



Risk Assessment – Open Water

Date:	May 2023
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Assessors	Name:	Mac Knowles/ Jamie Magee	Review Date:	May 2024
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Description of assessment	Risk assessment to cover open water paddling.		
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Location Details		E.g Windermere, Coniston water, Ullswater					
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done	Residual risk level (H/M/L) If H this needs reducing

Deep, cold water	Leader, assistants, and participants at risk of serious injury/ cold injury/ death	<p>Group to be briefed in associated risks.</p> <p>Correctly fitted buoyancy aids worn when on/ near water</p> <p>Leader holds FA qualifications and carries FA kit</p> <p>Mobile phone and whistle carried by leader</p> <p>Appropriate clothing worn during the session, towel and change of clothes available</p> <p>Warm drinks and spare food available</p> <p>Group shelter/ emergency warm layer available</p>	If participants are likely to be poorly equipped ensure group stay closer to shore and have sheltered changing facilities available	Leader	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low
Slips and Trips	Paddlers and other bystanders	<p>Group briefing on dangers</p> <p>Recommend and check footwear</p>	None	Leader	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low
Sprains, strains and soft tissue injuries	Paddlers and other bystanders	<p>Brief to work together</p> <p>Good manual handling of equipment</p> <p>Good paddling technique</p>	Manual handling training for leaders	Cumbrian Canoeists Leadership Team	To be put into 2024 Development plan	Ongoing	Low
Pollution and water quality	Paddlers	<p>Awareness of water quality and blooming of blue/green algae</p> <p>Cleaning of equipment</p> <p>Good personal hygiene</p>	Keep up to date with local water authorities and national park updates	Leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low
Other water users	Paddlers and other users	Briefing to include making sure paddlers are aware of other water users and what action to take to avoid collision.	Avoid busy locations	Leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low
Jetties/Piers/ Manmade structures/O verhanging trees	Paddlers	Briefing to make paddlers aware of dangers	None	Leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low

Traffic	Paddlers and other bystanders	Briefing and supervision of road crossing	None	Leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low
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Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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