

Risk assessment – Coaching/leadership

Bolton School	Assessment carried out by: Steven Bradley
Date of next review: 04/09/2026	Date assessment was carried out: 04/09/2025

Overview of activity	<p>Bolton school pupils take on leadership roles when running rivers in order to gain valuable leadership skills, Staff guide pupils through the process and are always there to offer support and advice when decision making. At times pupils may make the wrong decision but providing that decision isn't going to be dangerous staff may allow that to take place in order to facilitate learning.</p> <p>On British Canoeing specific courses it is acknowledged that pupils may make an inappropriate decision and that may lead to an unsuccessful assessment. The staff member/assessor may allow these decisions to be made only if they don't put anyone else in harms way.</p>				
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	What are you already doing to control the risk?	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?
Candidate/pupil venue choice	staff/participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On an assessment if a pupils chooses a venue which raises safety concerns then school staff/assessor will step in to ensure that venue is not used. 	Provide guidance beforehand	Staff	Prior to session
Poor leadership Poor Coaching	staff/participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will always ensure they are in a position to take over if necessary and that poor decisions will not lead to an incident. 			
Inappropriate leadership equipment	staff/participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to ensure if a pupil is leading then they will also be using appropriate equipment. 			
Pupils being led in rescue situations/scenarios		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils can be involved in rescue scenarios/training/practice on the direction of the staff member/instructor. If pupils are unable to perform the rescue staff will step in Rescues won't take place where the result of failing to rescue puts pupils in harms way, in particular an unconscious casualty rescue, if the rescuer fails to rescue them quickly enough the casualty will be instructed to swim out. 			
Staff member being involved in the rescue/being rescued	Staff/participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the staff member chooses to be the one being rescued they must first ensure that no member of the group is likely to require assistance at any point during the rescue and the whole group remain safe throughout. 			

Candidates students not suitable for assessment	Staff/participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will ensure any students required to be coached/led for assessment purposes will be suitable for the assessment • Questioning will take place beforehand to ensure suitability 			
Distant supervision		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils may be supervised from a small distance to allow them to coach/lead unhindered and in a more natural environment • Staff will monitor the distance most suitable throughout the session and adjust accordingly 			