

RISK ASSESSMENT (PADDLESPORT SHELTERED WATER – GENERIC)



ESTABLISHMENT: Ibex canoe Club, Brixham

ASSESSMENT DATE: 11 March 2025

COMPLETED BY: Robert Bazeley

ACTIVITY/ENVIRONMENT: Kayaking and Canoeing Estuary / Sheltered Water

VENUES INCLUDED: River Dart estuary, River Dart, Torbay (several areas)

DATE FOR REVIEW: 10 March 2028

1. Hazard <i>List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people.</i>	2. Who might be harmed? <i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards identified.</i>	3. Is the risk adequately controlled? <i>List existing controls or note where the information may be found. (e.g. Information, instruction training, systems or procedures)</i>	4. What further action is needed to control the risk? <i>List the risks which are not adequately controlled and proposed action where it is reasonably practicable to do more.</i>
Drowning	Participants Leaders	Basic Training/ instruction for the participants. Staff trained in various kayak/ canoe related rescues and first aid.	Buoyancy Aids will be issued and worn by all participants. Staff will have appropriate qualifications and/or experience for session, including PSRT.
Strains/ Back Injury	Participants Leaders	Warm up prior to session. Correct lifting technique demonstrated and monitored by Leader/Coach. Lifting shared as appropriate.	Extra buoyancy placed in rear of kayaks to ease rescue of capsized.
Hypo/hyperthermia	Participants Leaders	Group informed of correct clothing needed. Leader/Coach to ensure correct clothing is worn by participants. Group shelter/survival bag carried with the first aid kit.	Weather forecast checked prior to activity Extra clothing can be provided – i.e. Cags and wet suits.
Strong wind or tidal conditions	Participants Leaders	Leader/Coach to have an up to date weather forecast and tidal knowledge on this part of the estuary. The activity will not go ahead if the conditions are outside of leader's remit.	Weather forecast prior to activity, onsite inspection, tidal forecast

Boat Traffic on the River	Participants Leaders	Inform participants of hazards and set clear boundaries. Constant supervision by leader.	Ensure guidelines for using deep water channel are understood by Leader/Coach
Entrapment	Participants Leaders	Clear briefing given to group regarding capsize drill prior to launching.	
Slipping (especially on slipway and access to the river/marina)	Participants Leaders	Leader/Coach ensures slipway safe to use. Leader/Coach supervises launching/recovery closely. Group briefing.	
Fatigue	Participants Leaders	Leader/Coach monitors condition of group during session and adjusts activities to suit.	
Failing Equipment	Participants Leaders	Safe stowage areas used. Leader/Coach to ensure equipment is fit for purpose. Use /return of equipment supervised and rechecked by Leader/Coach.	
Weather	Participants Leaders	Leader/ Leader/Coach to have information regarding current and predicted weather conditions for the day of activity.	
Other Injuries Cuts/ abrasions etc	Participants Leaders	Leaders/ Leader/Coach first aid trained and qualified, carrying a first aid kit.	
Banging head on rocks	Participants Leaders	Helmets will be worn by all as appropriate.	
Deep mud banks	Participants Leaders	Participants briefed on hazards posed by deep mud banks, boundaries set and monitored by the Leader/Coach. Participants not permitted to venture onto the mud banks	Leader/Coach to have a working knowledge of low tide hard standing areas