

Risk Assessment - 1st Hoveton and Wroxham Sea Scouts

Name of activity, event and location	Water Activities Includes Swimming, kayaks and canoes, sailing, raft building	Date of Risk Assessment	09.02.25	Name of Person doing this risk assessment	Nigel Pope
		Date of next review	10.02.26		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Hazard – activity taking place in water Risk - drowning	All	Activity only to take place in suitable category water. Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment of the situation and make informed decisions as to the management of the activity. This risk assessment should be dynamic and continue throughout the activity. If the safety cover feels at any stage that the risks are too high then the activity should be stopped	Instructors with the necessary permits to be present. Permits to be in date and suitable for the class of water involved
Hazard - Environmental factors Risk – hypothermia, Sunburn, sunstroke, waterborne diseases such as Weils Disease	All	Leader to assess factors such as weather, water temperature, flow, clarity of water to determine a suitable duration of activity - refer to FS120629 – Water Safety (Waterborne Diseases & Immersion) for more information. Environmental factors to be constantly monitored during the activity. Participants to be briefed to watch out for symptoms of waterborne disease after the activity.	Activity may need to cease if weather is unsuitable, water temperature too cold etc
Hazard - Swimming ability of leaders/adults to affect a rescue Risk - drowning	All	There must be leaders/adults with sufficient swimming ability to conduct effective rescues should the need arise. Therefore they should be a strong enough swimmer for the location and water conditions with the ability to keep themselves and a casualty afloat during a rescue Before the event starts the leader in charge must have considered suitable rescue techniques, articulate them to adults present and have the suitable rescue equipment for the location being used available and on hand for the safety cover to use. Access to the water must be possible to conduct a rescue or recovery should it not be possible from the edge of the water.	Some activities will require additional qualified lifeguards in place.

		Appoint a safety cover who has the knowledge and who is capable of recovering a casualty or swimmer/boater in distress.	
Hazard – swimmers/rafters not leaving the water when required Risk - Drowning	All	The leader in charge will clearly communicate with the group the safety briefing before the event. This needs to include the signals for exiting the water, exactly where they are allowed to raft/swim (swimming area), acceptable behaviour and where the swimmers/rafts are to enter/exit the water.	
Hazard - unacceptable behaviour/horseplay Risk - Drowning	All	The leader in charge must manage the group effectively whilst the group is on the water. This will include; adequate briefings prior to the group entering the water, defining a suitable swimming/boating area and communication whilst the group is swimming/boating. All adults must remain vigilant during the activity.	If group become unmanageable activity to cease.
Hazard - too many swimmers/boaters for safe supervision Risk - Drowning	All	The leader in charge having considered the risks will decide on suitable adequate cover and safe number of swimmers/boaters. As a minimum the additional adult supervision provided is in line with the section ratios for outdoor activities, and in line with the numbers permitted by the permits of the instructors present.	Permit numbers are a maximum and local factors might require smaller numbers.
Hazard - Extreme weather Risk - Hypothermia Hyperthermia Sunburn, lightening	Young people, leaders, visitors	Suitable clothing must be worn. Ensure water available during hot weather. Adult supervision to ensure no one gets too cold.	Activity may need to be ceased if weather becomes too extreme. Keep a check on conditions. In particular if thunderstorms and lighting.
Raft Building specific Structures collapsing – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures. Impact with pioneering equipment – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.		Closely supervise rafters while they're being constructed and dismantled. Check how the weather affects structures, for example, wet ropes causing stretching or tightening. Supervise young people and check they're using the correct knots and lashings. Limit the load you put on the raft. Since it is likely that the raft will come apart during the activity ensure that Adult supervision from the side keeps a close eye on each raft – if there are a lot of rafts in the water at the same time allocate an adult per raft. If deemed necessary a safety boat may be needed.	

Raft Building specific Hazard - Poking with sticks/splinters/stick in the eye from collection and movement of wood/equipment Risk - Injury/blinding	Young people. leaders, visitors	Briefing – If collecting wood carry below waist height, don't run whilst collecting or carrying wood, do not use sticks for hitting people. If collecting equipment ensure young people do not carry too much at a time, ensuring that heavy items are carried by at least two and that legs are bent to lift off the ground.	
Raft Building specific Hazard - Poking with sticks/splinters/stick in the eye, head or body injury by wood being lifted and swung around. Risk - Injury/blinding	Young people. leaders, visitors	Briefing - Instruct young people to be aware of other people when lifting the wood/equipment while building raft.	
Raft Building specific Hazard - Collapse of raft Risk - bumps, bruises and broken bones	Young people. leaders, visitors	All participants to wear life jackets and helmets whilst rafting	
Swimming specific Hazard – activity taking place in water Risk - drowning	All	All activities to conform to FS120620 – Swimming and POR 9.52. Dynamic Risk assessment to take place at all times and activity to be changed or stopped if necessary. All swimming to be kept within a defined area and adults to supervise at all times	
Kayak/Canoe specific Hazard – capsize or falling in. Risk - drowning	All	All participants to wear properly fitted approved and tested buoyancy aids at all times. Adults in boats to be within reach of anyone falling in as part of this activity. Adults to have to necessary permits and be capable of doing a deep water rescue and making sure that anyone capsizing is able to leave the boat.	
Kayak/Canoe specific Hazard – Injury from paddles and when carrying and launching boats Risk - injuries	All	All participants to receive a safety briefing and suitable protective clothing for the activity to be worn. Carrying and launching boats to be supervised by adults.	

Sailing specific Hazard – capsize or falling in. Risk - drowning	All	All participants to wear properly fitted approved and tested buoyancy aids at all times. Additional safety gear such as gloves or helmets to be worn as appropriate for the type of boat. Safety boat to be on hand in case of being trapped under a capsized boat or sail. Safety boat drivers to hold suitable permits.	
Sailing specific Hazard – Injury from booms and other boat equipment and when carrying and launching boats Risk - injuries	All	All participants to receive a safety briefing and suitable protective clothing for the activity to be worn. Carrying and launching boats to be supervised by adults.	
Power boat specific Hazard – capsize or falling in. Propeller hazards Risk - drowning, lacerations	All	All participants to wear properly fitted approved and tested buoyancy aids at all times. Helms to be aware of the dangers from boat propellers. Engines to be stopped if anyone is in the water unless a suitable qualified helm (RYA Safety Boat) is effecting a rescue. Strictly no one to be in the water near powerboats. Young people to helm power boats only under adult supervision. Power boats to stick to local speed limits unless effecting a rescue in an emergency situation.	
Paddle boards	All	The same risks associated with canoes and kayaks apply. These craft need special vigilance as falling in is likely to be more frequent. Suitably qualified instructors to be on hand.	
Wind surfers	All	The same risks associated with sailing apply. These craft need special vigilance as falling in is likely to be more frequent. Suitably qualified instructors to be on hand.	
Shore Hazards for those watching, waiting to go on the water or having completed their time on the water. Hazards - falling in, injury by vehicles, other site specific hazards.	All	Leader to ensure that there are sufficient adults on shore to supervise those young people not actually taking part in the activity at that time. Ratios to be maintained. The waiting area to be defined and safe. In particular vehicles and young people to be kept separate and precautions appropriate to the site to be taken and all participants briefed. Anyone near to the water to wear a buoyancy aid. Dynamic site risk assessment to be undertaken and any risks found to be mitigated and young people briefed.	

