# Section 1: Risk Assessment Guidance

The assessor can assign values for the hazard severity (a) and likelihood of occurrence (b) (taking into account the frequency and duration of exposure) on a scale of 1 to 5, then multiply them together to give the rating band:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hazard Severity (a)** | Likelihood of Occurrence (b) |
|
| 1 – Trivial (eg discomfort, slight bruising, self-help recovery)**2 – Minor** (eg small cut, abrasion, basic first aid need)**3 – Moderate** (eg strain, sprain, incapacitation > 3 days)**4 – Serious** (eg fracture, hospitalisation >24 hrs, incapacitation >4 weeks)**5 – Fatal** (single or multiple) | **1 – Remote** (almost never)**2 – Unlikely** (occurs rarely)**3 – Possible** (could occur, but uncommon)**4 – Likely** (recurrent but not frequent)**5 – Very likely** (occurs frequently) |

The risk rating (high, medium or low) indicates the level of
response required to be taken when designing the action plan.

**Trivial**

**Minor**

**Moderate**

**Serious**

**Fatal**

|  |
| --- |
| **Rating Bands (a x b)** |
| **LOW RISK****(1 – 8)** | **MEDIUM RISK****(9 - 12)** | **HIGH RISK****(15 - 25)** |
|  |  |  |
| Continue, but review periodically to ensure controls remain effective | Continue, but implement additional reasonably practicable controls where possible and monitor regularly  | **-STOP THE ACTIVITY-**Identify new controls. Activity must not proceed until risks are reduced to a low or medium level |

**Remote**

**Unlikely**

**Possible**

**Likely**

**Very likely**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **2** | **4** | **6** | **8** | **10** |
| **3** | **6** | **9** | **12** | **15** |
| **4** | **8** | **12** | **16** | **20** |
| **5** | **10** | **15** | **20** | **25** |

# Section 2.02: River Sessions

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| --- |
| Risk Assessment Record |
| Risk Assessment of: River Avon Sessions | Assessor(s): | Date: 20/03/2025 |
| Overview of activity / location / equipment / conditions being assessed: Activity: Skills/recreational sessions run on the river Avon. These will typically be run in river boats and will have more of a focus on real world application of skill.**Location:** River Avon. Starting point Bath town canoe club’s boathouse, next to the A4 bridge.**Equipment:** River kayaks/ polo kayaks/ canoes. Buoyancy aid is mandatory; helmet is optional (mandatory for weir paddling). Paddle; spray deck; wetsuit/cags.**Conditions:** Variable dependant on water levels/ weather. Under optimal conditions the river is Grade 1 and slow moving. Weir sections are higher consequence. Any change in conditions caused by weather must be assessed by the session leader in a dynamic risk assessment |  |
| Generic or specific assessment?Specific assessment | Context of assessmentAnnual Review Handover 25 |

| # | Hazard(s) identified | Persons affected | Existing controls & measures | A | B | A x B | Additional controls required |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Drowning | Anyone on Water | * Buoyancy aids are mandatory on the river
* Session leader has skills and experience to assist any person trapped in a capsized kayak (Coaching Sec is responsible for ensuring a competent person is present as leader for every session, as well as updating a list of competent persons to ensure appropriate resource allocation)
* Swim test is used to assess swimming competence. 100m + 5min treading water. Must be passed before access to river.
* First Aider present at all river sessions
* Before using a spraydeck, paddler competence should be assessed showing spraydeck familiarisation by a session leader to ensure they know how to exit the kayak safely.
 | 5 | 1 | 5 |  |
| 2 | Collision of boat/paddle and person | Anyone paddling | * Boat control is taught from beginning
* Exercises are tailored to the abilities of the group
* Helmets to be worn during high contact-risk activities e.g. Polo tackle drills; polo games
 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |
| 3 | Hypothermia | Anyone on Water | * Everyone briefed on what to wear
* Wetsuits may be borrowed from the club or SU. Non-beginners are encouraged to invest in their own kit as part of good practise in an outdoor adventure context.
* If the conditions require, a member of the group should carry a group shelter and appropriate extra layers to deal with the conditions
* A first aider must be present at the session. At least one first aider per river group is best practice. <https://www.thesubath.com/pageassets/resources/sport/First-Aid-STV-poster.pdf>
 | 5 | 1 | 5 |  |
| 4 | Lifting Kayaks/Canoes | Anyone paddling | * Participants informed of the safe method of transporting kayaks. If necessary, two persons should be used to move a heavy load.
 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |
| 5 | Adverse River/Weather conditions | Anyone paddling | * Water levels are monitored by the coach/participants and if inappropriate for the group, then the session will be cancelled
* If the weather becomes dangerous then the session will also be cancelled
 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |
| 6 | Weirs | Anyone paddling | * Weirs should be avoided at all times unless a suitably experienced club member is present to assess the descent risk (See BUCC Competent coaches list, see weir section of list)
* Risk of weirs varies greatly dependant on water levels. Risk should be dynamically assessed by the session leader.
 | 5 | 2 | 10 |  |
| 7 | Water Quality | Anyone paddling | * Water quality is generally good but can become a risk in higher water. Sewage may be released during periods of heavy rain.
* Participants to be informed of risks when in high water conditions
* Participants to be informed of symptoms of Wiles disease to ensure early detection.
 | 4 | 2 | 8 |  |
| 8 | People participating who are not medically fit | Anyone present | * Ensure participants are eligible to participate – age, ability etc relevant to the session.
* Ensure participants are medically fit to participate, enquire in a sensitive and confidential.
* Club members required to fill out medical form before coming on trips, can be used to assess river sessions with less experienced leaders.
 | 3 | 3 | 9 |  |
| 9 | Dehydration/Exhaustion | Anyone present | * Suggest participants bring water to river.
* Water readily available at boat house.
* Sun cream applied if necessary.
* River paddling is typically low intensity and offers significant opportunities for rest or getting onto land.
 | 1 | 2 | 2 |  |
| 10 | Fall risk on bank/boathouse stairs | Anyone present | * Persons must wear appropriate footwear – must be treaded.
* Buoyancy Aids and helmets worn on steps to river, and on bank.
 | 3 | 3 | 9 |  |
|  | Assessor signature: | Print name:SAM FOOTE | Review date:**01/06/2025** |