

Canoeing

Name of Section or Activity (and version number)	Waddecar Scout Activity Centre Canoeing V2023-01	Date of risk assessment	6 th January 2023	Review Date	January 2024	Name and Role of who undertook this risk assessment	Damian King Centre Manager BCU Level 2 Canoe Coach Scouts Canoeing Permit Assessor
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way the activity is carried out.
Drowning	All	Buoyancy aids to be worn by all participants. Buoyancy aids provided and annually safety checked. All participants to be appropriately briefed prior to start of activity. All participants are either identified as: •Swimmers - able to swim 50m in light clothing and a buoyancy aid and stay afloat for 5 minutes •Non-Swimmers – participants deemed “non-swimmers” must be in the charge of an adult with only one non-swimmer per canoe Swimming is not permitted as an activity. The pond construction limits the maximum water depth to approximately 1.2m Leaders in charge must be able to always see all participants. Spectators and participants waiting to enter the pond should be kept away from the bank and kept under control. Maximum three people per canoe. Safety equipment to be checked before each use and periodically. Any leader considered to be 'in ratio' must be ready and able to enter the water to assist any participants.
Debris in or around the pond could cause cuts	All	Visual inspection of pond area to identify any potential hazards. Participants to always wear suitable footwear
Slip / Trip / Fall from the pond banks or beach area	All	Spectators and participants waiting to enter the pond should be kept away from the bank and kept under control
Shallow water: impact with pond floor	All	Instruction and supervision to ensure that participants do not jump into the pond
Impact with the canoe/ paddles / other craft	All	Leaders to demonstrate and enforce the correct use of a paddle, especially holding the T grip. All participants to be appropriately briefed prior to start of activity
Manual handling of canoes	All	Equipment to only be lifted by enough people. Rafted canoes to be lifted in a controlled manner under supervision

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Water could become contaminated (e.g., Weil's disease)	All	Visual check of water for contamination / evidence of vermin All cuts / grazes should be covered. Wash / shower after using the pond. No food / drink to be consumed whilst taking part in the activity. Participants briefed to avoid swallowing water. Hands to be washed after the activity finishes
Exposure. Hypothermia/sunburn	All	Assess the water / air temperature and do not use the pond if it is excessively cold for the participants involved. Wear appropriate protective clothing. Observe participants for signs of hypothermia

Completed by	Name, Damian King Role / level: Waddecar Centre Manager Date; 6 th January 2023	Checked by Line Manager	Name, Role / level Date
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