

Salisbury Canoe Club Risk Assessment

Activity: Paddling away from Salisbury	Risk assessor: Chris Green, Barry Davies, Will Sparrow	Date: 18/03/2026
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Hazards and control measures applicable to all activities			
What are the hazards?	To who?	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary?
Manual handling of canoes/kayaks/SUPs leading to injury due to poor manual handling technique.	All paddlers, Students, Leaders, Bank-based helpers, Parents	Appropriate lifting and carrying technique should be used to move canoes/kayaks/SUPs between cars and the get-in/get-out, and to manoeuvre boats at the get in/get-out. Assistance should be sought if necessary. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Dangerous/unsuitable/poorly fitting equipment leading to injury or entrapment	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	Trip leaders ¹ to examine equipment prior to use to identify loose fittings, sharp edges, entrapment potential, poorly fitted buoyancy aids. If required, simple repairs must be performed, if possible. If not, equipment must not be used and must be reported to a committee member. Personal equipment should also be subject to the same checks when used for club activities. The leader will check personal equipment (helmet, buoyancy aid, spraydeck) for damage and correct fit prior to getting on the water. The leader will ensure that the kit used is appropriate for the environment/grade of the trip. The use a buddy system is recommended to complete these checks for each other. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Report/ replace / repair equipment as necessary
Weather conditions affecting safety of group and	All paddlers, Students,	Weather conditions must be appropriate for the activity. Session cancelled if there is excessive wind or extreme low temperature or if water level is unsuitable for	Leaders to undertake dynamic risk

¹ 'Leader' is defined within SCC's Standards For Deployment policy



classification of water	Leaders	planned activity. Leader performs dynamic risk assessment prior to the activity. Websites detailing water levels (Rainchasers, River App etc) will be used to plan activities and select venues for trips such that they meet the capabilities of participants Is risk adequately controlled: yes	assessments
Accidental slips, bumps, scrapes leading to minor injuries. (blisters, cuts, muscle/joint injury)	All paddlers, Students Leaders	All new paddlers should be given a location-specific safety brief and should be advised to complete an appropriate warm up activity. All paddlers must wear a helmet for all paddling activities unless exempt (see Sunburn below). Secure shoes with laces or velcro <u>must</u> be worn to minimise the risk of slipping. Also due to the risk of litter/broken glass etc. on the riverbank and in the water. The leader, following SCC's Operating Procedures, will be carrying safety/rescue equipment appropriate for the water level/grade of river. Leaders must be first aid trained, and it is recommended that experienced paddlers should also undertake first aid training. Participants should provide details of existing medical conditions to the coach/leader. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None



Sunburn and Hyperthermia	All paddlers, Students Leaders	In cases where sun protection is considered more important than head protection e.g. in deep water during summer, paddlers should not wear helmets and instead should wear a sunhat. Long sleeves should be prioritised, with water resistant suncream applied at appropriate intervals where there is a risk of sunburn. Leaders should be aware of the symptoms of hyperthermia, and should promote regular hydration breaks. Specific care should be taken for children under the age of 15. All paddlers should be responsible for carrying their own hydration. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Hypothermia	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	Leaders should be aware of, and watch out for, the signs and symptoms of hypothermia. Leaders undertake dynamic risk assessment to judge additional controls that would be necessary for the prevailing conditions, such as additional thermals, a hot drink, or an available woolly hat. Paddlers will not be allowed to take part in an activity if personal kit or clothing is not suitable for the conditions. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Leaders to undertake dynamic risk assessments
Infection or other illness associated with water quality (Weil's disease, GI infection)	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	Cuts should be covered with waterproof plasters before paddling. Hands should be washed after activity and before eating. Participants briefed on signs/symptoms of common paddle sport illness e.g. GI infection. Participants briefed on signs/symptoms of Weil's disease (information leaflet also posted on notice board). Certain rivers e.g. Tavy have a reputation for poor water quality – brief participants to take extra care with routine precautions above Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Other water users, members of the public and wildlife – fishermen - swans (possible damage to SCC reputation)	All paddlers, Students, Leaders, Members of	Participants briefed on presence of other water users as appropriate. Other water users and members of the public should be treated politely and courteously.	None



