



<b>Group:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Activity or Venue</b>	<b>Section:</b>
		Canoeing and Kayaking	

**Purpose:** This Risk Assessment is provided to give leaders and participants guidance as to the standards and precautions to be expected when taking part in Scouting activities. It is designed to ensure that everyone can have fun on the water in the knowledge that they are protected from harm to a reasonable degree. It does not guarantee safety but it gives sensible advice to minimise risk. Leaders will need to carry out dynamic risk assessments throughout the activity and act appropriately when circumstances are not covered by this document. Canoeing (FS120651), Kayaking (FS120654)

**Likelihood**

- 0 - No Hazard
- 1 - Almost Unknown
- 2 - Rare
- 3 - Occasional
- 4 - Frequent
- 5 - Generally Occurs

**Severity**

- 1 - No Injury
- 2 - First Aid Injury
- 3 - Medical Attention
- 4 - Major Injury
- 5 - 6 - Fatal/Disabling

**Risk Evaluation**

- Low Risk – (1-5)
- Med Risk – (6-10)
- High Risk – (11+)

Infection & Waterborne diseases	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	3	6 - Medium	Cover all cuts/new piercings etc. Ensure/encourage minimum time is spent in the water. Advise all young persons to shower after finishing water activities. Guidance notice to be sent out about Weil's disease before the start of activities.	Disclaimer to be completed before young person/s take part in water based activity.
Moving boats	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	3	6 - Medium	Show the correct procedure for emptying and carrying boats. At least two people to carry each kayak.	Adult support to be available as required.
Trapped in boat. Risk of entrapment following capsize of closed kayaks.	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	3	4	12 - High	Brief group on techniques for getting out of boat. Instructors to ensure that they are sufficiently close to perform a rescue if needed.	Instructors and Leaders to be first aid qualified including CPR.
Bank side obstacles (branches etc)	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	3	2	6 - Medium	Brief group to stay away from obstacles. Instructor to position themselves between obstacles and group where possible / necessary. Maintain bank and manage vegetation growth.	Leaders & Instructors to space themselves out.

Hazard Identified & Risks Arising	Persons at Risk	Frequency	Severity	Risk Evaluation	How Is The Risk Controlled? What Further Controls Are Needed?	Further Control Measures
Drowning	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	6	12 - High	Instructor training, knowledge, supervision and experience. Assessment of young person's ability and tailoring of sessions accordingly. All participants to wear correctly fitted buoyancy aids that conform to BS EN 393 standard. Instructors awareness and ability to rescue. Use of throw lines. Dry land capsize and rescue brief.	Avoid young person's wearing large footwear and heavy clothing.  Optional Leader on bank for more supervision.
Struck by paddle	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	3	6 - Medium	Young person's safe distance apart whilst practicing dry land paddling. Instructors control during session. Inspection of paddles for sharp edges etc. Sufficient spacing during paddling. Safety briefing on games before they are played.	Awareness for other users on the water to be encouraged.

Difference in water depths	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	2	4 - Low	Instructor to have a basic knowledge of river depths. Use appropriate part of river for different skills and games. Brief group on water depths and what to do if they fall in.	
Injury when launching kayaks	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	2	4 - Low	Make sure the instructor pushes the boat in slowly. Ensure the second instructor is on the water before Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.	
Strain injury from emptying boats.	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	3	2	6 - Medium	Advise group to bend knees and keep a straight back. Instructors to follow correct manual handling procedure. Be vigilant of boats falling onto group members.	Adult support to be available as required.
Hypo/hyperthermia and exposure. Accelerated Immersion.	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	3	3	9 - Medium	Instructors should ensure that the group is appropriately clothed for the weather. (e.g. Waterproofs, hat, gloves, warm clothes, sun-lotion etc.) Instructors should ensure that group is appropriately hydrated and monitor the state of all individuals within the group. Instructors should be prepared to stop or have a break during the session.	Weather forecast obtained, weather and water conditions constantly monitored and activity adjusted accordingly
Struck by boat	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	3	2	6 - Medium	Good group supervision. Instructor to take care when playing games and when launching boats from the side.	
Sinking into deep mud around the river.	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	3	6 - Medium	Instructor to have knowledge of these areas and to keep group away from them.	
Sharp objects on access an egress areas	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	2	4 - Low	Footwear worn at all times Prior to use, areas checked for hazardous sharp objects	Area to be checked before arrival of group.
Inexperience or Lack of competence of participants	Instructors & Scout Group Members, Leaders	2	3	6 - Medium	Group to receive introductory briefing to include, as appropriate the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ basic paddling techniques</li> <li>○ clearly defined area(s) of session</li> <li>○ actions in event of capsize</li> <li>○ local hazards e.g. other water users, currents, tides, wind etc.</li> <li>○ basic command signals</li> </ul>	Leaders to offer support of understanding if required.