

RA2 - THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS TO BE USED FOR ALL OFFICIAL AOAC CANOEING AND KAYAKING EVENTS ON MOVING WATER AND SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERIC AND APPLICABLE SITE SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENTS

AVON OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CLUB

Risk Assessment Activity: Canoeing and Kayaking (Moving Water)

Risk	Who may be Affected	Mitigation
Obstructions		
<p>a) Manmade (weirs, bridges, stanchions, piers, fords, fences etc)</p> <p>b) Natural (rocks, trees, rapids, waterfalls, steep banks siphons, sumps etc)</p>	Activity Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection, reconnaissance, information from guide books etc. If in doubt portage weirs in particular. - Assess rapids from lowest point back up to the top. - Briefings and group control. - Set up safety cover as required. Employ descent strategies. - Carry a saw and 'pin kit' within the group. - All paddlers should have throwline, sling and karabiner and know how to use them for rescues and lifting equipment. - All paddlers to have completed AOAC moving water safety and rescue training or hold NGB equivalent. - Avoid seal launches or drops into shallow water. - Training to identify and understand features of complex hydraulics such as siphons. - Appreciate that siphons and sumps are more likely on rivers with limestone bedrock. - Dynamic Risk Assessment.
Powerful Water		
Jets, cushions, stoppers, boils, whirlpools, eddy lines etc	Activity Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train and develop ability to 'read' water amongst participants, especially coaches and leaders. - Review information sources (guidebooks etc). - Train and practise defensive and offensive swimming techniques. - Set up safety cover as required. Employ descent strategies. - If paddling on dam controlled rivers, be aware of potential changes to water level at short notice. - Dynamic Risk Assessment.
Other Water Users		
Swimmers, fishermen, other craft, livestock, farmers etc	Activity Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be aware of likelihood of other water users. Gain information from various sources. - Keep an eye and ear out for likely signs. - Maintain a reasonable distance. - Be courteous. - Don't linger in an area or restrict the rights of other users.
Communications		
<p>a) Poor or no phone signal.</p> <p>b) Groups become spread out.</p>	Activity Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use AOAC Leaders' Aide Memoire when planning or briefing a trip. - Don't rely on mobile phones but do carry one whenever possible. - Make a plan and let someone know when to expect you back or to be off the water.

c) Poor briefing.

- Establish a rendezvous point and time if paddling with other groups.
- Establish a descent plan i.e. who is the probe and tail end Charlie, order of the group, buddies etc.
- Establish an Incident Plan to be followed during the trip i.e. 'Actions on' a paddler having a swim.
- Use CLAP strategy during trip.
- Brief and use simple verbal and visual instructions.
- Check understanding.
- Gather the group regularly.
- Check paddler welfare.
- Dynamic Risk Assessment.

Last Reviewed: August 2015 by S Gay