

# Risk Assessment



**ACTIVITY:** Water-based Activities

**PERFORMED BY:** Nicola Murdoch

**MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATION:** Various

**REVIEW DATE:** December 2018

**INSTRUCTOR : PARTICIPANT RATIO:** Various

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	Measures to Minimise Risk	Amendments for next review?
Drowning	Students, Instructors, Other water users, General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buoyancy Aids issued to all water users, checked and fitted by AA instructors.</li> <li>Suitable 'wet' kit to be worn, i.e. no clothing which is likely to hold water such as thick jumpers or jogging bottoms.</li> <li>Participants must declare 'confidence in deep water wearing personal buoyancy' on Personal Info Form prior to going afloat.</li> <li>All water users to be made aware of water depth.</li> <li>Signs at the centre show that members of the general public are not allowed to enter the lake</li> </ul>	
Separation from group	Students, Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors are trained in effective methods of group control. In the event of an emergency, each instructor carries a VHF radio and is in constant contact with other instructors and manager on duty.</li> <li>Students are taught the international distress signal and basic self-rescue technique at the earliest opportunity.</li> </ul>	
Submerged objects	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constant monitoring of activity area by instructional team.</li> <li>All participants to be made aware of marker buoys.</li> </ul>	

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Hypothermia, Hyperthermia, Sunburn	Students, Instructors, Other water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All AA Instructors hold current First Aid certificates and are trained in ‘early warning signs’.</li> <li>• Regular breaks are taken allowing participants to regulate their temperature.</li> <li>• Hot / Cold drinks available in the building, along with hot showers / cool shaded areas and foil blankets.</li> <li>• Wetsuits offered to all water users. For participants susceptible to cold, neoprene jackets or the option of ‘double wetsuit’ (one piece &amp; shorty) are available.</li> </ul>	
Medical emergency while afloat	Students, Instructors, Other water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants engaged in activities at AA must complete a Personal Info Form prior to going afloat (in the case of minors, a parent/guardian will submit this form on their behalf).</li> <li>• Both the manager on duty and the lead instructor of the session must read the forms and be aware of any potential issues.</li> </ul>	
Participant not sufficiently fit enough to take part.	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every participant to fill in a Personal Information Form prior to engaging in any activity.</li> </ul>	
Water borne contamination / disease (such as Weils)	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality testing and information provided and published by Bristol City Council.</li> <li>• No deliberate capsizing or immersion when water quality is likely to be poor.</li> <li>• Showers available and recommended to all water users after session. Wash hands before eating.</li> <li>• Cover all cuts / open wounds before going afloat and clean thoroughly immediately after session.</li> </ul>	

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Extreme Weather	Students, Instructors, Other water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to check forecast daily, and perform dynamic risk assessments throughout session.</li> <li>• In the event of conditions (such as wind strength or temperature) becoming unsuitable and potentially dangerous for the participant(s), the instructor may use his/her discretion to temporarily suspend the session until such time that it's deemed safe to continue by the Senior Instructor or manager on duty.</li> <li>• Instructors &amp; Participants to be aware of the danger of sun exposure and to apply sun protection whenever necessary.</li> <li>• All Centre users must be aware of the need to stay hydrated. Drinking water is freely available in the building.</li> </ul>	
Blue-Green Algae	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant monitoring of water by instructional team, particularly during warm spells and/or periods of little rainfall.</li> </ul>	
Collision	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructional team to arrange and discuss areas of operation prior to going afloat, and brief groups / students accordingly.</li> <li>• Ensure all water users are made aware of appropriate areas for their particular craft, as well as supervised groups and individuals.</li> <li>• Participants to be briefed regarding importance of avoiding collisions (including danger of static objects such as sluices, grain barge, bridges).</li> <li>• Swimming is not allowed in the docks, so collisions between water craft and swimmers is minimal.</li> <li>• Harbour Master vessels escort vessels over 23m LOA.</li> <li>• Harbour Speed limit of 5.3knts</li> <li>• Tidal Operation times published.</li> <li>• Rowing Sculls not allowed in sail training area.</li> <li>• Local Harbour Codes</li> </ul>	

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Harbour Sluices	All water users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All AA instructors aware of east winds and sluice operations risks.</li> <li>• Scouring times and warning procedures published.</li> <li>• Flags, warning lights and notices displayed.</li> <li>• Local Harbour Codes</li> <li>• Instructor's local knowledge.</li> </ul>	