

# CANOE & KAYAK



Date of Assessment 01.03.11

	Casual factors, hazards, dangers	Risk management strategies, normal operation.	Site specific
People	Bad instruction and poor group management leading to panic, inappropriate and dangerous behaviour.	Briefings, including health & safety and hazards, given before the activity. Instructors trained and experienced in group management skills.	This space is to be completed on the day of the activity, identifying any specific dangers, changes since the last visit and/or difficulties/risks that will need to be assessed before, during and after the session.
	Minor injuries, cuts, grazes etc., Panic, hypothermia, possible drowning, and head injuries.	Demonstrations given how to use equipment correctly. Buoyancy aids and helmets worn at all times. Instructors are first aid trained. Group shelter and emergency blanket carried in waterproof bag.	
Equipment	Being swept away in current.	Instructors to give clear instructions on safety and provide support throughout the activity. Instructor first on and last off water. Instructors carry slings, rope and first aid kit. Instructors trained in boat rescue situations.	
	Protective equipment (buoyancy aids/helmets etc.) failing.	Buoyancy aids and helmets checked prior to the activity and worn throughout the activity. Any insufficient equipment will be removed by the instructor. Spray decks only given to experienced paddlers.	

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Environment	Water temperature. Water volume. Erosion of area. Sharp objects [river bed boulders etc]. Non-exit areas.	Instructors familiar with venue, clients briefed. Ensure clients in appropriate clothing. Spare clothing, hot and cold drinks kept in minibus. Explain the country code: regarding forestry, nesting birds and access restrictions. Vehicle at site venue. Match group capability to water volume.	
	Bad weather. Strong winds.	Weather forecast checked for area in which activity is taking place. Wind direction noted and monitored.  All capsizes are acted upon quickly by way of clear instructions, throw line or safety boat.  If weather changes for the worse instructors will make appropriate decisions based on the group's safety being paramount.	
	Venue not appropriate for activity. Risks not monitored. Flooding. Capsize, swamping, swept away.	All activity sites have been checked and risk assessed prior to activity taking place, making sure they safe and appropriate for the group involved.	