

Risk Assessment: Raft Building

Reviewed: August 2021

Next Review Date: August 2022

Assessment undertaken by: Chris Martlew, Chief Instructor

L = LOW M = MEDIUM H = HIGH

Hazards	Effects	Who is effected	Risk		Methods to Avoid/Reduce Risk
			Likelihood	Consequences	
Being hit by a car walking through the car park or down the road	Back/head/arm/shoulder/leg injury	Individual	L	M	Group to be monitored carefully and closely on the walk to the river
Drowning	Death, serious illness	Individual	L	H	Buoyancy aids must be worn at all times; these must be checked every 8 weeks. Minimum qualification for lead and assistant instructor (see minimum qualification sheet) Good group control A thorough safety briefing must be conducted Minimise uncontrolled immersion A mobile phone must be carried by the instructor on the water and instructor to carry pre agreed contact numbers.
Falling off the raft	Back/neck injury/head, Hypothermia, bruising. Shock, asthma, panic attack.	Individual	H	L	Swimming procedure to be clearly explained before launching Appropriate safety kit carried for group and prevailing weather conditions Warm drink to be carried if weather dictates Check personal medication is carried
Lifting and carrying	Back/arm/shoulder injuries Cuts bruises, broken limbs	Group	L	M	Instructor brief and demo to participants
Foot trapped in raft	Drowning, panic, sprain, bruising	Individual	L	M/H	No standing on rafts Lead instructor to have clear line of site, knife available Raft building supervised by trained staff No loops in the ropes
Damaged unsuitable equipment	Cuts, grazes, splinters	Group	L	H	Pre-use equipment checks carried out Equipment fitting supervised and checked by instructors Unserviceable equipment dealt with accordingly
Collision with other rafts	Bruises, trapped fingers, arms	Group	H	L	Safety briefing and awareness by instructor

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Raft Building					Raft Building
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Launching/landing	Injury though slipping, falling or collision	Individual	M	M	Instructor briefing and awareness Staff training in manual handling Show consideration and keep distance from other users
Contaminated water	Loss of group control	All	L	H	Consider alternative location River condition checked prior to session Consider alternative activity Shower after activity (if fully immersed) Instructor to be aware of water quality All cuts covered Wash hands and arms up to the elbows after activity
Flooded river (in spate)	Loss of group control Increased potential for injury/ drowning	All	H	L	Consider alternative location River condition checked prior to session Consider alternative activity
River obstacles e.g. strainers, weirs, trees in the river and overhanging branches	Increased potential for entrapment, or injury, particularly to upper body/head	Group	H	M	Consider alternative location/activity Avoid work downstream of overhanging trees/branches, remove if possible
Weather – heat, cold and rain	Sunburn/sunstroke hypothermia/hyperthermia, shock.	All	H	L/M/H	Appropriate clothing/kit carried for group Hot/cold drinks available if necessary Consider alternative activity All level one coaches to be site specifically trained by a level 2 coach or higher
Insect bites	Stings, allergies, reactions, anaphylactic shock	Individual	L	L/M/H	Any personal medications available and instructor aware of these
Jumping into the river at the end of the session	Cuts and Bruises, Injury particularly to upper body/head & Shock.	All	L	M	This must be done in a controlled instructed manor. Safety instruction to be clearly explained including bending their knees due to river depth, where to get out and especially no flips or dives. Any participant with limited upper body strength must have an adult in the water with them at all times. A second adult will be required to lower them from the side to the adult in the water.