

Gloucester Canoe Club - Safety Risk Assessment

Document Title	Generic Assessment for paddling activities on Inland Waterways up to and including river Grade 2
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Activity	Hazard Description	Hazard Value	Controls	Likely Value	Risk Value	Further Controls
Canoe and equipment loading and unloading	Muscle skeletal Cuts and abrasions	2	Ensure sufficient personnel to load/unload canoes	1	2	
Launching Recovering Canoes: 1. Steep banks 2. Overhanging Trees 3. Soft mud/rocks 4. Submerged Objects	Slips, trips, Sprains, cuts and head injury	1	Prior inspection of launch site; use alternative if available and more suited. Coach/team leader to lead group.	2	2	
Paddling; capsized condition	Drowning Fatality Hypothermia	3	Buoyancy aids to be worn at all times on the water. Under race conditions, under 18's to wear buoyancy aids. Check kayak fitted buoyancy. Appropriate clothing/ change of clothes.	2	4	Pre-session brief to all paddlers. If river water speed is greater than anticipated, team leaders to re-assess competency of group.
Paddling; weather change	Hypothermia	3	Review of weather forecast prior to event. Team leader to ensure paddlers are wearing suitable clothing. Ensure sufficient warm clothing at hot beverage at exit point.	1	3	Team leader to monitor 'lethargy' of paddlers and will stop activity if risk of hypothermia is evident.
Paddling; management of group.	Isolated paddlers impacted by unseen hazards, collision, injury, drowning, hypothermia	3	Coach defines paddling boundaries based on group competency. Ensure sufficient Team leaders and trained staff to monitor group while paddling	1	3	Team leader/coach to stop progress of group if paddler(s) become isolated.

Refer to the Club 'Health, Safety and Environmental Procedure' for completion of Risk Assessments.

Risk Value	1 Trivial Risk	2 Tolerable Risk	3 Moderate Risk	4 Substantial Risk	5 Intolerable Risk
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Paddling – Stationary objects; Rocks, weed, overhanging trees, moored boats, bridge piers, gravel banks, outfall/intake pipes.	Collision leading to cuts, bruises, capsizes (potential for injury, drowning, hypothermia etc)	3	Coach/team leader to lead group/scout ahead. Paddlers warned of obstructions and guided around. Buoyancy aids (except racing) and appropriate clothing worn. Experienced paddlers dispersed through the group to assist with direction.	1	3	Coach/Team leader to stop group upstream if uncertain of obstruction. Dynamic risk assessment completed. Portage around obstruction maybe required.
Paddling – Weirs	Stranding and loss of control leading to cuts, bruises, sprains, breaks and capsizes (potential for injury, drowning, hypothermia etc)	3	Coach/Team leader to assess weir conditions and assess competency of paddlers. Competent and correctly kitted paddlers (helmets) permitted to 'shoot' the weir. Paddlers of insufficient ability directed to portage.	1	3	Coach/Team leader to stop group upstream of weir and conduct dynamic risk assessment from bank and water. If shooting the weir permitted, best paddler first. Coach/team leader to standby on rescue.
Paddling; fishing lines	Entanglement leading to cuts and bruises.	1	Coach/team leaders to guide paddlers clear of fishermen. Race event; marshals to scout route and advise participants of risk.	1	1	Fisherman advised of race event.

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Paddling; lock gates	Collision with or entrapment in lock gates leading to contact cuts, sprains, bruising and capsize (drowning, hypothermia)	3	Coach/team leader to 1) establish voice and visual contact with lock keeper prior to entry and exit and 2) appraise paddlers prior to transit of transit order and ensure all paddlers are secure before signalling lock keeper or gate operative.	1	3	Coach/Team leader to stop lock transit if communication cannot be established with lock keeper/gate operative or if gates are deemed to be unsafe.
Paddling; lock up flood and down flood	Collision with lock walls and gates, and capsize due to boiling or sluicing water leading to contact cuts, sprains, bruising and capsize (drowning, hypothermia)	3	Coach/team leader to appraise paddlers of rafting tactic prior to lock entry and to maintain contact with lock keeper/gate operative and be prepared to call STOP to flooding procedure throughout flood up/down operation.	1	3	Place senior paddler with lock keeper/gate operative

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Activity	Hazard Description	Hazard Value	Controls	Likely Value	Risk Value	Further Controls
Paddling; moving objects, debris, other craft, and wildlife.	Collision leading to cuts, injury and capsize (drowning, hypothermia)	3	Coach/team leader to lead group/scout ahead. Paddlers warned of obstructions and guided around. Buoyancy aids (except racing) and appropriate clothing worn. Experienced paddlers dispersed through the group to assist with direction	1	3	Coach/Team leader to stop group upstream if uncertain of obstruction. Dynamic risk assessment completed. Portage around obstruction maybe required.
Assessed by:	S. Horne		Date review completed	28.07.2018		

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