

Risk Assessment – Raft Building – (Lakes)

Baseline	X	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	2020.1.0	Date of issue:	20/01/2020
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Operating notes:

- Raft Building is an activity involving the use of barrels, wooden logs and ropes that floats and can be steered and powered with paddles.
 - This risk assessment is specific to the lakes at Grosvenor Hall, Colomendy and Dearne Valley.
 - This does not cover Raft Build activities at the Isle of Wight or Peak Venture centres
- Supervision ratio is 1 Lead Instructor and 1 additional supervising adult to 15 participants plus 1 'Safety Boater'.
- The Activity Leader must be with the group on the Raft when placed on the water.
- The 'Safety Boater' must be in a position of maximum usefulness either in a Canoe or able to immediately launch a Canoe should it be required whenever Rafts are on the water.
- Qualifications/ Competence:
 - Technical Advice from Phil Hadley BC TL5 Canoe, L4 WWK.
 - The 'Safety Boater' is responsible for the safe operations on the water and decision making throughout and they must check the weather forecast before the activity and continue to monitor conditions
 - The 'Safety Boater' must have relevant operating experience / qualification such as BC Level 1 / Paddlesports Instructor (Canoe), site specific training, hold a valid first aid qualification and hold a water safety and rescue award such as RLSS NWSMP In-Water Rescue qualification or BC FSRT.
 - The 'Safety Boater' is permitted to self-deploy.
 - The Activity Leader is responsible for the safe delivery of the session. They must have completed in-house Raft Build Training.
- The activity will not take place if: winds are excessive and prevent the group from being able to control the Raft away from the banks; reduced visibility means you cannot see the group and bank or shore; if thunder or lightning is present (as per the ROSPA 30/30 rule)
- Equipment must be managed as per documented in the 'Equipment Management Standards'.
 - A First Aid kit and Group Shelter must be present and easily accessible on session.
 - The Safety Boater must have on their persons a Whistle and Throw line.
 - The Activity Leader must have on their persons a Whistle.

Risk – Benefit Statement: There is a low risk of injury / drowning on Raft Building, but high levels of participation in a new activity and environment involving aerobic exercise and learning new skills making the risk tolerable.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Water and weather conditions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescue equipment such as throw / tow lines must be carried by the Instructors The Lead Instructor must select appropriate areas to operate within. The Lead Instructor must check the weather forecast before the activity and continue to monitor conditions. 	Low
Sprains, strains other muscular injuries and cramps	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run warm-up games and or stretches at the beginning of the session and throughout as required. 	Low
Manual handling injury from lifting and carrying equipment.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief and monitor correct manual handling techniques to the group. Boats and other heavy equipment should be stored close to the launch areas to minimise the need for manual handling. 	Low
Drowning - weak or non-swimmers	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors must check the level of water confidence or swimming ability before the activity Students and Instructors must wear buoyancy aids. Brief participants on what to do if they fall into the water The Instructors must place themselves in position of maximum visibility. The Instructors must keep a constant head count. 	Very Low
Entrapment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities must not be located in an area where there is known submerged vegetation or floating vegetation is evident. Instructors must assess any new means of entrapment and monitor throughout. Brief the group that hair, jewellery and clothing should not increase entrapment. Instructor to monitor and intervene if risk of entrapment increases Instructor should be positioned in case of rapid assistance needed. A knife capable of cutting through webbing or rope must be quickly accessible by Instructors. Brief the group to ensure ropes are tucked away 	Low
Collisions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An area should be designated for the activity that is low boat use area Instructors to carry whistle and brief participants into its use 	Very Low
Uneven surfaces or access routes causing slips, trips and falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route to activity area is to be selected with care to minimise trips, slips and falls to all taking part. 	Low
Water pollution which may cause skin, gastric or respiratory irritation	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suitability of the water and the weather must be checked at the beginning of the day (water level, state, pollution, presence of algae and weather conditions) Ensure all open cuts are covered with a dressing. Instruct participants to take a shower after the activity. 	Very Low

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Head or facial injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief the participants on how to fall effectively • All Instructors and participants must wear a helmet whilst in / on the water. A full turban is an acceptable alternative, but be careful of loose cloth becoming entangled in equipment or apparatus. 	Very Low
Sharp objects - Injuries to feet	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are briefed to wear appropriate footwear through the session within the safety brief. • Check the area for hazards and move the operating area if required. 	Very Low
Sunburn and Dehydration	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants on applying sunscreen before and during the activity during sunny weather conditions. • Instructors must remain vigilant for signs of sun stroke and dehydration; dry lips/ skin, dizziness, lethargy, nausea, redness of extremities and / or changes in behaviour / personality • All instructors will be tested on their knowledge of the signs, symptoms and responses to dehydration/sunstroke. 	Low
Hypothermia / Hyperthermia	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief the participants at the start of the session on appropriate clothing to be worn and monitor throughout. • Instructors are to be checked for knowledge of signs and symptoms. • All staff are to monitor the group for signs of hypothermia including; clumsiness, slurred speech, shivering, pale features, blue lips, confusion, drowsiness and / or changes in behaviour / personality. • Removal from session is the best course of action. 	Low