

Lower Wharfe Canoe Club - Risk Assessment: Site: Bishopthorpe Container

Assessment updated By: Ann Mitchell

Reviewed at Club training session 2th May 2024

Review Date: May 2025

<i>What are the hazards?</i>	To Who?	How is the risk controlled?	What further action is necessary? Comments/dates
Kayaking, Canoeing & SUP		<p>All group leaders to carry mobile phone with relevant contact numbers. Emergency contact numbers collected at start of session. What's app group set up between coaches.</p>	
<i>Medical</i>		<p>Medical consent forms & emergency contact details collected prior to session online, parents are expected to remain constantly on site for duration of activity or leave contact details with the container/door person. Group leaders to check for medical conditions before session and to be aware of any medical treatment carried by paddler. Groups to carry basic first aid kit Where possible each group has a first aid trained person</p>	<p>Aim to have all helpers on the water nominated as Paddle sport activity Assistants.</p>
<i>River Levels and/or water quality</i>	Coaches Participants	<p>Coaches/Approved Person is to assess river levels before session starts: If river level is over jetty area consider whether it is safe to run the session: Coach/approved person has the authority to cancel session if they are concerned about the safety cover for session – a higher level of supervision is needed in these conditions. If river is contaminated (eg by fuel or sewage) session should be cancelled and the Environment Agency contacted.</p>	
<i>Drowning</i>	Participants Boat Based Coaches	<p>All participants undertake a safety test, Before being allowed to use a spray deck they must be able to exit an upturned kayak with a spray-deck on. Ideally all new participants should capsize during their first session & show a controlled exit of the boat. (subject to weather/river conditions) All new participants will be briefed on exit strategies before getting on the water. All participants must be able to swim, lead coach to make a judgment on level of direct supervision Clothing must be appropriate to activity</p>	<p>Ideally an annual check of the 50/70N floating capability of BA's should be carried out by the club.. Annual safety training for group leaders on boat rescues and incident management. Group leaders rescue completed 2nd May 2024. BA checks due 16th May 2024</p>

All persons on the water or on the jetty participating in the activity must wear a buoyancy aid Coach/Approved Person should ensure all Buoyancy aids are correctly fitted and check for any defects when fitting.
 All buoyancy aids will pass a 50N test at the start of each season
 Personal buoyancy aids are allowed at the discretion of the Coach/Approved Person

<i>Strangulation</i>	Participants	Minimise snag hazards Coach/Approved Person should ensure all Buoyancy aids are correctly fitted	
<i>What are the hazards?</i>	To Who?	How is the risk controlled?	What further action is necessary?
<i>Entrapment</i>	Participants Boat Based Coaches	Equipment is suitable for Individual paddlers Equipment is checked on a regular basis and maintained correctly Minimum of one Coach/Approved Person on the water at any time	
<i>Launching</i>	Coaches Participants	Launching should only be done from the slipway opposite the container or the slipway 50m downriver. The jetty has large cracks, the slipway part should be used in preference. Any participants using the jetty should be warned of the dangers. Coach/Approved Person/trip to monitor launching SUP launching should be done in a kneeling position until well clear of the concrete jetty.	The jetty has developed large cracks
<i>Hazards on bank— eg trees, stakes, concrete steps Submerged Obstacles</i>	Participants Boat Based Coaches	Participants informed of potential hazards at start of session Participants should stay clear of river banks and avoid large trees Coaches/Approved Persons to exercise good group control Coaches a/ Approved Persons to be vigilant for hazards.	
<i>Hit with paddle or boats</i>	Participants Coaches	Coaches/Approved Persons should exercise appropriate group control Participants encouraged to behave responsibly Helmets are available to all involved though not mandated to be used due to the depth of the water.	
<i>Projectiles</i>	Participants Coaches Spectators	Ball games to be supervised, suitable balls used for the standard of the group. No paddles or boats to be thrown at any time No sticks or other items found in the river should be thrown	

<i>Hypothermia</i>	Participants Coaches	Activities and clothing appropriate to session Coach/Approved Person should monitor and take appropriate action and has the right to end the session early	
<i>Hyperthermia & Dehydration</i>	Participants Coaches	Activities and clothing appropriate to session Coach/Approved Person should monitor and take appropriate action	
<i>Sudden illness incapacitating paddler on river</i>	All participants	Make casualty safe Knowledge of quickest medical access points on river between Bishopthorpe and the centre of York. Contact person with emergency contacts Make rest of group safe and keep warm	Poster of York Emergency access points at container. Laminated copies to club members & 1 st aid bags
<i>Inherent Risk (eg surfers ear, joint injury, blisters, tenosynovitis,)</i>	Participants Coaches	Participants informed of safe paddling practice	
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<i>Supervision ratios</i>		. Classify group into novices, intermediates, those capable of assisting and leaders. For a flat water trip in normal river conditions (warmer than 10°C) the maximum ratio of (novice plus intermediate) to (leaders plus assistants) should be 6:1. This ratio should be reduced for non-ideal conditions or a large number of novices. See Paddlesport Activity Assistant roles for more guidance.	
<i>Water borne illness</i>	Participant coaches	Participants should be made aware of risk and the need to wash or shower before consuming food or drink	Leptospirosis /Weils Disease poster put up at container
Storage of equipment			
<i>Equipment Falling</i>	Participants Coaches	Equipment stored securely in container Only people under supervision to move boats from rack	
<i>Back Damage</i>	Participants Coaches	Participants taught correct manual handling technique Coach/Approved Person to offer assistance if required Canoes must always be carried tandem	

Slips, Trips and Falls

Coaches Step is provided for entry to container
Participants Participants informed of hazards

Crossing of road

Coaches Participants informed of hazard
Participants No boats should be left in the road
Children should stay off the road either on the grassy area next to the river or close to the container.
When using the Cricket Pavillion users should take care walking down the road to the container. Younger children should be accompanied by their parents.
A leader or door helper should park their car to block the exit of the car park in front of the container

Changing

Observation

Participants All club members should remain vigilant to inappropriate behaviour, any suspected cases should be reported to the Welfare Officer at the earliest opportunity.
Members to be aware they are changing in a public space with young people about. The cricket club changing rooms should be used when possible.