# Risk Assessment

Risk Matrix and Rating Guidance:

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

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| Hazard Severity(a) | Likelihood of Occurrence(b) |
| 1 – Trivial | (e.g., discomfort, slight bruising, self-help recovery, no significant harm to health or mental health) | 1 – Remote | (almost never) |
| 2 – Minor | (e.g., small cut, abrasion, basic first aid need, temporary ill-heath leading to discomfort, stress / distress) | 2 – Unlikely | (occurs rarely) |
| 3 – Moderate | (e.g., strain, sprain, incapacitation or other injury or diagnosable mental health condition < 7 days absence from work or amended duties,) | 3 – Possible | (could occur, but uncommon) |
| 4 – Serious | (e.g., fracture or hospitalisation (for >24 hrs) or incapacitation (>7 days) or Diagnosable mental health condition significantly affecting day to day life; Self harm or harm to others due to mental health condition. | 4 – Likely | (recurrent but not frequent) |
| 5 – Catastrophic | (single or multiple fatalities or life changing disabilities or injuries, suicide risk or potential harm to others as a result of severe mental health impacts). | 5 – Very likely | (occurs frequently) |

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| **Risk Assessment Matrix** |  | **Risk Rating Bands (a x b)** |
| **(b)🡳 (a)🡲** | **Trivial** | **Minor** | **Moderate** | **Serious** | **Fatal** |  | **LOW RISK****(1 – 8)** | **MEDIUM RISK****(9 – 12)** | **HIGH RISK****(15 – 25)** |
| **Remote** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |  |  |  |  |
| **Unlikely** | **2** | **4** | **6** | **8** | **10** |  | 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 |
| **Possible** | **3** | **6** | **9** | **12** | **15** |  |
| **Likely** | **4** | **8** | **12** | **16** | **20** |  |
| **Very likely** | **5** | **10** | **15** | **20** | **25** |  |

**General Guidance:**

* “Additional control” items are controls that have not been implemented yet and have been identified as needing to be introduced. Once the control is in place, the item should be moved to “Existing controls”.
* Hazards should potentially result in harm to a person or group of people. While reputational and financial risks should be considered when planning events or procedures, they do not belong on this document.

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| Risk Assessment Record |
| Risk Assessment Title:River Avon Sessions  | Date Produced: 09/06/24 | Review Date: 10/06/24 |
| Overview/Description of 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. | Duration/Frequency of Activity: 1x a week on a Wed, or sometimes an extra session may be run if there’s demand. |
| Location of Activity:River Avon. Starting point Bath town canoe club’s boathouse, next to the A4 bridge. | Generic or Specific Assessment:Specific Assessment |

| # | Hazard(s) identified | Who might be affectedand how | Existing controls & measures | Severity (a) | Likelihood (b) | Risk Rating (a x b) | Additional control/action required |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Drowning | Anyone on the water | * Buoyancy aids are mandatory on the river
* Session leader has skills and experience to assist any person trapped in a capsized kayak
* Swim test is used to assess swimming competence. 100m + 5min treading water. Must be passed before access to river.
* All river groups must have a River Leader supervising who is also first aid qualified
* 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 boat/paddle and person | Anyone paddling | * Boat control is taught from beginning
* Exercises are tailored to the abilities of the group
* Helmets are to be worn while on the river and if canoe polo is played this helmet must have a faceguard
 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |
| 3 | Hypothermia | Anyone on the water | * River Leaders ensure participants are wearing suitable clothing for the conditions.
* 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
* All river groups must have a River Leader supervising who is also first aid qualified
 | 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 River Leader 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 or portaged at all times unless an Avon Weir Leader is present to assess the descent risk (See BUCC Qualified Leader document)
* Risk of weirs varies greatly dependant on water levels. Risk should be dynamically assessed by the Avon Weir 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.
 | 2 | 1 | 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 |  |

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| Assessor signature:J Pinnell | Print name:Jessica Pinnell | **Date:**10/06/2024 | **Authoriser’s signature:** | **Print name:** | **Date:** |

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| Risk Assessment Action Plan |
| Hazard No.  | Action to be taken | By whom | Target date | Review date | Outcome at review date |
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| Responsible person’s signature:Print name:Date: | Responsible person’s signature:Print name:Date |