



Risk Assessment

<p>River Clean Up: Paddling between Blandford Weir and Stour Meadows DT11 7AW. Persons Undertaking Event: Session Leader and participants. Nearest Access Points: Emergency vehicles can gain access to the river at Morrisons Car Park Blandford 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: 3rd August 2018 Next Review date: see below</p>	<p>Session Leader:</p>	
	<p>Other river leaders</p>	
	<p>Emergency contacts: Dorset County Hospital South Western Ambulance Service</p>	<p>01305 251150 01305 269969</p>

HAZARD	RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	COMMENTS ACTIONS	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
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	All participants	Buoyancy aids will be worn by all participants. Canoes and SUPs to have adequate inherent buoyancy to prevent sinking and to provide a floating object for the participants to hold on to. Only those with the appropriate level of experience will be allowed to participate. To be assessed by the Leader/organiser.	SVCC Buoyancy aids tested annually. Leader/organiser to ensure buoyancy aids worn by all participants	Low
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	All participants	Leader/organiser will advise 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.	Low
Collision with other river craft and/or paddlers causing capsizing	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and	All participants	Leader/organiser will advise less experienced paddlers of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate/avoiding action.		Low

	Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains				
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	All participants	Helmets to be worn by all Participants 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. Care to be taken on unfamiliar parts of river bank or river bed.	Low
Sharp objects retrieved from the water or river bank	Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds Risk of serious wounds and possible infection	All participants	Leader/organiser to advise all participants of possibility of coming in to contact with sharp objects in the water or on the river bank. Advise all participants to assess items before handling and if considered unsafe to leave in situ and mark clearly for others to retrieve with suitable PPE (heavy duty gloves). Make all aware of who has additional PPE to assist	provision of PPE advice and training	Low
lifting of heavy/awkward slippery objects	Sprains & Strains.	All participants	Leader/organiser to advise all participants of possibility of injury if care not taken to lift and move Heavy/Awkward/Slippery objects appropriately. (Session leader will advise that if in any doubt do not lift and instead seek assistance.	provision of PPE advice and training	Low
Biohazard	Infection/ill health from waterborne diseases or contact with faecal matter	All participants	Leader/organiser to advise of potential for infection or contamination.	provision of PPE advice and training	Low
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	All participants	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
Other wildlife e.g. Rats/insects	Bites and stings	All participants	Insect repellent wearing of PPE	Provision of PPE	Low
Exacerbation or triggering	Allergic reaction,	All	The River Leader will ensure that they have details of		Low

of pre-existing Medical Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc	Seizure, Asthma attack, Hypoglycaemia	participants	participants with pre-existing medical conditions prior to the start of the session. Where necessary River Leaders will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.		
Pollution and water quality	Stomach upsets and Weil's disease	All participants	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>