	the public	Care should be taken when manoeuvring boats between the car park and get-in so as not to obstruct or collide with members of the public. Paddlers should be as discrete as possible when getting changed Take care not to disturb wildlife, e.g. give all swans on the river a wide berth. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Capsize and entrapment leading to injury/drowning	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	All paddlers should be deemed competent by the leader before undertaking the trip. This will generally involve demonstrating competence on moving water at SCC. Part of this assessment will involve the demonstration of capsize and self rescue (roll or exit and rescue). Leader ratio to other paddlers will be dependent on SCC's Standards for Deployment policy. Participants will be briefed before setting off on main hazards, communication and organisation of the trip on the water. This will be venue/condition specific. On trips capsize and entrapment will be minimised by using leadership techniques suitable for the group and venue. SUP leashes will only be used where there is no risk of entrapment. Under SCC's Standards for Deployment policy, all leaders will be BCAB qualified for the ratios and conditions on the trip. Ongoing dynamic risk assessment during the trip must be undertaken by leaders and actions taken to avoid hazards The leader, following SCC's Operating Procedures, will be carrying safety/rescue equipment appropriate for the water level/grade of river. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Leaders to undertake dynamic risk assessments
Major Injury/Drowning	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	Leaders should have mobile phones available on the water in case of emergency. Leaders should have access to appropriate mapping to enable location of any incident to be reported. This could be on a mobile device or a suitable scale OS map or copy. All leaders will have up-to-date first aid qualifications (at least 2 day course) All leaders must be aware of the SCC Emergency Procedure (Flow Chart) process.	None



		The leader, following SCC's Operating Procedures, will be carrying safety/rescue equipment appropriate for the water level/grade of river. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Travel to and from venue results in road accident / safeguarding issues with children and vulnerable adults	All paddlers, Students, Leaders Helpers Parents	Travel will typically be in private cars. These must be suitably insured MOT'd and maintained. Suitable stops/rest periods should be allowed to prevent fatigue If children are taking part, there should be at least 2 adults present in the car. Where at all possible, one or more of these adults should hold a current DBS check. Parents should be informed of travel arrangements. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Isolation on riverbank due to rising river levels or incapacitation leading to exacerbation of existing risks (hypothermia etc.)	All paddlers, Students, Leaders	The leader, following SCC's Operating Procedures, will have a land-based contact briefed to call Mountain Rescue in the event the group does not make contact by an allotted time. In the event that the club is paddling a river which can not be suitably evacuated (e.g. a gorge) the leader is to take additional precautions including more frequent check-ins and may consider the use of a Satellite SOS device. A dynamic risk assessment will be performed before entering that situation. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Leader to establish land based contact with expected time off the water. Leader to perform dynamic risk assessment.
Safeguarding, harm to children or vulnerable adults. Reputational harm to club and adult members	Children and vulnerable adults	Leaders must be DBS checked by PaddleUK. Adults should take care not to be alone with children. Changing facilities may be shared between children and adults. An adult must not be alone with children in changing rooms (wait for children to change or ask additional adults to be present) Club welfare officers are appointed. A poster is displayed on the club notice board. No member of the public is to be left alone in a changing room with an SCC child or vulnerable adult. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Leaders to maintain DBS check within the club

Risk assessment review record

This risk assessment must be reviewed annually, if there is a significant change to the hazards identified or if there is an incident that requires its review and amendment.

Reviews should be recorded below:

Date	Reviewer (Print and Sign)	Comments (reason for review / amendments)	New risk assessment issued (Y/N)?
22/02/2020	C Green	First Issue	Y
18/03/2026	W Sparrow	Update to include Standards for Deployment	Y

