

Risk Assessment – Oxford University Canoe & Kayak Club – Marathon Sessions

RISK MATRIX		LIKELIHOOD (L)			
		High (4)	Medium (3)	Low (2)	Remote (1)
SEVERITY (S)	Severe (D)	High	High	Medium	Low
	Moderate (C)	High	Medium	Medium / Low	Effectively Zero
	Insignificant (B)	Medium / Low	Low	Low	Effectively Zero
	Negligible (A)	Low	Effectively Zero	Effectively Zero	Effectively Zero

Description of assessment	Risk Assessment of Marathon Session Location: Falcon Boat Club, Meadow Lane. Postcode: OX4 4BJ. What3words: <i>lads.cabin.bumpy</i> Activity: Recreational paddling/Training River Craft: Racing Kayaks			
	Assessor: Date:	Timothy Ostler 16/01/24	Signed off by: Date:	Amelia Lam 18/01/24

#	Hazard	Potential Consequence	S	L	Risk	What are you doing to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Further Actions?
1	MEDICAL CONDITION	Participants may end up in a situation where a pre-existing medical condition affects their safety	C	2	Medium/ Low	All members are asked to declare if they have any medical condition that may affect their ability to go kayaking in the membership form. The data is stored on MyClubHouse, which session leaders should be able to access.	All members	Whenever a new member joins the club	Ensure all first aiders have access to participant medical information on MyClubHouse
2	WATER	Drowning	D	1	Low	All participants in club activities must wear buoyancy aids, these are made available by the club. All participants must be capable of swimming at least 50m comfortably, as declared in their membership form. All participants should know how to exit their boat in the event of a capsized. Leaders are present who are capable of righting a capsized boat if the participant is stuck in the boat, or unconscious.	All participants and leaders	During all river sessions	
3	WEATHER	Exposure, sunburn, hypothermia...	C	2	Medium/ Low	If the group leader deems a participant is not properly equipped for the weather conditions, they will not be allowed to participate. River conditions are to be checked by the group leader before the session. No river sessions will happen when there are red stream warnings on	All participants and leaders	Before and during all river sessions	

						<p>the Osney Lock to Iffley Lock stretch: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-current-river-conditions</p> <p>If the weather conditions are not suitable for paddling before/during the session, the session will be cancelled/stopped.</p> <p>Cags and other cold-weather clothes, and participants are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing (not cotton or jeans) when signing up to sessions.</p>			
4	EQUIPMENT HANDLING	Back injuries, muscle strain or accidental injuries.	B	2	Low	<p>Ensure that all group members are familiar with good boat lifting practice.</p> <p>If carrying for long distances, advise participants to carry boats in pairs.</p>	All participants and leaders	Whenever carrying equipment	
5	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	Minor/major injuries	C	2	Medium/Low	<p>Equipment is borrowed from Falcon Boat Club, which is subject to frequent testing as to safety and suitability.</p> <p>Boats to be fitted correctly before each session. These should be double checked by other members and leaders for less experienced participants.</p>	Leaders	Before each session	Encourage reporting of faulty equipment to Falcon
6	ACCIDENTAL INJURIES	Cuts, Sprains, Strains, etc.	B	2	Low	<p>Suitable footwear to be worn at all times.</p> <p>If injury occurs on the river, the option to walk back to the shed should be taken if it will reduce the chance of worsening the injury.</p> <p>First aid kit is available at Falcon.</p>	<p>Leaders</p> <p>All participants and leaders</p>	During all river sessions	

8	OTHER WATER USERS	Minor/major injuries	B	2	Low	<p>Keep a look-out for other water users.</p> <p>Warn all group members to respect all other water users.</p> <p>Stay away from moored vehicles such as houseboats or stationary crafts.</p> <p>Stay away from other moving boats, especially rowers or motorised crafts.</p>	<p>All participants</p> <p>Leaders</p>	During all river sessions	
9	LOCKS AND WEIRS	Capsizing and entrapment due to submerged hazards	D	2	Medium	Portage around locks and weirs when necessary.	All participants and leaders	When necessary	Define allowed routes to take groups during sessions
10	WILDLIFE	Minor injuries, Diseases	C	1	Low	<p>Participants should be warned to not interfere with the wildlife. In particular, special care should be given to swans.</p> <p>Dead animals, especially birds, should be avoided in case of contracting diseases</p>	All participants and leaders	When necessary	
12	LACK OF EXPERIENCE D LEADERS	Major injuries, equipment damage, death.	D	1	Low	<p>If leaders do not feel confident in their ability to run a session safely due to the conditions, group ability, or any other factor, the session should be cancelled.</p> <p>Leaders have high level of experience and knowledge of the river.</p>	<p>President and Equipment and Safety Officer</p> <p>Leaders</p>	Before the session	
13	WATER POLLUTION	Illness	B	2	Low	<p>During high river levels, participants should be aware of potential pollution in the river.</p> <p>Participants should seek medical advice if suspected contraction of waterborne disease such as Weils disease</p>	All participants and leaders	Always	