

ACTIVITY - Generic On The Water Risk Assessment

MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATION - Varies

PERFORMED BY - David Wooldridge  
DATE - 21/01/2021

INSTRUCTOR : PARTICIPANT RATIO - Varies

Risk	Who Might Be Harmed	Measures to Minimise Risk
Drowning	All Water users, General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Buoyancy aids or life jackets compulsory for all water users.</li> <li>• All personal buoyancy aids must be checked by a member of staff and contain a C E mark and have a 50N rating for adults, or for children, have the correct weight rating for the individual.</li> <li>• All buoyancy aids are to be checked for correct fitting by HLAC staff before they are used on the water.</li> <li>• All centre buoyancy aids to undertake regular checks by staff, and each buoyancy aid is to be visually checked upon being issued to a water user.</li> <li>• Suitable clothing and footwear is to be worn at all times on the water.</li> <li>• All water users must declare that they are 'confident in deep water wearing personal buoyancy' on a personal information form prior to going afloat.</li> <li>• All water users to fill out a personal information form or equivalent prior to going afloat.</li> <li>• All water users are made aware of the depth of the water.</li> <li>• Signs are placed around site informing the general public that they must not enter the lake.</li> <li>• Ensure a Duty Manager with a first aid qualification is on site at all times while the centre is in operation.</li> <li>• Ensure Instructors hold a relevant First Aid qualification.</li> <li>• All instructors to carry a radio where practicable and carry out radio checks.</li> <li>• All water users under 8 must have an adult on their craft at a ratio of 1:1, all under 16s must have an adult on the water with them at a ratio of 1:3, all under 18s must have an adult on site to supervise them.</li> </ul>
Group Separation	Participants Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full safety brief given before the start of any Activity.</li> <li>• Instructors are to maintain effective group control throughout every session.</li> <li>• Instructors to carry a radio and carry out a radio check with the duty manager prior to going afloat.</li> <li>• Students informed of the international distress signal at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Students taught basic self rescue techniques at the earliest opportunity.</li> </ul>
Submerged objects	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant monitoring of the lake carried out by the management team.</li> <li>• All participants to be made aware of any hidden objects that could cause them harm.</li> </ul>
Hypothermia Hyperthermia Cold Shock Sunburn	Students, Instructors, Other Water Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to hold relevant first aid qualification.</li> <li>• Instructors to make continuous dynamic risk assessments and take regular breaks to regulate Participants' and Instructor's temperature.</li> <li>• Hot and cold drinks available in the building along with hot showers, shaded areas, and foil blankets.</li> <li>• Wetsuits are available for all water users, including long sleeve and short sleeve wetsuits, neoprene jackets, and waterproof tops.</li> </ul>

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Medical emergency Afloat	Students, Instructors, Other Water Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All water users must fill out a Personal Information Form (PIF) prior to going afloat. (In the case of minors a parent/guardian will fill out the form on their behalf.</li> <li>Both the Duty manager, and lead instructor on session must read the forms, be aware of potential issues and inform the relevant Instructors accordingly.</li> </ul>
Water borne contamination / disease	All Water Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showers available and recommended to all water users after their session.</li> <li>All Participants to wash hands before eating.</li> <li>All participants advised to cover any cuts / open wounds before going afloat and to wash them thoroughly afterwards.</li> <li>Regular monitoring of the water quality is maintained by the management team.</li> </ul>
Extreme Weather	All Water Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to check weather forecasts daily and perform continuous dynamic risk assessments throughout sessions.</li> <li>In the event of adverse weather conditions, making a session potentially unsafe for the participants, the Instructor, Duty Manager or Senior Instructor can take the decision to temporarily suspend the session until it is deemed safe to continue.</li> <li>Instructors and participants to be aware of the danger of sun exposure and to apply sun protection when necessary.</li> <li>All water users must be aware of the need to stay hydrated. Drinking water is freely available from the building.</li> <li>At least one instructor per group is to carry a radio and have radio checked prior to going afloat.</li> </ul>
Collisions	All Water Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full safety briefing prior to the start of any activity including the danger of static objects such as the Barley straw cages</li> <li>Instructor team to assign areas of operation prior to going afloat and to brief participants accordingly.</li> <li>Ensure casual hire users are aware of appropriate areas for their particular craft, and are aware of the other water users.</li> <li>Swimming is not allowed in the lake except during the designated open water swimming sessions. Signs are placed around site to inform the general public that they are not allowed to enter the lake, and members of staff are to inform anyone ignoring those rules that they are not to enter the water, but can come back during the open water swimming sessions, register, and be deemed fit to swim by a member of the swimming staff. Any time a member of the public refuses to leave the water, the Duty Manager and Police should be informed.</li> </ul>