



Risk Assessment

Blandford Youth Club - Group Sessions: Paddling upon the River Stour between Bryanston School Boathouse DT11 0PX and The Blandford School DT11 7SQ. Persons Undertaking Activity: Blandford Youth Club Members and SVCC Coaches. Nearest Access Points: Emergency vehicles can gain access to the river at Bryanston School (Boathouse) DT11 0PX. Nearest Accident and Emergency Department: Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2JY Assessment completed by: Tony Fowler (Club Secretary), Rob Mooring (Club Safety Officer) of the management committee of the Stour Valley Canoe Club Date Assessment Created/Completed: 27 th July 2019 Current Review dates: see below	Session Leader:	
	Other leaders: others as available	
	Emergency contacts: Dorset County Hospital South Western Ambulance Service	01305 251150 01305 269969

HAZARD	RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	COMMENTS/ACTIONS	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
Accidental capsize of Kayak and subsequent immersion in water	Drowning	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	Buoyancy aids will be worn by all. A line of sight with the Session Leader will be maintained at all times. Activity leader will provide paddlers with a safety induction at the beginning of the first session. This induction will be recapped at the beginning of each subsequent session. The induction will include the instruction that all paddlers call out 'Swimmer' when they witness somebody capsize.	Buoyancy aids tested annually. Session Leader to ensure buoyancy aids correctly fitted. Regular checks on equipment during the season.	Low
Overhanging trees and branches hidden under the surface of the water causing capsize and/or entrapment	Drowning	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	During the safety induction Blandford Youth Club Members will be advised to keep away from river bank and trees- both overhanging and floating. Advised as to correct action in event of entanglement.	Tree management along the river bank will be routinely undertaken.	Low
Exposure to prevailing weather conditions	Hyper/Hypothermia	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	Blandford Youth Club Members will be advised on the correct clothing to wear. Adjustment to clothing will be made as required. Cagoules are to be worn in inclement or colder conditions.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.	Low
Exacerbation or triggering of pre-existing Medical	Allergic reaction, Seizure, Asthma attack,	Blandford Youth Club Members	The Session Leader will ensure that they have details of Participants with pre-existing medical conditions prior to the start of the session.	Where necessary Session Leader will carry participant's medications-	Low

Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc	Hypoglycaemia	and Session Leaders		Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.	
Not understanding Instructions / misinterpretation of instructions / not listening to instructions.	Likelihood of putting self and others in position of heightened risk	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	Communication is Key – Session Leader / coaches to explain instructions & ensure they confirm with participants they have understood - getting participants to repeat the instruction back to make sure. And where necessary get the participant to demonstrate the skill or manoeuvre under closure supervision. Any special needs of an individual participant that may require additional coaching MUST be highlighted to session leader and coaches by Youth Club Leaders at the start of any session.	Where there is obvious signs of a participant who requires additional support and instruction, session leader or coaches to provide one to one input to make sure the participant is able to take part and enjoy the session safely.	Low
Slips, trips and falls whilst carrying boats to and from the river bank	Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	Helmets to be worn by all Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders. Blandford Youth Club Members to be trained to lift correctly and encouraged to ask for help	Regular maintenance of river side Pontoon, Club House floors and path from the Club House to the Pontoon undertaken. Boat storage routinely checked.	Low
Pollution and water quality	Stomach upsets	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders	Blandford Youth Club Members will be advised not to swallow water and to spit out any water that finds its way into their mouths. Additionally, they will be advised to bathe soon after immersion. Blandford Youth Club Members will be encouraged not to play with flotsam.	Risks higher in spate conditions. Avoid intentional capsizes in poor conditions	Low
Other river users- collisions and capsizes	Drowning	Blandford Youth Club Members and Session Leaders and other river users.	During safety induction, Blandford Youth Club Members to be made aware of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate and/or avoiding action.	Session leader and coaches to continuously monitor any other river traffic to avoid close encounters by directing Youth Club Members to move out of the way.	Low

Date Reviewed: Master Copies held with committee and reviewed annually	Person Reviewing: Rob Mooring
Position in Stour Valley Canoe Club Committee: Club Safety Officer	Signature of Reviewer: <i>Rob Mooring</i>