

RISK ASSESSMENT – GENERIC SHELTERED – MODERATE COASTAL AND ESTUARY BASED VENUES

ESTABLISHMENT: Ibex Canoe Club **ASSESSMENT DATE:** 11 March 2025 **COMPLETED BY:** R Bazeley (Chair/Safety Officer))
ACTIVITY/ENVIRONMENT: Kayaking and canoeing in estuary and coastal venues, including sheltered to moderate areas
VENUES COVERED: Dart estuary (TOTNES Weir to mouth of Dart) and Torbay (including open crossings between Brixham and Torquay)
DATE REVIEWED: 11 March 2025, next review due 10 March 2028 (or in light of information concerning changes to venues)

1. Hazard	2. Who might be harmed?	3. Is the risk adequately controlled?	4. What further action is needed to control the risk?
<i>List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people.</i>	<i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards identified.</i>	<i>List existing controls or note where the information may be found. (e.g. Information, instruction training, systems or procedures)</i>	<i>List the risks which are not adequately controlled and proposed action where it is reasonably practicable to do more.</i>
Drowning	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Group briefing on water safety. Staff trained in kayak/canoe related rescues and first aid. Buoyancy aids will be issued and worn by all participants. Staff will have appropriate qualifications/experience for the session.	Club provides Paddlesport Safety and Rescue Training to all coaches, leaders and coaching assistants. This must be renewed at least every three years with a qualified Paddle UK PSRT provider.
Strains/back Injury	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	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 capsize. Check that buoyancy bags are correctly inflated. Buoyancy blocks or bags to be fitted to stern and bow of open canoes.
Hypo/hyperthermia	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Group informed of correct clothing needed. 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 to be available (eg cags, trousers, wet suit, hats) and/or sun protection cream.
Strong wind or tidal conditions	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Coach to have an up to date weather forecast and tidal knowledge on this part of the estuary/coast. The activity will not go ahead if the conditions are outside of club-set remit/group experience.	Weather forecast prior to activity, on-site inspection, tidal forecast. Advice of club senior coach and/or Safety Officer can be sought.

Boat traffic/other water users	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Inform participants of the hazards. Set boundaries and identify safe areas. Constant supervision by leader/coach.	Ensure that guidelines for using the deep water channel in Dart estuary, and the Fairway in Brixham Harbour, are understood and observed by leader/coach
Entrapment	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Clear briefing given to group regarding capsized drill prior to launching. Advice on footwear and snagging to be given	
Slipping (especially on slipways and access to the water)	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Leader/coach ensures slipway safe to use and briefs group on safe use, especially when carrying boats. Leader/coach supervises launching/recovery.	Slipways, steps and beaches can change from season to season and, occasionally, from week to week, necessitating dynamic risk assessment.
Fatigue	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Coach monitors condition of group during session. Activity appropriate to condition of participants.	
Failing Equipment	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Safe stowage areas used. Coach to check equipment prior to use. Ensure is up to standard requirements. Use /return of equipment supervised and rechecked by Coach(s).	
Weather	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Leader/ Coach to have information regarding current and predicted weather conditions for the day of activity.	
Other Injuries Cuts/ abrasions etc	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Leaders/ Coach first aid trained and qualified, carrying a first aid kit.	
Banging head on rocks	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Where/when appropriate, helmets will be worn by all.	
Deep mud banks	Paddlers/students Leaders & coaches	Paddlers briefed on the hazards associated with the deep mud banks, appropriate boundaries in place monitored by the Coach. At no time are paddlers permitted to venture onto the mud banks	Coach to have a working knowledge of low tide hard standing areas