



Risk Assessment

Halloween Evening Paddle: Paddling between Club Jetty and Bryanston School (Boathouse) DT11 0PX Persons Undertaking Event: Session participants and River Leaders Nearest Access Points: Emergency vehicles can gain access to the river at Bryanston School (Boathouse) DT11 0PX and Morrisons Car Park DT11 7AW 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: 21 st October 2018 Date of Next Review: see below	Session Leader:	
	Other river leaders	
	Emergency contacts: Dorset County Hospital South Western Ambulance Service	01305 251150 01305 269969

HAZARD	RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES	Initial Risk Rating	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	COMMENTS ACTIONS	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
Darkness	Enhanced risk of slips, trips and falls due to lack of visibility on river bank and approach path. Loss of visual contact with participants on the water.	High	Participants and River Leaders	Ensure all Participants have and wear a working head torch and some form of high visibility clothing or accessory. Cylumes to be provided by the Club Yellow for children/teenagers and Red for adults. Leaders / adults to maintain line of sight between boats and stay in regular verbal contact with each other. Leader to ensure an adult to child ratio of no more than 1 adult to 3 children. Adults to be competent paddlers. Each group of 3 Children to be assigned to an adult before getting on the water. Leader to provide a safety brief to all participants prior to getting on the water. All participants made aware to raft up for safety in the event of an incident occurring to allow competent paddlers to deal with the issue. Leader to ensure they and at least 2 other adult paddlers carry with them on the water a fully charged mobile phone for use in an emergency.	Leader to ensure cylumes activated and headtorches work.	Medium

Accidental capsizing of Kayak, Canoe or SUP and subsequent immersion in water	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	High	Participants and River Leaders	<p>Buoyancy aids will be worn by all participants and River Leaders.</p> <p>Novice/Beginner paddlers will not be allowed onto the water until a nominated Session Leader or an experienced paddler is on the water.</p> <p>A line of sight between participants will be maintained at all times.</p> <p>Session Leaders will provide Novice/Beginner paddlers with a safety induction at the beginning of the session.</p> <p>The induction will include the instruction that all paddlers call out 'Swimmer' when they witness somebody capsize.</p> <p>Kayaks, Canoes and SUPs to have adequate inherent buoyancy to prevent sinking and to provide a floating object for the participants to hold on to.</p>	<p>SVCC Buoyancy aids tested annually</p> <p>Session Leader to ensure buoyancy aids correctly fitted.</p> <p>Regular checks on equipment during the season.</p>	Medium
Overhanging trees and branches hidden under the surface of the water causing capsizing and/or entrapment	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	High	Participants and River Leaders	During the safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be advised to keep away from river bank and trees- both overhanging and floating and advised as to correct action in event of entanglement	Tree management along the river bank will be routinely undertaken.	Medium
Collision with other river craft and/or paddlers causing capsizing	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	High	Participants and River Leaders	During safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be made aware of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate/avoiding action.		Medium

Slips, trips and falls whilst carrying boats to and from the river bank or when undertaking other portages	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	High	Participants and River Leaders	Helmets to be worn by all Participants and River Leaders and coaches Novice/Beginner paddlers will 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.	Medium
Encounters with Wild Life particularly Swans causing capsizes	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	Medium	Participants and River Leaders	During the safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be advised that they share the river with Wild Life including Swans. A line of sight between participants will be maintained at all times and where necessary paddlers with experience of encounters with swans will lead Novice/Beginner paddlers past these creatures.		Low
Exacerbation or triggering of pre-existing Medical Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc	Allergic reaction, Seizure, Asthma attack, Hypoglycaemia	Medium	Participants and River Leaders	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 the Session Leader will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.		Low
Pollution and water quality	Stomach upsets and Weil's disease	Medium	Participants and River Leaders	During the safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be advised not to swallow water and to spit out any water that finds its way into their mouths and encouraged not to play with flotsam. Additionally they will be advised to bathe soon after immersion.	Risks higher in spate conditions. Avoid intentional capsizes in poor conditions	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>