

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport

Date:	18.05.23
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Assessor's Name:	Bill Norris	Review Date:	TBC
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Description of Assessment:	Bell Boat in Sheltered Water Environment
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Location Details:	TBC
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Confined spaces eg bridges	Paddlers getting arms trapped between boat and bank	'Paddle up drill' performed prior to entering a confined space	Helm to steer centre line and reduce speed	Helm		
Locks	Paddlers falling into lock, sustaining injury or being caught in strong currents	<p>The Helm should ensure that there are enough competent adults on board to be able to position the boat. The crew should be trained in handling the boat before using the locks.</p> <p>Be aware of other pleasure boats as they approach and leave the locks and, wherever possible, keep the boat clear of these vessels.</p> <p>It is important to know of the rules,</p>	Only qualified Bell Boat Helms to take the boat through locks	Helm		

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		<p>regulations and conventions governing the use of the water and conduct whilst on the water. In terms of other water traffic there are 2 main considerations:</p> <p>Avoid entering locks with other boats, especially on small rivers and canal locks unless instructed by the lock keeper. Tie up the boat as instructed by the lock keeper or local regulations. Keep the paddlers seated at all times.</p> <p>The water must be let in and out in a controlled way, ensuring that the flow is not too excessive. Use only one lock paddle and let the lock fill slowly until the paddle is covered. Be ready to quickly close the paddle if needed. There must be an adult on the boat going through the lock. This adult can control the ropes, pulling in or letting out dependent on whether the lock is filling up or emptying.</p>				
Injury or drowning while paddling	<p>Participants and Volunteers</p> <p>Participants - Drowning, Secondary drowning, Hypothermia, Entrapment Sharps injuries</p>	<p>Buoyancy aids (BA)/Personal Flotation Device (PFD) appropriately sized and fitted</p> <p>All Leaders/Coaches have been deployed by the club including first aid and safeguarding checks</p> <p>Appropriate First Aid kits available and are to be taken out on trips</p> <p>All trip members briefed as required</p> <p>Ensuring that all participants are competent for the trip.</p>	Ensure paddlers paddle in groups, no lone paddling permitted	Helm and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	

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Other water Users	Participants Contact injuries	Avoid other water users including swimmers, anglers, powered & un powered craft and model boat hobbyists	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Helm and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Microorganisms (infection)	Members and guests. Leptospirosis, Viral/bacterial illness Blue green algae	Members to be educated on potential risks All Leaders and Coaches first aid trained. Participants advised to wash their hands before eating Discourage capsize or swimming practice after heavy rainfall	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Helm and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Slip, Trips and Falls	Participants and General Public: Head contact Strains, Sprains and Breaks	All members to be briefed at the beginning of activity Care to be taken at launching/egress points to reduce the possibility of slips/trips while entering/exiting boats Loading of boat should be one at a time with consideration to weight distribution	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Helm and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Manual Handling	Participants and Volunteers Musculoskeletal harms	In the event of taking the Bell Boat out of the water a minimum of 6 adults are required to lift and carry	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Helm and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Hypothermia	Participants and Volunteers Heatstroke Sunburn	Members briefed at start of trip, participants advised via booking form on kit requirements	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Helm	Prior day and on day	

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		Leader carries 1 st aid and emergency shelter				
Hyperthermia Heatstroke Sunburn	Participants and Volunteers	Members briefed at induction, participants advised via booking form of kit requirements Leader carries 1 st aid and emergency shelter	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Helm	Prior day and on day	
Change in Weather Conditions	All Participants	Members suitably equipped for prevailing conditions and groups carrying sufficient supplies to cope Wind/wave heights to be monitored to stay within the competence of the group	24 hrs before trip, assessment to be made if the trip needs to be cancelled / postponed. Further dynamic assessment prior to start and during trip	Helm	On day	
Lightning strike	All Participants	If thunder and lightning are audible/visible, there is a risk of a lightning strike. The safest option is to check in advance and not to get on the water if thunder and lightning are forecast	Dynamic assessment ongoing during trip, safe exits identified	Helm	On day	
Pre-existing medical conditions	All Participants	Understanding who is on the trip and their needs.	Emergency contact details collected on the day of the trip. Participants requested to disclose any medical conditions in confidence to the Trip Leader(s)	Helm	On day	
Safeguarding Failure	All Participants	Compliance with British Canoeing Safeguarding policies and procedures	Action to be taken by coaches and leaders if required	All coaches / leaders	On day	

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Illness & fatigue	All Participants	Paddlers to inform leader	Correct supervision and group control by leader, Dynamic risk assessment. First aid kit, food and water, evacuation procedures and assistance identified.	Helm	On day	
Equipment: unserviceable	Paddlers on trip	Leader to check at start of trip. Paddler cannot paddle without serviceable equipment	Basic repair kit carried by Leader	Helm	On Day	

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment checker if selected for sampling)

Checked by:		Position:		Date:	
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