by Raft disintegration, falling into the loch, or entrapment (see below)</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for non-swimmers. Take appropriate action if required (POR Rule 9.42(b) refers) 2. All participants wear PFD's 3. All groups to ensure immediate access to someone holding a relevant first aid qualification (need not be the paddling permit holder). 4. All Groups have immediate access to a throw line and a leader trained in its use. 5. Maintain discipline and control of group. 6. In shallow water attach a line between the raft and either the leader or a stable point (e.g. a tree) in order to A: ensure that the participants can't travel into deeper/unsafe water where a rescue would be more difficult, and B: ensure that the leader can rapidly pull the raft and all participants on it back to shore. 7. In deeper water or where a rescue could be more difficult have a safety boat on standby and ready for immediate use. 	
<p>Hypothermia</p> <p>Risk caused by cold conditions or falling into the loch.</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 4. Emergency procedures in place for incidents 5. Once back on shore casualty is given appropriate treatment. 6. Consider using wetsuits for longer activity sessions or when the weather is expected to be cold – due to the likelihood of getting wet when rafting. 7. Leader in charge should wear a wetsuit or dry suit where possible because they are likely to be in the water for long periods of time overseeing the activity and may need to enter the water fully to conduct a rescue. 	
<p>Hyperthermia</p> <p>Risk caused by hot weather and exposure to the sun leading to dehydration, sunburn and sunstroke</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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>Entrapment</p> <p>Risk caused by limbs being caught in equipment</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When building the raft keep any gaps between equipment as small as possible to reduce the risk of legs or arms getting lodged in them and trapping the person. 2. Do not leave loose rope attached – either use shorter rope to tie the knots or tie off any loose rope around the closest, most suitable part of the raft. 3. Test all the equipment used to make the raft before use to ensure that it won't warp or break under strain - which could cause gaps in the structure, or the whole raft to break apart around the participants. 	
<p>Head Injury</p> <p>Risk caused by unsafe use of equipment or falling headfirst into shallow water</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct safe use of all equipment – 2 person carry of pioneering poles, no waving or fighting with paddles. 2. Use helmets. 3. No diving in shallow water 	

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Fragmentation of group Risk of group breaking up caused by adverse weather conditions or Raft disintegrating	All Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Check weather forecast before conducting the activity and be prepared to cancel, shorten or change the activity at short notice based on a dynamic risk assessment of the weather and the group's skillset.2. Check all equipment before use to ensure it will not break under strain.3. Test the raft in shallow water and rebuild it/retie knots if it loosens or shifts.4. Instruct on safety procedures in case of separation from raft.5. Leader to have immediate access to and be trained in the use of a throwline.	
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