

# Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport



<b>Date:</b>	17.5.2026
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<b>Assessor's Name:</b>	Andrew Buckley	<b>Review Date:</b>	Annually
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<b>Description of Assessment:</b>	Generic risk assessment for moderate white water (Grade 1-3)
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<b>Location Details:</b>	Local rivers within day trip distance of the club. To include River Dee, Seven, Banwy, Vyrnwy
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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 paddling on a river	Participants and Volunteers  <b>Participants -</b> Drowning, Secondary drowning, Hypothermia, Entrapment Sharps injuries	Buoyancy aids (BA)/Personal Flotation Device (PFD) appropriately sized and fitted  All Leaders/Coaches 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  All trip members briefed as required  Ensuring that all participants are competent for the trip.	Ensure paddlers paddle in groups, no lone paddling permitted	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
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.	Ensure helmets worn properly.	All	Safety brief/action taking place bankside	

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Other river users	Participants Contact injuries, injury from fishing equipment,	Avoid other river users	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader 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	Trip Leader 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	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Manual Handling	Participants and Volunteers Musculoskeletal harms	Members briefed on good manual handling techniques for boats/kit. Tying boats onto cars is left to the discretion of individual car owners  Members to be advised to share carrying boats/kit where possible	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader 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	Trip Leader	Prior day and on day	

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		Leader carries 1 <sup>st</sup> aid and emergency shelter				
Hyperthermia	Participants and Volunteers Heatstroke Sunburn	Members briefed at induction, participants advised via booking form of kit requirements Leader carries 1 <sup>st</sup> aid and emergency shelter	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Trip Leader	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	Trip Leader	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	Trip Leader	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)	Trip Leader	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.	Trip Leader	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	Trip Leader	On Day	
River hazards  - Trees (over hanging and strainers) - Weirs, - Industrial debris (surface and submerged).	All participants.  Entrapments, strainings, cuts, damage to equipment, resuscitaion in features.	Briefing prior to lanch.  Avoidance on the water.  Early idetification and avoidance.  Managed progression past hazard.  Portage, walking round.	Rescue saw carried,  Slings, throw lines, carabines.  River knife carried while managing ropes.	Trip leader, Competent paddlers.		
Throwline entanglements	Drowning	All river leaders, competent paddlers to carry river knife.				
Entanglement with human made rubbish/ river furniture	Fences, industrial rubbish, wire, trollies  Resulting in injury or death through drowning.	Wire cutters carried.				
Ratio's	1 to 6 on moving water  Youth trips	1 to 6 on moving water, consideration given for reduction depending on skill and age. Competent seconds will be included with in the 1 to 6 and not be considered out of it.				

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		Youth trip ratio to be managed depending on age/ablity and other support available to trip leaders.				
<p>River features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rocks</li> <li>- Waves and Stoppers</li> <li>- drops</li> </ul>	<p>All paddlers.</p> <p>Uncontrolled interaction resulting in swims, colloisions, injuries resulting from this.</p>	<p>Training in capsized drill.</p> <p>Training in safe navigation and progression through river features.</p> <p>Defensive and offensive swimming training.</p> <p>Rescue brief,</p> <p>Rescue training.</p>	<p>Rescue kit</p> <p>Leader professient with throwline, chase boating skills.</p> <p>Group aware of actions on incident.</p>	<p>Trip leader</p>		

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

<b>Checked by:</b>		<b>Position:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
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