

Risk Assessment

Lindley Educational Trust

Watersports

Current as of June 2011

By Claire Hinchliffe

Hollowford Centre

**Inc. kayak, canoe, inflatables & improvised
raftbuilding**

Review date by 1st May 2012

| Benefit Statement | | These activities provide the opportunity to undertake personal challenge and work in teams. You learn skills such as paddle strokes to propel a canoe or knots to tie a raft together. Pushing comfort zones & a sense of achievement | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| HAZARD | RISK | CONTROL MEASURE | FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED | RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES |
| Minibus Travel | Various injuries | Separate Risk Assessment | No further action at this stage | |
| General | Various injuries | Code of Practice applies Suitably qualified & experienced instructor (includes First Aid) Clear briefings & supervision All accidents, near misses and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required. Safety reviewed in staff meetings. Seek & share information with similar providers | No further action at this stage | |
| <i>For every session there will be a dynamic risk assessment on arrival and will be on going throughout the activity session</i> | | | | |
| Extreme Weather | Sunburn Hypothermia Hyperthermia | Instructor to check weather forecast prior to session & observe conditions throughout. If necessary stop activity and move to safety (often minibus or accommodation). Change plans as necessary Ensure participants have suitable & adequate clothing plus access to warm (or cold) drinks Remind visiting staff & young people about sun protection. Group shelter & throwline available | No further action at this stage | |
| Equipment Failure | Various injuries | All equipment checked prior to use. Regular checks, maintenance & renewal schedule All equipment to correspond to required standards Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the instructor | No further action at this stage | |
| Participants | Various | Participants asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues. Visiting group leaders asked any other (eg behavioural) issues Staff ratios (group size) amended as required | No further action at this stage | |
| Members of the public | Various | Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor | No further action at this stage | |
| Deep water | Drowning | Buoyancy aids to be worn correctly & instructor to monitor throughout activity | No further action at this stage | |

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| HAZARD | RISK | CONTROL MEASURE | FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED | RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES |
|--|-------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Submerged objects | Various | Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor Helmets worn at instructors discretion Footwear to be worn | No further action at this stage | |
| Paddles | Various | Clear briefings & supervision | No further action at this stage | |
| Water borne disease (Weils) or contamination | Illness | Consider cleanliness of new / infrequently used venues Cover cuts Always tell delegates to wash hands before eating, and shower after session | No further action at this stage | |
| Blue green algae | Illness | Monitor sites after long periods of hot, still weather Avoid / limit use of contaminated sites | No further action at this stage | |
| Lifting & carrying | Various | Briefing on correct manual handling technique (min 2 persons per boat) | No further action at this stage | |

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| HAZARD | RISK | CONTROL MEASURE | FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED | RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES |
| Kayak | Entrapment | Qualified instructor Brief on getting in and out of kayak, to include releasing of spraydeck if being used Boats fitted correctly and securely Suitable footwear worn - not too big | No further action at this stage | |
| Canoe – improvised raft & sailing | Trapped fingers Swamped boats Raft falling apart Entanglement | Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. Collapsible sail Clear briefings & supervision. Knife carried | No further action at this stage | |
| Raft Building | Various Raft falling apart Entanglement | Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. Clear briefings & supervision. Knife carried Helmets worn during construction & on water Pre launch safety inspection by instructor | No further action at this stage | |
| Moving water (overhanging trees, weirs, rocks etc.) | Various | Clear briefings & supervision, inc hazards and communication signals Water level monitored throughout, ongoing hazard management and route selection by instructor Weirs to be inspected – speed & amount of water to be taken into account Access / Egress knowledge of area being used | No further action at this stage | |
| Open Water (wind, large waves) | Stranded in remote location Swamping | Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. Clear briefings & supervision Plan / change route according to changing weather conditions Shelter, spare food, source of hot drinks, spare clothes Bailer to remove excessive water | No further action at this stage | |
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