

## Risk assessment – Paddle sport course

<b>Bolton School</b>	<b>Assessment carried out by: Steven Bradley/E. Lindle</b>
<b>Date of next review: 04/09/26</b>	<b>Date assessment was carried out: 04/09/2025</b>

<b>Overview of activity</b>					
<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who might be harmed?</b>	<b>What are you already doing to control the risk?</b>	<b>What further action do you need to take to control the risks?</b>	<b>Who needs to carry out the action?</b>	<b>When is the action needed by?</b>
<b>Lone working</b>	<b>Provider</b>	Participants were briefed on action to be taken in event of injury/incapacity of Provider, including availability of next of Kin and medical details to be passed to paramedics/ambulance crew	N/A	Staff	Upon arrival
<b>Lifting/carrying equipment</b>	<b>staff/participants</b>	Information on safe lifting and carrying techniques to be given before moving boats and reinforced throughout the course, especially as all participants are qualified coaches with experience – emphasis on complacency and human error	Supervision	Provider/Participants	At the beginning of the course
<b>Head injury during capsize</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Instructions given to check depth/distance from bank  Consider use of helmets if appropriate	Provider familiar with venue	provider/participants	Before rescues take place
<b>Cuts/bruises/abrasions</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Participants instructed to avoid finger entrapment when boats come together  Appropriate footwear	N/A	provider	N/A
<b>Strained/damage to muscles</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Emphasis on good technique rather than strength  All craft fitted with additional bouyancy.  Assistance sought from swimmers/other paddlers	N/A	provider/participants	N/A
<b>Entanglement in ropes/tapes</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Participants should carry a knife if using a rope/tape  Instructions on only using one shoulder when towing  Avoid wrapping rope round body during rescues ropes to be immediately removed from water	Provider to check participants have a knife	Provider	Before use of ropes/tapes

<b>Entrapment/risk of drowning</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Everyone wears a bouyancy aid when on the water or within 2m of the water  Correctly fitted equipment	N/A	provider/participants	Start of course
<b>Pollution/water born infection</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Provider to ensure site is appropriate and clear from blue green algae  Participants briefed on leptospirosis/weils disease told to wash hands before eating and cover up any open wounds	N/A	provider	Start of course
<b>Hypothermia/hyperthermia</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Participants briefed on suitable clothing for water temperature and weather conditions  Spare warm layers are carried and or close by	N/A	provider	Start of course  Supervision throughout course
<b>Other water users</b>	<b>All participants</b>	Group briefed on potential other users and what to do if boats are passing  Provider to select suitable quiet venue for course	N/A	provider	throughout