



Risk Assessment

Kayaking Sessions Provided for The Blandford School paddling upon the River Stour between Bryanston School Boathouse DT11 0PX and The Blandford School DT11 7SQ. Persons Undertaking Activity: Blandford School Pupils 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 (Session Leader), Neil Haggart (Club Safety Officer) of the management committee of the Stour Valley Canoe Club. Date Assessment Created/Completed: 3 rd October 2025 Current Review dates: see below	Session Leader: Tony Fowler	
	Other leaders: SVCC Coaches/Session leaders	
	Emergency contacts: Dorset County Hospital South Western Ambulance Service Representative from The Blandford School is to contact Parent/Carer of Student as required.	01305 251150 999

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	School pupils and Session Leaders	Buoyancy aids will be worn by all. A line of sight with the Session Leader will be maintained at all times. Session 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	Drowning	School pupils and Session Leaders	During the safety induction School pupils will be advised to keep away from riverbank and trees- both overhanging and floating. Advised as to correct action in event of entanglement.	Tree management along the riverbank will be routinely undertaken.	Low

and/or entrapment					
Exposure to prevailing weather conditions	Hyper/Hypothermia	School pupils and Session Leaders	School pupils will be advised on the correct clothing to wear. Adjustment to clothing will be made as required.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment.	Low
Falling trees/tree branches in high winds/heavy rain	Serious physical injury/possible death- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	School pupils and Session Leaders	All participants made aware of increased likelihood of trees coming down in high wind or after prolonged rain and/or high winds. Dynamic Risk Assessment made before each session to gauge whether session should commence if recent weather has been windy/rainy, or forecast is for same. If session goes ahead then all participants must be advised to put on to the water swiftly and paddle to the far bank to stay clear of the tree line. At end of session swift egress from the river should also be advised to all participants. Session Leader to continually assess throughout session in case of worsening conditions and if so, consider halting session and get off the water immediately.	Continuous dynamic risk assessment throughout. Session Leader to assess risk before each session. Consider re-scheduling for better weather conditions	Low
Exacerbation or triggering of pre-existing Medical Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc	Allergic reaction, Seizure, Asthma attack, Hypoglycaemia	School pupils and Session Leaders	The Session Leader will ensure that they have details of Pupils with pre-existing medical conditions prior to the start of the session.	Where necessary Session Leader will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.	Low
Slips, trips and falls whilst carrying boats to and from the riverbank	Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	School pupils and Session Leaders	Helmets to be worn by all School Pupils and Session Leaders. School pupils 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	School pupils and Session Leaders	School pupils 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. School pupils 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	School pupils, Session Leaders and other river users	During safety induction School pupils to be made aware of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate and/or avoiding action.		Low
Abuse of minors or vulnerable persons.	Abuse of minors or vulnerable persons.	Minors and vulnerable persons.	At least one DBS-checked person should be within sight and able to monitor any group or sub-group which contains minors or vulnerable persons. Any concerns about any club member should be mentioned discretely to the Welfare Officer and raised by the Welfare Officer with the committee or with a suitable sub-group of the committee or with some other suitable forum or external group (e.g. Police) if the committee is not thought a suitable forum, e.g. if a committee member is the subject of the concern.	Session Leader to ensure compliance	Low

Date Reviewed: 03/10/2025 Next Review Date: 31/10/2026	Person Reviewing: Neil Haggar
Position in Stour Valley Canoe Club Committee: Club Safety Officer	Signature of Reviewer: Neil Haggar