

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport

Date:	17.05.23
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Assessor's Name:	Andrew Hall	Review Date:	Annually -May 2024
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Description of Assessment:	White Water Rafting risk assessment for moderate white water (Grade 1-2)
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Location Details:	River Dee – Horseshoe falls to Ilangollen town (MEM/TNR)
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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
Injury or drowning while Rafting on a river setting	Participants and Volunteers Participants - Drowning, Secondary drowning, Hypothermia, Entrapment, Sharps injuries	Buoyancy aids (BA)/Personal Flotation Device (PFD) appropriately sized and fitted. All Raft Guides have been deployed by the club including first aid and safeguarding checks. Appropriate First Aid kits available and are to be taken out on trips. Ensuring that all participants are competent for the trip.	All trip members briefed as required on site including use of MYABCDE principle Special attention to safe swimming procedures are given during the briefing	Raft Guides	On location safety brief	

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		Appropriate use of the raft ensuring correct inflation				
Head injury	Impact while swimming, impact while falling in, accidental impact from own/others paddles.	Helmets to be worn. Helmets to be modern style in usable condition. Participants are informed to hold the paddle T grip at all times	Ensure helmets worn properly.	All	Safety brief/action taking place bankside	
Microorganisms (infection)	Members and guests. Leptospirosis, Viral/bacterial illness Blue green algae	Members to be educated on potential risks. All raft guides are first aid trained. Participants advised to wash their hands before eating. Discourage swimming practice after heavy rainfall	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Raft Guide	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. Participants advised to use the paddle as a support during portages especially on slippery surfaces	Members briefed at key danger points	Raft Guide	On location safety brief	
Manual Handling	Participants and Volunteers Musculoskeletal harms	Members briefed on good manual handling techniques for carrying the raft.	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Raft Guide	On location safety brief	

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Hypothermia	Participants and Volunteers getting very cold.	Members briefed at start of trip; participants advised via booking form on kit requirements. Guide carries 1 st aid and emergency shelter	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Raft Guide	Prior day and on day	
Hyperthermia	Participants and Volunteers Heatstroke Sunburn	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	Raft Guide	Prior day and on day	
Change in Weather Conditions	All Participants	Members suitably equipped for prevailing conditions and groups carrying sufficient supplies to cope.	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	Raft Guide	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	Raft Guide	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 Raft Guide	Raft Guide	On day	
Safeguarding Failure	All Participants	Compliance with British Canoeing Safeguarding policies and procedures	Action to be taken by Raft Guide reporting concerns as required	All	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.	Raft Guide	On day	
Throwline entanglements	Drowning	Raft Guide to carry river knife.		Raft Guide		
Ratio's	Appropriate control of the raft	Minimum of 1 raft Guide per 6-person Raft.	A minimum number of participants maybe required in order to provide appropriate power for the conditions on the day	Raft Guide	On the Day, Pre-trip assessment	
Raft Flip	Injury from the raft falling on participants Participants becoming in a state of panic	Raft guide training and continuous practice to avoid flipping the raft whilst also being prepared for a raft flip	Participants informed of safe swimming procedures and raft entrapment dangers in the event of a raft flip	Raft Guide	Safety Brief	
Serpents Tail	Drowning or serious injury to guide and/or participants. Trips, slip and fall injuries	This is a grade 3 rapid and must not be run on a club trip without a suitably qualified grade 3 raft guide and/or individual risk assessment carried out in collaboration with a technical adviser. Portage and lining of the raft is possible	Portage to the rocks on river left. Participants should be led to a suitable safe space towards the bottom of serpents tail. Participants should be advised on safe portage techniques, using the raft paddle as further support. The rocks can be extremely slippery and present a danger of slips and falls. Participants must keep all safety equipment such as helmets and buoyancy aids until in a safe area away from the water and slippery rocks. Raft guide should line the raft down the river once participants have been allocated and taken to a safe location. Care should be taken when lining the raft to prevent being/becoming a danger to other river	Raft Guide	Prior to portage	

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			users. Excess rope should be managed at all times to prevent snagging.			
Town Falls	Drowning or serious injury to guide and/or participants	This is a grade 4 rapid and must not be run on a club trip without a suitably qualified grade 4 raft guide and/or suitable risk assessment. Town falls should be avoided. Portage opportunity in a raft is limited	Trips end at TNR/MEM site or small under road passage/tunnel (difficult access). Access arrangements should be considered prior to the trip to ensure Town Falls is not rafted	Raft Guide	On the Day, Pre-trip assessment	
Horseshoe Falls	Drowning or serious injury to guide and/or participants	Raft guides should assess the weir on location on every visit, water levels should be checked prior to the trip and again on the day of the rafting. Raft Guides to collaborate where possible with other raft guides and/or safety kayak and/or suitably experienced paddlers to make an informed decision on running the weir TNR/MEM river gauge at a level 4 and above should trigger portage options	Portage options include but not exhaustive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the rocks on the right-hand side of the weir which may include running the half height section of the weir on river left. downstream alongside the canal towpath River left beyond the weir All portage options should be considered on the day and be responsive to the current river levels. Participants should be informed of the route decision and why that decision has been made Running the weir could be considered at lower level levels towards the centre of the weir where the weir is slightly broken, visibility from the pool above the weir is poor and inspection from bank-side is highly recommended	Raft Guide	Pre-trip assessment, On the Day	
Other Features	Drowning or serious injury to guide and/or participants	Raft guides to review conditions of all river features considering the water level and conditions at that time	Activities such as surfing should be considered with the present conditions in mind. Some features may become more or less dangerous for surfing with a change in water levels. Where possible raft guides and others present that are suitably qualified should make a joint dynamic risk assessment on the dangers that the features pose. Portage should always be considered, however it is not expected that any other river features on this	Raft Guide	On the Day	

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			section of the river should require portage however, adaptation to the river line or rafting activities should be considered			
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Checked by:		Position:		Date:	
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